

# IN WOMAN'S WORLD.

## NOTES AND REFLECTIONS.

There are many ways of being a humanitarian, some of them are mythical, some sentimental, some commendable, and but few practical. In the development of the present day product, club-life and its fads play an important role. There are projects on foot for the score for clubs for children, clubs for young men, clubs for young women, clubs for married men, clubs for married women, clubs for spinsters, and clubs for old bachelors; in fact, so strongly has this craze for organization in the form of clubs seized the minds of a certain class, and its votaries are numerous, that the ordinary quiet seeker after domestic peace and the lover of true home-life is now in a state of wonder as to what is to become of 'home, sweet home.'

Sometime ago an undertaking was launched by an American woman, having for its aim the solution of the 'Servant girl problem,' as so many people delight to call it. This reformer who has since passed away to her reward, says her biographer, although primarily a writer and lecturer on cooking, had the domestic servant problem nearest her heart. For years she had thought about the matter and made plans to help in its solution. She felt that the first step toward a higher standard for servants was in giving them more interest in one another, more community of interest, and in making them less of wanderers. Clubs where the girls would manage things themselves and could inaugurate such work as they chose, under the advice and help of women of experience and position, Miss Carson believed, would give more esprit de corps.

Beyond these clubs for girls in service her plan branched out in what she called a 'Home and Farm School.' These two ideas will soon be put into practice by some of Miss Carson's friends. The school plan, if successful, may broaden out into something more elaborate. Rooms for the meetings of the first class have been offered in the Industrial Building, at Lexington avenue and Forty-third street, and there a number of girls will be brought together and helped to organize.

The necessity for such a club was well explained the other day by a woman who is much interested in the plan. 'To begin with,' she said, 'these girls who are "living out," as they call it, are many of them strangers to New York. They come here with barely a friend, and in the changing of places have no one to take an interest in them and no one to advise them. Even their letters from home often fail to reach them. The mistress is too selfish or too careless to re-mail the letter left at the house by the postman, or, in some cases, the girl has left no address. I know of many cases of such loss of letters. One girl did not hear for several months of the death of her mother, and another, to whom a small legacy had been left, did not receive the information for a long time, merely because she had changed her place and the new address had been mislaid.'

Then, too, many women of the employer class are thoroughly unreasonable. If a girl leaves, even under ample provocation, against her wishes, the mistress will refuse to give her any recommendation. These troubles we propose to remedy. We will receive and take charge of at the club any letters for any member. The club address may be a permanent address, year in and year out, for the girls who belong. References will be kept on file, and when a member has lived some months with a lady, even though she is not intending to leave the place, she will ask for a reference, which can be kept at the club, ready in case of future disagreements. Thus the record of a member will be ready for any employer to see, and justice must be done the girls.'

If the first club proves a success, others in different parts of the city will be organized. As to the school, the plans are many and interesting. An old family house at Mott Haven, which has recently been unoccupied, has been offered for the use of the school, and it may not be many weeks before it is in full operation. Miss Carson's idea was that many girls would gladly learn to be more thorough in their work if they had the opportunity. Her belief was that a girl should begin her domestic service as a general houseworker, and during her first year of work she would easily find what branch of the housework was best suited to her taste and abilities. Then, this point settled, she could improve the first unoccupied period to go to the Home and Farm School and make a study of her chosen branch, at the close of which course, with a certificate of ability, she could take a place of higher grade of service.

Classes in cooking, laundry work, waiting and chamber work will be special features to attract pupils, and for the nurse maids there will be an elementary kindergarten class and simple instruction in sick nursing. Competent instructors are being chosen for each of these branches. All of these advantages, and the pleasant home life which the promoters of the plan hope to insure under a competent matron, will make the school an attractive place, where girls who are out of work, or factory and shop girls who want to try domestic service, may spend a few weeks at small expense. The charge for board and tuition will merely cover the actual cost, and as the work will be co-operative the expenses should be reduced to a minimum.

My plan is not to take in every one indiscriminately, but to have girls who are known through our clubs and other ways. If the clubs and the school are a success, we hope to encourage the founding of similar ones in other cities, so that throughout the country, eventually, there shall be a system by which girls are known and where they will never be entirely among strangers. Such a sisterhood among the women in domestic service was Miss Carson's idea of the ultimate solution of the problem.

## HOUSEHOLD NOTES.

The question of training young girls for the responsibilities of house-keeping has been a theme for writers beyond enumeration. It is all ways a timely subject, and we now give another extract from an article published in an exchange. The writer says:—

Girls make a big blunder if they do not learn to take care of a home. It is a grievous social and moral wrong when they are brought up helpless as regards domestic life. How often we see mothers engaged in housewifely duties like a slave in order that the daughter may enjoy every luxury and do nothing; indeed, many hardly let their girls soil their hands. No woman ought to marry who cannot look well to the ways of a household. In case she may not herself be required to work, she ought to be able to see whether the work is done in a proper manner. A woman is out of her element unless she is acquainted to a certain extent with the science of bake-ology, boil-ology, stitch-ology, make-ology and me-d-ology. There never was a greater blunder than to substitute good looks for good qualities. What a husband needs is frugality, industry, and system. Every girl ought to be brought up to have regular domestic duties. Idleness should be forbidden her. The only dignified life is a useful one.

Grease spots may be removed from any delicate color with French chalk, which is sold by all druggists. Scrape this on the spots and rub it in somewhat; then allow it to remain for twenty-four hours, brush off lightly, and if the grease has not entirely disappeared repeat the rubbing in of the chalk.

Baby's bottle is a very important article in the household, and any suggestions in connection with it and the comfort of its owner, especially when the latter is inclined to indulge in a midnight draught, are always timely. A writer says that if the bottle is provided with a knitted cover the contents will be kept at nearly the same heat while the baby is taking its meal. It is best knitted on four needles, but may be done on two and sewed up afterwards. Set up a sufficient number of stitches, according to the size of the bottle, to slip over it easily. The number must be a multiple of three. Knit once around plain; for the second round put the thread before the needle, slip one stitch, knit two together, repeat until the round is finished, and continue knitting until the cover is a little longer than the bottle. Bind it off, gather the bottom to a point, and run a string in the top by which it may be fastened around the neck of the bottle.

Every home, says an authority on the question of household economy, has its meagre days in each week, when plain, toothsome dishes and a few of them content the house. If these alternate with liberal meals the taste is satisfied, health kept and just economy rules. Women are apt to economize too much on the table. What is eaten, they say, makes no show at the end of the year, while furnishings and good clothes have something to say for themselves. What is saved in good eating is too apt to be found in the doctor's pocket.

Twenty-three years and not a dish so much as scorched. That is a record of a happy home and a husband greatly blessed. Some people would say it was the cook—the cook, in this case, says it is the cooking utensils. And they are the very same with which the very same cook went to housekeeping so long ago.

Mme. Gaston Blay is the cook, a French home cook. She has been teaching a number of young people, and people not so young—young men and maidens, older men and older women—the mysteries of the French cuisine this winter. A short time ago there was a special demonstration at the house of Mrs. Milan H. Hulbert and with an interesting audience of amateur chefs and cordon bleus Mme. Blay prepared four special dishes, with enough of each to go around. They were served on plates, too, in regulation fashion, and not with a taste apiece to every one who brought a spoon, after the fashion of similar demonstrations.

The regulation cooking utensils were used—copper, with a composition lining. Mme. Blay is the authority for the statement that excepting solid silver there is nothing which preserves the delicate flavor of a delicate dish like copper. And it wears—no use an old expression—like iron. It is of this material that the cooking utensils with which Mme. Blay has done her own private cooking are made, and nothing ever scorched in them. Anything once started will simmer a way indefinitely until there is nothing left of it, but as long as a drop remains it is a good drop, without a suspicion of a burned taste.

In the beginning the copper utensils are expensive, but not so in the end, for they outlast scores of more common utensils. Once in five or six years it is necessary to have them relined or plated with the composition on the inside. This, however, is comparatively inexpensive, costing from 30 to 60 cents a dish. The copper utensils have another hygienic advantage not usually considered, for they encourage the use of the health giving woodfire. They are easily kept clean, but the brilliancy of the copper can best be maintained by a gentle rub with damp wood ashes, hence the fire.

The copper with its shining silvered lining has a peculiar beauty of its own, which is the delight of the cook, amateur and professional. The handles of the pots and skillets are as a rule black, but one amateur chef has had his own particular copper ware and penates nickel-plated as to handles, giving a result in which he takes as great satisfaction as in other works of art.

## WHIMS OF FASHION.

The fashions as presented to view in the streets in this midseason between winter and summer, says an American writer, are a kaleidoscopic mixture of colors, materials and modes in every possible gradation. Apparently everything on the list is worn, with a few specialties at the head. Radical differences between this and last season's modes are really very slight, being chiefly confined to the skirts, and the whole fabric of fashion is so elastic that it is a simple process to renovate the old gowns up to date.

The modes of making and trimming the bodice are very nearly on the old lines; the sleeves are simply a little smaller, and while the skirt has acquired a reputation for shifting methods of construction, the simple gored skirt with five or seven gores and less fullness is still very popular. Of course, a skirt-trimming of some sort is almost a necessity, but it is an easy matter to supply this with rows of ribbon gathered or sewn on plain ruffles of chiffon, net or silk, and milliner's folds or stitched bands of silk or satin. Skirts ruffled to

sun-blazes down day after day, and the eye seeks relief from all things and colors suggestive of heat. A white and geranium red foulard on a cool summer afternoon, or worn on the gray seabeach, is, however, attractive enough on a youthful form. On a Paris model in red satin, foulard-patterned, with a straggling design in valley lilies and anemone blossoms, the loose-fronted bodice opens over a full blouse vest of tuck lisse, with alternating clusters of the narrowest black velvet ribbon in rows of three between the tuckings. A touch of black velvet at the throat, waist, and the wrists, with pleated lace frills beyond, completes a very stylish gown. The skirt is trimmed with flounces of the foulard.

Blue, in every conceivable shade, and used on every material, seems to be the particular color fad in foreign fashions. It is blue everywhere, in gowns, hats, and parasols, and if you can succeed in combining harmoniously several shades in one costume you have the very latest fancy.

In addition to the gingham ties fair throats will be ornamented this season with handsome satin puff scarfs, the ends left to hang spreading and free, or folded neatly and flatly into the Lady Babbie pattern. This last lets fall its satin ends from neck to waist line, is made up on a frame and sold complete and ready for adjustment, with a pretty pearl pin settled in its folds. Summing up the full complement of summer neckwear mention must be



A PRETTY AND SEASONABLE COSTUME.

the waist add diversity to the new gowns; yet they are more than a year old in fashion's calendar and not very becoming to the average woman.

The prettiest ruffled skirts are the grenadine ruffled with lace and chiffons, and the organdies, which are very quaint, decked out in ruffles more effectively arranged by separating them two or three inches. The skirt, with one wide circular flounce set into the apron shaped upper part, is already so common that, according to all previous rulings of fashion, it must have a downfall.

The prevailing style of bodice in thin gores is the plain back with a little fullness at the belt, a medium blouse front and the guimpe neck of white chiffon or lawn tucked and trimmed with lace insertion. The sleeves may be of white, too, if you like. A frill of lace, embroidered batiste, or ruches of the muslin finish the shoulders.

Skirts are cut in various ways, with six or seven gores, with the gored front and circular sides, and the deep circular flounce, which certainly cannot be recommended for the gowns that are to be laundered, unless the material is piqué, heavy linen, or duck, which are very smart made up in this way and trimmed with braid or bands of the same goods in some contrasting color. A short jacket with wide revers is the usual accompaniment to this sort of skirt, but other gowns are made with the blouse waist, with a basque frill, if you like, and a guimpe neck of tucked lawn.

The jackets are worn with a fancy vest of colored silk or lawn, finely tucked and striped with lace insertion, or shirt waists; but it is the neckgear which stamps the costume as modish, quite as much as the cut. Stocks with four-in-hand ties or sailor knots made of the same material as the waist are especially good style, while other fashionable stocks are of white piqué, with a colored silk four-in-hand or narrow tie, which forms a small bow. There are black, white and colored silk ties with knotted fringes on the ends, and soft ties of net chiffon and Liberty gauze will be very much worn with the cotton and linen gowns. Added to the long list of strictly feminine neckgear, which seems sufficient for all needs, is the entire assortment of men's neckwear so irresistibly fascinating to women that they are good customers in this department.

Red and white foulards are likewise shown among popular summer styles. Red is a trying color indeed when the

that girls are regarded as marriageable at 16 or 17, and men not till after 21. Forty-three out of every hundred spinners that marry are between 20 and 25, 22 are between 25 and 30, and the remainder, 17, are between 30 and 40. But while women marry earlier than men they are also stricken from the eligible list at an earlier age. The number of women who marry under 25 is twice as great as the number of men who marry under at that age; but after the age of 45 three times as many men as women marry for the first time. Widows remarry at an average age of 39 and widowers at 41.

The following table for 1,000 marriages is compiled from the last census report:

| Husb.'s. | Wives. | Age.                   |
|----------|--------|------------------------|
| 9        | 179    | Under 21 yrs. of age   |
| 292      | 484    | Between 20 and 25 yrs. |
| 348      | 226    | Between 25 and 30 yrs. |
| 172      | 81     | Between 30 and 35 yrs. |
| 88       | 43     | Between 35 and 40 yrs. |
| 44       | 20     | Between 40 and 45 yrs. |
| 25       | 8      | Between 45 and 50 yrs. |
| 12       | 3      | Between 50 and 55 yrs. |
| 6        | 1      | Between 55 and 60 yrs. |

Of the remaining 9 men and 5 women the marriages will be between 60 and 80 years. It will be noted that after the age of 30, in both sexes, the desire as well as the opportunity for marriage falls off rapidly. It is estimated that in any of our older settled States the number of marriageable but unmarried women between the ages of 16 and 45 is about 30 per cent. of the women living between those ages. If this estimate be correct the number of unmarried but marriageable women now living in New York city is about 165,000, while the number of unmarried men between the ages of 21 and 50 is 172,000.

Every woman living in this country who is between the ages of 15 and 45 has four chances to one of getting married; 25 out of every 100 must go through life husbandless. In the United States at this time the number of spinsters between the ages of 45 and 60 outnumber the bachelors of the same age as 6 to 1. A brief survey of any community in the Northern or Southern States will demonstrate the truth of this statement. The civil war is responsible for this state of affairs. Of the nearly 600,000 soldiers who died on both sides 90 per cent. were young unmarried men. Had there been no war a large majority of these men would have been married.—N. Y. Sun.

## WHEN WOMAN SHOULD SAY NO.

The New York Ledger thus discourses:—

She should refuse him when she knows his habits to be intemperate, for there can be no happier fate than marriage with a drunkard. She should refuse him when there is any hereditary disease in the family, such as consumption or insanity, which would in all probability show itself and cause infinite misery in after years. She should refuse him when she sees he is in the habit of associating with bad companions, who may lead him into a gambling, drinking and card playing life. She should refuse him when she knows him to be that despicable thing—a male flirt; she should reflect that as he has treated other girls so he may treat herself, and no woman cares to lay herself open to such treatment. She should refuse him when she feels she has no love to give him, and not marry, as many girls do, for a home; no marriage can be truly happy without love to sweeten the bonds. She should refuse him when he is proposing 'to her for her money or from pique.' A girl can generally distinguish real love from feigned, and even if she cares for him, should not accept him when she knows her love is not returned. She should accept when she really cares for him, and knows him to be a steady, faithful man, who will make her happy, and not cause her heart-breaks, which, perhaps, one of her more brilliant lovers might have done.

## ARE YOU JUST MARRIED.

Try to be satisfied to commence on a small scale. Try to avoid the too common mistake of making an effort to begin where 'the parents ended.' Try not to look at richer homes and covet their costly furniture. Try going a step further, and visit the homes of the poor when secret dissatisfaction is liable to spring up. Try buying all that is necessary to work with skillfully, while adorning the house at first with simply what will render it comfortable. Try being perfectly independent from the first, and shun debt in all its forms.

AN EVERY DAY AFFAIR.—Mrs. Brown—'If I have war with Spain I think I shall offer my services as a hospital nurse. Brown—'You could never stand it. The butcher and bloodsucker would make you sick. Mrs. Brown—'Oh, I am used to that sort of thing. Haven't I watched you shave yourself every morning for the last ten years?'—New York Journal.

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### A WARNING TO BUTTER MAKERS.

TORONTO, April 18.—Hon. John Dryden, Minister of Agriculture, has issued a circular warning the butter producers of Ontario that the increasing use of a preservative in the making of butter for export to Great Britain from certain countries, particularly Australia, has excited so much attention in the Old Country, that the exclusion of butter in which the preservative material may be found is being proposed. The Minister points out that the use of any material but common salt is dangerous to the dairying interest of Canada.

### WHO BUILT THE PYRAMIDS?

Hard to tell in some instances. But we know who are the great Nerve Builders. They are Scott & Bowne. Their Scott's Emulsion feeds and strengthens brain and nerves.

### A HINT TO MEDICAL MEN.

Doctors who are in the habit of using long words when visiting patients may take a hint from the following story.

An old woman whose husband was not very well sent for a doctor.

The doctor came and saw the old man.

When he was departing he said to the old woman:

'I will send him some medicine, which must be taken in a recumbent position.'

After he had gone the old woman sat down, greatly puzzled.

'A recumbent position—a recumbent position!' she kept repeating. 'I haven't got one.'

At last she thought, 'I will go and see if Nurse Town has got one to lend me.'

Accordingly she went and said to the old nurse:

'Have you got a recumbent position you can lend me to take some medicine in?'

The nurse, who was equally as ignorant as the old woman, replied:

'I had one, but to tell you the truth, I have lost it.'—Saturday Night.

### THE LANGUOR SO COMMON AT THIS SEASON

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