

## DREAMS.

By E. NESBIT.

SHE looks on beauty, and it stirs her soul  
 With longings vague, and hardly understood ;  
 Her timid fingers lack the large control  
 Wherewith her hopes endow her womanhood.  
 She dreams of days when she no more shall sigh  
 At strife of tremulous hand and eager eye,  
 When she, too, shall find grace her dreams to show  
 In such fair form as the immortals know.

Like some fair bud plucked ere it come to flower  
 The dream may fade, yet not be all in vain :  
 Though Time should give her for her utmost dower  
 The common gifts of common joy and pain ;  
 Though Art and all her visions fade away  
 From eyes that watch her children at their play,  
 And all the skill that was to give dreams life  
 Makes wise the hands of mother and of wife.

Not vain the golden dream, the radiant fire  
 That kindled once the innocent brave heart :  
 Man's soul grows nobler by a pure desire,  
 And Life, thank God, has nobler ends than Art !  
 Yet in her home, where Love's wings only stir,  
 Whence Art has flown—shall it not profit her  
 To have loved beauty in her maiden youth,  
 To have kissed the feet of beauty's sister, truth ?



## "GLORIFIED" WORKMEN'S DWELLINGS.

## PART I.

DEAR ELSIE AND ANNIE, Miss — tells me that you have made up your mind to "house-keep" in London on your own account, and to try a flat. She also says your dear mother is anxious about the experiment, having heard dreadful tales of the discomfort and miscellaneous company you might encounter in the sort of flat you propose to take.

As I have tried the plan myself and as I know you two girls are practical and ready to take useful hints, I must give you some, and hope they may be of use.

First of all, I should never recommend any but steady, "level-headed" girls to go to live in a flat. Only, nowadays, when all women must work to live, and must often live alone or in lodgings, the question is, how to make life as easy as hard daily work will allow. Boarding is one plan, for girls who are out all day, but it is expensive, unless they are prepared to "rough it" very considerably, and the mixed company and want of privacy is often ungenial. Then comes the plan of lodgings, furnished, or unfurnished: the former leaves you very much at the mercy of the landlady, and the latter is even worse, for it is all but impossible to get unfurnished rooms in a nice house, and here again, a good or bad landlady makes or mars your comfort to no small extent, so, given two sensible girls like you, I should recommend your giving the "flat" a fair trial.

On the principle of "first catch your hare" you will have to look about for a flat, and this is not quite so difficult as it seems, if you are willing, as so many working women of all classes do now, to try "workmen's dwellings." Of these, there are many, in the various districts of London, but naturally you will wish

to be fairly central and within easy, i.e., walking, reach of your work. I should strongly advise your making full inquiries before you settle. Supposing you do hear of desirable rooms, at a weekly rental, you will be asked to give references, and to sign an agreement, and here you had better consult a man friend. Mr. — will be the best, as he knows so much about these dwellings. Do not take rooms with a gloomy aspect, but be sure that on one side or other you have sunlight.

Now as to rental, etc. You ought to get two rooms varying in size from 16 feet by 14 to 17 feet, with a scullery from 9s. 6d. per week to 10s. 6d. Two smaller ones, without scullery, would be cheaper, 8s. to 8s. 6d. Your landlord, or the agent acting for him, will see to the papering and painting of these, but will probably leave the choice of paper, etc., to you. You can now have very lovely shades of plain paper, with no design on it, and unless your rooms are very sunny, I strongly recommend a lemon yellow for both paint and paper. It is cheerful by day and lights up so well at night.

In your "flat" you will find that one of the two rooms is fitted as a kitchen, that is, with a cooking range and dresser. If you have a scullery, the copper will be in that, so I need not trouble you as to contrivances for utilising and ornamenting it, till I hear more from you. But, perhaps you may feel alarmed at the dresser and the cooking range. Well, here is a plan for both, which I think you will like.

First take the stove. That you will find necessary for cooking purposes, but not always necessary for heating. So your best plan will be to have a small oil cooking-stove, which can be placed on the top of the other, and which, if kept clean, will have no odour and will be quite sufficient for all you require. Round the

top of the mantelshelf have an iron rod placed, and hang pretty curtains, to match those at the window. These can be drawn close directly your cooking is over, and will be rather ornamental than otherwise.

The dresser is comparatively easy to manage. You will not require it for plates or saucepans, if you have a scullery, and so you can make it as ornamental as you please. If your rooms are being painted, see that all unsightly hooks and nails are taken out before the painting is done. If not, then you will have to do that for yourselves. Remove the iron handles, and paint the dresser with whatever colour suits your hangings, carpet, etc. It will have to be gone over twice, and if a hard-drying, good enamel is used, it will look very well. Replace the drawer handles with brass ones, which you can often pick up at a furniture dealer's very cheaply, or can buy new for little more. The bottom shelf, where the saucepans usually live, is an excellent place for your typewriter and sewing-machine to stand when not in use. Also it makes a place of refuge for newspapers and magazines which will gather, whether one wishes or no. The drawers you will find invaluable for your tablecloths, serviettes, mats, and so on, and in one, the knives and cutlery and salt cellars can be stored away; also your duster, for the time being. The shelves hardly need any suggestion. Photographs, books, and all sorts of odds and ends will naturally find their home there, and your taste is sure to make the dresser a "thing of beauty." Should you be able to afford it, a strip of looking-glass inserted between two of the shelves, at the right height will be found very useful. This costs about 2s. 6d. per square foot and can very easily be fixed, so as to be removed when you move, if you should have to do so.

I do not think you will wish me to give you all my ideas as to furnishing, but perhaps one or two hints may come in useful. For floor covering for your sitting-room, I think you will find the cheapest and prettiest is a large square of Moonj matting. The red, blue and cream colours are bright and cheery, and the matting is easily kept clean and wears splendidly. You can stain the floor all round, dark, or light oak, as your fancy directs. For the bedroom floor a square of carpet is preferable, and this can now be had in very pretty artistic shades, and very cheap.

Your bedroom door will probably be placed in one corner of the room, which only leaves you three corners at disposal. Of these three, I would suggest making hanging dress-cupboards out of two, and a washstand of the remaining one. The dress-cupboards are made thus: get a good-sized shelf, fixed to the wall at a height of 7 feet from the floor, and just above the skirting-board have another of the same size fixed. Under this last, you can keep boots and shoes. From the top shelf a serge or plushette curtain should hang, which will effectually keep out the dust. The hooks for dresses are placed on the side supports of your bracket shelf. I daresay you will not have time to embellish your curtains, but I have seen very pretty art serge embroidered ones, which were the work of leisured fingers.

Now for the washstand. Get the same carpenter who puts up your other shelves to place at the right height for comfort, a strong shelf wide enough for one or two basins and ewers. The larger you can allow this to be, the more comfortable you will find it. A curtain ought to hang from this shelf too, in

lieu of a cupboard door, and, if you are pressed for space, hang a looking-glass in the angle of the wall. Your toilet brush-bags can hang one on each side, and save the purpose of splashers as well.

I have left the beds to the last, for I think you know my views on that subject, and I cannot too strongly urge you each to have your own bed. You can get most comfortable ones at a very moderate cost from the Standard Folding Bedstead Co. They are easily fixed, well ventilated, and during the day, hook up on the wall, leaving plenty of space in the room. I have not mentioned the chest of drawers, as you will have to decide about that when you find what your funds will allow. But there is one necessity, namely a dressing-screen. This you will find such a comfort, and if you buy one of the pretty Japanese ones for 9s. to 10s., you can use it in either room as desired.

You will, by matting over the scullery, be able to make that your bathroom, and will find it very handy and much more convenient than having a bath in the bedroom. Your cooking utensils, I fear, I have not time to mention, but I know your mother will see that you have all you need, and so I will only finish my long letter with a few hints which you must take in good part, as beginners in your new and fascinating housekeeping.

1. Arrange to have your milk and bread brought regularly. You are sure to find a dairy near where they will serve you sufficiently early in the morning.

2. *Do not neglect your regular meals.* You will find it an excellent plan to take it in turns to "housekeep." In the morning, the one who makes the beds and does up the rooms,

might prepare the breakfast while the other goes out to provide for the evening meal. I imagine you will lunch in the city, so that supper will be the meal required. And I trust you will always see to it that you have a substantial, but digestible supper, as soon as you can after returning home.

3. See that your lamps, candles, etc., are always clean and ready for use, and matches handy. There is nothing so dismal as to come home to a dark room or rooms and grope about for light. It is unlikely you will have gas, in a flat such as I have described, though you may have the "penny in the slot" arrangement, and this is a great convenience.

4. See that your drains, sink, etc., are always well flushed and kept perfectly sweet and clean. If anything seems out of order, go at once to the agent and have the matter seen to; it may be very easily remedied.

5. Be very careful to leave your sanitary dustbin ready, on the days when it is cleared, and see that all refuse is carried away. The most absolute cleanliness is needed in such close quarters, and by attention to this life may be as healthy and is certainly as pleasant in "your flat" as it could be in your own home.

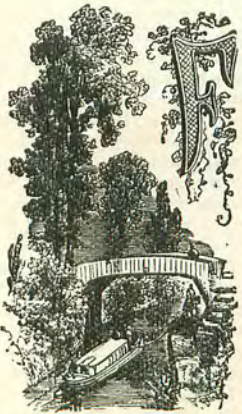
P.S. I don't think I have been nearly emphatic enough about the need for care in arranging your meals. Be sure to take a good breakfast, and try by all means to have a good, wholesome evening meal. Never fall into the habit of living on sausage rolls and pork pies, and tinned meats. You both know something of cookery, therefore learn more, if you can, by practising for "each other's" benefit, which after all is the truest "altruism."

(To be concluded.)

## A MINISTERING ANGEL.

By JOSEPHA CRANE, Author of "Winifred's Home," etc.

### CHAPTER I. IN THE FENS.



FEW places, by way of contrast, as regards scenery, could have been greater than when I came straight back from the school where I was educated in lovely Lausanne to Anderby Hall, our home in the Lincolnshire fens. I had not been at home, even for the holidays, for three years, owing to my having measles or something or

other that prevented my travelling. Two years ago I came back not to return, for my school-days ended on my nineteenth birthday. My mother had died quite suddenly two years before, and since then Aunt Elsie, father's eldest sister, kept house for him. Then she became very ill, and the doctors had little hope of her being anything but an invalid for the rest of her life, so my home-coming to be the active head of the house seemed just in time.

Our home is a very large, rambling old house, very much out of repair, and with large gardens stretching at the back, and a short lawn in front, the gate opening on to the village road. We are eleven miles from a

railway station, five from anything that can be called a town, and beyond two or three families who live within a few miles of us, and about two in the village itself, there is no society at all. From my bed-room window I can see miles and miles of fenland stretching to the horizon. The fens are intersected by canals, and here and there are tiny villages and a church spire.

Dolly, who is thirteen, and Bess and Anne, who are twins of nine, go to a school kept by two maiden ladies in the village. The children of the doctor and clergyman go there, and, considering how remote we are from civilisation, it is fortunate to have a school at hand, for father says he doesn't wish them to be far away, and prefers this school, which, for the country, is wonderfully good.

It was my great wish to go and be trained for a nurse, and I think father would have let me do this later on had not mother died. But now, as he says, my duty is clearly to be at home. Perhaps, when Dolly is older and able to take my place, there may be a chance of my going.

Last week a very delightful thing happened. I had a letter from Maggie Anderson, who had been to stay at Lausanne once during the holidays. She was a sister of Madame Chaudet, whose school I was at, and it was her telling me a great deal about hospital life, where she had just begun her training, that gave me the wish to be a nurse. She wrote from her London home, for she had lately been ill, and the doctors wanted her to have six months' rest; and when I told father, he said that I could invite her to come and stay here if I liked, and that it would be company

for me, for he had to go to America on business, a brother of his having died there lately, and he might be away three months or more.

"You would enjoy that, would you not, Nell?" he asked, for father always loves to please us.

"Yes, father, it would be lovely; I hope she can come," I answered, and, to my joy, I found she could, so the morning father sailed from Liverpool for New York, I went to meet her at the station, and was surprised to see how white and ill she looked.

She is several years older than I am, and a very delightful person. The children took to her, and Tom, our one brother, who is eleven, voted her a brick.

"Now, Maggie, while you are here I am going to pick your brains diligently," I said to her the day after her arrival, and she laughingly said she gave me full permission to do so.

"As there seems no chance whatever of my going to be trained as a nurse, and here, of course, there are never any ambulance or home-nursing classes, I don't see how I can get any practical knowledge of nursing," I remarked, "and I long to learn all I can on the subject."

"Every woman should know certain rules about nursing, and how to carry out a doctor's orders," said Maggie, "and I will tell you all I can."

"You know sometimes I go and see the poor people in the village, and often I have wished I knew how to make them more comfortable and give them hints about treating the sick; only I did not know what to say and do."



## “GLORIFIED” WORKMEN'S DWELLINGS.

### PART II.

DEAR ELSIE, it was nice of you to write so promptly, and nicer still to find that my last letter had really been of service to you. I think you and Annie wise in choosing the two rooms and scullery, for the small weekly difference in cost is more than made up by the extra space and comfort.

You say you want more advice about furnishing, and that you want to do it cheaply. Well, dear, it is quite possible to do this, only you must spend brains, if not money, and you must not run away with the idea that any low-priced furniture will do. For your sitting room, which you say you will cover with matting, I should recommend some good bamboo furniture. This is light and pretty, and you can have almost everything now in bamboo. You will want a fair-sized table—but not too large—for meals. Then some strong, serviceable chairs, three or four, for table use, and at least two easy chairs; for you both will want to rest when the day's work is done. If you are sufficiently in funds, I should strongly recommend an ottoman couch, which you can often buy second-hand, and cover with a pretty chintz, and for this and your easy chairs you will want nice cushions. If you buy a couch, it will be found very handy for holding extra dresses, or for putting away winter clothes; which you must remember to pepper well and pack in brown paper. I think you most likely have a cupboard in the room, although you do not say so. Now I am going to give you a pet idea of mine and I think you may be able to carry it out without the aid of a carpenter. I take it for granted you have not lost your taste for carpentering? Well, then, with a screwdriver, carefully remove the cupboard door from its hinges, leaving the hinges fixed to the door. Place the door in safety in your scullery, so that you may be able to replace it safe and sound when—or if—you leave your rooms.

Now for the decoration of the cupboard! As you have not told me your prevailing colour, I am rather in the dark, but your taste will have to guide you in this. If the cupboard is shelved throughout, you had better enamel it *all* inside with any pretty shade which will harmonise with your curtains, and at the same time be dark enough to show up your bits of china, etc. Across the second shelf from the bottom fix a brass rod, and do the same at the top. Then make curtains, which ought to match your window hangings. The top ones should be short enough to just cover the rod below, and the lower ones reach the floor. On the bottom shelves you can keep your tea-cups and little etceteras for your small tea-parties, which you will doubtless indulge in! These curtains may be kept closed. The top ones should be drawn aside, and the finish to the whole may be made in the shape of a Moorish arch which you can procure in white wood now, very cheaply. This should be enamelled like the inside of the cupboard, and fixed so as to allow of the curtains being freely drawn.

In all these recommendations, I am taking it for granted that you have invested in a step

ladder, and that you have sufficient tools “to carpenter a nail” as a friend of mine puts it. Should you have these, you will find it easy to fix up the bamboo poles for your window curtains, and to do many other “odd jobs” as well, or better, than a paid workman.

There is another way of utilising your cupboard, but in this I fear you will want the help of a practical carpenter. Instead of the curtained off lower shelves, get a shelf fixed at the right height for writing. This ought to be hinged to the cupboard shelf, and supported from below with folding arms, which can be pushed back when not wanted. Cover your shelf neatly with baize or cloth, and on the cupboard shelf to which it is fixed your inkstand, blotter, diary, etc., can stand. You will then have a commodious writing-table, always ready for use.

You do not tell me if you are keeping up your music, or if you have a piano? If so, you will want a music stool, and I remember you used to have an old croquet box at home. Curious mixture of ideas, is it not? However, it is not quite so queer after all. I made a lovely music seat and box out of a discarded croquet case, and it is so easy that I make you a present of my experience. If you have the box, get a sufficient quantity of Indian matting, with which you must cover top and sides. The edges can be finished off with split bamboo, the legs (which you must carefully arrange to have cut the right height for comfort) you can procure at any wood-turner's. Screw holes with a large gimlet down through the bottom of the box, at the four corners, right into the legs and then screw in large, strong screws, till the legs are absolutely firm. You may add castors, if you care, but these must in that case be allowed for in the height of the legs. When the outside is complete, paper the inside with some pretty scraps of wall paper, and you will then have a delightful receptacle for music. The advantage of such a stool is that you can use it for duets.

Now I really do not think I shall tell you any more of my “dodges” till I hear from you again, but I must grow practical and give you some more good advice on household matters.

First of all, be sure you have in your little scullery plenty of hooks and nails for hanging brooms and dustpans and so on. Then I should strongly advise having a thick piece of galvanised wire firmly placed across one corner, high enough to clear your heads, but not too high, to hang your tealcloths, dusters, etc., on. Apropos of these, as you are going to do your own housework, I would recommend your washing out your tealcloths at least every day. If greasy plates and knives are rubbed with paper before washing, there will be little risk of your cloths being very greasy, but “prevention is better than cure.” You will find that a cake of sapolio and one of sunlight soap are invaluable aids, and they should live just by your sink. A “sink basket” placed just over the escape pipe is also a *sine qua non*. It makes a capital strainer when you want your tea-leaves washed for carpet-sweeping, and it also catches all scraps

which might choke up the sink. While on the subject of cleaning, let me give you another “wrinkle.” You will not need a knife-board if you will try the following. Have a small piece of board, dust some knife powder on it, and with the smooth end of a damped cork, rub the blade of the knife. The dirt disappears in a marvellous manner, and the wear and tear to the knife, or to the cleaner, is *nil*. Clean your knives as soon as possible after using, they will then give you half the trouble. For your spoons and forks—they should at least once a week have a special wash in ammonia and water. Dissolve a piece of rock ammonia in boiling water, and leave the spoons and forks, etc., in it for an hour. Then dry with a clean cloth thoroughly, and rub immediately with a soft wash-leather. Perhaps you are saying, “How horrid our hands will get over all this!” I can only say from experience that they need not. If you have grates to clean, or rooms to do out, common-sense will prompt you to wear gloves, and it is a splendid way of using up old gloves, let me tell you! Then as to the “washing up.” If you will have a kettle full of water on the stove to heat, while you wash the dishes, you can at once wash out your cloths, and there is no better way of thoroughly cleansing the hands than this. When you have used a saucapan for milk, or anything likely to stick, pour cold water into it at once and let it stand. It will then be easily cleaned with a birch brush; and if necessary be given a final rub with sapolio. Always use enamelled saucapans if you possibly can.

You will find it a very good way to leave your scullery window open during the day, from the top if possible. And if you bring your towel-horse in to the scullery, your towels will have a good chance of drying in your absence.

I hope you will not think this too personal a hint, for it is one that I feel very certain you will see the good of. As you and Annie are going to walk to and from your offices daily, I strongly recommend you not to wear the same stockings two days in succession. You will find this applies to almost all your underwear, but especially stockings. And another bit of experience! wash your stockings at home. They will wear twice as long, and the comfort is infinite. I was first indoctrinated into this idea during a hot summer in Paris, where the friend with whom I stayed told me she washed her stockings every night. They were dry by morning. This is very easy to do in your own rooms. Soap the stockings well with sunlight soap. Soak for fifteen or twenty minutes. Then squeeze them well; turn inside out, soap again and give a rub, to finally remove the dirt. Rinse in tepid water, squeeze very dry and hang them on your line to dry. You will soon find the comfort to your tired feet quite balances the slight bother of washing them.

Above all, do not neglect your food, and live as carefully as if you were at home. That is one of the secrets of good health, and one of the reasons why “working women” so often break down through neglect of it.

## "GLORIFIED" WORKMEN'S DWELLINGS.

## PART III.



DEAR GIRLS,—  
What could you be thinking of to get into a wrangle with neighbours? I know it must have been intensely provoking from all you have told me; but you must remember that you are not living among friends in London. I trust that long ere now all the worry is over and that your cosy little nest has lost none of its charm. One comfort is, that you are both too busy to worry over past disagreeables! May I give you a bit of personal experience? When I had my "flat," I did not know a creature in the building; but I shrewdly suspected that some of my neighbours were not too nice. One man had the eccentric habit of taking his dog out about 2 A.M. Another old lady let her pet cat out very late. Result! One night a pitched battle took place under my windows. All the sleepers were roused, and naturally no policeman appeared till about half an hour's bad language had been expended, and either cat or dog was nearly demolished! Next morning I walked down to the agent's office about 9 A.M. to lodge a complaint. He civilly assured me that mine was the twelfth he had had, and that both parties had already been spoken to. The same course had to be pursued with people who had somewhat noisy "musical" parties right on through the night, and in both cases the nuisance was stopped at once without any personal intervention. You see "flat-dwellers" have to think of "law and order," and certainly had better abstain from taking the law into their own hands. You will pardon my sermonette, I know, for I feel so anxious that your venture should go on as well as it has begun.

Now I must try to reply to your various queries.

I am glad you find the cooking-stove a success. Have you tried one of these delightful double saucepans which fit into each other? Now that the warm days seem to be near you will not be so anxious for warm meals; though I am a great advocate of a hot evening meal as best for digestion. I should much like to give you some cookery recipes, which could be easily carried out and give you time for your evening's walk or ride. I shall first give you two—both of which are delightful. Get a bottle of rennet from your grocer's, and in the morning before you go out put a teaspoonful in a deep saucer or small soup-plate. Warm half a pint of milk and pour over. When you return at night you have a refreshing dish of curds—or peptonised milk—ready to be eaten with or without sugar as you prefer. Another delightful dish, but which is

only available when "small fruits" are in season, is a summer salad. To make this you require half a pound of red currants, half a pound of raspberries, half a pound of strawberries. Carefully pick these and arrange them in layers in your pie-dish—with sugar sifted between. If you ever indulge in cooking-sherry, pour a little of this over the fruit, or an excellent substitute is ginger wine. Then, on the top of all, slice a banana or two. This is most refreshing and delicious and does not take long to make. Salads too are almost a necessity in summer, and are so easily prepared. A small lettuce for foundation, a little beetroot, watercress (if you still like it), and either a hard-boiled egg in slices for garnishing, or some shreds of ham, or cold fish. "Salad cream" is always handy and can be poured over the last thing.

You see I am trying to take away the taste of my admonitions. I could go on indefinitely on the cookery question; and you must let me know if you want more of my "easy recipes" before autumn or winter. At present you cannot be enough in the open air so long as you do not neglect your health and live, as two girls of my acquaintance did, on tarts and sausage rolls and tea. I need hardly tell you the result!

And now I must try to answer your queries about entertaining. I very strongly advise your having an "evening." This sounds grand—does it not?—for girls who work all day. But I can assure you from experience that it is the simplest and best plan. Of course you see your intimate friends when and where you can; but for the "casuals" who may turn into friends, it is far the best plan to be "at home" one evening a week. This leaves you free for the other evenings to work, read, go to church, or lectures; and if people know they can find you, they will be sure to look you up. As for entertaining, I hardly think that need alarm you. No one will expect two girls to give elaborate suppers, and the more simple you are the better for purse and temper. I should recommend your moving the cooking-stove into the scullery, where the tea can be made. Do not attempt coffee! It ought to be good, and that involves care and attention and worry. Have your kettle "on the boil," and have nice fresh tea, and some tiny scones, like the girls in the "Humble Enterprise." This saves cutting bread-and-butter; and always remember people come to see you and not to eat and drink! If you start your "evenings" in summer, home-made lemonade might take the place of tea; though I confess to a weakness for tea even on a hot evening.

Another thing you mention is the summer holiday. You seem doubtful about getting away together. If you do, everything will be very simple, for you will only have to put away your treasures—taking care to leave no food about—and lock your door and go off with an easy mind. But if, as you hint, you will have to take separate holidays, try to have some one to fill the vacant place during the other's absence. Ask one of your cousins to stay with you, and you will have the double boon of showing her London and having company while your other self is away. I daresay all this sounds very grandmotherly; but I know your mother does not understand, as I do, the dreariness of living alone, and the bad effect it has on health and spirits. If she did, she would echo my wise saws!

Another point you ask about is "spring cleaning." Well, I should recommend your waiting for that till you are both returned from your holidays, though this sounds very Irish. You should then engage a reliable woman to thoroughly clean down your rooms, walls and all. Before you do this, go carefully

over shelves and cupboards and turn out all the rubbish—your church "mission woman" may be glad of some things—reline the shelves and make all neat and tidy. Then the outside cleaning may begin. A quick worker ought to do your rooms in a day, leaving you to put the finishing touches, clean curtains, etc. The great secret of comfort in rooms such as yours, is to have no unnecessary furniture, and not to hoard "odds and ends." At the end of each season get rid of the clothes which cannot be used for the next; there are always poor people thankful for them. Dresses, etc., which can be utilised, or renovated, should be well brushed, peppered and laid by, in brown paper, in their own niche. This applies also to extra blankets and wraps. These should be cleaned before putting away; they are then ready for use at a moment's notice. You cannot be too "old maidish" in your home; and when the real home comes, you will find the good of tidy and regular ways. I cannot write too strongly on the dangers of degenerating into slovenliness to girls who live as you and Annie do. It is so easy, when one comes home tired and there is no one to dress for, or brighten up for, to throw things on one side and just rest "anyhow." Never let yourselves get into this way. Your hours are long enough; but always, when you get home, change your dresses, and carefully brush the one you have worn in the day before putting it away. It will last far longer and you will be twice as comfortable.

Self-respect makes others respect you, and I am writing all this exordium with a vivid remembrance of a friend who lived alone for a time, and who told me seriously "it did not matter" when I remonstrated about unwashed dishes and undusted rooms. Fortunately (for her) she was taken ill, and I took her rooms in hand and had the pleasure of a hearty acknowledgment from her, that "a stitch in time saves nine," or the equivalent of it, when she found her china cupboard and silver all bright and orderly. I fear you think Aunt Mary is wandering far from your "glorified workmen's dwellings;" but your questions have led from one thing to another, and you will find the glory depart speedily if you relax the pretty, dainty home ways you have always lived in.

Now I am going to give you an idea which I think you will like, to take away the taste of so much good advice. I think you find it not easy to dispose of all your numerous photos? Here is the plan I have worked out with great success. I had a cardboard dress box which was not needed, 23 inches by 16 inches. I carefully cut off the edges of the lid with a sharp penknife, then faced it with a reddish brown cotton velvet, costing, I think, about 1s. 1½d. The back, which of course was sewed to the velvet, I made out of a black cotton dress lining. This was just the size to fit into a travelling trunk. Then I got about sixty-seven yards of red ribbon (1d. per yard) and crossed this from side to side and corner to corner, much on the lines of the Union Jack. At each crossing I pierced a hole with a sharp knife and fixed the ribbon with a brass paper-fastener. I ought to have said this was done before the back was sewn on. This rack adorns my walls now, and holds about forty photos. The more ribbon crossings you have, the more space is available for sticking in photos of course.

If I hear that you have taken this all in good part, I can give you many more "wrinkles;" meantime you have had enough, I daresay.

Your affectionate

AUNT MARY.