treating of quadrupeds, that squirrels are inveterate foes of this fruit. Nests will of course be spread over the beds to protect them from blackbirds. The best guard for a strawberry-bed is the house-cat. Let her be tethered by a collar and short string, ending in a brass ring, which plays freely along a cord, stretched by a couple of low stakes from one end of the bed to the other, on the outside of it. If a box with a hole cut in one side, for a sleeping apartment, be placed near one of the pegs, after a few ineffectual attempts at suicide she will resign herself to her fate, and being able to pass freely up and down the long cord, will effectually frighten away birds, and do something for her maintenance. But after a time the birds, it will be found, are cunning enough to know the exact length of her tether, and will feed undisturbed just beyond her reach. But by that time the strawberries will probably have been eaten. A cat of ours thus mounted guard for a fortnight last year over a cherry-tree.

Any late crops for autumn use must not be delayed in the kitchen garden. Thus a final sowing should be made of kidney-beans and peas: the early varieties are the best. All herbs required for drying should be cut in full flower, dried off quickly, and rubbed into powder before being enclosed in tightly-corked bottles. Parsley and salading can still be sown. Early potatoes must be harvested, if possible, before much rain falls. They only deteriorate if left in the ground. In the flower-garden, in like manner, spring-flowering bulbs should be taken up. This is the rosarian's month for budding roses. Choose a showy day for the operation. Cut off all faded blooms, and especially remove them from standard roses—indeed, tidiness is the gardener's chief virtue in July.

M. G. WATKINS.

OUR FRIENDS THE SERVANTS.

BY EMMA BREWER.

CHAPTER I.

SERVICE is, and has ever been, the condition of more than one-half of the inhabitants of the globe, and so many interests and affections are bound up with it, that it surely must be worth while to look into it, if it were only to try and understand why so many opinions of adverse character are formed concerning it, and why so many prejudices hedge it about.

Servants and mistresses! 

Two short sentences, but extremely important ones, and upon the good understanding of them rests nearly all that makes life happy, useful, prosperous, and comfortable. There is no separating the interests of servants and masters, mistresses and maids. The two classes are not only necessary to one to the other, but the one could have no existence but for the other, and it is certain they are more intimately connected than either friends or acquaintances.

These whose office it is to serve are members of our home-life, our friends often, our helpers in time of sorrow, and the companions of our children, and this has been the condition of things from earliest days to the present time.

Why is it, then, we are all frightened to write on a subject so full of interest, and of such near concern?

Perhaps it is that everyone has his or her definite opinion about domestic service, formed by personal experience, and therefore whatever line of argument a writer takes, it attacks someone's prejudices, but rarely, if ever, removes them.

It is certain that around no subject are there so many pitfalls where a writer may lose his or her popularity as around that of our friends the servants, and therefore it is that so few commit their opinions to writing.

It would be possible for me to get out of the difficulty by dealing only with servants as they were in olden times; but this is not what is expected of me by the Editor, who is eminently practical, and infinitely sympathetic with the women and girls of to-day, be they mistresses or servants; and although he has not said it in so many words, I know that he expects me to bring out in bold relief the question of domestic servants as they are to-day, "nothing extenuating, nor setting down aught in malice."

This ought to be very easy; but it is not, and for the reason that very few of us are outsiders, but belong either to the class who serve or are served, and our power of observation is confined to our own special case or surroundings.

We are too interested to see the question in all its bearings. We do not use the same coloured spectacles two days together, and we go through life, in consequence, quite ignorant of the way our daily crosses into blessings, and this applies equally to servants and mistresses.

Domestic service differs in some respects from all other occupations. For example, if a girl selects domestic living, she is the only person, teaching, writing, music, singing, or telegraphy, she prepares with all diligence to fit herself for it; she does not hesitate to sacrifice time, money, or even the very necessities of life, in order to be a success, and can a competency in the work she has selected. But in the case of domestic service—which is, perhaps, the most important of all employments—ninety out of every hundred who seek it as a means of living never dream of making any preparation or sacrifice whatever for it, but grow into the work, as it were, as well as they can.

It is this lack of knowledge and experience that makes young servants' lives so very hard at first, and sends even a good mistress into a condition of despair. They come into the family life with every desire to please, but without the very rudimentary knowledge required. Poor girls! and poor mistresses too! They are a constant trial to the one to the other.

Looking into a very poor Scotch cottage one day, we asked the old woman after her girls, and she told us with pride that one had gone as housemaid in the gentleman's house over the hill. It was her first place, and on asking where she had learned her duties, she was quite hurt, and said sharply, "Where should she learn but here at home, to be sure?" I am bound to say that "here at home" was a brick-floor room which served as kitchen and bedroom not only for the human beings but for poultry as well. What education was this for the situation she had taken, and what wonder if she failed to give satisfaction?

Even as I write I am listening to the story of a girl who went as general servant to a young married couple a few weeks ago, with nothing on earth to guide her in her duties save the reiterated injunction of the mother, "My girl, be honest and obedient, and don't tell lies." The young husband was very
OUR FRIENDS THE SERVANTS.

By EMMA BREWER.

CHAPTER II.

FAMILY life is one of the most beautiful ordinances on the face of the earth, and it is, or ought to be, the centre of love, peace, and harmony. It is made up, as a rule, of husbands, wives, children, and servants; and there is no doubt whatever that upon these last much of the family’s happiness and comfort depends.

As a matter of course, when so large a number of human beings are engaged in domestic service, there will be gathered together the good, bad, and indifferent. It is so in every occupation which employs a large number of people, and why should it be otherwise in this particular branch? The practical thing is to accept the fact of this state of things, and to set about trying to make the bad and indifferent into good servants, to keep the good ones up to their high standard, and attach them all to us as real friends.

We hear more about the faults and shortcomings of domestic servants than of any other class of workers, for the reason that they specially interfere with our own personal ease and comfort.

In a factory or work-room, if a girl is late in the morning, or ill-behaved, or slovenly, the inconvenience is hers alone; she alone pays the penalty. She is at once dismissed, leaving no stain or discomfort behind her, for the manager knows that he has done her and her tradesmen good to be posted for engagement. It is the same with seamstresses taking work home; if they are indolent or dirty they lose their place and go to face starvation in their places being supplied without an hour’s delay.

It is quite another matter in our homes. The faults and shortcomings of our servants act like yeast in a pan of flour—they go through the whole house and interfere with everyone’s comfort.

Take the apparently trifling habit of getting up late in the morning. The hour so lost is ruin to the peace of every member of the household, and nothing makes up for it. There is no time for the servants to kneel down and pray for help and guidance, and all is bustle and bustle from morning till night.

The mistresses may scold and be very angry, but they cannot turn the maids out, and would not even if they could; for in many cases where a single servant is kept it would mean lighting the fires and cleaning their own saucepans.

Young limbs want plenty of rest and sleep; and servants go to bed very late it is hard for them to wake in the morning. A good and considerate mistress will see to this, and will point out to her maids the love of sleep is like the love of drink—it holds its victims with a firm hold, and makes equally poor creatures of them.

In large establishments early rising is compulsory; but in smaller households, where there is more work to be done in proportion to the number of servants kept, early rising is of very great importance indeed.

In an atmosphere of love and kindness the maids will learn to get up because it is right, and because they wish to save their mistresses trouble; there is nothing like ruling through the heart if one wants order and obedience.
I have often heard people say, "Servants are necessary evils;" but I am sure that in a large number of cases the evils might be, and are, often considerably greater than they are made to appear.

The number of devoted self-sacrificing servants among us, thank God! is very many, and the heroic deeds they perform in the interests of those they love are often spoken of, and are not without the happiness of their superior. Miss Mulch must have known this when she wrote "Mistress and Maid." I believe there are many servants working in our homes for a much higher purpose than that of mere profit; and where these are found, the happiness and comfort of the whole family is increased, from the greatest to the least of the household, and are often witnessed by those outside, according to the example of the mistresses.

The fact is, God has cast us all in the same mould, whether we be mistresses or maids, and we should always try to be useful to others. In such circumstances, we are to look on each other as brothers and sisters, and not as masters and servants.

The third letter is from a second lady's-maid. She writes:--"My lady is one who never knows what to do with herself. She puts on airs and makes a great show before the maid, but when she is by herself, she turns it all around, and nothing will be done without allowing time for it; and that one cannot be again with what one is sent for, if one is called back before one can go for that which is wanted.

Such are frequent letters written nearly a couple of centuries ago, and confirm us in our opinion that neither servants nor mistresses were in any way superior to those of to-day; indeed, the same is true for the best. At all events, our servants are better educated than those of former times, and as a body they are hardworking and honest. Consider how much younger our maidservants are than those of former times, and how much younger they are than those who begin as the only maid in a house where the lady keeps her at a sharp distance. Poor girl! she has no one to speak to, no one to care for her. Her only companion is her work; a word of encouragement. The utter loneliness and monotony of her life, added to the incessant work, must prove almost unbearable. As a girl, previously brought up, whom I knew very well, went to her first place full of good resolves. She was told that at ten o'clock she was to lock up and go to bed. Here was another example of the slow change that has been made on this the first night; and longing for a word of human sympathy, looked into the room where the mistress and her daughter were sitting. "Oh," said the maid, "if you've locked the door right. Good night, Missy-night, missy." The lady, though surprised, nodded, and the daughter got up and made a very low and sweeping curtsey, and said, "Oh, good-night, Mary Jane!"

The girl could not tell what she had done wrong, but she hurried from the room and sobbed herself to sleep. As she related this story, she added, "I have never been happy since that night; but I have stayed twelve months, and now I am going as useful maid to a lady just married." I may say this is the case with many girls of to-day, and still the useful maid is in the same situation, and the very thought of her weakening cause anxiety and grief to the most efficient of the maids, and such a maid grow old together as in this case, and it is in such homes that kind of service is best performed.

Mr. Ruskin says a nation is in a bad state when it is not safe for little girls and young women to earn and this is certainly true, and will serve for the following remarks.

Domestic servants are the only class of toilers for whom no organized recreation has been started. I am thoroughly glad of this, as the taking up of this question by outside philanthropists would reflect great
discredit upon mistresses; for, being members of our families, they ought to find their recreation with us just as our children do. Outside influences are very little, if within the home content and happiness have no existence. We should be ashamed to keep our servants without a proper supply of food, yet it is equally reprehensible to keep them from early morning till late at night, and that day after day, week after week, without any hope of happiness outside the work. Block up the highways of moderate recreation, and the byways will be filled with loafing.

It may be asked what more can be required of mistresses than to give good wages, board, and lodging to those members of the family whom we designate as our friends, the servants. Certainly, these items of wage, board, and lodging are a necessary exchange for good and honest service; but there is a large margin outside these for both mistresses and maids to shine in if they want the full amount of happiness each can afford the other, and one does not know how much that is till one tries.

It is the fashion, I know, to let servants have a Sunday out, and an evening in the week besides, without enquiry as to how or with whom these hours are to be spent; and thus the amount of sin and sorrow sluiced broadcast over the lives of these members of our families would terrify mistresses if they could see into the future. Indeed, I had no idea until a year or two ago, when I was looking into the cause which sent so many domestic servants into a special part of the various workhouses of the country, that the pernicious rule was so prevalent of mistresses sending out their maidservants on certain evenings, called their evenings out, from two o'clock till ten, often without a choice permitted them of remaining in the house. In many cases, such a rule must go by the law of the house, and not return until the specified time. Imagine a young girl fresh from the country, without friends or experience, not even knowing a street or a square beyond that in which she lives, being turned out to amuse herself for eight hours, more or less, no question asked as to where she is going or with whom, or if she has money to get a cup of tea or pay for an omnibus! While she stands considering what she is to do with this liberty, some smooth-tongued person comes to her assistance and solves for her the difficulty. She thinks the stranger kind, and falls into the trap of making undesirable acquaintances, if nothing worse. This evil is more the fashion in small households, where one, two, or three servants only are kept; but that which obtains in houses of greater pretensions is equally objectionable, and even more disastrous in results— I refer to the late hours ladies' maids have to keep during the season, while the mistresses are at balls and receptions, even till three or four o'clock in the morning several times in the week. These are disastrous to the poor girls in every way. They are too tired for work, and they dare not sleep, lest they fail to hear the mistress's return; and it is no wonder if they choose to spend the weary hours in the company of those who are sitting up for the masters of the establishments. Much of the mischief is wrought unconsciously, and only wants thinking over to be mitigated.

(To be continued.)

PRECIOUS STONES; THEIR HOMES, HISTORIES, AND INFLUENCE.

THE TURQUOISE, AND CAT'S EYE.

By EMMA BREWER.

The turquoise.

A clear sky, free from all clouds, will most excellently discover the beauty of a true turquoise.—Tanner Nicols.

The turquoise, which is an emblem of prosperity, has by reason of its beauty and mysterious gifts, attained to the high rank of a precious stone.

It is, now, as it has ever been, a general favourite, although it is neither transparent nor does it occur in crystals.

Old writers delight to tell of its power and influence for good, and its detestation of vice, and were never tired of declaring that it was one of God's wonderful gifts to man bestowed upon him for his use and contemplation in order that he might be strengthened in grace and virtue and in the avoidance of evil.

The sympathy of the turquoise with its owner has been rich in suggestions for poets—

"And true as turcois in the dear lord's ring, Look well or ill with him."—

Again,

"As a compassionate turcois that doth tell, By looking pale, the wearer is not well."—

The turquoise was believed to protect its wearer by taking upon itself any danger that threatened, but in order to receive all the advantages which this stone was supposed to grant the wearer must have received it as a gift and not by purchase. It is a proverb in Russia that a turquoise given by a loving hand brings good fortune. And another, "that the colour of a turquoise piles when the well-being of the giver is in peril, and the modern superstition is that the turquoise is a sovereign defence against mortal wounds."

The historian, Boetius de Boot, relates the following as coming within his own experience, and shows his firm belief in the mysterious properties of the turquoise.

"The turquoise had been thirty years in the possession of a Spaniard who resided within a short distance of my father's house. After his death, his furniture and effects were exposed for sale, as is the custom with us. Among other articles was this turquoise ring; but although many persons, admirers of its extraordinary beauty during its late master's lifetime, were now come to buy it, no one would offer for it, so entirely had it lost its colour. In fact it was more like a malachite than a turquoise. My father and brother, who had also gone with the intention of purchasing it, being well acquainted with its peculiarities, were amazed with the change. My father bought it notwithstanding, being induced to do so by the low price put upon it. On his return home, however, ashamed to wear so mean-looking a gem, he gave it to me, saying, 'Son, as the virtues of the turquoise are said to exist only when the stone has been given, I can try its efficacy by bestowing it upon thee.' Little appreciating the gift, I had my arms engraved upon it as though it had been an agate or other less precious stone such as are used for seals and not for ornaments. I had not worn it a month before it resumed its pristine beauty and daily seemed to increase in splendour!"

This, however, was not all. De Boot still further relates that he was travelling home to Bohemia from Padua, where he had been to take his doctor's degree, when in the dark his horse stumbled and fell with his rider from a bank on to the road ten feet below. Neither horse nor rider were the worse, but when he washed his hands on the following morning he perceived that the turquoise was split in two. He had the larger portion reset and continued to wear it, when again he met with an accident.
n almost every occupation for women and girls, except domestic service, there are certain hours of every day and then absolutely free of control of employess; and that is to say, hours at the disposal of the employed in which they can amuse themselves in any way they please, and concerning which no questions are asked, providing the hours of work are well and faithfully rendered.

Much to the credit of a large number of girls and women, these free hours are often devoted to study, to caring for their homes, to teaching in evening and in Sunday-schools, to visiting the sick, and in many like occupations. But the privilege so highly valued is, that the hours are their own, to use in any way they please, either in varying the occupation or in seeking amusement; and this consideration no mean advantage, that at a certain hour in the evening they can put on their bonnets, and turn their backs on business until the morning.

As I have said, domestic service stands out as an exception. The work goes on from morning till night, every day alike; and from the first to the last the employers have the command of that hour. Those who choose domestic service are quite aware of it, and are prepared for it. Of course it is a great many upon the families with whom they live whatever their work is a hardship or a pleasure, a possible or an impossible task; and on entering a situation they hope for the best.

To live in a pure moral atmosphere, surrounded by kindness and homelike treatment, far outweighs the said privileges of other callings; if it were not so there would be no servants at all. Of course there are many poor girls who find the reverse of what the pleasant picture, and who are so unhappy in their service as to have nothing to sweeter their lives but the notion of an occasional "day out," and a talk with the tradespeople who call for orders.

As long ago as fifty years Punch took up the cause of servants so situate, and tried to improve their condition by ridiculing the unreasonable demands of a mistress seeking to provide herself with a maid-of-all-work. He supposes her to be writing for the character of one Bridget Duster. She says, "I have kept house for five and twenty years, in which time I have constantly endeavoured to find a servant who should be without a fault; yet though I have given £1 a week, with a good situation, I have never once succeeded." She then goes on to enquire: "Is Bridget an early riser?—without any repulse to the house she may be allowed to go to bed. A good maid-of-all-work should, so to speak, be like a needle, and always sleep with one eye open. Has Bridget any followers? She should not be allowed to wear any locket, and then she may be allowed to go back. I conceive that a servant ought not to be of any sort of woman, and from the moment she enter your house should take leave of all the world behind, to be like a maid, for long hands always to do something in. And then for company, doesn't she see the butcher, the baker, the dustman, to say nothing of the sweep?" She finishes up by writing, "I require a servant to consider herself a sort of human kitchen-clock. She must have no temper, no sulks, no flesh-and-blood feelings, as they are ridiculedly called; but must go as regularly through her work as though she were made of steel springs and brass gears. For such a person there is a happy home in the house of your obedient servant, PAMELA SQUAW."

What house for a poor girl to find herself in! And as to leaving with a good character, it would be next to impossible. Thank God there are very few such mistresses nowadays; although there are still many with whom to live is not a happy existence, and with whom servants have no advantages to compensate for loss of freedom and companionship. Still, just as there are good, bad, and indifferent mistresses—good, bad, and indifferent mistresses; but there are many more good than bad in both cases.

We have said that English family life is a beautiful institution, and so it is; but in order to keep it in all its beauty, purity, and sweetness, there must be no sin in it, and every individual forming it must have his or her privileges and springs of hope. What is good for one is good for all. The health of boys and girls at school should be secure from half-holidays and general games; the elder daughters to the visits of their sweethearts and to the past have many sources of hope and interest; but the servants—what of them?

Well, except their "day out" and what they shall take away with them, they have little to look forward to, nothing to vary the monotony of the long house of work; and yet they are by no means an unimportant part of the family life, and, if the truth must be told, it is mainly to their skill, devotion, and faithfulness that all the component parts work in peace and harmony.

If, for instance, they are a essential part of the family life, then of necessity they must have home enjoyments. The music-halls of the lower-class are not suitable places of amusement for those who are one with us in family, even if hours were at their disposal to go to them.

What, then, is to be done for those who cannot select their own pleasures, and who are dependent on us for happiness?

There are many ways of making life pleasant for them. For example, servants are as a rule very fond of singing, and often have very good voices; would it not be possible to have them up there for a week, if only for half an hour in the evening, and teach them some part-songs, of which there are so many pretty and easy ones? Or something for them to look forward to, especially if it were in company with the rest of the family.

On Sunday evenings an addition to family prayer might be the singing of hymns. Again, one could look forward to it if in the summer the servants could, just for one day, be the mistress's guests, taken by her to some place in the country, or by the sea if they were in London, or to some country seats.

Let the rate of mistress and maid be set aside for that day, and let friendship be the ruling power on both sides.

Again, on certain days when everybody looks forward to some little pleasure—Boxing-Day, for example—why not be possible to take the whole of the household to some good concert or entertainment, no distinction being made, but all members of the family sitting together, thereby proving the oneness of the household? These little acts of kindness and consideration would bring the members of the family into touch one with another, and bring out all that is good in mistresses and maids; and for the latter, it would sweeten their labour, and increase their respect for the former.

This sort of thing has been done for years in some houses I know, and better servants or happier homes cannot be found than these.

A lady, whose home is the only one, on being asked how much liberty she gave her servants, answered, "As much as I give my children."

These are only hints of what has been and could be done to render family life more complete and happy; and surely in these days of new service, schemes for the recreation of toilers in London and in our great towns in our masses, there will be no difficulty in each lady providing for the members of her own individual home if she put her mind and desire into it.

For so large a class as domestic women-servants—which includes something like two millions in the United Kingdom—there must be some admirable method of enforcing a general rule of recreation, and even if it could be done it would be the destruction of family life for outsiders to interfere.

These are the work of each individual mistress or housekeeper to think of and carry out her own plan for providing her servants with suitable recreation, as is necessary for convalescents; but it must be done in the same manner, for it stands to reason that the social feelings of the employed want exercise quite as much as those of the employers. If they are always and drinking and smoking and playing in the kitchen, and the excite offered is, that the maid is so dull that she must do something for a change.

Where liberty can be given in matters such as going to church or chapel, it ought not to be withheld. A girl who has been brought up all her life as a Dissenter should not be compelled to go to the parish church, nor a member of the Church of England forced to go to church. It makes a great difference in the lives of our servants if liberty is accorded in this direction.

I have a Welsh servant in my house for a long time, and for the first few Sundays she went with the other members of the household to the parish church. I soon noticed that she was always lower spirited, but I found on enquiring she was very miserable at giving up her Welsh Methodist service, which she clung to with great tenacity. By granting her liberty at once I have retained a good and faithful servant. She has never abused the liberty so given; on the contrary, she has made me greatly respect the sect to which she belongs.

The difficulty of managing our servants is, I
know, to many mistresses, a very real one, and productive of much sorrow and vexation; and it was with some interest and curiosity that I heard some little time ago of half a dozen mistresses being asked to meet the mana-

of the Press, in order to give their opinions on the subject of maid-servants generally, and to express what they considered to be the cause of the unsatisfactory relationship between mistresses and maids.

After many opinions of little value, one declared it was the want of education, while another considered too much education was the source of the trouble; but the real cause of the difficulty, I think, was touched when one of the ladies remarked, "It does not matter how kind you are to them, or how much you put yourself out for them, they look upon you as their natural enemy; it has always been so, and always will be, and it comes from our dual establishment—I mean, too families in one house, with no go-betweens or the children. One family lives upstairs, and the other downstairs."

This, to my mind, is the root of the evil. There is no unity in the home. The dual establishment is an exhibition of class against class; and love, sympathy, and devotion have no place, no common ground for exercise. Harmony is out of the question; perfect concord is equally so. The mistresses are not interested in the family downstairs, and the downstairs in their own fashion care little of themselves. It is a house divided against itself; and the mischiefs go beyond this—it is a depiction of the dignity of domestic labor.

With the disappearance of the dual establishment, much of the difficulty and trouble of mistress and maid will vanish also.

A very sord point with many mistresses is the way their servants dress when they are out of the house. It is quite true that one's nerves are jarred occasionally by the startling mixture of colours and incongruity of style and material; but it must be remembered that many of them have had no training or education in this direction, any more than in the duties of the household. The dress, however, is a much more subject to set right, because personal vanity is involved.

To dress in the way which so offends good taste is not by any means a vice, but the result often of an earnest desire to look their best on the day they go to see their friends, especially their young men. In this, as in most other things, the heart of a domestic servant is always by the same machinery as that which sets her mistress's going.

Of course the mistake of their dress is palpable, even to their eyes. Poor girls! They have spent their hard-earned wages in vain, and they do not look half as well as in their pretty home-dress; still, they will not take advice or correction from mistress or house-keeper, who, they believe, want to deprive them of the power of looking nice when they go out, and wish to keep them down.

The fault of what is called over-dressing will never be corrected by anger, tears, or laughter; but example, kindness, and real sympathy will do much to tone down the startling effects, until education and the knowledge of the fitness of things step in, and produce good taste in dressing.

It is noticeable that the higher you go in the scale of domestic service, the nester and more suitable is their outdoor attire. Take a general servant, and a lady's man. The first will be much more quietly dressed than the former, not because she is a better woman or more faithful servant, but because she has more self-respect. Nothing is the fitness of things. A lady's man, even the most indifferent, can't help coming up to a certain degree, and if it were in his power, he would do a good deal more. Nothing which does not contribute to the comfort of the family is expected in the way of wages and leave that morning. This is the lady, English to the backbone, although sorely perplexed as to what she should do about the table, and the house in general, and that reception and quietly, "Then go, if you please, at once."

The lady called her daughters, whose ages were from twenty to twenty-six, and who were most sensibly brought up, and consulted with them as to what could be done. They knew it was impossible to get help at so short a notice, and determined to fill the posts themselves. One took the cook's duties, the second was parlour-maid, and the third waited at table. They all sweated the penalty of being left, and took turns, and were a great success, and the house was perfect, and the cost of living was reduced. This is the way to run a house, and it is the way to run a house well.

Times by Sobhas de Castillon, a knight of St. John of Jerusalem. There was once in Calabria a law made that whose would complain against any man of ingratitude was bound to rise against it, and that purpose, at the sound of which certain commissioners met together, who having heard the complaint and defence of the parties, if they found that the party accused had ground for his grief, they would prevent the complainant some satisfaction under penalty of a great fine. Now it happened that a Calabrian having for some time been a full service out of his house, which by labour and old age was fallen blind, became full of sores and was lame and altogether unprofitable, drove and beat the poor beast out of his stable, so that wanting meat he was fed poorly abroad, pitifully tormented with wasps and flies. The horse limping and searching for some shadowy place, lighted upon the chapel, mistaking it for his stable. By chance there stuck in the bell-ropes some bouquets of a tree which the beast gateway at caused the bell to ring. The judges presently came together after the accustomed manner, and finding nobody but the horse himself, the bell appointed the horse to his care again, to feed him and use him in all respects as he was wont to be used in his days of health and strength, natural equity requiring that for himself, he was a horse that went in his master's service he should in his old age be maintained by him.

It is surely the will of Almighty God that such good men, not such dumb beasts, should be decently rewarded by those who draw service from them for their own benefit.
OUR FRIENDS THE SERVANTS.

CHAPTER IV.

"If thou wilt have a good servant find the servant a good mistress."—Quarles.

CHOICE OF A MISTRESS AND THE KNOWLEDGE OF HER CHARACTER IS EVERY BIT AS IMPORTANT TO THE MAID SEEKING A SITUATION AS HER OWN CHARACTER AND QUALIFICATIONS ARE TO THE LADY LOOKING OUT FOR A SERVANT; BUT THE OPPORTUNITIES OPEN TO EACH FOR OBTAINING INFORMATION ARE WIDELY DIFFERENT AND ALTOGETHER UNEQUAL.

A mistress would never think of engaging a servant without first enquiring into her character, and suitability for the situation from the lady with whom she last lived, nor would a good servant care to enter a situation where the lady did not try to assure herself of this—she would feel there was something wrong.

As we all know, there are no obstacles in the way of a lady obtaining every particular as to the life and character of the maid seeking her service, and quite right that it should be so; for the entrance of a new member into her household is no small matter, and may affect the happiness of all within the home.

I know some people who invariably make it a subject of prayer that they may choose right when engaging a new servant, so important do they hold it.

For the mistress then all this is what it should be; but what of the other party to the contract? What opportunity has the servant of learning anything about the lady or her household? It is rare that she is allowed to speak to the out-going servant lest she malign the mistress whom she is leaving and speak ill of the house; neither, as a rule, is she allowed to look over the house which is to be her home, or to see the other servants—and so she is cut off from all lawful means of getting any reliable information.

This does not hold good on the other side, where the maid may be very particular against the maid who is seeking service elsewhere, but the poor girl has to risk this, and all that may be said against her, and abide by the consequences.

It would be better, I am sure, if the privileges appertaining to both parties in the contract were equal. Let a servant, before she is definitely engaged, see the house and the people with whom she is to live, and judge for herself if it is the kind of situation she wants. If this were done there would be a diminution in the practice of leaving and dismissing at the end of the first month, and much comfort and expense saved to both mistresses and maids.

Everyone should be careful in taking a new servant, and very truthful when sending one away. The power of giving a character should be looked upon as a trust from God for which the mistress must give account to Him; the character should be truthful, without exaggeration, or exaggeration, and much given in anger.

False characters, in whichever direction they tend, are as bad as false weights and measures, and more disastrous in their effects, and for the honour of mistresses generally no one should punish by threatening to hold or withhold a girl's character.

There is no class of workers in our country to whom it is of so much importance that characters should be freely and honourably given, as to those who have been well, and have made a promise, it is impossible to say what might have happened to them.

Servants are in many ways at great disadvantages in seeking new situations, unless they understand them through recommendations which is really the only safe way. Except in a few cases where registry offices are failures—they take the girl's money and send her long distances for situations they know nothing about, and it is a perfect lottery whether anything worth having can ever be obtained by their means. Of course there are some very good ones, but how are the servants to know the good from the bad?

I wish very much that the accident I have related and chosen from many others, of girls engaging themselves to mistresses of whom they know nothing, would convince us of the necessity of having some central office where, by paying a small fee, a girl may learn something of the people who wish to engage her, and where she may go for advice in many difficulties which beset domestic service, and where she may be instructed in some of the laws which govern it.

I am well thinking out, but in these days when the market is glutted with philanthropic projects, cannot a little earnest thought be expended for the benefit of our girls? Each month's notice on either side of the family, and should stand near to us indeed? For want of the knowledge which such an office could give, many a girl's happiness and career are ruined.

Very few girls know the laws concerning the giving up or dismissal from a situation, and have an idea that for mistress and maid they are the same, but except in one instance, that of a month's notice on either side, they are not so; for example, mistresses are quite within the law if they dismiss a servant without warning, provided they pay a month's wages, but if they take the wages owing at the time of dismissal.

And supposing a servant to have been guilty of immoral conduct, wilful disobedience to her mistress, she may be dismissed without warning, and without a shilling.

Servants, on the contrary, cannot leave their situations without warning, even by paying a month's wages. Should they leave their situations without paying the last quarter's payment, and are liable to be sued for damages sustained by their employers.

Here again, the privileges are unequal, and the laws want rectifying, but whatever they are, a girl should not go into service ignorant of these things.

Knowing as I do, how difficult it is for girls to find situations altogether satisfactory, I am grieved when, without thought or reason, they blindly rush into difficulties. For example, in the spring of this year an invalid lady, who was known for the great care and kindness she showed her servants, was startled by two of them, the cook and the housemaid, who had been with her some three or four years, giving notice to leave. After some questions as to the reason for desire to leave, they said they had no fault to find except that it was dull, and too comfortable, and they liked a blowing-up in a house sometimes; it made them feel rather reluctant, we want just for once to live with a real lady.

"Well, ma'am, real ladies dress grand, have big parties, go out to dinners and storm about..."
the house if anything is wrong, and we should like to try it for a change."

As their grievance was one which the invalid found it out of her power to remedy, she accepted their statement.

I am sure that both mistresses and maids will agree that these two servants really deserved, whatever I believe they afterwards obtained, my most inestimable respect.

The invalid, speaking sorrowfully of the circumstances to her doctor, said, "I thought kind words, kind deeds, and sympathy meant home to my household, but I suppose I have been wrong."

It is this sort of inconsistency in servants which spoils what are called good places, and does much harm in destroying the sympathy between mistresses and maids which I hold to be the very keystone of the arch of domestic service. My personal feeling is that it does not matter how high in position, or how rich a mistress may be, she should be acquainted with every servant in the house, from the highest to the lowest; they are entrusted to her by the Master, and they have immortal souls, whose destiny it may be hers to decide, and she should be known to them all, even to the meanest, as their friend as well as mistress, and whatever this is a reality and not a sentiment only, it puts everyone on his or her mettle to merit the approbation of such a mistress. True, a lady may have a good housekeeper to look after the details of the work, but she cannot take the place of the mistress any more than the Prime Minister can take the place of our Queen.

In these days, when philanthropy is the most fashionable and attractive form of occupation, and no time or trouble is thought too great to amuse the workpeople and others at the East End, I cannot help thinking of the good that could be done by devoting some of the time to our own homes. It would repay us a hundredfold, and in doing this we need not leave the other undone.

Two classes of mistresses were vividly brought before me a few months since in the following manner.

An elderly lady, very plainly dressed, called one morning upon a very rich woman living near her to inquire the character of a servant. Her name was announced so very indistinctly that it failed to reach the lady of the house. She did not ask the visitor to be seated, but said sharply, "What is your business with me?"

"I have come," was the answer given in a sweet refined voice, "to inquire the character of a kitchen-maid who lately left your service."

"You should not have troubled me with such a matter, but have gone to my housekeeper. I know nothing whatever about these sorts of people."

"I am very sorry to hear that," said the visitor. "I know all my servants, and I think I may say they are one and all really my friends."

The lady was angry, and, looking at her dress, said, "That is all very well for you, but not for people in my position," and ringing, she said, "the servant will take you to the housekeeper."

"Thank you," was the quiet answer; "I shall be obliged to you.

During the interview the housekeeper discovered that the visitor was the Duchess—living in the same square, and whose kindness to all dependent on her was well known.

Let us hope that the rich lady learnt that to make of your servants "friends" is not a sign of low birth and poverty, but of noble breeding and a kind and loving heart.

A mistress who possesses the hearts of her servants may do much in teaching them Thrift, for we know that, as a rule, servants are reckless with their money; they think they have earned it and can do what they like with it; and never having been taught the value of money, they believe their quarter's wages will buy everything their heart longs for. If, however, they were to be induced by the mistress to sit aside a portion of it every quarter in the Post Office Savings Bank it is a double blessing—not only do the savings accumulate, but the servants gradually learn the value of thrift.

A friend of mine some years ago had two young servants, and she did her best to teach them this virtue: one took the advice, the other did not. At the end of three years' savings the savings bank in which the girl placed her savings became bankrupt, and she, of course, lost all her money. The thriftless one now thought she had the best of it, and said, "Now, who is the best off? You went without things you wanted in order to save your money, and you have lost all your money. I have spent all mine on myself and enjoyed it."

The mistress who overheard this speech, said, "My girl, you are wrong; for you and your fellow-servant are not on the same platform at all. It is true she has lost her money, but she has gained the habit of thrift, which will abide with her always, while you, in these three years, have learnt the habit of self-indulgence; and so, you see, the roads you have been walking have led you far apart, although you have been living under my roof all the time. Three years' habits leave their mark on the life."

I have seen often that saving part of the wages has prevented destitution, which, as we all know, is often a forerunner of sorrow if not of crime, and in times of sickness money saved has proved invaluable.

One thing from which our friends the servants suffer frequently is want of punctuality in the payment of their wages. In not a few cases girls have told me that a second quarter is due before the first is paid, and that if they were to ask for it they would receive a promise. This ought not to be; the servant should be paid to the day, and if not, it should be considered a misnomer if the servant must leave the house for the wages are due. The want of punctuality is a great hindrance to making a servant a success, and this helps her to her own service—this she cannot send if wages are not paid when due.

"(To be continued.)"

HOUS!EHO Ul HINTS.

MANY town people taking a holiday in the country are distressed at seeing horses tethered in the fields exposed to the swarms of flies which the switching of their tails is powerless to get rid of, but which wound and torment them beyond endurance, and in our drives and walks we are subject to the same annoyance.

The remedy is simple. Tie a bunch of the scented oakt-leaved geranium on the heads or bodies of your horses, and wear a few of them in the front of your dress, and do not forget to place some on the tethered animals.

If you want to keep your room free of the flies, put some plants of the scented oak-leaved pelargonium in your windows. They will hardly venture through them, for they are always scented at the scent of them.

Pickled French Beans.—Be careful to have them freshly gathered and quite young. Put them into boiling water made strong enough to float an egg, until they turn colour, then heat them, and put into a jar and stand near the fire as possible, and pour boiling vinegar over them sufficient to cover, covering it up quickly to prevent the steam from escaping. Continue to do this until they become green by boiling the vinegar away every other day. They should take about a week.

Pickled Cabbage and Cauliflower.—Slice the cabbage very finely and cut the cauliflower in small pieces on a board or colander (a pastry board I find answers very nicely), and sprinkle each layer with salt and let it stand for twenty-four hours, slopping the board a little that the brine might run away from it. Procure as much ordinary pickling vinegar as you think will be required to cover the cabbage, and boil a small portion of it with a little ginger and a small quantity of peppercorns, also a small beetroot peeled and cut up to give it a nice colour; after it has boiled pour it in the remaining vinegar, but take out the beetroot. Put the cabbage and cauliflower into a jar and pour over the vinegar and spices; tie down and keep in a dry place. Will be ready for table-use in about a month.

Pickled Nasturtiums.—Gather them when quite young, and let them remain in brine for twelve hours; have sufficient vinegar to cover them, and with a small portion of it boil a little Jamaica and a little black pepper; when it has just boiled, add to the remaining vinegar. Strain the nasturtiums and put them in a bottle or jar and pour over the vinegar and spices, and tie down. These are very nice to use instead of capers for sauce with either boiled beef or mutton.
O U R  F R I E N D S  T H E  S E R V A N T S.

By EMMA BREWER.

CHAPTER V.

Among mistresses who earnestly desire the welfare of their servants there is no question which causes more irritation and anxiety than that of allowing visitors in the kitchen, maidservants especially. It is indeed a difficult question, and cannot be solved for every one alike.

I know several ladies who have thought it right that each of their maids as engaged should be permitted to receive their sweethearts from time to time in the kitchen; but in every case where this has been granted that has come under my notice, the results have been so disastrous as to necessitate the withdrawal of the privilege. It was found utterly destructive of harmony in the kitchen, and gave no rest to any one. In some cases the fickle maid forsakes her old love in favour of some younger and more attractive of the fellow-servants, and it is not difficult to imagine the bitterness, anger, and sharp words which became the fashion after such faithlessness.

In others the sweethearts borrowed money of all the food going in order to buy horses in which they were interested; in others, where more restraint had been taken than was good for them, they have boasted among other things of the beautiful silver, etc., in the houses where their young women lived, with what results may be guessed.

In simple fairness the privilege cannot be granted to one without extending it to all; this, in many houses, would fill the kitchens of an evening; for no maid would acknowledge that she had no young man, and would get one on the spot without considering his character, and one on the spot without adding to the safety or morality of the kitchen.

To illustrate the evil of receiving men visitors without the knowledge of master or missis, I am going to tell a true story. Before relating it, I want to beg of our friends the servants not to think themselves badly used because the rule is strict against young men being admitted to the kitchen; while at the same time the young ladies' sweethearts are received upstairs. The comparison does not hold good here, because there is a mother or father in the drawing-room, whereas it is often happens that there are only young girls downstairs, without any staid or responsible person to look after them and guard them from evil.

Neither should it be expected that women visitors may come when and how they please. In many instances they are servants out of place, for no one in the house is bad friends and advisers for girls who desire to be good and steady. It is always better to mention the mistress or housekeeper that such a person has come to see you, and may you ask them in? it makes all things so much easier and safer, and it is no more loss of self-respect to go to the mistress in a matter of this kind, than it would be to tell the mother at home; and my experience is, that no good mistress ever withdraws a favour from her maid if she can possibly grant it.

This was the case with one of our best servants.

We were sent for one evening, just as we had settled down for a quiet hour or two with books and work, by a dying woman, whose house, if such it could be called, was in one of the worst parts of London, inhabited mostly by criminals.

We started off at once, and at length found ourselves in a court with a row of squatted-looking houses on both sides. We had difficulty in discovering the one we wanted, for all looked much the same, and partly or wholly obliterated from the doors. We were successful at last, and stumbled up the dark filthy street.

Receiving no answer to our knock at the door, the room was cold, wretched, desolate, and lighted by one small candle; a rickety table and a broken chair were the only articles visible, and these were occupied by a ferocious-looking unkempt man. He evidently expected us, for he got up, and without speaking took up the candle and led the way into the next room; he drew down the sheet, and there in a corner of the room we saw a poor woman, her husband dead. The frozen ears hang limp about her head, and lent a strange kind of gilded framework to the picture of want, exhaustion, and misery of all sorts, even yet, kept hold of the dead mother. There was something about the face which was familiar and puzzling, but our utterance was choked by emotion, and we could not ask a question.

The man replaced the sheet, and went back to the room adjoining. At length he said, "She was a good woman, that the last. I don't know why, except perhaps you knew her years ago, for she comes of a better sort." He was right; memory came back, bringing with it a picture of a bright intelligent girl, daughter of tenant-farmers, who were very proud of her, and who, having given her a good education, sent her to be nuresmaid in a family of good position in London.

"Was her name Mary Fleming?--and did she come from near Norwich?" we asked. He nodded. It seems that for a time she was happy and respected in her situation. Unfortunately, however, she was not the only one who had made the acquaintance of a civil-spoken, well-dressed man, whom she knew nothing about, on one of her Sundays out. This man followed her the next time, and about an acquaintance, and at length gained admittance to the house one Sunday morning, when the family were all at church, except this girl and Mary Fleming. She was impressed at what she knew to be wrong, that she renounced seriously with her fellow-servant. The only result of this was that on the following Sunday "the man brought a friend with him to engage Mary's attention. The two ticket-of-leave men, for such they were, induced the girls to go with them the following Sunday afternoon as far as Eagles Forest, to hear, as they said, "some famous lecture."

Mary had wit and courage enough to slip away from their evil companions and reach home by the proper route; the other girl was not so fortunate. A few days later, she was brought before the magistrate, who had released her, and ordered Mary to be transported. The same man, who for this time escaped punishment, so frightened and threatened poor Mary that she was afraid to speak the truth about what she knew to the mistress; and when a second attempt was made to rob the house she was in some way suspected and dismissed from her situation. With loss of character and respect she could not face her kind parents, and she went to him, Eliza Fuller, offered to marry her she consented. Ill-used, association with criminals, and starvation had been her lot from that day to this on which we saw her lying dead with her baby beside her. Poor Mary! she might have been happy and loved were it not that reckless servants have made acquaintances and disregarding rules which are made for their safety.

We were too late to help her, poor thing, but we did what she so earnestly desired, viz., see her parents and tell them she had not been a thief, and that she had suffered bitterly for what she had done; and secondly, to see that she was buried with respect. She had written a few of the above facts on a small piece of paper, which the husband had promised the dying woman to give us, and he told us the truth. This is not a solitary case by any means, but it was one in which we felt deep interest and compassion.

While writing these articles I have received several letters and various communications from masters, mistresses, and servants, and one received yesterday is such an exceedingly good, thoughtful letter, that I give one or two quotations from it.

"The servants we have," says the writer, "are nearly always beginners, and our experience is that their wages are below the estimated sum that is paid them by their relations and friends, who are nearly always requiring them to 'better themselves' before they are in any way fitted for a better place. This is the same that if they do get the better place, they are dismissed after being there a week or a fortnight, and this sort of thing, often repeated, makes them lose heart and go to the bad."
be guilty of the second, but one and all are evil in their result, and it is easy to see that, let the fault be what it may, it cannot be remedied in this fashion. Servants have feelings to be wounded and rights to be respected, and when these are ignored they feel that their occupation is compromising to their respectability and freedom.

We lose many good servants in this way, and get in their place large importations of very inferior ones from the Continent. It gives rise to what is called "slumming," and it is true that while the mother country stands in increased need of good and trustworthy servants, she cannot retain them or make friends of them, but has to look on while her Colonies attract those she herself would so gladly keep.

I do not know if all are aware that every month ships leave England with a number of servants on board; indeed, as many as fourteen vessels go over to Queensland alone, carrying on an average, two hundred servants on each ship. Any young woman with good health and good character can get a place passage for a month in England if she is under thirty-five years of age. This colony, even above others, values highly the friends the servants, whose success is unbroken. They try to live up to their profession and train them to that end, and it is galling not to see them leaving the old country which wants them even more than the Colonies.

It is a curious thing that now, when many of our servants are under-rating their position, the women are turning their attention to domestic service as a means of earning their living, and they want to this have been very successful. They go systematically to work, apprenticing themselves for a certain number of years to the Aid Home, Zeals, Bath, or like teaching institutions. That is a thorough course of training in the special branch they select, so that at the end of the term they can enter the ranks of domestic servants as "duly qualified." They go out as "sisters," or as permanent servants, and very few of those they are. I have visited in houses where they have served, so can speak with knowledge. This training has turned out very happily in cases where the woman has been a gentlewoman, and the men and women of superior class have, through misfortune, had to emigrate. The women and girls used to be of no real service in the home, but now with this training they are valuable and steady helpers to the fathers and brothers; and where there are too many girls to find occupation at home, they hire themselves out as domestic servants to other families in the Colonies, often getting very high wages, and naturally, later on, making them thoroughly good wives. The way some of our general servants, who were snubbed here in the Old Country, have prospered in the Colonies savours more of romance than reality.

There are good positions waiting to be filled not only in London, but in all parts of England, and in one branch of domestic work, that is laundress work. I hear there is the greatest difficulty in obtaining laundry maids in many of the great institutions. Miss Storr,* a great authority, says:—"The post of laundry maid is one of great importance in an institution, and there is often difficulty in obtaining women of the right stamp; hearts as well as heads must be thoroughly in the work, and I cannot understand why, with the great desire expressed on all hands for Christian women, women with ordinary health should not get themselves properly trained as laundry superintendents.

In their daily work, and while earning a fair salary, they would have many of the qualities of influencing and guiding those under their care. It seems a matter of surprise to me that women should not be more eager to find a field for their superior powers. Judge here is a splendid work waiting to be done."

I thought this announcement might prove service to every class of domestic servant; it is something to know of an occupation still calling for workers.

There is scarcely any subject which one touches in the relationship between mistress and maid that does not bring with it difficulties, and for the reason that no two cases are the same—those which would be quite correct in the one would be a serious evil in the other; but I have in my mind, for example, that of rigid locks on the servants. It is one of their great grievances, and one of which they speak in no measured terms. One said to me the other day, "I do not think I can stay in my situation, but I will try." Why? I asked, "Mistress takes out her keys to give me even a little salt from the cupboard, and locks it up again; there is not a thing in the house that I can get even to use, and now it makes a servant feel ashamed. If I am a thief I ought not to be in her house at all; I am not trusted a bit."

* Bridge of Hope Mission, Ratcliff Highway.

I myself never lock up from the servants, but trust them entirely, and I do not think I have been robbed of the smallest particle of anything. They are on their honour, and would not dare to do anything of the kind. So that any one of their number. Still, I am quite aware that in many houses this would be folly.

I remember two instances in which my plan of leaving things open acted in a curious manner, and which I ought to mention. One occurred during my absence from home. My husband bought a small quantity of very choice tea, put it into my tea-caddy, and locked it up, intending to make his own tea (bachelor fashion) while I was away. This so amused the anger of our old cook, who had been with us many years, that she gave him a bad time, and was nearly as possible dismissed from her service by him. She wrote me a long letter complaining of the master's want of trust in her, and it was long before she found what she was pleased to call a "slur upon her honour." The second was curious. My child's cabinet, which contained a great deal of pretty paper money, she had given her, was, and is always, kept locked by her. We had an under-servant who had been with us a year, and who was, on the whole, a very good girl, and she had given her a present when she came up to me in charge of an upper-servant, who said, "Ann has something to say to you, ma'am," and left her with me. "What is the matter?" I inquired, but it was long before I could get an answer. At length it came out that the thing persistently locked up had been to her a valuable present from her mother, and she had been trying all the keys in order to unlock the cabinet, and had broken one of them in the lock. "But, indeed—indeed, ma'am, I did not want to steal anything, only to look at what was inside." And I believed her; and after a serious talk she went downstairs a happier and a wiser girl.

Happiness.—Happiness is not an easy thing; it is very difficult to find it in ourselves, and it is impossible to find it elsewhere.—Chesnort.

The Graduating Girl.

"Twas not her essay we admired, Though "twas of "Earth's perfection;"  But how the way she was attired Just suited her complexion.
OUR FRIENDS THE SERVANTS.

CHAPTER VI.

By Emma Brewer.

This is the last chapter upon the subject of "Our Friends the Servants." I am anxious to utilise it to the utmost for, like one taking leave of friends, I feel there are many words yet to be said and only a few minutes in which to say them.

I have been so often asked if this or that particular work is the correct thing to demand of cook, housemaid, lady's-maid, or parlour-maid that I will try to answer these questions in the way I myself understand the matter.

It goes more and more with me that of all occupations in the world open to women, domestic service seems to possess the greatest variety of work, position, and condition, and beyond any other it is, to my mind, the laying down of rigid rules for the carrying-out of the duties of each situation within its range, because in every class of household they are different; but a good girl or woman will, if she can do, so really understand what is required of her and fulfil the hopes centred in her whether she finds herself one of twenty, eight, three or single-handed.

Domestic service is not without its prizes, and it is no small encouragement to a girl with a job for life that she may commence service in the most desirable situation and by performing the right fold of work, and yet become the exercise of self-discipline, industry, and attention she may in time reach the highest rung of the ladder of domestic service; and this realises a great deal of a good woman's value, and which has been her great object to attain. It means that she has gained the respect of the whole household, a position of comfort, even though it be one of great responsibility; and lastly, it is one which gives her the power of being a true friend to all the young servants under her.

Let us look at a house sufficiently large to demand the services of a high-class cook, kitchen-maid and scullery-maid. To begin with the kitchen-maid. Her duty is to assist the cook by preparing everything for her use; she makes the sauces, cooks the vegetables for the uppers, prepares the servants' dinners, makes the cakes for luncheon, tea and dessert, as well as the rolls for breakfast; she is almost what we may call second cook. She and the scullery-maid are up at six and have everything in kitchen and housekeeper's room spotted clean and breakfast ready by eight o'clock both in the servants' hall and housekeeper's room. The rough work being in every case performed by the scullery maid.

In such a house as this the cook is most particular about punctuality and cleanliness. She is often heard to say that it is an insult to cook or cook high up from any but clean water, and she never permits the kitchen-maid to cook by guess work which rarely turns out well, but in everything to go by rule and weight and measure. The wages for such a maid would be from £20 to £26, and for the scullery-maid from £14 to £17.

These two servants would be strictly under the supervision and at the order of the cook.

A girl who has been thoroughly well-trained as kitchen-maid often makes a very good cook single-handed. She knows how things ought to be done, and how they should taste and look, and as a rule is much less extravagant than a professed cook.

A poor little kitchen-maid came to me a short time ago, and said she had been under a good cook for a whole year, and had really learned nothing because the cook did not like that any one under her should learn her methods of cooking. Let us hope that this kind of thing does not often occur, for it is neither kind nor helpful.

In such a household as we are looking into, the head of the kitchen, being a professed cook, or at least high up from any but clean water, and she never permits the kitchen-maid to cook by guess work which rarely turns out well, but in everything to go by rule and weight and measure. The wages for such a maid would be from £20 to £26, and for the scullery-maid from £14 to £17.

There is no more satisfactory for the mistress to see the cook daily, no matter how clever and reliable she may be.

This being settled, she arranges the servants' dinner and supper, and leaving it to the kitchen-maid to carry out, writes down her orders for the tradespeople and gives out the stores. The remainder of the morning is usually taken up by her in making the soup for the morrow—it is never used the day it is made—and in making jellies, creams, and pastry.

After her dinner she dresses up the luncheon, and then the afternoon is pretty free for her. From five to nine o'clock she is extremely busy, and during the "dining-up," which is a serious business, the greatest order prevails in the kitchen, not a word is spoken except to give a command, and there is no such thing as confusion.

There are many good regulations observed in a house of this size, which might be followed with great advantage in smaller ones for example, silence, strict punctuality and cleanliness would be of great value and materially improve both the comfort and work of households.

After dinner is served the cook's work is practically over. The wages of a cook in such a house would vary from £40 to £60.

We shall see later on another class of cook, and the following which I saw the other day in a French paper describes the difference of work and wages between the two classes.

A person is described as applying for the situation of cook. The lady who was young and timid asked mildly, "What wages do you require?"

"That depends, madam, upon your style of housekeeping; if I am to attend to everything, cooking, cleaning, and scullery-work, I require £25, but, if, as I believe you to be, you only require me to superintend the cooking, my wages will be £20."

We will take next the duties of a housemaid, which we depend altogether upon the kind of household in which she is engaged. For example, in a large and fashionable one the actual work of the head housemaid is not so great as her responsibility. It is her duty to look after the linen and give it out, to see that each room is supplied with its requirements, whether of pens, paper, ink, candles, soap, towels, etc.

The chintzes, curtains, wardrobes, drawers, are all in her charge, and she is answerable for the work done by those under her is thoroughly performed. The undermaids are expected to do the needlework of the house under the supervision of the head-housemaid. The wages for the head maid would be from £20 to £30; the second £14 to £20; the third £13 to £18. There is no situation in domestic service that varies so much in its duties and position as that of lady's maid. In a fashionable household she must be thoroughly experienced, a good dressmaker, milliner and hair-dresser, a good cook—in fact, she must know and be able to do everything that a lady in society requires.

Such a maid waits upon the mistress in every circumstance of her daily life; she washes and gets up her laces and fine linen, and sits up for her at night no matter how late she may return. She is constantly up till three or four in the morning, and if it were this last duty alone, it renders the situation of lady's maid more open to temptation than any other in domestic service. A maid such as I am speaking of would not take service in a quiet family because, beside her wages, she expects many perquisites, which can only be obtained in the service of a lady of fashion, and which often exceed her wages, which vary from £25 to £30 a year.

As the ladies' maids are more highly educated than other servants and are often quite good linguists, Punch says they are the "rarest articles of female domestic service, and
being in the nature of luxuries are the best paid. I do not know if Mr. Punch is right, but of one thing I am quite certain, that they are a temptation to servants, and far oftener come to grief. I have very rarely seen cooks or housemaids in a special ward of our workhouses, but I have unhappily seen many ladies' maids.

Of course it is very important for the comfort and well-being of our homes, whether grand or simple, that we should have good servants in each department, but in none is it so apparent as in the nursery. I have written most emphatically so in a fashionable household, where the mother, as a rule, sees little of the children, who are all wholly in the care of their first-order subordinates.

The head nurse should be a person of education with a pleasant voice, and more, she must be truthful, trustworthy and good-natured. She is a teacher without knowing it. The little ones from their earliest infancy are learning from her, copying her and taking impressions from her.

Of course it is an easier matter to obtain a nurse than all these qualifications, not one of which should be dispensed with. Her duties are comparatively light, but her responsibility is extremely great. The nurses of Clerkenwell and doctors, members of large families, have taken up this branch of domestic service with great success; they have been accustomed to assist their mothers in the care and education of the younger children, and are therefore experienced in all that concerns little folks.

A nurse is always supposed to be up and early. In the morning she is called by a second maid, if there is one to have the children bathed and dressed by eight o'clock, which is the breakfast hour in the nursery, and is given up to the care of the nursemaid. Generally the nurse has all her meals in the nursery except in the case of the young lady-nurse, who dines with the family at their luncheon.

Servants do not as a rule in well-regulated houses come out without leave asked, but if a nurse should do so it would be regarded as a grave offence indeed.

The head nurse's duties are very practical; she has to obey the orders of the nurse and do her work well and conscientiously. She rises at six, sweeps and dusts the day nursery, lights the fire for the nursery, and waits upon the nurse in all things, and the nurse has to give her the names of the children, and by two o'clock she is expected to have all the children washed and dressed.

Generally the nurse has all her meals in the nursery except in the case of the young lady-nurse, who dines with the family at their luncheon.

In these days so many prefer to be waited upon by a maid in her pretty cap and apron rather than by a man-servant. Her wages would be about £25, and those of the under-maid £14 or £16.

The difficulty of obtaining a good cook, and the impossibility of giving the large wages, is a great reason why housemaids are so hard to get. In the majority of large houses, especially those of the upper class, cooking is a very important part of the work, and the cook is responsible for the reputation of the house.

There are many things that I would like to speak of, such as the great value of family service, and its power in sending all the members of the household to bed restful and at peace one with the other. The servants are the result of the habit of mistresses giving their left-off clothes and fancy to their servants. It is no help to them, and only creates them in their bad taste, and one which is beyond the reach of the servants.

The large body of domestic servants is, as a rule, intelligent and clever, and it rests with them to determine their position in the world. They are not expected to be kind and helpful, and in all things conscientious; let the work be done in the best possible manner, and remember that the servant will have to be rendered as to the use of talents and opportunities of doing good.

Let no reproach or shame ever attach itself to the name of servant, for it is one of honour and respect, and even our loving Father; and I take my leave by wishing earnestly that God would bless our friends the servants.