

HOUSEHOLD.

A Word to Girls.

Many girls, in going away from home, and taking up far-off duties, forget and belittle, 'that trivial round and common task,' of the home circle, which as the old hymn would remind us, might 'furnish all we ought to ask.' Do not, I entreat you, O girls, who have your mothers still, forget that their claims upon your life, and your attention, and your care, come first of all! If you remember her, and put her claims before your own, you will be glad one day, and the tears which you weep above her will be tinged with no bitterness and remorse.

Her love which you will never understand and never prize enough, till its encircling embrace has faded away, will only be waiting for you on the other side, and watching over you, for not even death, could ever make a mother forget; but if you have placed anything, aye, even your career, and your own ambitions, first, and have somehow grown to think of mother's love as a common adjunct to life, something will clutch your heart when this taken-for-granted love has gone, and you will clasp your hands, and hold them out to her, with the deepest anguish that love can offer! The trivial round and the common task, can be glorified by the right spirit, and the day may come when you will thank God on your knees, that you stayed at home to brighten things there—stayed merely to help mother!

You don't, of course, realize how the very presence of your bright young face at her side, your little comings and goings, your laugh on the stairs, the very sense of your presence in the house, are just gladness and happiness unspeakable to her! She will let you go, of course, without a murmur; no one would more fiercely assert your claim to your own life and your own career; and in her self-abnegation she probably urges you on. Her darling is more clever and more talented, she thinks, than anyone! But I would suggest that you would sit down quietly, before the fascinating career is fixed upon, and just ask yourself if you think that your mother can really spare you—if you think that there are no steps in the long day that you can take for her—if you think that it does not brighten her tired face to see you coming in. Girlhood is so impatient, so restless, so eager to grasp the Edelweiss which grows upon the Alpine heights! Does she forget, sometimes, the sweet Heartsease that grows, half-hidden perhaps, in the quiet home-garden? Forget that one day her career, her realized ambition, aye, even wealth and fame will seem as nothing to her when weighed in the balance with that wonderful and tender love which was hers when she did not know how to prize it, but which has now slipped from her life into the shadows? How great the one will seem, and, ah me! how piteously little the rest! — Mrs. N. Marshall, in 'The Young Woman.'

The Housekeeping Profession

There is no nobler calling than housekeeping. The drudgery lies in the fact that we do not appreciate our vocation and systematize our work. The scriptural injunction to 'walk worthy the vocation wherewith we are called' is as applicable to housekeeping as to any other.

As much of housekeeping clusters around the dining-room and kitchen, let us see what improvements may be made there. The floors should be kept nicely swept, and the chairs set out of the way. I have seen rooms where the sweeping was delayed until the crumbs, grease, fruit, etc., were tracked into the floor. Too much furniture in kitchen or dining-room makes more work and tends to give the room a disorderly look. The stove may be kept looking nice with an occasional blacking, and a brushing off after each meal with an old broom saved for the purpose. A stove may be made to shine with half the labor, by using an old broom instead of a brush. An oiled or painted floor saves much scrubbing. A woodbox on castors is a profitable investment, and costs little. A wide shelf in the dining-room will

serve for a sideboard, if no better can be afforded.

I have in mind a comfortable kitchen and dining-room in one. The housekeeper is over seventy years old, makes butter, feeds chickens, and attends to the many nameless duties of a farmer's wife. The room is large, the walls white, wainscoting and floor dark, and both are oiled. The stove and the utensils used in cooking are always clean. They are kept so by a little attention to each dishwashing. Behind the stove is a rack where the boys hang their coats to dry. There are white Swiss curtains, discarded from the sitting-room, at the windows. On the shelves, built over the window sills, are blooming plants and a green vine which climbs up the curtain. The long mantel which holds the clock, lamps, etc., has a washable cover of cream canvas, cross-stitched in red. The floor is kept clean by a little wiping with clear water; sometimes it is treated to a milk wash, as this gives it a polish.

The greatest charm of the room is the housekeeper. Her brow is smooth, her face is peaceful. Her motto is, 'There'll be another day.' She is never discomposed by unexpected company, but sets what she has on a clean cloth, and makes no apology. People who come unaware must take 'pot luck.' I have often thought, when seeing the worry of some of the sisters, 'Better is a dinner of herbs and quietness therewith than an houseful of sacrifice with strife.'—'The Housekeeper.'

Dont's for the Bathing Season.

(By Captain Dalton, Official Instructor to New York Volunteer Life-Saving Corps, and Champion Swimmer of the World.)

Don't go in swimming if you are tired out from bicycle-riding or a long walk.

Don't go out further than a depth equal to your own height if you are liable to heart failure.

Don't swim away from the crowd if you are not certain you are an adept swimmer.

Don't stay in the water a minute after you have become fatigued or chilled.

Don't let your friends dare you to swim further than you have swum before.

Don't attempt to rescue another person from drowning unless you are a good swimmer yourself.

Don't feel that your duty demands that you plunge in after every person who is liable to be drowned; remember that a drowning man is a lunatic and is liable to drag you to your own death unless you are capable of floating with a heavy load under all circumstances.

Don't plunge into the water to save a drowning person without first shouting loudly for help.

Don't loose your equilibrium because a fellow-swimmer is in danger of drowning; confused heads cause more drowning than inability to swim.

Don't throw yourself into the water to rescue another if a rope or a boat is within reasonable reach.

Don't lose your courage or your head if you happen to find yourself too far out to swim back yourself; simply turn on your back, place your hands under your back, paddle with your feet, and, above all, breathe naturally.

Don't yell at a man in danger of drowning; the best swimmer will drown if subject to a sudden fright.

Don't get frightened if you have a cramp, a cramp always comes in an arm or leg; so simply raise the cramped part out of the water, float easily and rub the cramped part for a few moments, when you will be all right once more.

Don't stand on the bank after a swim until you have had yourself dried off with a towel.

Don't go in swimming within three hours after eating.

Don't push another person into the water with the foolish but popular notion that you can thus teach him to swim; the best way is to let a person first get accustomed to being in the water, gradually going a little deeper.

Don't come in front of a drowning person to rescue him; approach him from the rear and grasp him by both biceps, and the more

he struggles the more aid does he unknowingly give you to help him ashore.

Don't strike a man on the head to make him unconscious if he resents your aid while drowning; such a plan though common in America, is as foolish as it is cruel and dangerous.

Vegetables.

Turnips should be pared, put into boiling water and cooked until soft, then mashed thoroughly, buttered, salted and a good spoonful of sugar added.

Carrots are best peeled after boiling. When soft, cut them in slices lengthwise, and pour over them a drawn butter. This is the nicest way to serve them.

Celery should always be eaten when freshly cut. We have time and again been disappointed in finding it flat and shreddy from having been kept too long, instead of crisp and delicious as it is when fresh.

Cabbage should always be boiled in two waters. The outer, grosser leaves should be pulled off, and it should be put into boiling water and cooked until tender to the core. A previous good soaking in cold water is desirable and needful.

Onions are among the most appetizing and wholesome of vegetables. The outer skin is pulled off before cooking in any form. Put them in hot water, and boil until a wisp from the broom will pierce them readily. One of the simplest, most delightful ways to prepare them for the table is to salt, butter and pepper them, and pour over them some cream of moderate thickness. A drawn butter sauce is nice when cream is not procurable. Any soup, chicken or meat pie, chowder or stew, is incomplete to most palates without the flavor imparted by an onion or two.

Housekeepers in general would laugh at the idea of being told anything with reference to cooking potatoes. Yet many good housekeepers fail of knowing how much improved potatoes may be by having the skins removed and being allowed to stand in cold water for about half an hour before being boiled. Or, some may not realize how mealy potatoes will come that have been boiled with the skins on, by being pared, returned to the kettle with no water in it, covered carefully, and left to steam a little while on the back of the stove. Always put them in boiling water to cook, salting it slightly before taking them up.

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