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**THE REWARD OF DOING WORK
WELL.**

By Mabel Fiske-Bassett.

"I do not care where the work is," wrote Ruskin, "the man or woman who does work worth doing is the man or woman who lives, breathes and sleeps that work; with whom it is ever present in his or her soul; whose ambition is to do it well and feel rewarded by the thought of having done it well. That man, that woman, puts the whole country under an obligation."

His words carry a truth that is undeniable. The greatest reward is not in the praise tendered one by others, though in almost every instance this will come with the worthy work, but it is in the peculiarly delightful feeling within one's self arising from the knowledge that a constant striving to do whatever the task may be in the very best way, has placed one above the world's mass of toilers.

For a good example in this respect we can turn to the workers of ancient days. There was not an article made by them for even the common everyday use which was not made as perfect and as beautiful as possible. Time had little value in the older artistry. Perfection, no matter how long it took, was the principal aim. They were exceptionally rewarded for their pains, for besides their pleasure in producing such excellent work for those of their day, their craftsmanship is famous still. We, of the modern world, go to another extreme. We set the value of time above that of thorough work.

"I have to slight my household duties," cries Mrs. Jones. "My business calls for two thirds of my time, so I can't devote the care to other tasks that I would if I had more time."

"I can't give more time to my writing," declares another woman. "I must have just so much done in a given time or I cannot make the work pay."

These two women echo the modern tendency. The motto of today is not "how well can I do a thing?" but "how much can I do in a given time?" By so doing we all but fail at everything we undertake. There is a vast army of people surging about the foot of the ladder, never able to ascend because of their inability to do anything really well, while the world goes on clamoring for those who can do their tasks as they should be done. Naturally, these inefficient toilers become dissatisfied with their work, with themselves, with life. But they fail to see why they are doing nothing worth while.

The modern fallacy of thought in regard to both time and work must be obliterated. Time must be given the second place, perfection of workmanship the first. Yet it is quite possible to so couple the horses, Time and Perfection, as to cause them to pull in perfect unison. Surely we should be able to improve upon the method of the ancients. We cannot only work well but quickly. It is not meant by this to rush through our tasks at a breakneck speed, but merely to do things well in a reasonably short time. In every occupation it can be done. Determined effort and persistent practice will accomplish it.

Throughout life we take, as a rule, too much upon ourselves. Let only just enough duties occupy the day to enable us to do each one well. We are not in crying need of doing such a quantity in life. Bear in mind the well known fact that all down the ages there is not a cherished poet who is famed for how much he wrote but for how well he wrote. And those who are known as prolific writers are usually dear to their own generation principally. Everywhere, from the highest to the lowest work in life, warm appreciation awaits the worker who perfects his task.

A certain lady once had a servant who always did every little detail of her work exactly right and daintily as well. Coffee and rolls if served by her were not the coffee and rolls offered all down the ages by indifferent and careless cooks. Perfection was the aim of this woman's life, so she put her heart in everything she did, and like all workers of her kind, her efforts were not in vain.

"Margaret," said her mistress one day, "I am going to advance you. You have reached the highest rank in your business, and now I shall make you my housekeeper. A worker with as clear an eye as yours for doing things right should be advanced to a place of wider opportunity, and here it is."

No occupation repays one more for putting thought and care in it than does housework, and one of its most important branches is cookery. When this is looked upon as an art, not as a common thing beneath one's dignity, it will well repay the seeker of perfection. A meal that is well cooked and well served has three distinct advantages. It gives the actual pleasure of artistry to the one preparing it, comfort and pleasure to the household, and economy in the commissary department, for a thing is not done well if it is done wastefully, and it is a well-known fact that the increased cost of living is partly due to a growing waste and carelessness in kitchen management.

There are just two main qualities necessary to perfect work: patience and persistence. One must pay no attention to discouragements and never tolerate the thought that one cannot eventually reach the goal. "Plow ahead as a steamer does, rough or smooth, rain or shine," advises Babcock. "To carry your cargo and to make your port is the point."

It is said of a Chinese student who had reached a state of despair through repeated failures and thrown away his book, that he came upon a poor woman fashioning a needle by rubbing an iron bar on a stone. This wonderful example of patience caused him to return to his book with a new resolve, and later on he had the pleasure of being called one of the greatest scholars in China.

PROPER CARE OF GOLDFISH.

Goldfish are among the most interesting of pets in the living room, yet but little is generally known about their habits or necessary care. Perhaps this fact accounts for the absence of the little fellows in the average home.

The first essential in the successful indoor care of fish is a sufficiently roomy receptacle, of which there are many kinds on the market, the most common being the glass globes. Of these there are several varieties, the most practical being the round globes without feet, and the larger these are the better—a fifteen-inch one being a very desirable size, and where this is used and not too many fish confined in it, it will not be necessary to change the water more than twice a week, but where a smaller size is adopted almost daily changes will be necessary.

There is a very pretty new globe with a foot and a flaring top that is most attractive, but not very practical, and the round or square aquariums made of solid glass, without frame, are also attractive, but given to splitting, but this fault may be overcome in a measure by placing a couple of inches of sand in the bottom. The most satisfactory all-around receptacle, however, is found in the metal frame aquarium of oblong shape and varying size.

Never attempt to keep one fish alone in a dish. This is cruel, as fish love company and will not thrive alone. On the other hand, it is equally unwise to put too many fish together. Three three-inch fish in a twelve-inch globe will prove far more satisfactory than twice that number and in the largest size aquariums a dozen good sized fish will afford far more pleasure than twice that number requiring an onerous constant change of water.

The equipment of the globe or aquarium will make much for success or failure. There should always be an inch or two of coarse gravel or stones in the bottom, no matter what size. This is not for the purpose of ornament, as many suppose, though it must be admitted that the presence of white and bright colored stones adds much to the effect, but for the purpose of restraining the droppings and other refuse of the fish and preventing its rising and fouling the water; without its presence the constant motion of the fish would keep it stirred up and the water unfit for their use.

The presence of water plants is also important; these, too, are not for ornament or for food for the fish, though they serve both purposes, but for supplying air to the water, or, in other words, oxygenating it, as all plants, some in a greater degree than others, throw off oxygen and absorb the carbonic acid gas exhaled by the fish, thus rendering the water pure and breathable. The best oxygenator in water plants is the cabombi viridiflora, which is sold in the stores in bunches.

As many bunches as there are fish should be supplied, and the bunches should not be pulled apart, but weighted by twisting a strip of lead about the stems so that they will stand upright in the water. In this position they will make considerable growth and will not need to be so frequently renewed. They may be anchored by thrusting the stems between two large stones, as it is not advisable to leave them loose to be shifted about by the motion of the fish, as this tends to disturb the dirt in the bottom of the globe.

In large aquariums a variety of plants will prove more interesting and and one may add to the cabomba a plant or two of the anacharis or giant water weed, the vallisneria, or giant eel grass, all excellent oxygenators. Water lilies and plants of that sort do not thrive in the indoor aquarium, as the gases are fatal to them, but the grasses all do remarkably well.

If the foul stuff is drawn off by means of a rubber tube from day to day it will not be necessary to change the water in a well balanced aquarium every week, sufficient fresh water being added from day to day to restore the freshness. In caring for very large aquariums they can be handled very easily if placed near an outside wall and a hole large enough to carry a rubber hose be placed in the wall back of it and just above the top of the tank. This should be protected by a metal tube to prevent the crumbling of the plaster and may be given so neat a finish as to be unobjectionable. By this means all the water may be syphoned out and every

bit of dirt gathered up from the bottom and removed and fresh cold water from the hydrant or well supplied at a small expenditure of time and energy.

The actions of the fish must be one's guide in the matter of fresh water. If they swim close to the surface with noses elevated a change should be made at once or there will doubtless be some sick fish to be cared for.

Do not keep goldfish near the fire or in a very warm room; the cooler the water the better; if by some mischance the tank should happen to freeze over some night do not hurry the fish into warm water, but let them thaw out gradually, very gradually. Freezing will not hurt them but the sudden shock to warmer water will. Do not place the fish in a south or west window, rather choose a north exposure if possible.

Fish in the unnatural confinement of an indoor aquarium are subject to many diseases, few of which are fatal if taken in time and treated intelligently. The most common is the various fungus diseases which come from impure water, the leaving of food to decay in it being a principal cause of impurity, a crowded condition of the tank and too warm a temperature. The one specific for this trouble, which appears in the form of white spots on the head, fins or tails, is salt. In treating the fish, it is best to take two dishes, one of fresh cold water and another of a salt solution, strong enough to taste decidedly salt, and place the fish in the salt for a few moments, handling it carefully so as not to injure or frighten it, and then remove it to the cold water, alternating it in this way several times and continuing the treatment according to how badly the fish is affected. Sometimes the trouble appears as a congested blood-red spot on the top of the head. The treatment in either case is the same and the thorough cleaning up of the aquarium and everything in it with soap and water and filling with fresh cold well water never use rain-water or water which has stood until the life is all out of it.

Another trouble which sometimes affects fish is bladder trouble. Here the fish seems unable to stay under water or maintain its equilibrium, the tail floating on the surface of the water and often dotted with curious air spots, which apparently are caused by the escape of air from the air bladder into the fins and tail. The treatment is the same as for fungus, but the fish should be kept in a shallow vessel in which the water merely covers the dorsal fin, and the treatment should be continued until the spots have entirely disappeared from fins and tail and the fish swims level in the water.

Whenever a sick fish shows difficulty in rising to the surface of the water, he should be put in a shallow dish, which, for convenience, may be allowed to float in the aquarium. There are several other ills to which fish are subject, but these are the principal ones and well within the ability of the amateur owner to cope with. Salt is the only safe and reliable remedy in the hands of the amateur.

ACTIVITIES OF WOMEN.

In Colorado Springs and Colorado City the women by their votes have rid their cities of brothels and saloons.

Cleveland women are planning a chamber of commerce, which will be the first women's chamber of commerce in the world.

Wages are not payable to a domestic servant in England till the end of the month for services rendered during that month.

Messenger girls are the latest innovation in Berlin, and they appear smart riding bicycles and wearing red hussar uniforms.

Three-quarters of the women students attending the German universities come from Prussia. In the last three years the percentage of women among the students has risen from 3.5 to 5.7 per cent.

Girl flunkies are now taking the place of men in many London mansions.

New York has five girl taxi cab drivers.

A poll of 2000 women in New York City recently showed 39 per cent indifferent to the vote, 32 1/2 per cent opposed to suffrage, and 28 1/2 per cent for the vote.

Seventy per cent of the theatergoers are women.

Having completed fifty years as a teacher in the Auburn (N. Y.) schools, Miss Julia C. Ferris has resigned with this unique record. She will be pensioned for life by the board of education.

In 1810 there were 215 widows to every 100 widowers in the United States.

Since women began to vote in New Zealand divorce has decreased 77 per cent.

More than 10,000 women are stockholders in the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad.

Women of Colorado Springs have started a crusade against unsightly billboards.

Take a newspaper or any wrapping paper; soak well in water, roll very hard, then dry in the sun. You will find it will last almost as long as a stick of wood.

WOMAN LEADERSHIP.

The attendance of women on the meetings of the county board is highly desirable. In the first place, of course, there can be no question of their right as citizens to be there. But women are crossing the threshold of direct political responsibility, and it is important that they, especially they who have initiative enough to be in the best sense leaders, should see for themselves such a body as our present county board in action. No greater stimulus to aggressive good citizenship has offered itself in the history of local misgovernment than the Bartenz - Burg - Ragen - Harris - Fitzgerald - Nowak - Kuflewski - Maloney combine. Seeing is believing, and no charges of bias, exaggeration, and misrepresentation can be made by these women against their own eyes and ears.

The great hope of Chicago is that on the whole the new vote will be a tonic influence and preponderating force directed against selfish and slovenly professional politics; that it will on the whole make for good housekeeping. This will be made possible only through right leadership among women, and right leadership will only come with cool first hand knowledge. Masses of the new vote, like the vote of men, will be swayed by partisan organization, appeals to prejudice, and false self-interest. Organization of this vote already is taking place, it is reported, under the hand of some politicians of the least desirable type. This must be counteracted largely by the work of enlightened and able women. Women, we believe, will listen to women with a faith not given to men, and just as Chicago has been saved from the uncontrolled exploitation of the political powers that prey by organized good citizenship among men, so with the arrival at the polling booth of a great new voting class there is vital need for the development of leadership among women.

Chicago has, perhaps, more women of National, not to say international, reputation than any great city in the world. These women already and their organizations are admitted to the highest unofficial councils of the city. They are constantly active for the progress of the community. They are recognized more and more as among the chief assets of the city, a constant force for good in its affairs. With the enfranchisement of women this power is greatly magnified and made more direct. Its right use in politics as politics now exists involves considerations of difficulty, but in the field of municipal government and administration the cleavage is clear and the right policy plain. Women should throw the full force of their new power upon the side of non-partisan, practical, efficient municipal administration, and the leaders among them should organize effective civic education along all the lines of municipal government which may be made to come home directly to the wife and mother, the housekeeper, and the homemaker.—Chicago Tribune.

KNOW YOUR CHILDREN!

Our trouble is not that we do not care, but that racially we are more inclined to act than to think. There is only one comprehensive rule for bringing up children, and that is that we must honestly rack our reluctant minds until they give us back something of our own forgotten emotions; that we must give in measure as we expect to receive; that we must acknowledge the child's mind and emotions to resemble our own in scarcely limited counterpart. Subjective teaching is the only teaching worth while, and sympathy the only kind of love which will buy us the best. Children learn most by example, and they throw open the doors of their hearts to those who have shown them that hearts have doors. The old quarrel is the most wasteful and unnecessary one. It is human to desire some friendship, and those of us who have children, and in whom the desire is strong, may really know at least one or two men and women a decade or so from now.—Century Magazine.

HOUSEHOLD HELPS

An excellent way of cleaning a kettle is to boil potato peelings in it over a slow fire.

For removing stains on a mattress try thick starch and water; let it dry and brush off with a whisk broom.

Mix the stove polish with rich soap-suds and it will give a higher polish and the particles of polish will not fly about.

Brass may be cleaned beautifully with the following mixture: Firewood ashes with lemon juice mixed to a thin paste. Use a soft flannel cloth and rub the stained brass until it shines, clean and untarnished. Finish with a chamois.

To renew matting, first brush out the dust. Then take a pint of gasoline and add enough oil paint (chrome yellow) to tint the matting nicely. Use the paint brush over the matting lightly and rapidly with the mixture. Let it dry over night and then varnish. The matting will not shrivel after this treatment, is dust proof as a floor of hardwood and looks well besides.