

prepared for sale. They may be had of "The Lady Dressmaker," care of Mr. H. G. Davis, 73, Ludgate Hill, E.C., price 1s. each; if tacked in place, 6d. extra. The addresses should be fully given. Postal notes should be crossed, but not filled up with any name. Patterns already issued may always be obtained. As the object aimed at is use, not fashion, "The Lady Dressmaker" selects such patterns as are likely to be of constant use in making and re-making at home, and is careful to give new hygienic patterns, for children as well as adults, so that the readers of THE GIRL'S OWN PAPER may be aware of the best methods of dressing themselves. The following in hy-

gienic underclothing have already been given—Combination (drawers and chemise), princess petticoat (under-bodice and petticoat), divided skirt, under-bodice instead of stays, pyjama (nightdress combination). Also housemaid's or plain skirt, polonaise with waterfall back, Bernhardt mantle, dressing jacket, Princess of Wales jacket and waistcoat (for tailor-made gown), mantelette with stole ends, Norfolk blouse with pleats, ditto with yoke; blouse polonaise, princess dress (or dressing-gown), Louis XI. bodice with long fronts, Bernhardt mantle with pleated front, plain dress-bodice suitable for cotton or woollen materials; Garibaldi blouse with loose front, new skirt pattern with rounded back, bathing dress,

new polonaise, winter bodice with full sleeves, Irish wrap or shawl cloak, blanket dressing-gown, emancipation suit, dress drawers, corselet bodice with full front, spring mantle, polonaise with pointed fronts, Directoire jacket-bodice, striped tight-fitting tennis or walking jacket, honeycombed Garibaldi skirt, new American bodice instead of stays, new Corday skirt with pleats, new jacket-bodice with waistcoat, princess dress, jacket and waistcoat, "Little Lord Fauntleroy" suit, braided bodice and revers, Directoire jacket with folded front, Empire bodice, men's pyjama, a mantle without sleeves, a plain gored princess chemise, and a Breton jacket and waistcoat.

A HOMELY VIRTUE.

PUNCTUALITY has been called one of the minor virtues; it has also been called "a homely virtue." We prefer the latter definition, because punctuality has so much to do with the comfort of everyday life, that we object to even the most oblique depreciation of it. We have such a very great admiration for it, that we like to put it on a pedestal, and as love goes further than admiration, we hope all who admire exactness will proceed to show their affection practically by being punctual.

Home comfort very much depends upon the exercise of this virtue, not by one, but by all members of the family. Order, and the general well-being of a house, cannot exist without it.

We cannot say we admire the conduct of a very punctual man we once heard of. He, failing to see his dinner appear on the table at the exact stroke of the clock announcing the hour for the meal, used to sit down and ring the bell until it arrived. We are afraid that he lost his temper on those occasions, and very probably damaged that of his cook.

But the principle of having fixed hours for meals, and expecting that the family will act upon it, should reign in every well-ordered household. It is bad morally to do things in a hurry, and hurry-scurry it must be if people put off to the last moment dressing for dinner or drive, or indulge in those charming half-hours in bed, which mean either scampering through their toilet, or else appearing at breakfast when the rest of the household are half finished. To get everything tepid in consequence cannot be appetising, and unless a large staff of servants exist, they cannot be supposed to be running up and down with what has been "kept warm." If the meat has to be taken in a hurry, then digestion suffers, and people are very much astonished if chronic dyspepsia becomes their companion.

The unpunctual person who has to go off to work, usually comes down looking injured, as if his lateness was the fault of everyone but himself. He has an air of martyrdom, is often very silent, and sometimes adopts the very childish display of temper known as "cutting off your nose to spite your face," manifested by scarcely eating anything. His boots then have to come on, and if the buttons give out or the lace breaks, he has hardly time to supply the deficiency. He is usually untidy, and is seen searching for gloves, or comforter, or whatever article of attire he most frequently leaves about, till the sound—a pleasant one for all else in the house; alas! for him that it should be so—is heard of the door slamming after him; for he is so cross as the result of his own unpunctuality that all feel relieved at his departure.

Of course, extremes are often bad, and we confess not to feeling the great admiration

expected of us when we read that Nelson owed his success to being always fifteen minutes before the time. Our private opinion is that he wasted a good deal of time if that was his plan of action, and to be exact in keeping to appointed hours does not necessitate that at all.

It does, however, require that people should use their common sense and try and calculate their time correctly, leaving a margin always to the good: that is to say, giving themselves more rather than less time to accomplish what they desire to do. To be "always in haste, yet never in a hurry," is the golden mean between dawdling, with the result of unpunctuality, and a feverish desire to be in such good time as ends in being always too soon.

In this high-pressure nineteenth-century life we need to exercise this virtue if we would fit into our day all our wish.

"How extraordinary," we sometimes hear, "that A, who is so extremely busy, can find time to do so and so," whereas B, who has very little work to do and fewer duties of obligation, professedly "never has time for anything." No time with B is made the excuse for unanswered letters, visits not paid, duties of all kinds neglected; whereas A, who knows the value of time, tries by exactness and method to fit in his duties—and succeeds.

A clever man once wrote thus to his son at college—

"Be punctual. I do not mean merely being in time for lectures, but I mean that spirit out of which punctuality grows—that love of accuracy, precision, and vigour which makes the efficient man; the determination that what you have to do shall be done in spite of all petty obstacles, and finished at once and finally. . . . The punctuality which I desire for you involves and comprehends the exact arrangement of your time. It is a matter on which much depends. Fix how much time you will spend on each object, and adhere all but absolutely to your plan."

Washington's secretary, Hamilton, was a most unpunctual man, and when the General reproved him for this fault, the secretary made the excuse that his watch did not keep correct time.

"Then you must get a new watch," said Washington, "or I must have another secretary."

The habit of order and exactness cannot be too soon acquired, and if parents set the example of punctuality, and enforce it on their children, the latter will have to thank them all through their lives for so valuable a habit. In all business matters it is most essential, and in all relations of life it is a virtue which has most assuredly its own reward.

The girl or boy who has been taught to be punctual at home, will at college or business find that the habit makes much that would be drudgery perfectly easy. Those who have not had that early training, have either to put a strong will into the matter and oblige themselves to learn punctuality, or else they groan over the necessity, and the double strain makes work more arduous and gives a sense of bondage by no means agreeable.

Women often have the curious notion that the regularity and discipline of life usually is more necessary for men than for themselves. The fact that the generality of men go more into the world in the way of business is the explanation. The moment a woman adopts any line of action outside her home she will find that regularity is equally necessary.

In hospital training, visiting the poor, learning any art or science, working in business, literature, clerkships, or no matter what, punctuality is so much to the good, and is a great passport to success in whatever is undertaken.

We read too, "It is a fact, not always remembered, that Napoleon's great victories were won by infusing into his subordinates the necessity of being punctual to the minute. It was his plan to manoeuvre over large spaces of country, so as to render the enemy uncertain where he was about to strike a blow, and then suddenly to concentrate his forces and fall with irresistible power on some weak point of the extended line of the foe. The execution of this system demanded that each division of the army should arrive at the specified spot punctually, for if any part failed to come up, the battle was lost. It was by imitating this plan that the allies finally succeeded in overthrowing the Emperor. The whole Waterloo campaign turned on these tactics. At Mount St. Jean Blucher was punctual, while Grouchy was not, and the result was that Napoleon fell and Wellington triumphed."

Lord Brougham's punctuality was noted, and though at the head of eight or ten public associations, when he presided over the House of Lords and the Court of Chancery he was never absent from his post, or unpunctual in calling assembly or meeting to order. His great precision in answering all calls enabled him to fulfil with exactness every engagement.

Sir Walter Scott's punctuality enabled him to accomplish an enormous amount of work, both of a literary kind and also in correspondence. So that this homely virtue is seen to shine in the lives of men of note; and it is one which all who aim at success and the perfection of all duty can imitate with advantage, alike to themselves and all with whom they come into contact.