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Side Talks by Ruth Cameron

WHAT SICKNESS OFTEN DOES.



RUTH CAMERON

A friend of mine had a little daughter who used to be the best behaved child I ever saw. I met this friend the other day and spoke of the little girl and how exceptionally well brought up she seemed to be. My friend smiled, a half rueful, whimsical smile.

"You wouldn't think so if you could see her now," she said. "She was sick almost all winter and of course we humored her and petted her and I'm afraid we've spoiled her. I suppose that it's to be expected though. The doctor says all mothers complain that that's what sickness does to children."

Whether wonder the doctor limited his statement to children, don't you? It might so easily have added that prolonged sickness has its effect on adults, too.

There are certain conditions which are very hard on the character. One is intense poverty, another is sudden prosperity, a third is prolonged illness.

They Get the "Taking" Habit. I like to be waited upon and be made much of, to enjoy talking about my feelings, to want to hold the centre of the stage, are human instincts. Illness gives us a chance to indulge them; and when once we get the habit, it is hard—oh very hard to give up.

Of course one is often unconscious of the habit. It gets to be an expectation rather than a conscious habit. We don't realize that we are expecting to receive rather than to give out. We just accept it as our due.

Over the Illness, But Not the Habit. I know a woman who was once a very normal person, but who has a good deal of illness. She is not now, but she is not sick—and she still has the "taking" habit. The sick person. Whenever she you she tells you, as a matter of course, what aches and pains or troubles she has endured since last met you. If she goes into a chair she always makes for the most comfortable chair. If she comes in the house and sees you busy at a desk she sits down and watches, never any chance asking to help.

Reg'lar Fellers"

side her and never lifted a hand to help. Yet she expects others to help her. Had the task been hard, one might have said she did not have the strength. But, shelling peas!

Meditate Well Before Applying.

Whenever I write an article like this, I always wonder if I ought to tear it up. For while the principle is true, it should be applied from the inside out, and I am always afraid it will be used from the outside in. What I hope is that the person who has drifted into such an attitude will recognize his misfortune and make up his mind to change to a happier, fairer, healthier state of mind. What I fear is that someone will think he recognizes some housemate and make this a text for criticism or upbraiding.

And while there is a chance the criticism may be deserved, there is an equal chance that it may not be. Each one knows his own strength. We cannot meddle with such affairs without running the risk of doing grave injustice.

Household Notes.

When putting in a wide hem by hand, mark it by running the material through the unthreaded machine.

Never iron lingerie ribbons while wet. Pull into a smooth condition and when they are dry press with a cool iron.

Flake left-over fish; combine with shredded cabbage and mayonnaise; serve on lettuce with cheese sandwiches.

Stuff green peppers with minced corn beef mixed with an equal quantity of boiled rice. Bake in a moderate oven.

Never wash stained or polished floors with water. Once a week wipe over with a soft cloth and apply a good floor polish.

To save time when frying boiled potatoes, put them in a pan and chop with the sharp edge of a half-pound baking-powder can.

If you have trouble with ants, wash shelves where they appear with borax, washing-blue and turpentine. Ants despise these things.

If you spill ink on a carpet, soak up with blotting paper, wash out with warm water and a clean flannel and dry with a soft cloth.

Combine 1 cupful cooked rice, 3/4 cupful peanut butter, 2 cupfuls bread crumbs; season, make in a loaf and serve with tomato sauce.

To whip evaporated milk heat it to a simmering point, remove from fire, set on ice until very cold and whip in a bowl packed in ice.

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When giving a dose of castor oil, rub the rim and inside of the glass with orange juice. Put the oil between two layers of cracked ice.

A delicious rice pudding is flavored with grated lemon rind, sweetened with honey, and served with cooked prunes, milk and honey.

Macaroni boiled until tender and cut into very small pieces makes a delicious salad. Marinate with French dressing and add chopped onion.

Swiss eggs are delicious. Butter a pie dish, cover bottom with slices of cheese, break eggs over cheese and sprinkle with breadcrumbs. Bake.

If the housewife works in rubber-heeled shoes, the heels will not be always running over and she will not be as tired after the day's work is over.

To distinguish between boiled and unboiled eggs, spin them; the boiled ones will spin round quite fast, while the uncooked ones will hardly spin round once.

Left-over mashed potatoes may be made into a mound, pressed in at the top and the hole filled with cheese-sauce. Pour sauce over sides, also, and you have a delicious luncheon dish.

This is an excellent way of measuring butter: If you wish a fourth of a cup of butter, fill cup three-quarters full of water and drop in small pieces of butter until water comes to brim of cup. Pour off water and you have left the desired amount of butter.

JOY RIDERS.



JOY RIDERS.

I'm seated in my first car's shade, beside the public high-way, and flies assail me unafraid—which is the silly fly way. And all day long the autos scoot, in heedless haste before me; and all day long they honk and hoot, and throw the gravel o'er me. In luxury the riders bask upon the seats of satin; "Does no one ever work?" I ask, in Choctaw, Greek and Latin. Old age is riding there, in sooth, in limousines that glitter, and at the wheel is gilded youth—and I'm the only quitter; for now and then I park my boat and strive to earn a dollar—a scheme from reason so remote that all the passers holler. Oh, all the autos travel forth, I hear their motors sizzing; they journey south, they scamper north, and east and west they're whizzing. The roads are black with fine sedans, and all the world is playing, except some tinhorn also-rans who labor at their hayting. The roads are black with limousines, on idle errands going, and wilted are the useful beans—there's none to do the hoing. The world is busy blowing kale, and thrift's a thing to banish; "Does no one ever work?" I wail, in German, French and Spanish.

Old photograph needles are excellent for cleaning small-necked vessels. After soaking them with warm water and ammonia, pour out most of the liquid, put in the needles and shake well.

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Just Folks

Bar A Guest

PARENTAL DIFFERENCES.

My Pa will give me anything I ask him for that he can buy. Oh, he is awful good to me an' I just hope he'll never die. My Ma thinks that I git too much an' she says no, but Pa will say "Aw let him have it anyhow." Pa's awful funny just that way. But when I fall an' hurt myself I go to Ma right then, coz she is always tenderer than Pa. an' knows jus' what to do for me.

My Pa says: "Aw now be a man! Don't let the neighbors see you cry!"

I know it hurts, but never mind, it will feel better by and by. I'm sorry, but in life, you know, there is a lot of pain to bear. An' men jus' take the falls they git an' act as though they didn't care."

But Ma jus' holds me in her arms an' lets me snuggle on her knee. An' seems to know an' understand how much the pain is hurtin' me.

My Ma says Pa won't see my faults or punish me for bein' bad. She often tells to him at night, "You're much too easy with the lad!"

But jus' the minute I git hurt Ma runs to help me if she can. An' Pa comes out an' says to me, "Now stand an' bear it like a man."

I like my Pa for lots o' things an' I just hope he'll never die. But when I'm hurt I like Ma best, coz she don't tell me not to cry.

What Is Ramie?

The announcement that spinners in England are now able to produce a very good yarn from ramie, through having wrested a trade secret from the Germans, has puzzled many people as to its meaning. Ramie is obtained from the fibres of a plant closely allied to the stinging nettle family, with leaves not unlike those of the nettle in character, but lacking the stinging property. In Assam it is known as rhea, while another variety widely used is recognized as Chinese grass. Two to four crops per season can be gathered, and as much as four tons of stems can be collected from an acre of ground. The leaves and branches are stripped off, and then follows the difficult and laborious process of separating the vast fibres from the bark. In many places this is done by hand, for machinery, no matter how delicate, is apt to destroy the fibre. For a long time, however, the main difficulty in obtaining ramie in a proper state for spinning was the inability to get rid of the very adhesive gum with which the fibre is permeated. Various chemical processes

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