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"A woman's rank lies in the fulness of her womanhood: therein alone she is royal."—GEORGE ELIOT.

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Mlle. Szumowska.

Mlle. Szumowska, the accomplished pianist, who appeared before the London public with such marked success recently, and whose portrait finds a place in our pages, comes of an old Polish family who during the rising in 1863-4, incurred the displeasure of the Czar, and, like many another family, was exiled to Siberia. After the lapse of several years, the Szumowskas were permitted to return to their native place; but their lands having been confiscated, the father of the lady whose portrait we give accepted an appointment as Professor in Lublin, and it was in this town that Mlle. Szumowska was born. As in the case of numerous other musicians who have gained distinction in the world, Mlle. Szumowska gave indications of musical ability at a very early age, and when little more than eighteen months old, surprised her parents by tottering to the pianoforte and picking out on the keys the melody of a slumber song which her mother was accustomed to sing to her nightly. After this indication of precocity she was permitted to amuse herself at the instrument to her heart's content, and in her fifth year was in the receipt of the benefit of direct and systematic musical tuition. When in her tenth year her father was appointed to a professorship at Warsaw, she was taken to that city, where she pursued her general studies for the next five years, neglecting music for a time, but distinguishing herself in mathematics and other subjects, and studying Latin and Greek with her father. Her musical proclivities, however, soon reasserted themselves, and soon after sixteen she joined the Academy of Music at Warsaw, and made such rapid progress in her studies that in two years and a half she had finished the course which usually occupies three years, and passed all her examinations with the highest honors. She then studied for a while with Professor Michalowski at Warsaw, and in September, 1889, proceeded to Paris, towards which city nearly every foreign musical artist sooner or later gravitates. Up to this period Mlle. Szumowska had only cultivated music as an amateur, but, meeting the Polish pianist Paderewski in the French capital, he at once recognised her great musical talent, and persuaded her to adopt music as a profession—advice which she accepted, stimulated thereto by the offer of her compatriot to direct her Pianoforte studies. She has since worked hard at the instrument of her adoption under M. Paderewski's superintendence, taking lessons occasionally, however, from M. Gorski, the great Polish Violinist, who specially superintended her studies in the performance of concerted music. The lady's first public appearance was made in Paris in April last, at the Salle Erard, and her London debut was made at one of the Popular Concerts at St. James's Hall at the end of November. She returns to London in the course of a week or two, and is to reappear at the Popular Concerts on the 30th inst.—an event which is looked forward to by many with much interest. In private life Mlle. Szumowska is held in high estimation, not only for her great musical ability and intellectual endowments, but also for her extremely modest and sympathetic nature.

The Cellar.

When the housekeeper has bought, built, or hired her house, after due consideration of the family needs and tastes, and after careful examination of the locality and construction of the chosen home, her earliest attention should be directed to the cellar, as that part of the home which is most often neglected, and where order and convenience combined add no small amount to the comfort and healthfulness of all parts of the house.

The arrangement of the cellar takes time and attention rather than any great outlay of money. The windows should first be seen to. A stuffy, unventilated cellar, full of dead air, is an abomination. The windows should be so hung that they can be removed from the inside, and during all but the extreme winter months should be taken out, and even then, in mild days, they should be opened in the middle of the day. The outside of the windows should be protected by galvanized wire window netting, costing two and a half cents the square foot. A heavier, coarser-meshed quality can be used instead, if great strength is desired.

This quality costs six cents the square foot. The hatchways of city houses are troublesome in cold weather. Both the rear and

front hatchways admit a great deal of wind during the winter, in spite of the wooden covers that are fitted to them, and make the kitchen and dining-room floors draughtily and cold. This can be remedied by covering the iron grating over each hatchway with several folds of old carpeting or furniture sacking, and then fitting the cover down tightly. The hatchway on the sunny side of the house must be frequently opened for air. The cellar should be thoroughly white-washed, two heavy coats being enough.

All the cellars and many in the country towns and villages, are cemented, which under most conditions is the safest and cleanest flooring. But in the country, where the ground is not poisoned from leakages of sewers or the foul gases of cess-pools, and where, yet further, the ground is dry and sandy, a cellar bottom of well-beaten earth is not unwholesome, and has a mysterious capacity of keeping fruits and vegetables beyond that of cemented cellars. Such a cellar should have boards for walks to bins, barrels, and cupboard, to keep the house-mother from fretting over the dirt "tracked up." If these boards are occasionally turned over when swept, there will be no trouble from dampness or, "saw bugs."



Mlle. SZUMOWSKA.

Raising them up slightly from the ground by inch cleats nailed to the under-side of the boards is another and better method.

In a cellar where there is a furnace, it is a great help to household management to have a portion of the cellar divided from the furnace portion by a tight board partition, with a padlocked door opening into it. The boards used may be rough and cheap, costing two cents a foot; but the partitions must be tight, so as not to admit the warm air from the furnace. Under ordinary circumstances the expense need not be over ten dollars, and in many cases even less.

In this cold cellar the vegetables and apples, butter and preserves may be kept, and even in the city the uncomfortable habit of living from hand to mouth might be changed to a great degree. Here the time honored vinegar barrel or keg may have its place, giving out its supply of "pure cider" vinegar whenever needed. Near by should be the swinging shelf and cupboard, and the old-

time feeling of plenty and comfort, which the memory of the well-filled cellars of country homes always brings, would return to the household.

ABOUT SPOONS.—The spoon of to-day is surrounded with a great deal of individuality, the decorations and shapes determining the courses for which they are designed to be used. The berry spoon is fashioned like a flower petal. The soup spoons are like fluted shells, or the back of a turtle, or on the handle may be found tomatoes or other suggestive designs. Ice-cream spoons are small, and taper to a narrow spade-like edge. Orange spoons are similar in shape, with an edge ground sharp to cut. Bonbon spoons may be found in copies from French and English models; the bowls are flat and circular, have short stems, with flat, quaintly fashioned tops, and sometimes are furnished with rings to hang on the girdle. Of the woman or girl not yet possessed of the spoon-collecting mania, you can most confidently assert that she will be, and that in the near future. Let her be the recipient of but one, even, and she will become, like the good old aunt we read of, who, after generously supplying a young lad with pocket money, in reply to the question, "What shall I bring you?" replies, "From every town where you see a fair face or hear a pleasant tale, bring me a spoon." The tendency of the age is to be "spooney."

FOOD FOR ONE, FOOD FOR ALL.—Because one person has a better constitution, more active digestion and a stronger physique than another, the oft-repeated adage of "What is one man's meat is another man's poison," has come to be considered a fact, just as have many other false theories been accepted as truths. Now, in reality, there never was a more absurd claim. Grain, fruits and vegetables, taken as taste dictates, are all good, and will agree with all alike, but the manifold dishes concocted by the average cook, can be endured by only the few. Grease, sweets, oils, and condiments benefit no one, though there are those who can for a time endure them without apparent discomfort. But in the ages to come their progeny are cursed and grow sickly and diseased. What is one man's food is all men's food, just as oats, corn and hay is the food of the horse.

A CLEVER NOBLEMAN.—When Count d'Orsay was in England for the first time, very young, very handsome, and not shy, he was placed at some dinner next to the late Lady Holland. That singular woman, who had adroitly succeeded in ruling and retaining a distinguished circle longer than either fascination or tyranny might have accomplished, chanced that day to be in one of her imperious humors. She dropped her napkin; the count picked it up gallantly; then her fan, then her fork, then her spoon, then her glass, and as often her neighbor stooped and restored the lost article. At last, however, the patience of the youth gave way, and when she dropped her napkin again, he turned and called one of the footmen behind him. "Put my plate on the floor," said he; "I will finish my dinner there. It will be so much more convenient to my Lady Holland."

ORDER OF BRIDAL PROCESSION.—The order of a bridal procession on entering the church is: First, the ushers walking two and two; second, the bride-maids, also in pairs; the maid of honor next, and after her the bride, leaning upon her father's right arm. The bridegroom and his best man enter through the vestry with the clergyman, and await the bride at the altar. Half the ushers usually stand at either side of the altar, as do the bride-maids, pairs parting near the chancel rail, though all the bride-maids sometimes stand at the left of the bride. The maid of honor invariably stands next to the bride, as does the best man next to the bridegroom. When boxes of wedding-cake are provided, they are placed on a table in the hall, and each guest may take one home as a souvenir of the occasion.

The son of Dickens who was named after Tennyson has been lecturing in Australia on the life of his father. He was the first of the sons to emigrate, being two or three years in Australia before his younger brother, E. B. L. Dickens, Member of Parliament for Wilcannia, joined him. They entered into partnership, and are said to have done well as stock and station agents.