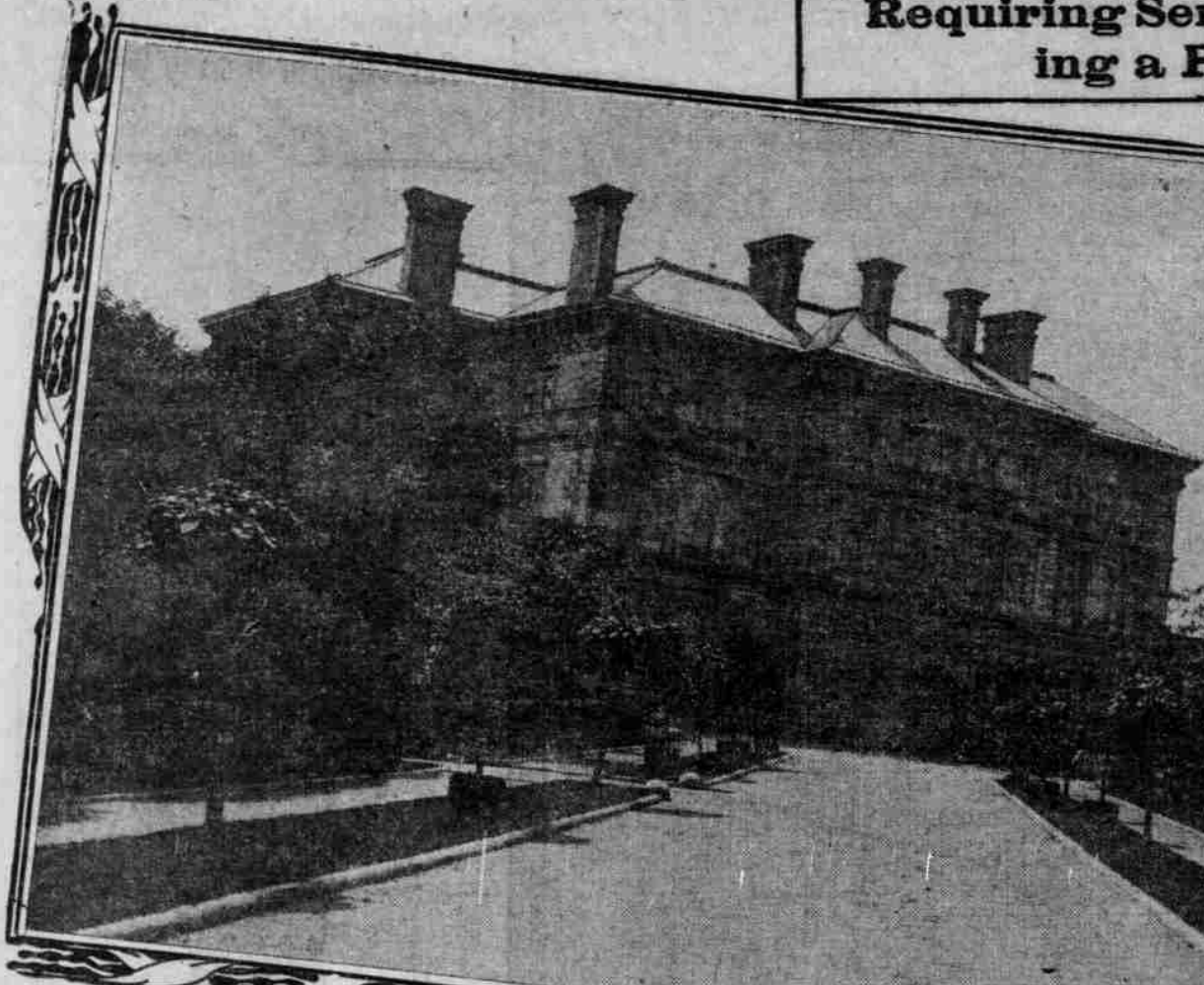
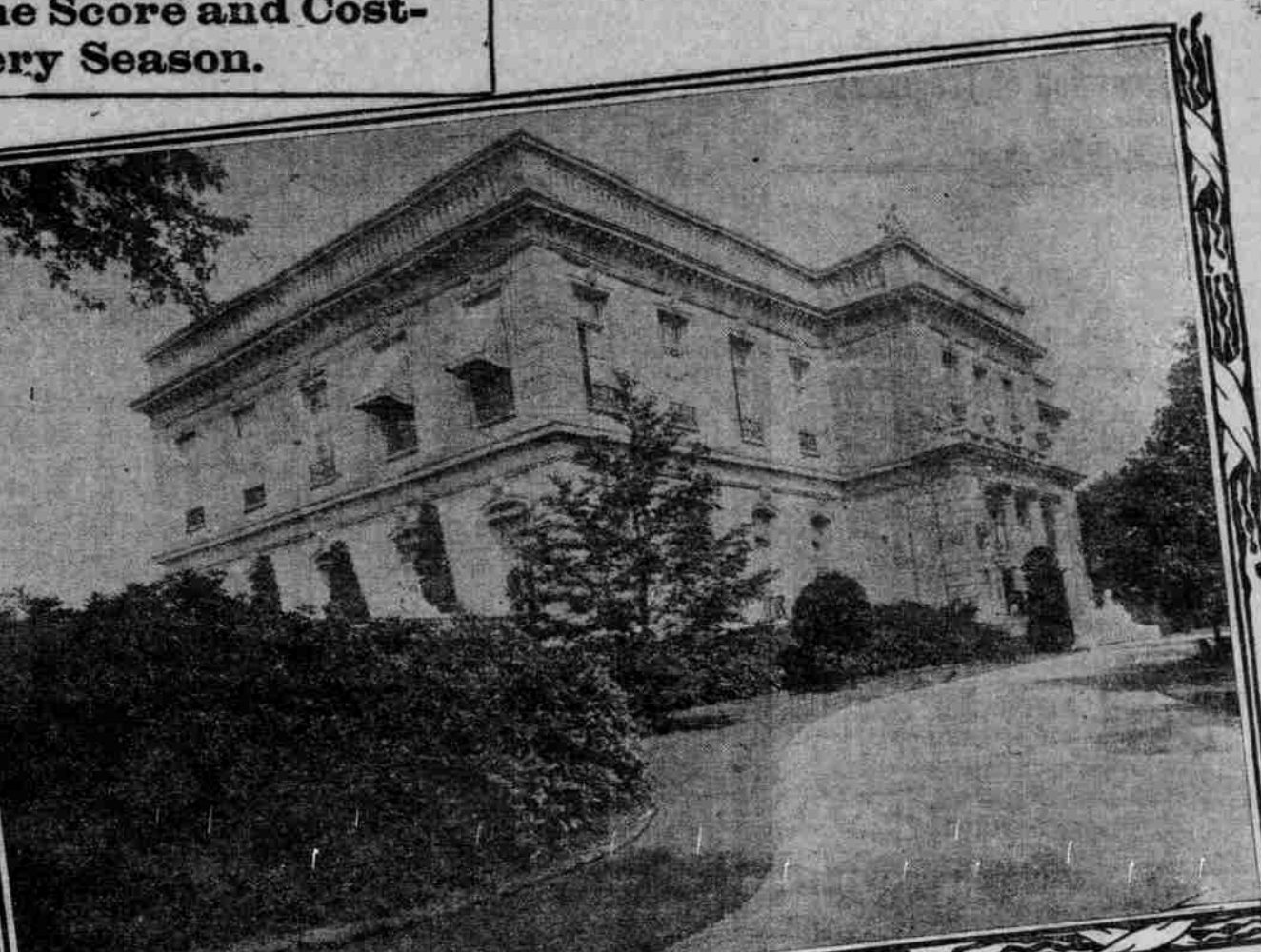


WHEN MIDAS MOVES TO THE COUNTRY

Rural Palaces of Millionaires, Each Requiring Servants by the Score and Costing a Fortune Every Season.



COTTAGE OF MRS. CORNELIUS VANDERBILT AT NEWPORT



SUMMER RESIDENCE OF E. J. BERWIND AT NEWPORT

BY DEXTER MARSHALL.
April is getting old and it is nearly time to open the country houses to which the millionaires and the society folk of New York and half a dozen other of the country's largest cities fly away in the warm weather. Some country houses are open already, in fact, to remain open until after the season when "nobody is in town" shall have passed.

So far as New York is concerned this phrase means no more than that out of a population of 4,000,000 possibly 100,000, a quarter of 1 per cent, or one in 400, including servants, are out of the city. The real summer exodus began in June when the people—the real people—take their vacations, is another matter. Then so many New Yorkers are away from their accustomed haunts that you would expect the big town to look empty, but it doesn't, simply because the summer visitors are so numerous.

Whether what might be termed the country house population of New York really amounts to 100,000 or not it would not be easy to find out. The Social Register contains the names of about 25,000 persons. While not all these, by any means, live in country houses in summer, there are many such persons named in the Social Register who do enough no doubt to make the total of 25,000 about right. At the rate of three servants for each person the grand total would be about 100,000.

This rate may or may not be high. Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt, Sr., and her daughter, Gladys, require about 30 people including the coachman and his subordinates to keep the tenor of life running smoothly for them in the big house at Fifth avenue and Forty-eighth street, and quite as many when in the country at Newport. This is fifteen to one, and the rich New York family of four, man and wife, a son and a daughter, requiring 30 servants, including those in the stables or garage as well as those in the house, is not uncommon.

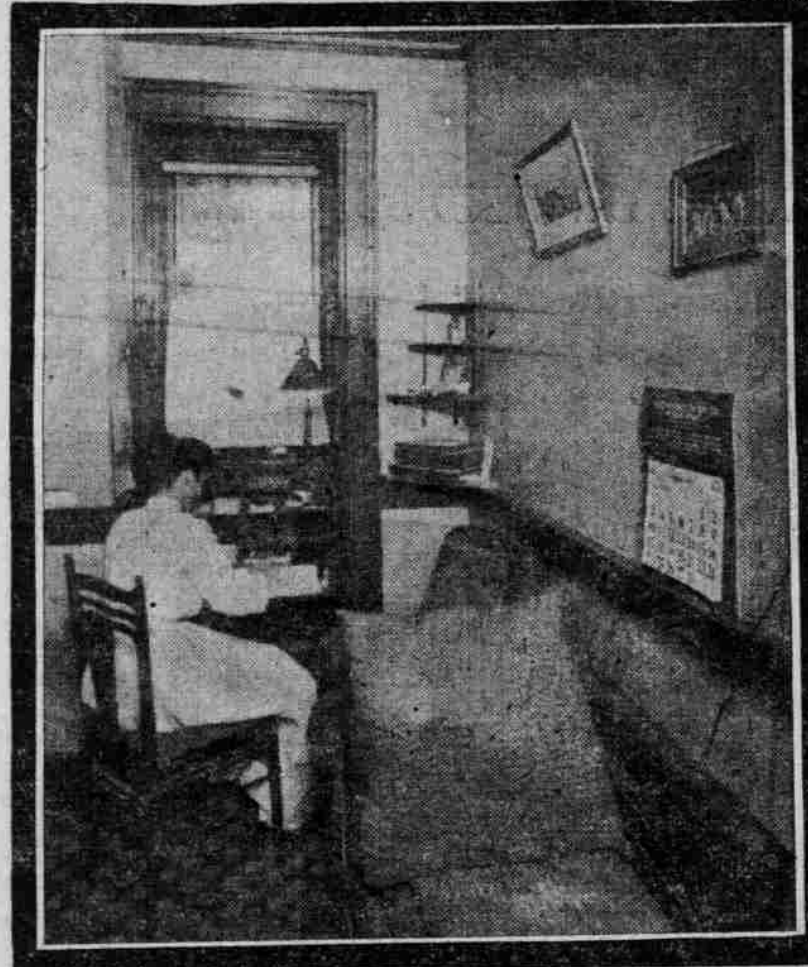
The transfer of a household in ordinary circumstances from one house to another anywhere from 25 to 100 miles apart, even if the country place is ready furnished, is an affair of some moment and occasionally some anxiety to the members of the family themselves. It is not so when the typical modern city family of wealth makes its annual move from town to country. The servants do everything except transport the persons of the members of the family. The latter have to do no more than to step on board the train and from the train to the motor car, trap, carriage or omnibus which awaits them at the station.

On the day of the change breakfast is served to the family at the usual time in the usual way. Lunch is served in some public restaurant or with a friend, but dinner at the country house is served at the usual hour upon the arrival of the family, who spend the summer trim and comfortable as if the family lived there the whole year through. There is no discomfort for the family and not much for the servants, since there are so many of them that each has comparatively little to do.

Moving Into the Country.
"You see, there isn't much to be moved except the horses, the automobiles, the carriages, the trunks and the human beings whose clothes are packed in the trunks," explained a young man who acts as "personal secretary" of a very big magnate whose family spends the summer in an out-of-town palace that has been the subject of much publicity.

"There are about 25 retainers in the household of my boss," continued the secretary. "Let's count them up: In the house, butler and three footmen, chef and three women assistants, housekeeper, two laundresses, one parlor maid, two chambermaids and three lady's maids. There is also a useful man." In the stables there are a coachman, a carriage groom (who sits beside the coachman when he drives), a "pad groom," who rides with any one of the women ready to take the reins when she cares to take saddle exercise, and an unskilled man or two to help round, groom horses, caring for harness and cleaning up.

Besides, there is now a chauffeur, and when the boss gets his own garage and two or three extra machines it will take nearly 20 people to run the place. I have accounted for 24, not including the ser-



THE SOCIAL SECRETARY AT WORK



THE BUTLER IN THE PANTRY



THE BUTLER IN THE PANTRY

cial secretary or valet. As a matter of fact, my employer says he won't have a valet in the house. He will put up with all the other English varieties of servants, but he still is abundantly able to dress himself. There are three more at the country house—the gardener, his wife and a handy man—but as two or three of the city servants always remain with the city house while the family is away its four members actually do get along with 24 servants—just half a dozen apiece.

"When the time comes to move out for the summer six or eight of the house staff precede the family by two or three days. They begin preparatory work, which is completed by the others, most of whom follow a little later, leaving only three or four to remain in town until the day of the actual transfer. Each servant has a trunk of course, and is expected to have it packed and ready for the move, and the trunks of the family as well as the current 'is' taken in silver, which is packed for transportation as it is cared for by the butler and his assistants. The boss pays the railroad fare of them all, as a matter of course.

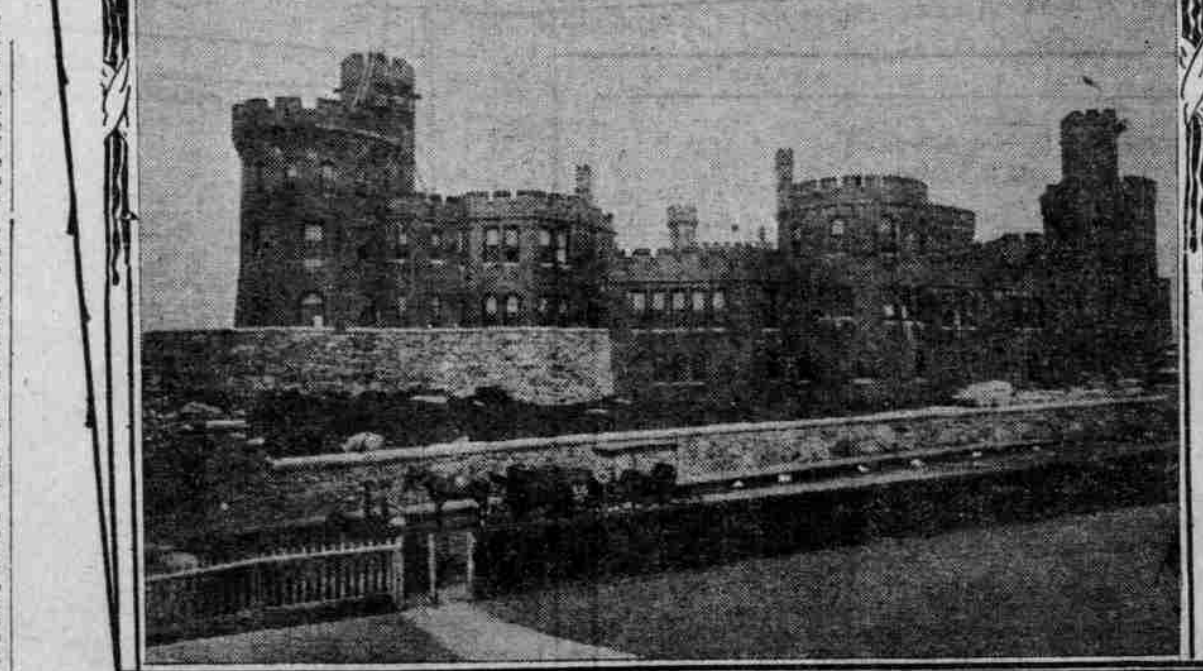
"There is some extra work for the house force putting the town house into shape for the summer, covering the furniture, and the like of that, but it's an easy proposition when there are so many to attend to the work. It's my opinion that the upper servants in the house of a rich and swell family in any of the big cities today have a pretty easy and pleasant way of earning their living. If they are willing to be servants."

Running a Country House.

Such an establishment as the one indicated is rather modest compared with the establishments of Dr. W. Seward Webb, Elbridge T. Gerry, Clarence H. Mackay, or any in their class. First-class judges in the art of running a big house either in town or country say that Mackay's establishment at Roslyn, on Long Island, is the best run country house in America; that Gerry's Fifth-avenue mansion is the best run city house, and that both Dr. Webb's town house on Fifth avenue and his country house at Shelburne Farms, in Vermont, are close to the highest level.

Harbor Hill, the Mackay place, requires more servants to keep it going than would fill the rolls of a company in the United States Infantry. It takes a steam engineer, two or three stokers, an expert electrician and at least one assistant to keep the house properly heated and lighted. The switch-board at Harbor Hill is as big and almost as complicated as the switchboard of a good-sized hotel.

The electric installation there includes a set of storage battery cells to serve as a reserve supply in case of breakdown, so that an accident could not plunge the house into darkness just when it is filled



SUMMER HOME OF CHARLES W. LIPPITT, FORMER GOVERNOR OF RHODE ISLAND AT NEWPORT

with life and gaiety. The Mackay house is by no means the only country residence with its own storage battery, etc., though naturally the current is taken from company mains whenever practicable, since a private plant costs a lot to install and privately manufactured current is expensive.

Curiously enough, while the influence of the English has been very marked upon the way the houses of the rich in America, both in town and country, are run, the English steward who acts as business manager of the place has not been introduced here to any extent. In this country most establishments are conducted on the plan of three or four practically independent departments. The butler has charge of all the men servants in the house, often hiring and discharging them. The kitchen force, both men and women, are subordinate to the chef. All the other women servants are under the housekeeper, if there is one, though many the places are run without such an attaché.

The coachman has sole control of the grounds and stables, including their arrangement and discharge, almost invariably, while the gardener is responsible for all the outdoor force except the stablemen and grooms. Owing to the lack of stewards the master of the house himself, or his personal secretary from the office, looks after much of the buying and the payment of the bills.

When it comes to the pay of the servants of a modern country house or city mansion, the chef and the butler rank all the others, the chef often, but not always, receiving higher pay than the butler. Everything considered, the latter is fairly well paid as a rule. He must be a good man, sober and with plenty of good taste, since it is the butler who plans and carries out the decorations, which include the flowers, and the success of a dinner depends almost as much upon him as upon the chef.

When the family is at its country house the whole afternoon before a big dinner may be taken up by the gardener and the butler devising and putting into effect the scheme of floral adornment. The butler in every truly well-regulated country house has a great variety of tableware at his disposal, so that he may choose whatever color scheme he likes for his table, but of course it must harmonize with the flow-ers. The gardener, therefore, is sometimes as important a functionary as the butler himself.

The butler has entire charge of the service and engages extra men for waiters when the dinner is unusually large. If he knows his business and is not held down as to expense, he gets "private men," who, he knows, will appear in spotlessly brushed clothes and fresh, white linen at 15 for his evening's work. If he doesn't know his business or is hampered as to expense he gets restaurant waiters at 22 and 23 each. The butler also buys and serves all the uncooked fruit—apples, grapes, grapes and the like; also the cream for the tea and coffee, sometimes also the butter, and the "biscuits" or crackers, of which he sees that there is a fresh supply in every guest's room every night in case he should be hungry.

The pay of the butler now runs from 250 to 500 per month, the average being 375, with tips, meals and sleeping-room if he is single. If he has a family of his own he has to rent his quarters when his employer's family is in town; when in the country furnished quarters are generally provided free for himself and his family. Thus the butler's pay ranges from 175 to \$1200 a year "and found," with \$500 as the average. His tips foot up quite a sum every year besides. Ten dollars apiece—\$5 at least—is the usual fee from the men guests after a week-end house party. As the butler is not the only servant who expects tips, it will be seen that week-end guests do not get off scot-free by any means. But tips, while generally allowed, are forbidden in some country houses.

Dr. W. Seward Webb is understood to be the most retentive fee of tips of all the New Yorkers who maintain big town and country houses. He forbids the reception of gratuities of any kind by any of his servants, and being mindful that the rule cuts their income, pays them higher wages than most others receive. Thus Dr. Webb's butler gets \$1000 a year instead of \$1200. If you are ever invited to spend a week-end with the doctor you may offer the butler a tip with perfect impunity; that well-trained servant will decline it in words chosen to show that it is impossible for him to receive it without hurting your feelings in the least.

It is part of the scheme of the well-regulated country house that no servant shall ever be seen at work that there shall never be any evidence that any work is being done, and that the servants who are visible shall always be immaculate in their dress. This means, of course, that all of them must begin work early, and that some of them must work late every day. Their hours are not unduly long on the average, however, and in the biggest houses their incomes and outgoings are as carefully recorded, sometimes by means of time clocks, as in big commercial and manufacturing establishments.

English Servants Predominate.
Naturally most of the upper men servants in these fine places are English, aside from the chefs, although the Swiss and the Germans and the Swedes are creeping in as footmen and butler's men, as they are in the big hotels. Occasionally there is a Swedish butler even, and there are likely to be more of them, since the supply of English butlers is running short, and America doesn't breed men who make good butlers, or even coachmen, unless their fathers were servants, and not often then. There are a few Simon-pure American coachmen.

No English butler in America, no matter how many generations his family has been of the servant class abroad, wants his son to follow his calling, even if the youngster has to live less comfortably and more strenuously and with a smaller income in order to play a real man's part in life.

Few sons of butlers have made much of a mark for themselves, as yet, however. Some of them are following measurably in their father's footsteps as stewards of clubs, the steward's being the occupation through which they can most easily emerge from the servant class. A few English-bred butlers have themselves attempted to do the same thing, but generally without success; their life training as servants, not allowed to exercise any initiative of consequence, is too strong for them to overcome.

When a butler does get out of his servant's job he generally goes in for a little store of some sort, "short" as he would term it. One of them, apparently well qualified to be a steward and buy his employer's wines and cigars, was transformed from the butler's job to the steward's office a year or two ago, greatly to the envy and somewhat to the disgust of his fellows in the butling line, one of whom told his employer what he thought about it.

"Stobbsley," said the butler, referring to his promoted acquaintance, "ain't cut out to be a steward. In the Old Country stewards is broken down gentlemen generally, and to be a good steward you've got to be born a gentleman, whereas Stobbsley was born a servant, and he can't live the life of a steward and a gentleman."

Stobbsley lasted as steward about two weeks, and since then no New York employer of butlers has dared promote his English butler.

Friday is a big day at most of the costly country houses in the Summer-time. There are men in what is called "society" who give practically their whole time to the business of being society men, but they are few, and consequently most house parties are of the "week-end" variety. The guests at such parties generally arrive late Friday afternoon or in the evening. More and more they make the journey from city to country house in automobiles. A large percentage still go by the comparatively old-fashioned railroad train, however, and must be met at the station, and consequently most house parties, since they may travel by different lines. This gives the coachman and his force something to do besides exercise the horses and keep the traps, runabouts, omnibuses and victorias in good trim.

Chef and butler, gardener and house-keeper are busy all the afternoon, under direction of the chatelaine, getting ready the guest rooms, the dinner and whatever programme of entertainment is to follow that meal. Throughout the entire day on Friday of every week during the warm season the force of nearly every big house in the land is keyed up to the highest tension, to remain keyed up until Monday. The guests are host, perhaps the hostesses, too, will depart by trap and carriage, auto and train, leaving the force of servants to put the place in order at their ease.

It costs much money to run a big country house, and naturally, no matter how rich the owner may be, the accounts must be strictly and systematically kept. Carelessness in the ordering of supplies might lead to extravagances amounting to thousands of dollars, and therefore the business end of most country houses is supplied with regular blank "orders," exactly similar to those used by any business concern. Here is a faithful copy of such an order, except that the names of the country house, its owner and the dealers are not given correctly.

Rosebank Farm, No. A 2869
Morristown, N. J. April 15, 1907.
MESSRS. SMITH & CO.,
9090 Broadway, New York.
Ship immediately by express, as follows, and charge same to my account:
.....Two boxes malaga raisins.....
.....
.....
A. C. ELLINSTONE,
6002 Exchange Place,
New York City.
This order is sent by W. J. SANDERSON to whom bill for same must be forwarded promptly on the first day of next month for certification.
Address all receipts to A. C. ELLINSTONE, 6002 Exchange Place, New York City.

The Hard-Worked Chatelaine.
With so many people to run at her beck and call, with a chef who knows just how to arrange any sort of menu, from a heavy dinner for from 40 to 60 guests, to a dainty luncheon for herself and a few of her most intimate women friends,

(Continued on Page 11.)