

OUR NATIONAL SCHOOL OF HOUSEWIFERY.



measure swept away the old-fashioned, but very necessary, feminine arts of housewifery, in which our grandmothers excelled far more than, it is to be feared, their granddaughters of to-day.

People are now beginning to realise that these womanly accomplishments of the household had a charm all their own; they are beginning to express very emphatically their regret that domestic training is not so universal or so thorough as it ought to be. Every woman, it is felt, whether married or single, ought in virtue of her sex to be possessed of this knowledge, as being one of the attributes of the highest type of womanhood.

Many "Unhappy Marriages" are due to the fact that the wife is unable to direct the household with skill, economy, and absence of friction, and this simply because she has had no previous training in the details of domestic management. Many more happy unions might be effected were our girls, as a rule, more truly "spinners" in the good old sense, that is, home-workers, as well as home-lovers; house-wise before becoming house-wives.

Nowadays there are "Schools" and "Colleges" for almost everything, and amongst them there are several valuable schools for cookery. But we shall hope soon to hear of new Schools of Practical Housewifery (of which Cookery is only one department) being launched in every part of this country. In this respect our German sisters are decidedly in advance of us, for with them systematic domestic training is an

NATIONAL School of Housewifery is sorely needed in these days. The "Higher Education" movement has undoubtedly been productive of much good in elevating the tastes and enlarging the minds of our girls; at the same time, however, let it be confessed that a rage for "accomplishments" has in a great measure

established department of instruction. With them it is fully recognised that no girl ought to become the mistress of a home until she has been duly trained to discharge the duties of that position.

The vital importance of this subject, affecting as it does the future of nearly the whole Girlhood of our nation, is now beginning to dawn upon the minds of even the most indifferent amongst us. It is a most serious matter, take it from whatever point of view we will. "Home" is the earthly centre of all that makes a nation true and strong and happy—or otherwise. No "true religion and virtue," no art or science, can flourish and grow apace amid the surroundings of a slatternly, ill-ordered household.

We believe, therefore, that many of our readers will be glad of the facilities which we propose to afford them for the systematic study of housewifery. Our "School" will be managed by a Council of experienced Ladies, who have kindly offered to assist the Editor in the arrangement of the subjects and the adjudication of Awards. All who duly pass through the appointed course will be qualified to receive

Certificates in Housewifery, under a scheme which is duly explained below.

In conclusion, we ask, with earnestness and with confidence, for the active co-operation of our readers, especially of parents, in this effort to encourage amongst the Girls of our own generation the cultivation of a true home instinct, and the practice of those domestic arts and accomplishments without which no household, however well ap-



pointed, can ever be made a HOME. In this will be found the real solution of many a social problem which of late years has been sorely troubling the minds of thoughtful people.

The work of our School of Housewifery will be divided generally into five departments as follows:—

I. *Household Routine*, including management of income.

II. *Needlework*, including mending, darning, &c.

III. *Hand-labour*, such as bed-making, house and furniture cleaning.

IV. *Cookery*.

V. *Household Accounts*.

The following will be the curriculum for our winter session :—

I. *Household Routine*.—Under this heading candidates are invited to send in to the Editor not later than December 18, 1888, a scheme or time table of work for each day in the week : 1st, for the mistress ; 2nd, for the cook ; 3rd, for the housemaid ; or, instead, for mistress and general servant. Also the routine of the nursery.

Secondly, a Bill of Fare for three meals a day for one week, on a food allowance of £3 a week. The family to consist of six adults, including domestics, and three young children. Wines or other alcoholic liquors not to be included. This latter scheme must be sent in to the Editor not later than March 10, 1889. For each of these schemes a Prize of One Guinea is offered for the best, and Half-a-Guinea for the second best.

II. *Needlework*.—A specimen of each kind of stitch, &c.—*e.g.*, hemming, stitching, herring-boning, button-holing, button-sewing with linen, bone, or cloth-covered buttons, stocking-darning, &c. Each specimen should not exceed twelve inches in length and breadth, and may be worked on strips of linen, or other material suitable in each case. The time taken over each specimen must be duly certified and corroborated. Specimens cannot be returned. The whole to be sent in to the Editor not later than January 10, 1889. A Prize of One Guinea is offered for the best set of examples.

III. *Hand-labour*.—Under this heading the student will be required to go through a course of practical experience, extending over three months, in the following particulars :—(a) Bed-making. (b) Washing, starching, and ironing of small articles, to include a gentleman's collar and a lady's lace handkerchief. (c) Cleaning and polishing of glass and silver. (d) Stove and hearth-cleaning. (e) General dusting and tidying. Candidates will have to provide a certificate of having diligently and successfully practised in each of the above divisions for the space of three months at the least. Such certificate must be signed by two or more matrons, and countersigned by a minister of religion. A Prize of One Guinea is offered for the best specimens of laundry-work in Division *b*. These certificates may be sent in with the specimens of work in Division *b* not later than the last day of June, 1889.

IV. *Cookery*.—A 1 lb. loaf of household bread to be made and sent to the Editor so as to reach him by the first post on February 11, 1889. Each loaf must have attached to it a stout envelope containing the recipe for its preparation and the declaration required by the General Rules. No communications

regarding the loaves will receive any attention except those attached to them. A Prize of One Guinea is offered for the best specimen.

V. *Household Accounts*.—Candidates will be required to prepare a specimen of household book-keeping, a week's accounts, including washing-book, and a balance-sheet, the weekly sum to be dealt with being left to the discretion of the candidate. A Prize of One Guinea is offered for the best, and Half-a-Guinea for the second best specimen. The work must be sent in not later than April 10, 1889.

In every case where a Prize is offered, or work submitted, the Competitions and Examinations are subject to the General Rules given below.

The names of successful candidates in each department will be published from time to time in our pages (owing to the exigencies of our printing arrangements, it is impossible to do this in less than three months, as a rule), and Certificates of Graduation will be presented to all who have completed the above course to the satisfaction of the Examiners. Those who specially distinguish themselves in any one or more departments, shall be classed as having graduated in Honours.

We trust our lady readers will do their best, by their own example, and by encouraging others to enter the lists, to make our School instrumental in raising the general standard of efficiency amongst the housewives of the present and the future.

GENERAL RULES.

1. Every reader of this Magazine is eligible to compete for all or any of the Prizes offered.
2. The Editor cannot undertake to answer inquiries having reference to the treatment in detail of the various subjects. *The descriptions given are sufficient for the purposes of the Competitions, and the rest is left to the judgment and discretion of the competitors.*
3. Each specimen submitted must have inscribed on it, or otherwise securely attached to it, the name and postal address of the sender, together with a declaration that the work is *original and entirely the sender's own*, to be signed by the author and countersigned by some other trustworthy person, *i.e.*, a magistrate, minister of religion, or householder, with the postal address in both cases.
4. The Prize works will become the property of the proprietors of this Magazine.
5. Should the two best works in any Competition prove of equal merit, the Prize may be divided at the discretion of the Editor. Any Prize may be withheld in the event of no specimen being thought worthy of that distinction.
6. The Editor will not be responsible for loss or miscarriage of any work, and all letters or packets must be *prepaid*.
7. *The Editor cannot undertake to return MSS. or specimens sent in for competition.*
8. Every specimen must be sent *before* the date named as the latest day, addressed—The Editor of CASSELL'S MAGAZINE, La Belle Sauvage, London, E.C., and must have the words "National School of Housewifery" written on the *top left-hand corner* of the envelope or wrapper.

THE COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL SCHOOL OF HOUSEWIFERY.

The Editor is glad to be able to announce that the following well-known writers on domestic subjects have kindly consented to act as advisers and referees :—PHYLLIS BROWNE, MISS CHARLOTTE M. MASON, ARDERN HOLT, MRS. E. CLARKE, and MISS LIZZIE HERITAGE.