

## HOUSEHOLD.

### The Ways of the World.

In the eyes of the world she was only a commonplace woman, but to the inner circle of chosen friends she was a perfect marvel. A woman of about forty and the mother of eight living children, the oldest a daughter of twenty-two, and the youngest but five.

Her rare executive ability had helped her over many a rough path. The machinery in that home runs by clockwork and when the visitor learns that they keep no help, and yet before two o'clock every afternoon every member of the family is neatly dressed and ready to sit down and rest until time to prepare the six o'clock dinner, she is amazed. The house is a large, convenient one, but the secret of this woman's management lies in the one fact that she has taught each child to wait on himself or herself.

Two of the older ones are responsible for the two younger ones, even to their clothes. The children take turns in the different branches of work, as, for example, setting the table, doing the marketing, and running on errands, and are taught to do their work thoroughly and well.

The mother never knows when the table linen is to be changed as the older ones see that the younger ones perform their duties at the regular time. The boys of this family are taught to be helpful as well as their sisters, and in the days to come their wives, if they marry, will feel grateful to the mother who was so wise in the management of a family.

While the children were young she was always fortunate in obtaining good and efficient help.

Another picture is before me, quite unlike the home which I have just described. There is no system or order anywhere. Meals are served irregularly and on dirty red table cloths to save washing, the ironed clothes are seldom if ever mended, and the children wear stockings with the toes or heels out. Frequently a table of dirty dishes is allowed to stand all day to gather flies. The mother considers herself an invalid, and much of the time lies around in a faded and soiled wrapper, old shoes and hair uncombed.

Is it any wonder the four children are careless in their manners and dress. Not one of them knows how to work. Is it any wonder that the husband and father has grown tired of his disorderly home and poorly cooked meals, and goes elsewhere for his entertainment. Is it not a fact that lack of system and regularity in a household can drive a man to drink, and other things which are even worse?—Carrie May Ashton, in N. Y. 'Observer.'

### Responsibility of Parents.

'I have a son, a man who ought now to be taking his place in the business or professional circles, but he is not even self-supporting.'

So wrote a man, in extenuation of a plea for additional advances on real estate securities.

This man had seen his son grow up a spoiled, neglected child. In a luxuriant home, with servants to wait upon him, and every want supplied, with pocket money furnished, and the means necessary for an education placed within his reach; but, with no watchful care given either his intellectual or moral development, he had grown to be, not aggressively wicked, but a passably intelligent, selfish, useless clog, not even 'self-supporting.'

A bright lad, from a good home, so-called, was observed by his teacher to be growing morose. Little things were missing from the schoolroom, but the thief could not be detected. Soon, sums of money, from friends and others, were taken and it was developed that this boy, who needed nothing which his indulgent parents did not supply, was pronounced an irresponsible kleptomaniac, rendered so, the physicians said, by the use of cigarettes.

A boy only fourteen years old was unfit to attend school on account of frequent epileptic fits caused, his physician said, by the use of tobacco.

A teacher found a small pupil in the act

of smoking a cigarette. To her questioning he replied: 'My father gave it me. He smokes them himself.'

Similar cases could be multiplied. Comment seems unnecessary; but, we ask, what can teachers do when parents utterly ignore their responsibilities in the moral and physical education of the boys?—M. T. Bailey.

### The Pace That Kills.

(From Harper's Bazar.)

In looking up a word in the dictionary several days ago my eyes fell on the definition of 'emulation'—'the act of attempting to equal or excel in qualities or actions; rivalry; desire of superiority, attended with effort to attain it.'

Only the evening before, we had been talking about a little woman who was once pretty, but now has a harassed and anxious expression of countenance.

'What is the matter with her?' asked one. It was a physician who answered:

'She has no disease. She is wearing herself to death by emulation of other people. The strain will kill her if she keeps it up. Nobody in this world can stay first.'

His words and the dictionary definition set me to thinking. Are not many women killing themselves by this same process? And how dreadfully unprofitable it all is, when one considers the truth of the physician's statement that 'nobody in this world can stay first!'

Nobody! For, strive as we may, there is always some one with a little more money, a handsomer house, more influence, or perhaps more brains. There is merit in the desire to make the best of ourselves and of the talents given us. There is no credit due her who, because of 'a desire for superiority' over another, wears herself out in attempting to do that which she cannot perform. Is this not one reason for the nervous, anxious look on the faces of our American women? They strive to dress as well as neighbors with double their income; they give entertainments that empty the never-too-full purse, and they buy furniture for which they can only pay by rigid self-denial.

Were we only content as women to do just that which we can easily afford how much more peaceful our lives would be, how much better our children, how much more care-free and youthful our husbands, who cannot bear to have their wives long for things that by an additional strain they might give them. And would not our lives be longer in the land.

### Children's Books.

In addition to reading with children, it is well to let them by degrees collect little libraries of their own. Give a book as a reward, and respect its owner's right of possession. Insist on certain quiet intervals from play, when the pursuits followed must be either the reading of a paper or magazine, the writing letters to one another, the drawing of pictures or the pasting of clippings and illustrations in a scrap-book. While the utmost freedom for romping and for even violent exercise must be given at times, yet there is a time for everything, and the formation of reposeful habits is as important as any other thing in the training of children.

Always have an acquaintance with the books your children read. Great and often irreparable harm is done to immature minds by bad literature. There are boys in reformatories and prisons to-day who would not be there but for the agency of evil books. We cannot be too careful in this regard, for when a child is influenced for evil by the Satanic agency of an impure or wicked book his moral life is poisoned at the source. Far better might the physical life receive injury than the moral nature suffer distortion in this way.—Congregationalist.

### A Word to Boys.

Mothers, says an exchange, train your boys to be neat in the house. They should be taught to look after themselves, and to keep their hats and coats in their proper places. Teach them this habit, and you will save many annoyances, and you will also do a kindness to the boys by teaching them neatness and self-respect.

Boys, as well as girls, should be taught

to help in the house. How often we have been disgusted to see that the girls are made to help at the household while the boys are allowed to play checkers, or sit at the fire toasting their toes.

A boy can help clear away after a meal, sweep the floor, polish the stove, or wash the dishes, just as effectively as a girl. He, as a rule is stronger.

He will love his home more, and when he becomes a man, and has a home of his own, he will respect his wife all the more for having been taught to respect his mother and sisters.

### A Dainty Kitchen.

A well-equipped kitchen is more attractive than a dainty drawing-room—when you have to live in it. In trying to 'make out' with insufficient numbers of cooking utensils and dishes, the housewife takes from her physical strength and good humor. You may not realize it yourself—but your friends know there is some cause for that tired, strained look in your face. Learn to economize in physical force before you draw your purse strings.—'Womankind.'

### Purees.

No matter how much of a vegetable is used for thickening a puree a small quantity of arrowroot, cornstarch or flour should be used to hold the vegetable in solution, and make the soup smooth. And when the vegetable is delicate in flavor, it should be cooked in a small quantity of water and all the water be used in making the puree.

Puree of Peas.—Cook together one tablespoonful of butter and two tablespoonfuls of flour, add two cupfuls of peas cooked very tender, in just enough water to cover them, and rubbed through a sieve, also the water in which the peas were cooked, and two cupfuls of veal or chicken broth. Let simmer ten minutes, season and serve.

Puree of Tomato.—Cook together one tablespoonful of butter and two tablespoonfuls of flour, add three cupfuls of cooked tomato rubbed through a sieve, simmer five minutes, pour in a cupful of cream, bring to boiling point, season to taste, add a quarter of a teaspoonful of soda and serve.

Puree of Potato.—Cook together one tablespoonful of butter and two tablespoonfuls of flour, add two cupfuls of boiled potato and one cupful of boiled onion rubbed through a sieve, and two cupfuls of hot milk. Let simmer five minutes, pour in a cupful of cream, bring to a boiling point, season to taste and serve.

### NORTHERN MESSENGER.

(To the Editor of the 'Northern Messenger.')

Sir,—Your publications are gaining popularity here, especially the 'Northern Messenger' in its new form.

L. H. LACKEY.

Glen Sutton.

(To the Editor of the 'Northern Messenger.')

Sir,—I have been taking your 'Northern Messenger' for over eight years, and I am well pleased with it. It arrives in good time for the study of the Sunday-school lessons and a look over the temperance page.

B. A. YOUNG.

Summerville, May 10, 1897.

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JOHN DOUGALL & SON,

Publishers, Montreal.

THE 'NORTHERN MESSENGER' is printed and published every week at the 'Witness' Building, at the corner of Craig and St. Peter streets in the city of Montreal, by John Redpath Dougall, of Montreal.

All business communications should be addressed 'John Dougall & Son,' and all letters to the Editor should be addressed Editor of the 'Northern Messenger.'