

of other men in the line of leadership, and New York will not be a day without men quite capable of conducting her music and educating and directing her taste. Mr. Thomas's departure makes room for other men, who have been working at a dis-

advantage in his shadow; and we shall soon learn who among them is to take the ruling baton. He is certain to appear, and New York will have and hold just as good musical leaders as her musical culture and institutions deserve and naturally attract.

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## HOME AND SOCIETY.

### Suggestions to Young Housekeepers.—I.

#### INTRODUCTION.

I HAVE heard so much of the trials and perplexities of young housekeepers that, after forty years of experience, begun in ignorance, I think I may be able to give some aid and instruction, and may speak with some authority. I desire earnestly to help those who wish to make a home for themselves and those around them.

I believe much of the trouble of housekeeping is owing to the want of proper attention on the part of the housekeeper. Men choose for their professions the law, medicine, architecture, merchandise, and theology, and they give all their attention to the professions they have chosen, or they cannot hope to succeed. A woman chooses for her profession the head of a household. Properly viewed, it is the highest and most elevating of all professions,—let her not enter upon it lightly. She has in her hands the happiness and welfare and direction of a few or many people, as it may be; but she cannot neglect her work. It is not to be neglected, and cannot be put into the hands of any other person. It is her bounden duty to see that her home is clean, airy, cheerful, happy, and all its various economies attended to. She can no more neglect it with impunity than a doctor his patients, a lawyer his clients, a merchant his customers. She must be the mistress of her own household. She may have as many servants of high and low degree as her home and income may require, but she must be superintendent. She must require obedience to her orders, and strict performance of duty; but she must understand what those duties are, how they should be performed, and what time they require, or her orders are of no value, and she cannot judge of their performance. A mistress should go through her house every morning, praise where praise is due, and quietly find fault with any carelessness or omission, thinking nothing beneath her notice, but with a gentle authority which admits of no question, never placing herself in an antagonistic position to any member of her household. Where there is decision it prevents all uncertainty (a most painful condition), and is very much for the good of all.

Circumstances, temperament, good or ill health, make the conditions of housekeeping more or less light, and more or less pleasing; but a good and determined *will* does much for us all.

#### CHOICE AND ARRANGEMENT OF A HOME.

In choosing a house, the first object should be a

wholesome situation, good drainage, ventilation, and a dry cellar. The health of the family depends upon these. Let your house be chosen according to your income and means of living, as far as possible. This advice seems almost a satire in New York, where there are no small houses in decent situations, and people requiring modest accommodations are driven into "flats,"—a mode of life in countries where there is no word like home.

Do not live with a fine house over your head, and subsist in the basement. Few people, out of your own family, know or care how you live. You will, probably, neither surprise nor please them by opening fine parlors kept only for occasions, and the reception of strangers. Let your home, large or small, be kept for the benefit of those who live in it. Warmth and light are better than fine furniture; and good beds better than fine bedsteads. If there is plenty of money, one may have all these good and comfortable things with all possible beautiful surroundings. If not, a woman with taste, industry and ingenuity, and with her heart in the matter, can make almost any place cheery. The more tasteful, the more beautiful your home can be made, the better always for those around you, and for the friends dear to them and you,—not for show—not for display; these degrade the mind and the habits.

In the arrangement of a home, let each member of the household, who is old enough, have his or her own room to be kept in order, and made as individual as possible. Carry this principle out, if you can, with servants. It saves much trouble to them and to yourself. If you have children, let the nursery be the sunniest and most cheerful room in the house, with pictures, and open fire. These surroundings are a part of education.

To begin with the attic. Let your servants' rooms have abundant means of washing (their own towels marked "attic," and given out once a week with the bed-linen), comfortable beds, and bureaus in which they can keep their clothes. There should be a housemaid's closet, and in it everything which her work requires,—pail, scrubbing-brushes, scrubbing-cloths, dusters, towels, brooms (whisk and long), dust-pan, window-brush, dusting-brush, long-handled feather-duster for cornices and the tops of doors, short feather brush, chamois leathers (kept in a box or bag), not forgetting two large unbleached cotton covers for beds and furniture when she is sweeping; on the door of the closet there should be a plain list of her work and the time required for doing it.

The details of bedroom arrangement will be modified by circumstances: the number of occupants; whether they are children or grown people; and whether the income is large or small; but comfort may be commanded by taste, ingenuity and industry, and perfect order and cleanliness. There may be pictures on the wall, if only a wood-cut, books for private use, a writing-table, and portfolio, with means of daily bathing, fresh beds, and airy rooms, and if possible, the fire laid, to be used when required. The drawing-rooms of a house are always characteristic of the family who live in them, and often who do *not* live in them. Live in your drawing-rooms; have books, work, music, fire, all to make it the pleasantest place for the members of a family,—a place of rest after daily work, for comfort after struggles, for conversation, ease, reading, the relation of the experiences of the day, with nothing too fine to use, nothing too fine to sit upon. Curtains are not for ornament, but for use; drop them, shut out the cold, and have an open fire. It is the best of luxuries, the greatest ornament, and one of the most cheerful of companions.

Let your dining-room be tasteful, comfortable, clean, shining, the meal well served, orderly, regular, whether luxurious and well cooked, or only a steak and potato.

There should be a pantry with closets for the china and glass. If you have glass or china that you do not use daily, have a shelf for each with a list pasted inside, and require that it should be reported to you if any thing is broken, and mark that broken piece from the list, that there may be no future question. Do the same thing with other china and glass. Let the waitress have every thing requisite for her work,—brooms for the sidewalk and for carpets and stairs, pail, scrubbing-brushes and cloths, whisk-broom and dust-pan, dusters and towels, chamois leathers for silver, mirrors and door handles (kept separately), a pan for her silver and glass, another for her china, long and short handled feather-dusters, and a placard upon her pantry door, with a list of her work—like that of the housemaid. (I write for a moderate household, where no men-servants are kept.)

The kitchen (I hope it is a light one) should have a light closet if possible for the pots, sauce-pans, tins, baking-dishes, gridirons, frying-pans, etc., all the pots and pans being turned down to keep the dust out of them with covers upon them; another closet for the supplies of the week, furnished with proper jars with covers for whatever is to be kept in them, buckets for flour, bread, board, paste-board, dresser for ware and glass, plates and pitchers, a drawer for knives, forks and spoons, wooden and iron; chopper, apple-corer, lemon-squeezer, etc., etc.; another drawer for table-cloths, roller and towels; enough tables for her work; a proper table for the servants' meals, the cloths suitable for it, and one small table for the cutting up and pounding of meat. (This one must be kept well scrubbed, the others are better covered with table oil-cloth.) Suitable plates, dishes, cups and saucers, tea-pot and sugar-bowl, knives, forks and spoons for the servants' meals are also

necessary. There must be a safe in the coolest place to put away cold meats, with ware dishes to put them on, and small jars with covers for cold rice, hominy or potatoes. It should be cleaned daily. The cook will need a plate-drainer over the drain, two dish-pans, one for washing and one for rinsing the plates and dishes. There should be a small rug before the drain, and upon the hearth, to save the cook's feet from wet and from the heat of the hearth (a cook must be active on her feet, or she cannot attend to her duties); a refrigerator, which should be kept perfectly dry and clean; a bunch of skewers of all sizes hung upon a nail, to be wiped dry and returned to their bunch after using; and a good clock.

There should be a barrel into which all the servants should put the ashes, after they have been passed through the coal-sifter, also a proper receptacle for the refuse of the kitchen, both to be taken away daily. The cook should be furnished with brooms, scrubbing-brush and pail, clothes-iron, wash-rag and brush for the pots, whisk for the drain, soap in a wooden soap-tray, two scuttles, brush and blacking for her range, and brush to clean it out, egg-beater, wooden spoons, hand-basin always ready, etc., etc.

The laundress should have a closet, in which her dress-board, bosom-board, sleeve-board, ruffle-irons, fluting machine and irons may be kept; two covers for each board, and for her table. The covers for the boards are best in the shape of a bag, into which they can be slipped. If you can have a mangle, it is best for both bed and table linen.

It is well to require the washing to be brought upstairs as it is done, each evening. The table, bed linen, and flannels on Tuesday; the shirts, habits and sleeves on Wednesday. All this depends so much upon the size of the family, and whether the laundress is also chamber-maid, that no rules can be laid down, but so far as this system can be adopted it is best. The mistress should look at her list of soiled clothes sent to the wash, and see that the numbers are right, and see to putting them away. This prevents the supposition that anything is lost in the wash. Do this for your own sake and in justice to the laundress.

There should be a linen-closet neatly kept. It is well to nail upon the front of each shelf a wide cotton cloth, which can be turned up over the clean linen; and the linen last brought up from the wash should be put underneath that all may be used in turn. There should be: a shelf for toilette covers, tidies and rideaux; one for towels; one for the bed-linen; one for the table-linen; and one for spreads and heavy bed-covers.

If there is a house-maid it is her duty to attend to the furnace. If not, a mistress can judge whether the cook or laundress can best attend to this work. A waitress should have as little to do with coal as possible, for her hands must be nicely kept, and her dress clean and in order.

The store-room should be placed if possible on the kitchen floor, as there the stores are needed.

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