

HOUSEHOLD.

Cooking as a Trade.

So much depends upon the community in which one lives, upon the taste and capacity of the person who attempts the somewhat difficult task of earning money at home, that it becomes an equally difficult and often ungrateful task to offer one's advice and experience. Hoping, however, to help someone, who wishes in a quiet way to add to her income, I venture to offer suggestions which may prove of value.

Perhaps never before was there such an opening for the woman who can cook to supply her sisters who can cook also, but do not wish to spare the time for it, as at the present. But to be successful she must be thorough, neat and reliable. She would not buy a piece of cloth with a hole in it, neither should she offer a pie for sale with the crust burned half way round, a cake not properly baked, or brown bread with a crust requiring a hatchet to break it. If she does not know how to do these things properly, her first care should be to learn. Then, having learned, the best mode of procedure is to go out taking orders. Know definitely what she is going to do, and then do it in the best possible manner. My own experience of late rises up before me. I expected a guest, and when the little girl, with the tidy basket of doughnuts on her arm, appeared at the door, I gladly ordered a pie for next day's dinner. The pie came, looking deceitfully good, though overdone, and the thought of a ready-made dessert was a restful and happy one. My happiness lasted until I beheld my guest and my husband struggling with the awful crust underneath the fair-looking exterior, and then I wondered how anyone could make such stuff when it is so simple and easy a matter to make it good and eatable. It is not necessary to make expensive puff paste, unless one expects to supply the demand for finest cookery. Ordinary patrons will be satisfied with plain crust if perfectly made and baked.

I think the woman who earns will do better with a few specialties, which she can do perfectly, than with a larger list.

Meringue pies look nice (from the standpoint of salability), and are easily made. There is almost an endless variety of fillings, for which a meringue is daintier than an upper crust. Just one hint in regard to beating the egg for this—a pinch of cream of tartar sprinkled over the egg white and beaten in before the sugar is added, is an improvement.

Angel food cake is well adapted for an order business, as many ladies do not care to provide themselves with the necessary utensils for making it properly, or to take the pains in making it which are necessary; still it is one of the simplest as well as the daintiest cakes made. Angel cake is more tender and delicate if kept three days or more before cutting. A simple, golden sponge cake, prettily frosted, will be found very salable. Practice makes perfect, and comparatively few acquire the art of making ideal sponge cake.

Wedding cakes, too, are profitable. A lady whom I know, makes this her special work, and you may be sure she keeps a keen eye on the doings of Cupid in her neighborhood.

A bright woman, with energy, who can do some of these things, a little better than her neighbors, would be a blessing in almost any community, and especially in one where ladies like to give lunches and teas, and are able to avail themselves of outside assistance in doing so.

One woman whom I know, goes out at a dollar-fifty a day, and takes the entire charge of the cookery on such occasions. By making a study of the art of serving courses neatly, such an one could prepare and take all the responsibility of properly serving dinners, lunches, or other entertainments for ladies who do not keep help enough to entertain as they would like to.

In large towns there is a large number of people who work in offices at a distance from home. A canvass among these, among teachers, also, and pupils, might open a field of profit in serving lunches, put up in dainty boxes, each with its paper napkin. Much is added to the appetizing character of the lunch if the separate articles are wrapped in tissue paper. These should be delivered about noon, and the boxes gathered up later on.

The woman who cooks for profit should

buy at wholesale, so far as possible. In estimating her prices, she must count her labor at a fair living rate, and by keeping strict account of material, she can soon judge whether her business will pay.

Pie crust shells, baked in little fluted tins, and filled with whipped cream, are something of which most people are fond.

The woman who has a good cow as part of her stock on hand is fortunate, as even the sour milk can be worked up into little pots of cottage cheese which are always salable. I know a brisk farmer's wife, in the thrifty East, who has her regular customers for this dainty, and she told me she sold from a dollar's worth upward every week. A little work, and the use of material which would otherwise have gone to the pigs brought in a welcome addition to her butter and egg capital. This is only one way among the many, by which women may earn at home, and in it, of course, as in all, success depends upon the courage and perseverance of the woman who attempts it.—Mrs. F. M. Howard, in the 'Housekeeper.'

Training Up the Boys.

There is a society or club in a Western town in the sessions of which the members sometimes introduce rather queer subjects. They sometimes debate, too, and many of the topics they select are interesting, to say the least.

The other day a member rose and asked leave to suggest a motto for the mothers' club-room. Consent (contingent, of course) having been gained, the lady gave this sentence, which was in due course of time wrought into a motto, and now adorns the walls of the room:

'Remember that you are raising your boy to be some woman's husband.'

When it was put in place and all the women had looked and admired, one of the veterans rose and asked the originator of the idea what she could say in the way of a sermonette with that motto for a text. The woman was just a little flustered by her query, but rallied, and finally admitted that she had not given a great deal of thought to the matter, but had an idea that if the mothers of boys would once in a while consider that the characters they are helping their sons to form will some day make some other woman either very happy or very miserable. Allow the child to have his own way, and there is the beginning of an arbitrary and overbearing spirit. Teach him that others have rights that he is bound to respect; that he is, by no means all that there is to be thought of in the family; that he has duties and obligations to those around him, as well as others to him, and the foundation for a good husband is being laid. Teach him to be considerate and thoughtful of others, ever on the lookout for the pleasures and conveniences of those within his influence; always with a quick eye and a ready hand to see the need of a lift, or to do a good turn, and his comrades will gather about him, his family will respect and love him, and his wife, when he has one, will adore him. There is no commodity in the world so hard to get, as a really good husband. Most men have been so flattered and petted in their childhood, that they are spoiled long before they grow up. Their mothers, aunts, and grandmothers made them out angels, while they were little, and the idea that they were of a great deal more account than girls grew with their growth. They sometimes seem to think that women were made specially for the purpose of waiting on them, and many of them are inclined to accept all feminine homage as justly their due, and to feel in a measure defrauded if they do not receive it.

The exceptions to this rule are the high-

minded, large-souled men, who can consider others as well as themselves, and whose hearts are full of genuine Christian grace and honesty of intent and purpose.

When a sensible, clear-headed, warm-hearted woman and such a man meet and decide to unite their fortunes and futures there is true marriage. They are above all forms of deception and misrepresentation, and their lives and homes are honorable, clean and of good report. They embody the ideal of life, and to know them is to admire and respect them, while to dwell under such a roof as theirs is a privilege and a pleasure not often vouchsafed to the children of men.—'Ledger.'

Luck and Labor.

Luck is waiting for something to turn up. Labor with keen eyes and strong will will turn up something. Luck lies in bed and wishes the postman would bring him news of a legacy. Labor turns out at six o'clock, and lays the foundation of competence. Luck whines. Labor whistles. Luck relies on chances. Labor on character. Luck slips down to indigence. Labor strides upward to independence. Which do you depend on, my boy?—'Good words.'

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