

flow "freely and distinctly from left to right," and is "compact" and "flexible." It embraces every other feature which Mr. Richardson regards as essential, except one, which embodies the vice which renders his system worthless, and would render it worthless if it had all other possible virtues.

When he says, "The character value [of the letters] should be independent of the mode of writing, or direction of strokes," and works this theory into a system by giving one letter six variations of form and direction, and allowing other letters generally

to be written either backward or forward, upward or downward, at pleasure, he devises a scheme that no one can write with any fair degree either of accuracy or legibility.

I doubt whether the old Phonography, with all its complexity, is so cumbrous in its redundancy of outline, which confuses the writer continually, as a system on such a basis must of necessity be.

Very truly yours,

D. P. LINDSLEY,
Inventor of Takigraphy.

HOME AND SOCIETY.

Hints to Young Housekeepers.—II.

DAILY HABITS.

EARLY rising is desirable. I do not mean getting people up before light. It is useless to begin the day by making every member of the family uncomfortable. Whatever hours are necessary for the good of all should be observed, and if the head of the household is obliged to be at his business at an early hour, it is the duty of his family to adapt themselves to this necessity. Consideration should be given to peculiarities of temperament: some nervous people sleep better in the morning; let not rules, or imaginary necessities interfere with health and comfort.

A mother must rise early (I write to mothers who are in good health), to see that all goes well in the nursery, if she does not perform the duties of nurse herself. Let the nurse and her children look for her presence with impatience, and feel that they need her assistance and oversight. Let children appear fresh from their baths, neatly dressed, however plainly, and come to the breakfast table with cheerful, happy faces,—the best attention they can show to their parents,—and turn up their little faces for a good-morning kiss. No child is too old for this while under the parental roof. The breakfast should be fresh, well served, and carefully prepared, whether frugal or luxurious. The mother should set the example of being neatly and appropriately dressed. She will see no one during the day before whom she should desire to appear so well, or to be so attractive. A cheerful, well-surrounded breakfast table is a pleasant remembrance for a man to take with him to his business. If there are no children, there is the greater need of everything being cheerful and tasteful.

I have nothing to say about family prayers; this is a matter of conscience, taste and feeling, and must be governed by these. If the children go to school (I should put in a plea for home education until a child has reached the age of twelve. No one can teach children to read, and write, and sew as well as the mother, but this rather belongs to my chapter on Children); if they go to school, their lessons must be attended to, and when they come home they must be taught to wash and dress themselves for

dinner. If young enough to make it necessary to dine in the middle of the day (and this should be till after they are twelve), the mother should be present at the dinner to see that no bad habits are formed, that there is no carelessness of diet, no irregularity. The meal hours are often the most instructive and charming hours of the day. Exercise in the open air as much as possible, but this must be governed by opportunity. With children, avoid above all things exposure to the sun. Blessed are the children who live in the country, with freedom from the necessity of an attending nurse; but, city or country, the sun must be avoided. I need not point out the occupations of the day. With one who is wife and mother, or either, every hour is more than full. A wife should be ready and dressed to receive her husband upon his return home at night, and if there are children, let them have the privilege of welcoming him too, before going to bed. If he is a busy man, he sees them rarely enough. Keep up as much as possible, as much as is consistent with your duties, your intercourse with society. Keep yourself instructed and interested in all that is going on in the world, and do not become a mere housekeeper and nurse, not only for your own sake, but for the sake of every one about you. In the evening, try to collect about you your husband's and your children's friends, as well as your own; but avoid all gossip, all meddling with the affairs of others. Let us be grateful that we are not responsible for the affairs of other people. Our own are always more than we can properly attend to. Repeat no scandal or disagreeable stories, and let not love of dress (the vice of the country) take hold of the thoughts and conversation. Tasteful, æsthetic, appropriate dress is characteristic, and it is the duty of every one to dress as well and to make herself look as becomingly as means and time permit; but to spend upon expensive dress money which should be given to necessary and improving expenses is both ignorant and vulgar.

Hospitality is one of the best virtues—hospitality in its best sense; not a display, not an effort to appear better than one's neighbors. Have no struggle to do what you cannot do well; but in accordance with your means of living, welcome your

friends to your table and to your fireside. The better fare you can give them justly, the pleasanter for you and for them; but, above all, a warm welcome to whatever you can command! And, here again, let me say, a cheerful fire is a welcome in itself. All sentiment apart, life becomes more easy when cheerfulness and order have sway.

MRS. S. W. OAKLEY.

The Maternity Society.

THE Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration, in Twenty-ninth street, just out of Fifth avenue, hides itself behind its trees, and flowers, and fountain, until it seems smaller than it really is; until, in fact, we hardly wonder that, in spite of its capacious aisles, it should be known as the Little Church Around the Corner. It is a church with a pastor who delights in parish work, and it is a pleasure to be able to say that this parish work is well planned, and that its results are brought about more by time and brain than by the mere lavish and indiscriminate expenditure of money to which, alas! so much of our charity is confined.

Among the many societies of this church, is one originated by it and deserving description here. Already has it been imitated in St. Louis, and it needs only to be more widely known to be more generally emulated. It was the result of a feeling on the part of certain ladies of the parish that in the life of every mother there was a time when she needed all the help, and care, and sympathy possible, and that in many a case, when this trying time came, the poor woman was without care or help of any kind, without medical attendance, without clothing for her infant, and even at times without food for herself. To send needed clothing and supplies before their presence is called for; to render proper medical aid; to give the services of a skillful nurse; to provide for pressing temporal wants; to care for the body and comfort the mind—these are among the objects of the Maternity Society. It is now over two years old, and it is beginning to get more and better known among the class it seeks to benefit. With the experience gradually acquired has come a knowledge of further utility. One year after its organization, the society saw the need of a regular nurse and visitor, and for this purpose it found an excellent

woman, kind, intelligent, patient, and not too well educated to make those among whom she had to work think her in any way above them. Fitting rooms were at the same time engaged as apartments for the nurse, as head-quarters for the society, and as a store-house of supplies. Here are kept baskets containing such articles of clothing as may be needed by a new-born infant. These articles are merely lent to the patient, and must be returned in good condition, although when needed, as is generally the case, they are allowed to be kept.

Perhaps an idea of the work of the Maternity Society cannot be better given than in the brief and eloquent words of its second annual report, which will, doubtless, be sent to any one who may desire to borrow the methods of the society, on application to the secretary, care of the Church of the Transfiguration, No. 1 East Twenty-ninth street, New York City. The report requests permission "to describe in few words the details of our work. Applicants for relief are requested, if circumstances permit, to come to the Mission Rooms, No. 3 Pacific place, West Twenty-ninth street, on Wednesday mornings, when the executive committee meet for work. If the case is approved, Sister Rebecca at once visits the woman, places her in charge of one of our physicians, supplies (through the gifts of individual members of the society) her most urgent needs until confinement; cares for and nurses her at that time, visiting and remaining with her when needed, giving food for the mother and clothes for the baby, lending, and sometimes giving, clothes for the mother also. At the proper time, both the ladies of the visiting committee and the Sister urge the baptism of the little one, either in our own church or that of its parents. And in all cases where there seems to be hope of lasting good, the mother is drawn to join the sewing society, the children are cared for,—the whole family, in short, is brought under the influence of kindly sympathy, and taught lessons of self-help and self-respect.

"The growth of the work during the past year can best be told in the following figures: In 1876, 18 patients, 10 baptisms in our communion, 63 garments given away; employment given to poor women amounting to \$73.20. In 1877, 58 patients, 24 baptisms in our communion, 1,200 garments given away; employment given to poor women amounting to \$111.98."

J. B. M.

CULTURE AND PROGRESS.

Eggleston's "Roxby."*

It is not as a mirror of life and manners in the West that Dr. Eggleston's story is of most value, though we cannot conceive of a time to come when it will not be indispensable to a just estimate of the times and people with which it deals. The body

and spirit of the Indiana village are reflected with such skill and with so little admixture of the accidental, that the story is still broadly representative of the slow-changing river-towns of that state. But it is not this feature that gives the book its highest value, since this presentation requires only sympathetic observation and a good memory,—qualities neither rare nor great. That Dr. Eggleston has

* New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.