

THE HOUSEHOLD.

'DARLING.'

A mother told me yesterday the following pathetic incident, illustrating this statement. 'When Harry was four years old,' she said, 'my little Mary came. Harry was devoted to her from the first. He loved to sit by her crib, to watch me when I bathed her, to enjoy her crowing and all her cunning ways.

'One morning when I had arranged for her bath and had gathered the clean clothing about me, I found the water in the bowl was scarcely warm enough, and, as Harry had learned to turn the faucet, I said, handing him a large mug, 'Could you go to the bath-room, Harry, and bring me a mug of hot water?' He took the mug, delighted as usual to do an errand for his mamma and ran to the bath-room.

'It happened that the water was very hot, and the dear little fellow, with both hands around the mug, to hold it steady, nearly scalded the tender skin on his hands, in bringing it to me.

'But he made no exclamation of pain until I took the mug from him, determined to bring me the water.

'I kissed him as I drew him toward me, and, putting my arm about him, said, 'Why, darling, mamma's so sorry!'

He turned his face up toward me, and with a beautiful smile shining through his tears, asked, 'Is that for me?' 'What? what do you mean?' I said.

'Why, did you mean "darling" for me?' he said in a most pathetic voice, and then added, 'you know I've only been "dear" since baby came.'

'My heart came into my mouth,' said the young mother, 'and I was broken down completely. I had not realized until then that we had been using the most endearing terms to the baby, and depriving our little boy of what we had never thought he had either cherished or missed. It was a lesson I never forgot.'

Oh, young mothers, do remember that your little ones have very sensitive hearts which are easily wounded!

Remember, too, that although reproof and correction are necessary, quiet ones are oftentimes most effective, and reproofs in public should be avoided. And do not speak lightly or flippantly to the little folks when the new baby comes, but still have endearing, tender words for all.—*Standard*.

OUR EXPERIENCE BOX.

A glass of cold water the first thing after rising, and the last before retiring is strengthening to the stomach, and good for inaction of the bowels, dyspepsia, and all the troubles caused by a sedentary life.

Flowers may be kept very fresh over night if they are excluded from the air. To do this, wet them thoroughly, put in a damp box and cover with wet raw cotton, or wet newspaper, then place in a cool spot.

Before beginning to iron sprinkle the table plentifully with water and lay on the ironing blankets. This will hold it firmly in place and prevent all wrinkling and shoving about. Never try to iron with a blanket having wrinkles or bunches.

To warm the hands or feet of a sick person, or to remove pain, heat a quantity of fine salt in a spider, and inclose it in a cotton bag; fold the edges of the bag over two or three times and secure it with small safety pins, or baste it across. The salt will keep hot a long time, and to tuck about the feet, or under the back, is more serviceable than bottles of hot water.

To keep ice in the sick room, cut a piece of flannel about nine inches square, and secure it by ligature about the mouth of an ordinary tumbler so as to leave the cup-shaped depression of flannel within the tumbler to about half its depth. In the flannel cup so formed pieces of ice may be preserved many hours, all the longer if a piece of flannel from four to five inches square be used as a loose cover to the ice cup. Cheap flannel with comparatively open meshes is preferable, as the water easily drains through it and the ice is kept quite dry.

It may not be known to some housewives that if flour is kept in a closet with onions or cabbages, it will absorb unpleasant odors from them; you may not notice this until the flour is cooked, but then you

will. A large chocolate and coconut cake was prepared for a tea party not long since. It was not tasted until it was passed at tea-time, when the mistress observed a strong onion flavor, which though an excellent one in its proper place, was here a thing of evil. It was discovered afterwards that a basket containing onions had been left for two days in the storeroom with the flour, and everything, even the bread baked from this flour, had the onion flavor.

A roomy lounge in a bed-chamber is a great convenience. It affords an opportunity for an afternoon nap without disarranging the well-made bed, and many a careworn woman would lie down for a few minutes upon a lounge in her bedroom who would not think of resting in the daytime upon the bed. A long, broad, pine box, with wooden castors attached, makes an admirable lounge frame, or a narrow cot bedstead could be cut down to be of suitable height for a lounge frame. This should be supplied with a good mattress, or a covering of chintz or cretonne could be drawn over it, with a frill falling nearly to the floor. From one to three square pillows, similarly covered, would perfect this lounge, which could serve readily for a bed in time of need.—*Christian at Work*.

THE FAMILY ROUND TABLE.

I pity the family that does not possess some big round table, about which to gather in the evening. This is a family altar of cheer that will do much to take the place of the old-fashioned roaring fireplace.

No so-called 'centre-table' will answer the purpose, however beautiful and costly it may be. A marble-top table is an abomination for this purpose, good only for corners and bric-a-brac, absolutely worthless for schoolbooks and mother's work and the boys' games.

The family round table would best be the dining-table, if the dining-room is on the living floor, the table being adorned with a soft cover of some warm color. If the family round table is stationed here, there is no danger of interruption of the evening's arrangements for work and pleasure by chance callers that may come to see only one member of the family.

For the family round table there should be a good light,—one high enough above the table to send its rays over a generous circumference. There should be the soft cloth already mentioned, and, above all, the table should always be kept clear for action. If it is the dining-table, that will be the case. If it is a table in the sitting-room, it should not be made a permanent depository for books, magazines, and papers, work-basket, and household paraphernalia.

In a home thus furnished (and it is astonishing to see how many homes are lacking in this particular) the game of tiddledywinks is always in order; the desire for dominoes is not thwarted by lack of space; there is a place for John to work on his scrap-book, and for Jennie to work at her new-quilt; there is a place for father to spread his newspaper, and for mother to lay her *Harper's*; there is an arena for jack-straws, and a round suggestive of crambo.

This family table gathers the household group, and binds them together in a magnetic circle of love and pleasure. There is something in the fact of its being a round table that no square table or oblong table can ever accomplish. If in order to get this family centre you must knock out all the bric-a-brac, and destroy the good looks of parlor or sitting-room, and even send to the attic the most expensive inlaid-top table, it would prove no loss, but a rich and permanent gain.—*Golden Rule*.

POLITENESS.

One of the prettiest sights in the world was witnessed in a public place the other day when a boy of nine years stepped out in advance of his mother and older sister, opened the door, held it with one hand, courteously raised his cap with the other, and waited for them to pass through. It put the blush on more than one mature cheek and caused many a mother with growing children to wonder why it was that her boys never did anything of that sort. The simple reason was that in that household courtesy was enforced from the cradle.

The boy had never been permitted to suppose that he could pass through a door and allow it to swing back into the face of his seniors. At the age of nine years, he could offer his mother his arm, escort her to the table, place her chair for her, pick up her fan, handkerchief or gloves and perform any of the little polite acts of every-day existence, with the dignity and grace of a courtier. To say that he was admired by every one would not be in the least an exaggeration. In what striking contrast was his conduct with the indifferent, lounging carelessness of most of the boys with whom he was associated. But to attain this degree of ease and polish, it is scarcely necessary to say that the strictest rules of good-breeding were constantly observed in that family. It may be said that such things take too much time and trouble, and that one's home is a place for relaxation and indulgence in one's personal peculiarities. While this may be so the question would immediately arise just what habits and practices should be allowed, and whether, under any circumstances, bad manners, loafing and extreme carelessness are to be tolerated. When once one is trained to good form, some of the most objectionable features of every day indulgence become as distasteful as they were aforesaid thought comfortable and almost necessary. All of which goes to prove the truth of the old quotation, 'How use doth work a habit in a man.'—*Ledger*.

THE SLEEPING-ROOM.

If there must be neglect in any part of the house, be careful to insure cleanliness in the sleeping-room. Look carefully after the washstand and the various utensils belonging thereto. The soap dishes and toothbrush mugs cannot be kept too scrupulously clean. All slops and foul water should be emptied very promptly. Wash out and sun all pitchers, glasses, and whatever vessels are used in the sleeping room. Never allow water or stale bouquets of flowers to stand for days in the spare chamber after the departure of a guest. Towels that have been used should be promptly removed, and no soiled clothing allowed to hang or accumulate about the room. Closets opening into a sleeping apartment are often the receptacles of soiled clothes, shoes, etc., and become fruitful sources of bad air, particularly where there are small children. After such places the housewife should look with a keen eye for objectionable articles, and remove them with an unsparing hand. I have encountered such closets, in which one might find all the odors traditionally belonging to the city of Cologne—any one of which was enough to suggest ideas of disease germs.

Even so innocent a piece of furniture as the bureau may by carelessness become the recipient of articles which may taint the air of your bed-chamber. Damp and soiled combs and brushes are not only unsightly and disgusting, but lying soiled and un-aired from day to day will certainly contribute to evil air and odors, as will also greasy and highly scented hair ribbons, etc. Never lay freshly laundered clothes upon the bed; nor air the same in your bedroom, if possible to do so elsewhere. Do not hesitate to light a fire on cool mornings and evenings.—*Agriculturist*.

A NOVEL IDEA.

'Do you ever put your babies to sleep in bags?' asked an old nurse as she tucked in a family of little ones for the night. 'If not, I will give you a point that you may sometime find useful. I had at one time in my charge a very delicate infant. It seemed to have little vitality and very poor circulation, and it was impossible to keep the little thing warm. It was also very nervous and restless and needed constant watching, else it would kick itself out of all its wrappings. I taxed my brain for a long time to think of some way to keep it thoroughly protected, until finally I hit upon an idea. I bought a yard and a half of moderately thick felt, folded it over, leaving the folded portion for the foot of the bag, then shaped out the top in a sort of nightgown fashion. I sewed strong tapes on the edges, put the little one into the bag and drew up the strings. The felt came close to the throat, but not so close

as to be at all annoying. A little cap of soft, thick wool was provided, and you would have been surprised at the child's improvement. I kept the little thing in the bag the greater part of the time for three months, night and day, then it came on very warm weather and I gradually left open one tape after another until I could leave it off altogether. I used to say that that child gained a pound a week, and I really think she did.'

HOW TO DRY WET SHOES.

When, without overshoes, you have been caught in a heavy rain-storm, perhaps you have known already what to do with your best kid boots, which have been thoroughly wet through, and which, if left to dry in the ordinary way, will be stiff, brittle, and unlovely? If not, you will be glad to learn what I heard only recently, from one whose experience is of value.

First wipe off gently with a soft cloth all surface water and mud; then, while still wet, rub well with kerosene oil, using for the purpose the furred side of Canton flannel. Set them aside till partially dry, when a second treatment with oil is advisable. They may then be deposited in a conveniently warm place, where they will dry gradually and thoroughly. Before applying French kid-dressing, give them a final rubbing with the flannel, still slightly dampened with kerosene, and your boots will be soft and flexible as new kid, and be very little affected by their bath in the rain.—*Harper's Bazar*.

THRIFT.

A Scotch clergyman, while going through a village was requested to officiate at a marriage, in the absence of a parish minister. Just as he had told the bridegroom to love and honor his wife, the man interjected the words 'and obey.' The clergyman, surprised, did not heed the proposed amendment. He was going on with the service, when the groom again interposed, with emphasis, 'Ay, and obey, sir,—love, honor, and obey, ye ken!' A few years afterwards the clergyman met the hero of the wedding incident. 'D'ye mind, sir, yon day when ye married me, and when I wad insist upon vowing to obey my wife? Well, ye may now see that I was in the right. Whether ye wad or no, I have obeyed her; and behold, I am the only man that has a twa storey house in the hale town!' The Scotchman went even further than Franklin, who said, 'The man who would thrive must ask his wife.'

RECIPES.

(From Miss Parloc's New Cook Book.)

WELSH RARE-BIT.—Half a pound of cheese two eggs, a speck of cayenne, a tablespoonful of butter, one teaspoonful of mustard, half a teaspoonful of salt, half a cupful of cream. Break the cheese in small pieces and put it and the other ingredients in a bright saucepan, which put over boiling water. Stir until the cheese melts; then spread the mixture on slices of crisp toast. Serve immediately.

BAKED BEANS.—Pick one quart of beans free from stones and dirt. Wash and soak in cold water over night. In the morning pour off the water. Cover with hot water, put two pounds of corned beef with them and boil until they begin to split open (the time depends upon the age of the beans, but it will be from thirty to sixty minutes). Turn them into the colander, and pour over them two or three quarts of cold water. Put about half of the beans in a deep earthen pot, then put in the beef, and finally the remainder of the beans. Mix one teaspoonful of mustard and one tablespoonful of molasses with a little water. Pour this over the beans, and then add boiling water to just cover. Bake slowly ten hours. Add a little water occasionally.

FRIED FISH.—All small fish, like brook trout, smelts, perch, etc., are best fried. They are often called pan-fish for this reason. They should be cleaned, washed, and drained, then well salted, and rolled in flour and Indian meal (half of each) which has been thoroughly mixed and salted. For every four pounds of fish have half a pound of salt pork, cut in thin slices, and fried a crisp brown. Take the pork from the pan and put the fish in, having only enough to cover the bottom. Fry brown on one side; turn, and fry the other side. Serve on a hot dish, with the salt pork as a garnish. Great care must be taken that the pork or fat does not burn, and yet to have it hot enough to brown quickly. Cod, haddock, cusk and halibut are all cut in handsome slices and fried in this manner; or, the slices can be well seasoned with salt and pepper, dipped in beaten egg, rolled in bread or cracker crumbs, and fried in boiling fat enough to cover. This method gives the handsomer dish, but the first the more savory. Where Indian meal is not liked, all flour can be used. Serve very hot. Any kind of fried fish can be served with *beurre noir*, but this is particularly nice for that which is fried without pork. When the cooked fish is placed in the dish pour the butter over it, garnish with parsley, and serve.