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WOMAN AND HOME.

A HOUSEKEEPER SHOULD HAVE PLENTY OF USEFUL TOOLS.

The Destructive Broom—They Need Good Food—Let the Girls Romp—A Gifted Woman—Women in England's Civil Service—Fashion Reports Itself.

A carpenter would not think of trying to work without a good supply of tools, and why should a housekeeper? By this I do not mean that she should have five or six different kinds of lemon squeezers and then squeeze her lemons with her fingers, or three or four potato mashers and then mash the potatoes whole. Neither do I mean for her to have her pantry filled with steamers, cookers, boilers and kettles that she never uses—but to have plenty of useful tools.

I have found that I can live without a soup shaker. I have tried it. I can instead a little washing powder in my dishwater. Trial will show how much to use, just what kind to use. It makes the water so much softer and seems cleaner than soap, and glass and silver look so bright that you will like to look at them. The idea of soap that would go into the soap shaker can be used in the juice on washday. And the powder will not hurt your hands, as I have seen men use a handle dipping out lead, while the water is hot. The dishcloth without the handle, the cloth that is made of an old dishtowel, is always wearing out and getting dirty. Anyway, mine is, or was, for I have found a remedy. I buy a yard of crash toweling—it is quite thick and strong—and cut it into halves. I then hem both pieces, and these are two dishcloths that will last there or four months apiece.

One tool I find useful in the kitchen is an artist's palette knife. It is very finer and is not suitable for rough work, but in certain places it has no equal. How discouraging it is to try to scrape a frying pan or a coffee plate with a knife that is so stiff that it is utterly impossible to bend it and get at the corners and curves. A palette knife is so pliable that you can scrape the bottom as well as the sides and you do not feel as though you were scratching the dish all to pieces. The price is not very high; ten or twenty cents will buy one. I use a woman pare potatoes and other vegetables with an old, dull knife that has been all along the edge and was useless; it is a very simple thing to use an emery stick, and it is really a pleasure to pare a potato with a sharp knife.—Rural New Yorker.

The Destructive Broom.

I don't suppose I will receive much backing from lady readers when I assert that not one woman in a hundred knows how to sweep! Nevertheless it is a fact. When a woman sweeps she holds the broom at an angle that brings one corner of the broom on the floor and then pushes it forward with all her might, giving it a kind of a flirt at the end of the stroke that throws the dust and dirt into the air. The heavier particles of dirt she finally captures in one corner of the room and gets most of it into the dustpan, but the lighter—and main portion—flies up into the air and goes settle upon the floor, furniture and walls. Then she dusts the room and knocks a good deal of the dirt off the resting places and it returns to its old quarters on the floor.

Now any man who has watched the process will say that I have told the plain truth. Look at a broom after it has been woman-used for a few weeks! One corner turned up and sticking out like a sleigh runner, the whole much impaired, ruined! The right way to sweep is to hold the broom RIGHT its brush square on the floor and in line behind the body of the sweeper. Bring it forward with a regular, steady movement, and stop it forward motion before the ends of the brush catch in the carpet and act like so many springs that throw dirt in the air. "Pressure" the dirt to advance, and don't try to wave it. Are so if you were petting a sick baby and not to if you were pitching hay. Turn the brush over occasionally so as to wear it evenly, and your broom, furniture and carpets will last longer, and so will you, for the labor won't be half so great and the satisfaction will be three times as great. When it comes to dusting—for even with proper sweeping some dust will accumulate—take a feather duster, an old turkey tail or some such abomination, but take a cloth and wipe up the dust, not flirt it off on the floor again. Try a scientific sweep once, and you will not go back to the old way again.—Cor. Stockman.

They Need Good Food.

Don't be too fruitfully economical. Marital conscientiousness is almost as bad as lack of conscience, and lots of people who spend their lives in a hard, miserable effort to save a few cents or even a few dollars seem to forget that they themselves, their energy, youth, freshness and health are precious possessions and should be economized over so much more rightly than anything else in the world. Don't economize on food; get the best, not necessarily the fancy cuts of meat or forced vegetables, but best quality, sound, juicy meat, strong soups, wholesome vegetables and a sufficient variety to everything to keep nature strong and vigorous. Even if you are a family of women prepare all meals as if men were expected, that will insure hot tea, pastry and pickles and more of the elements needed to build up brain and body.

It is a great mistake to fancy that women do not need these elements as much as men as a matter of fact, they need them more, for a woman's nervous energy uses up tissue and vitality faster than she can possibly provide for it, and the various small strains and bothers of the day need as much force to meet them as the greater outdoor exertion of the most hard worked man, and the only reason on earth why wives grow old, timid and worn while their husbands are getting fat and jolly is that all men take care of themselves and all women don't.—New York Press.

Let the Girls Romp.

Most mothers have a dread of romps, as they lecture the girls daily on the proprieties and exhort them to be little ladies. They like to see them very quiet and gentle and as prim as possible. The lot of such children is rather pitiable, for they are deprived of the fun and frolic which they are entitled to. Children—boys and girls—must have exercise to keep them healthy. Deprive them of it and they will fade away like flowers without sunshine.

Rounding, racing, shouting, shouting—these are the things that strengthen the muscles, expand the chest and build up the system. The mild dose of exercise taken in the nursery with relaxations or gymnastics will not intoxicate the system like a good romp in the open air. Mothers, therefore, who cramped their little girls in prim ways quietly make a mistake. Better the laughing, rosy cheeked, romping girl than the pale, lily faced one who is called every inch a lady.

The latter never breaks things, or tears her dresses, or tries her mother's patience as the former does; but after all what do the tearing and breaking amount to? It is not a wise policy to put an old head on young shoulders. Childhood is the time for childish pranks and plays. The girls grow into womanhood soon enough. Make them be children as long as possible, and also give them plenty of fresh air and sunlight.—Journal of Health.

A Gifted Woman.

The kind enjoyed by one unobtrusive individual upon those so happy as to know her is something phenomenal. None make her fear to praise her, and she has the warmest service of every heart that comes her way. Now, what is the secret of her great power? Intuition!

It is not personal beauty, surely, and she has no alluring graces and trains of admirers. Her conversation is good and her talking unpretentious, but this is true of many of her associates who make as warm friends. How is it done? Mostly by this wise woman's phenomenal self effacement. One hardly notices that she never tells anything concerning her concerns or her affairs. People are so busy telling her of theirs. And it is like talking to one's other self. She never moves heard, and she follows such confidences by gentle, sympathetic questions, indicating that her interest in the subject is real and fascinated until thick she would gladly lose more.

She is sympathetic, and she holds all confidences inviolable. In consequence, she is esteemed by a circle circle of friends as the "heart's dearest," and her society is always desired by those who do not know her best understand her hold upon them. Self effacement really brings aggrandisement to this woman gifted of the gods.—Georgia A. Peck in Boston Commonwealth.

Women in England's Civil Service.

The position held by the postmistress of Gibraltar is worth $700 a year. Miss Cromwell Seaman superintendent of the government telegraph office about four hours ago, and for the last five years she has had sole control of the post-office, with a large staff, male and female, and branches at Tangier, Mazagran and several other towns of Morocco. Only four of the colonial officials receive better pay than Miss Cromwell. She holds a unique position as a female civil servant, as other lady occupies nearly so high a post. Miss Edith Shore, M. D., female medical officer to the Foulon penitentiary, was appointed at a salary of $500, rising to $600. Miss L. F. Acworth, postmistress of Ealing, has a salary of $500 a year. In 1891 Miss Shore received $440, Mrs. Armand Colliver $437 and Miss McBeath $413. In the savings bank department Miss M. C. Smith was appointed, with a salary of from $400 to $450, and received in 1891 $395. The chief staff of the postoffice on March 31, 1891, included 112,000 officials, of whom 24,245 were women.—London Tit-Bits.

Fashion Reports Itself.

Now true it is that in costume, as in everything else, history repeats itself. We find tight lacing in vogue eight centuries ago, and a small waist was considered a beauty by the subjects of William Rufus and Henry I. The girdle was always an important part of women's costume in early times, and could be tightened at pleasure, while a fashion prevailed of confining the waist with something resembling something the Swiss bodice, laced in front, which also gave opportunities for compressing the body out of its natural shape.

The sleeves accompanying the Saxon tunic were made in a series of rolls, finished off with a chaste bracelet, or band, and served also the purpose of gloves (before those useful articles were invented), being full and long, so that they could be pulled over the hands. In the Twelfth century they were cut in different ways, sometimes tight to the wrist and sometimes very wide and long. Ornaments were freely worn, and the long rolls which were the handgear for ladies of quality were fastened with gold pins.—Notes and Queries.

Selfishness of Some Mothers.

"The selfishness of mothers," says the wife of a physician, "is something that should be invoked against. I speak with special reference to it in times of disease. There is a case of scarlet fever on our block in a house which is shut up, the place secret, and now that the child is getting well the mother, or nurse, is so careless as to shake bedclothing daily from the window of the sickroom. This endangers the health of the whole court of children, as nobody knows into whose windows the disease which is there may fly.

"Another mother of a convalescent scarlet fever child, also in our block, had all the belongings of the room removed to the yard and beaten and aired, capping the climax by burning the little crib mattress in the same confined space. Mothers seem to get callous after the danger is past for their own offspring, and often show a lack of consideration they would be the first to grow indignant over if the case were reversed."—Her Point of View in New York Times.

An English "Home."

It is to be questioned if a scheme which has just taken practical shape in London would find a field over here. A "home" has been established for ladies deprived of their natural support by death, the home to be supported by contributions which would otherwise be expended in costly funeral flowers. It is called after the late Duke of Clarence, whose memory, by the way, is perpetuated in so many charitable plans as almost to be confusing.—Her Point of View in New York Times.

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