

soon as the tracing is finished: it simply requires to be thoroughly wetted and taken off with a duster.

Hold the punch in the same manner as the tracer, but hold it over the centre part of any space to be beaten in, not near any of the deeply grooved-in lines; if the work was commenced at these places, and heavy blows struck there before the other parts of the brass had been flattened, the plate would split. However small the part to be hammered, always work from the centre towards the sides: thus, place the punch in the middle of the space, and slowly guide it towards the outer edge, beating it with the hammer the whole time; lift it when it reaches the edge, replace it in the centre, and guide it towards another part of the edge, and continue until every part is once gone over; then return to the first stroke, and recommence, being careful to flatten the whole space evenly before beating in one part to the required depth. The process of beating in the ground is a tedious one; the work does not require so much manual skill as tracing the outline, but the eye and the attention is concentrated so much when working at the latter upon the shape of the lines being formed, that the time passes more quickly than it seems to do when the tool is merely guided from the centre to an outside line. While the background is thus being beaten in, any defects in the deeply-traced lines can be smoothed over; this is accomplished by hammering close up to the traced lines and over any weak and imperfect strokes.

The deeper the background is beaten in and the longer time spent upon bringing it to perfection, the more raised and *repoussé* the design stands out; therefore, no amount of labour is thrown away when working at this part. Simply beating down the ground is enough for the first piece of work, but when backgrounds with patterns upon them are required, punches shaped like crescents at the point, or as circles, stars, crosses, will be required; these are used, not to flatten in the ground, but to embellish it after the ground has been sufficiently hammered down. These fancy punches can be bought at the metal-workers' shops for the same price as the plain ones, or for a very little more, and they are technically called "mats." When, however, the worker takes a fancy to using a device for the background that is out of the common run, it is not difficult to make, or to have made at an ironmonger's.

Steel rod or wire, an eighth of an inch square and of any length, can be procured. This is cut into four-inch lengths, one of the lengths taken and its upper end smoothed with a file until the edges are pared away, and it can be handled without discomfort. The lower end is then filed until it is slightly smaller than the upper, and on the point a small device shaped with the file. This end is then made quite hot and plunged into oil, by which means it is hardened, and works better and longer.

After the background is finished the very few chased lines shown on the design are indented with a chaser—a tool which resembles a fine chisel; but unless the worker feels confidence, and can draw a steady firm line, these lines had better be omitted at first, as a badly chased line is worse than none.

To take the plate off warm the pitch, pick up the plate with a pair of pinchers, oil its face, rewarm the pitch, and press it face downwards again upon the block. The background will now appear, as the raised part and the pattern will be depressed. To depress this more, and to obliterate any uneven hollows, take the punch known as a "flattener," and use it to press inwards the pattern and to smooth it over.

The "flattener" has a broad point, and is worked from the centre of the brass to the

side, and struck lightly with the hammer. By rewarmed the pitch when the design has been well gone over, the plate is removed. To make it up as a door-plate it is backed with a plain piece of metal; this is done at a shop; it is then polished, the brass being dull-looking when bought by the sheet. To polish, first wash the plate with a mixture of vinegar and salt, then apply a coating of cream of tartar; this is a powder, and is wetted and laid on as a thick layer; leave it until dry, brush it well off with a short-haired brush (an old plate-cleaning brush will do, but a rather harder brush is better).

The designs given this week work out in the same way as the door-plate. The match-box holder is useful for two sorts of holders, either the upright or as the top to a case for holding matches. The wall letter-racket is the first of the series of letter-holders in a wall racket; the other holders need not be so much worked, or may be left quite plain, as the letters hide them. The dinner ring make of thin brass, as a straight piece, and then solder its ends together. The back for candle bracket is the most ambitious of all the designs. When executed it requires an oval piece of plain metal affixed on to hold the candle, or a pair of candle arms at the side. It should be finished at a shop.

B. C. SAWARD.

## THE DUTIES OF WIVES AND MOTHERS.



So very large a proportion of women are destined to remain single, from the seclusion of their lives, the lack of sufficiency of means, the preponderance of the female over the male population, ill health, and the frequent selection of wives from widows, it is well to regard marriage as a mere possibility, rather than as a certainty. But, judging not alone from the revelations of our correspondence columns, but from personal observation, to marry seems the supreme end in life of a very considerable proportion of the population. This fact is more especially remarkable amongst the daughters of professional men and tradesmen, shop assistants, and domestic servants. To marry for mere bread-sake is, nevertheless, becoming a discarded idea of the past in the ranks of well educated women, and the desire to render themselves self-supporting is rapidly gaining ground.

I by no means underrate the happiness to be found in marriage; which, so far as possible, ought to be ensured before facing possible and unavoidable adverse contingencies. But I absolutely deny the truth of that mischievous assertion of Dr Johnson's, that "if matrimony has more cares, celibacy has no pleasures." The standpoint from which he viewed the relative advantages of the two conditions was false. Were the former what it was divinely designed to be, it would offer the most of happiness; but that "if" should bespeak extreme caution on the part of a woman of common sense, and preclude the possibility of her regarding it as the grand climax of her youthful ambition.

Banish the impression that a single woman need be a despondent, aimless, joyless being, regarded as "superfluous" in society. Were all married, where would be the sisters and aunts that are so much in request, when ill-health, over-work, and poverty follow in

the wake of large families? So much depends on their unselfish devotion; and, even if the duties be arduous, no truer happiness exists on earth than in filling the honoured place of a second mother.

Change the picture a little. What a privilege and satisfaction to be the stay and comfort of beloved parents, when the other children have dispersed and left them alone; and the daughter, vulgarly stigmatised as an "old maid," proves the support of their declining age!

It might naturally be supposed that mothers would know the special duties of their position by a natural instinct, without needing suggestions from others. They have, or ought to have, attained mature age, completed a fair education, and developed sufficient judgment to check the vagaries of the imagination; under such circumstances their children need no other monitor, nor lack that sympathy that should accommodate itself to the pleasures or troubles peculiar to the tenderest years or to riper age.

Surely I do not expect too much! If the judgment be not matured, the grave duties of the wife, and the still more absorbing and extensive ones of maternity, should not be undertaken: nor the mere scholar venture to assume the place of teacher and ruler of others.

In point of fact, what is the picture usually presented to us? A young fledgling leaving the parental nest, her studies of art, her lawn tennis, and garden parties, her rides, and boating, and evening entertainments, all enjoyed with the happy *insouciance* of a young daughter of the house—rushing into the unknown responsibilities of a matron, as often for the *prestige* of owning a house, as for the sake of one with whom she will be suitably and happily matched. As for the possibility of the step being taken "for worse," such a peradventure never shadows the brightness of her self-selected future prospects.

Lest the chances of happiness be against you, arm yourself at all points. The intending wife, and possibly future mother, has much to learn, and many aids and safeguards are within her reach. On returning home from school at eighteen, she should commence practical, as well as theoretical, studies of a perfectly new kind. These pursuits must, to a considerable extent, substitute those of art, science, and literature, which should hold a secondary place until this supplementary education be completed. They are by no means without interest, and some of them offer attractions that lighten the work of a learner. In any case, a well-regulated mind will find compensation for any dryness or difficulty experienced in the consciousness of advantage gained, if not by herself, at least by others.

Young girls fresh from school or college pride themselves on being "grown up," possibly distinguished for their scientific or literary attainments, and more or less free to choose their own course in life. They should then at once begin a judicious preparation for every contingency that may and will arise. In my article on the duties of children, entitled "Honour thy Father and thy Mother," I entered into the question of this supplementary education, viewed as of filial obligation. I now take a different standpoint; and treat this training in manual work, and this practical utilisation of intellectual culture, as duties to themselves; to render them eligible as wives, and possibly as mothers.

I have already observed that her first business should be to lift as much of the burden borne by her mother upon her own shoulders, while usurping none of her authority in the household. Quite apart from the filial element in this question, let us proceed to enter into an investigation of the several departments to engage her attention.

First of all I recommend my young friend to study the questions of general expenditure,

rent, living, wages, dress, taxes, fire and light, medical treatment, renewal of furniture and kitchen appliances, postage and stationery, and that too comprehensive item "sundries," in which both small charities and hire of conveniences may be included. Various calculations under different scales of income ought to be made, and a thorough understanding arrived at as to what sums may be allotted to each department; for, as a rule, girls rate the amount of income on which a marriage may be contemplated at far too low a standard, even remembering their position in the social scale. After the first year, they begin to find out the delusions under which they undertook its many responsibilities.

Her next duty should be to acquire a thorough acquaintance with the subject of food supply. I do not merely refer to theoretical nor practical general cookery. I maintain that she should know when all viands are respectively in season, and the normal prices of each, for it must be evident that ordering articles scarcely "in season" is an act of extravagance, and at times unsanitary, if not illegal; besides, this ignorance of what is in the market at fair prices deprives the family of a desirable change of food.

Under this head I must observe that the food of children before of an age to feed as grown up people, and invalid cookery with sick-room drinks and delicacies, must all be included, and likewise the art of carving at table in a refined and appetising, as well as economical manner, having always a view to other modes of redressing the remains of the several articles in more ways than one.

All hygienic principles, as to food, dress, or the general arrangements and guidance of the household, need very careful study, and that of nursing the sick constitutes a very important department under the same head. "Ambulance classes" are much to be recommended.

The intending mistress of a house should be thoroughly conversant with all the general rules of good breeding that should be observed in all classes of life; and perhaps with those of the etiquette which obtains in the upper ranks of society, should she belong to them, to enable her to fill her place as would become her own and her husband's position. This is due to her neighbours and acquaintances likewise, for she will know the right course to take under any circumstances, and thus avoid giving needless and unintentional offence.

An acquaintance with the several duties of domestic servants, also her own claims as well as obligations, and their legal rights, should be acquired, and under this head I include all questions relating to governesses. In reference to them a deplorable amount of ignorance, carelessness, and lack of kindly and generous feeling is perpetually exhibited.

The art of cutting-out, planning new articles of clothing from already used materials, the reduction of grown people's dress for the use of children, is a valuable acquirement in many, perhaps even in most, cases, as the poor, including persons of small means, so far outnumber the comparatively wealthy. In reference to needlework, I may also draw attention to the requirements of a "baby's basket" and its wardrobe in general, with which every girl should be acquainted, and all the little articles of clothing of less costly materials for the poor.

From the question of a "baby's basket," I may not unnaturally proceed to suggest the wisdom of studying the rarely well-acquired art of teaching. It is one so important, that it has been recognised, and made a special branch of training. With reference to this subject I refer the reader to the articles recently given in this magazine, entitled "The Duties of Governesses." Not merely in the method of giving instruction discussed in these

articles, but suggestions and rules for the physical and moral training of children, suggestions equally valuable to the mother as to her assistant.

I have often heard it said that "young mothers very generally lose their first child," ignorance of the rules of hygiene in food, dress, doctoring, and general treatment being the cause; ignorance that is as morally culpable and inexcusable as deplorable in its results. If the Almighty has committed to your care an immortal being, enclosed in a very frail casket, which may suffer throughout life from carelessness or ignorance on your part, and become a burden, not only to himself but to others, reflect on your enormous responsibility and acquire the necessary knowledge, and earnestly strive to meet all difficulties relating to the early care and subsequent moral and religious training of the precious child.

Let the young mother beware, then, of taking up fancies of her own in reference to the physical treatment of her children, especially on the subject of "hardening" by means of light clothing, a bare neck, arms, and legs, and by training them to live on a diet less generous than they allow themselves. Hereditary custom, an artificial mode of life, a method of rearing deeply affecting the constitution of the children, inherited from many successive generations of ancestors, cannot be arbitrarily set aside. Beware, then (if you belong to the upper classes of society) of making positively dangerous experiments. So much for the care of the little bodies committed to your hands.

As regards the moral training, the care of that far more precious gem within the little casket, I have some serious observations to make. I will not recapitulate suggestions already given to the governess, but referring the mother to the articles at pages 630-770, vol. v., pass on to one or two important points in which the mother's responsibilities must not be shifted to the shoulders of another.

Invite the free confidence of your children. Never let them fear your knowledge of what they may communicate, nor the exercise of that authority which they should nevertheless regard as supreme. Having instilled into their minds the conviction that God sees all they do, though unseen to you, and that they will be held accountable to Him, let your endeavours be directed to influence their conduct through gratitude to Him, and affection to you. Let the appeal ever be made to their hearts.

And now I have a very important consideration to lay before you. Boys pass out of their mother's hands sooner, and for longer intervals, than girls. Special care should be taken as to their training when very young. I address myself on this head, not merely to mothers of the upper classes of life, but especially to those amongst the so-called "working classes."

Begin from the time your boy can understand you, and lisps his earliest words, to make him obey you without one moment's hesitation. As he grows older, never permit him to argue with you, nor dare to "answer you back." Never let him snatch anything roughly, much less raise his hand to strike a brother or sister. Such an act should be punished on the spot, by a smart slap on his own hand. Avoid loud speaking at him, and the use of coarse rough words or threats. Be as gentle in manner as you are immovably firm and autocratic. He may become a worthy, religious man, but many such, alas! are very disagreeable, ill-mannered, and overbearing, much dross overlying the gold. Bear this in mind. Train your boy to take the part of the weakest amongst his fellows, and to recognise the special gentleness and respectful consideration due to a woman, beginning with yourself and his sisters. Why do I lay such stress on this point? Let me answer by a quotation from last year's statistics of crime:—"Dividing the

criminals at large into males and females, it appears that 30,638 belong to the former, and 8,333 to the latter," and this although the males form the minority of the population. There is likewise a large preponderance of idle men in our workhouses, as well as criminals in our jails, in excess of the number of women.

Why should such a state of things exist? Why are men ignorant of the claims of the weaker sex on their feelings of chivalry (not to speak of Christian feeling) which Nature herself should implant? How dare your boys to contradict you?—to use rough words, if not guilty of rude actions? Why do they grow up to be wife-beaters or drunkards, drinking away the bread from their children, and degrading themselves to a far lower level than that of the beasts? The blame, in most cases, lies at the door of the incompetent mother! It seems hard to say so, but it is no less the fact.

As to your girls, why do they take upon themselves to form their own acquaintances, and in some conditions of life to walk out with young men, and even become engaged to them, unknown to you, or against your wishes? Is it not traceable to a defective early training, for which you are primarily responsible? And you, mothers in a higher grade of life, why are your daughters so anxious to marry, or look for recreation outside their own home? Is it not that you have made that home so dull and "dead-alive," taking no interest in their pursuits, suggesting no pleasant varieties of occupation, providing no congenial society suitable for their age, giving no assistance in the pursuit of that supplementary education suggested, diversified by more recreative employments?

The duties you have taken on yourselves, young mothers, are indeed many and various, and the most important commence when your children are in their infancy or early childhood. Most of the difficulties presented when the child grows older may then be obviated. You cannot excuse yourselves on the ground of poverty for neglect in such training as this. It costs you an effort to be firm, while gentle and loving, and a patient and prayerful endeavour day by day; but it costs no money, nor does it demand any "book-learning" on your part. A poor woman may train her child in the fear of God, and in manly habits, quite as well as a rich one, and he need not turn out a selfish and cruel "bully."

With two more rules for the guidance of young wives and mothers I conclude. Take a frequent practical supervision of your nurseries, school, and play-rooms. However trustworthy the nurse and governess, you should let the weight of your influence be felt, and this without any betrayal of distrust, irritating interference in trifles, or the exhibition of a difference of opinion between you and them before the children. Any such should be settled in private. Above all, let none be ever apparent to the young people (or the servants) between you and your husband. Such disagreements tend to upset parental authority, diminish respect, and provoke the siding of children or servants with one head of the house against the other. By divine ordinance, it is a woman's duty to "guide the house"; if she do so faithfully, and in the fear of God, will "her children arise up and call her blessed." S. F. A. CAULFIELD.

