WOMAN AND HOME.

Various Phases of Woman's Work ---Family Hints and Helps.

Stray Common Sense---Kitchen Recipes --- Decorative Suggestions--Fashion Items--Bill Arp's Talk.

[Atlanta Constitution.]

The trouble with most of the girls is they are in too big a hurry to get married. When they get through school or college they begin to look round for a feller, and as fellers of the right sort are scarce they kill time for a year or two and then mate with somebody they don't want exactly and the union is not happy. A girl had better not marry at all than to marry badly. Most of our men are poor and they can't afford to marry. The girls and the boys are all on a strain to keep up with society. But if a girl can support herself she is independent and can take her pick when she does marry. Mr. Whitner told me that he had to send to Michigan for girls to work in his office, that he could not find them here and he was now paying one $800 and another $1,000. That is a bad sign for us. It is a reflection either on our girls or our system of education.

There are many inviting fields for girls that are not yet occupied. The world is full of picture cards and Christmas gems, and they ought to make the designs, for new patterns are wanted every day. Photography is an art that would just suit their taste, and there ought to be a gallery attached to every female college. How nice it would be to adorn the walls or fill portfolios with lovely likenesses of every class that graduates and every teacher and distinguished visitor. How nice it would be to see a lady in charge of a gallery in every town. How much better she could arrange the dress and the position and how kindly the children would take to her gentle voice. I know she would get the patronage of all the young men and could have a trunk full of handsome pictures to look at on Sundays if she wanted them.

Southern girls are teaching now all over the land, and that is a good sign. Before the war we used to get all our teachers from New England. But then they didn't teach very long, for our young men and widowers married them, and they made good wives and good mothers and they raised up good rebels. They don't come now, and our own girls have monopolized the business. There is a nice young lady teaching not far from me and she has sixty-five scholars. Another one has started a school close by and my little chaps are going and now I have to hear their lessons every night, for they are in the cautious state and don't want to be kept in at recess. A little boy tickled Carl on the foot yesterday and he got a mark for cackling. He says he couldn't help it, for it just tickled itself before he knew it. I like these country schools. My happiest memories are of the years that I walked two miles to one of them and carried my dinner in a basket and played on the road, and at recess and noon, and stood up in the long class and spelt the hard words, and sometimes got head and told my good mother about it and received her approving smile. Those smiles and those tears. What a world of love was in them.

New Business for Women.

[Albany Journal.]

Within a year a new art has been developed calculated to relieve the pressure on the embroidery and painting business. High art has been introduced into the preservation of fruits and the baking of cakes and sweetmeats. This, too, has become a popular employment with people who are able to acquire the skill necessary. At the various art rooms now you will find canned fruit and fancy bake stuffs on exhibition, made by ladies for the most part who do it to employ their leisure time. These goods command the highest prices, being bought at rates which dealers in these stores would not dare to ask. The ill-success of so many people in making their preserves make this business supply something of a want.

Cake-baking, too, is an equally profitable venture. I see advertised in the Albany papers the wares of a lady resident in a city in central New York, who supplies cakes to a vast number of customers. She made herself famous by baking what is called "Angel's Food." She is a member of a family who were once immensely wealthy, but are now reduced to straitened circumstances. Her business is worth $5,000 a year to her at present, and is growing all the time. Another case is that of a lady who puts up canned fruits. She is the daughter of an ex-congressman, and is married to the son of the greatest diplomat America has produced in recent years. There is no need of her applying her skill in this manner, but she was induced to make a business of what was a pastime by the urgent solicitation of friends who ate her preserves. She now gets a very handsome revenue from the work.

A Misfortune Rather Than a Fault.

[Chicago Inter Ocean.]

Through fault of discipline when the character was forming, women who happen to come within the charmed circle of moneyed plenty are predisposed against work of any sort that is more serious than pertains to the toilet, and do not have the joyful experience of life that comes of a useful relation to life. Girls are not subjected to the formative processes that strengthen and qualify their minds, develop their handicraft, or fructify their talents, so that they generally step into womanhood totally unfit to be helpmates to men, and quite without a practical knowledge of means by which to maintain themselves.

The lessons of their lives have been confined to the cultivation of social graces, not extending to the acquisition of principles of domestic economy or home exaltation. They become mothers before they have learned what it is to be wives, and consequently let their children follow the same unpurposeful way themselves have straggled along, unless those children are blessed enough to be boys, and come more directly under the paternal management.

The lives of a large proportion of women are so entirely devoted to dress and amusement that it is a question if they are aware that matters of greater importance concern other people. It is the misfortune rather than the fault of most of them, the result of a foolish notion that it is unnecessary for the girls of wealthy parents to know more than how to entertain agreeably and appear to good advantage in the fashionable world.

Concerning Wall-Paper.

[Clara Belle in Cincinnati Enquirer.]

Rooms are being beautified or made hideous, according as the tastes of the family boss vary from good to bad. The results depend largely on the selection of the wall-paper. The use of paper for decorations of the walls and ceilings is increasing. Ceilings are rarely now frescoed, but left plain, that rich papers, harmonizing with the other decorations, may be used. Manufacturers frequently make special designs to order, or prepare paper from designs submitted to them.

In the cheaper grades of paper there has been a marked improvement in the last few years. A few years ago, during the Dolly Varden craze, there was a demand for bright colors, without regard to any recognized form or design. There was a reaction to dark, heavy colors. The styles for the fall seasons are light colors, not drabs and grays, but light and warm colors, arranged in small designs. The dado style of finish is still used, chiefly in rich furnishing and hall decorations.

When a room is decorated in the dado style, they run a light molding of ash, mahogany, cherry, black walnut, or some other wood to correspond with the furnishing, around the wall between the base and the field. Then above the field they put a frieze with a molding of the same sort of wood that is used below. The upper molding is, however, heavier, and they often use a kind from which pictures can be hung.

How Fashion May Bring Quiet Nights.

[Chicago Times.]

Fashion, omnipotent fashion, promises to do what centuries of bootjacks, fire shovels, cuspidors, and other utensils convertible into missiles of distinction have failed to accomplish. For countless ages such household articles have been aimed at howling midnight cats by victims whose sleep was banished by caterwaulings. Cats have been hit and the breath has temporarily left their bodies, but it is not on record that midnight cat meetings have ever been broken up through denuding a bed-chamber of utensils that might be hurled at the feline foes of slumber. The next night the cats invariably reassembled as if by request.

But, unless fashion should suddenly change her mind, relief would appear to be at hand. Kittens' heads are extensively used by fashionable milliners in Paris for the trimming of ladies' hats and bonnets. So large has become the demand that Paris back-yards are nightly invaded by cat-hunters, and the breeding of kittens for their heads has become a regular business. Paris sets the fashions, and this demand for kittens' heads must extend all over the world. The cat with a litter of young ones will be unable to send them out into the world to imitate her own dissipated career. They will have their little heads chopped off, and the self-same little heads will be used to adorn the millinery of the fashionable lady. If this fashion should hold out a year or two nocturnal caterwaulings will be heard no more, and a single bootjack may last a man a lifetime.

Reformation First.

[Chicago Herald.]

I was invited to a wedding the other evening, but could not go. The invitation was extended by the groom in person. He came in, and, having acted shyly for a moment, asked me to step out in the hallway. There were no other persons in the room, but I consented. The gas was burning and he turned it down. If I hadn't known him as well as I did, I should have felt some misgivings. Thus shadowed he stated his case at once. He said he was going to be married. He had known her a long time, and they had both outgrown their foolishness. He had no doubt about her. But he had been practicing to be good himself.

"One year ago," he said, "I just concluded not to drink nor run around town at night. I never took any oath or anything of that sort. It got to be kind of natural to me after that, and I didn't want to knock around. Then I concluded I would go to church. I had not been in one for fifteen years. I happened around one Sunday, and sat down just as quietly and naturally as a deacon. When they got to singing I found out that I had joined the chorus. I've kept it up, and without restraint. We're to be married to-morrow, and the little home is already fixed up and furnished." He went away, and I stood watching him. There was no need of the sidewalk for him. His heart was so light that it might have buoyed his body above the earth. There was a genuine reformation that I wouldn't be afraid to tie to.

A Three-Year-Old's Prayer for Patience.

[Boston Traveler.]

One of the greatest little witches that ever lived was the 3-year-old girl of a certain Methodist D. D., LL. D., prominent alike for vigorous preaching and stern practice, but whose ideas of duty do not extend to the restraining of his children nor the holding up of his wife's weary arms. Hence when his little "thorn of his flesh" became too troublesome and troublous, he would withdraw to his study leaving her to the mother, and she, often with an audible prayer for strength, would persevere. One day Gracie was left alone for a moment all prepared to make a visit with her mamma, dressed in pure white. In a few moments she was missed from the room and search was made. Up stairs, down stairs, and in "my lady's chamber," passed the weary mother. At last she entered the kitchen and saw the child playing in some soot, and black as the substance itself. When she saw her mother in the door looking at her more in sorrow than in anger, quick as a flash the little one dropped on her knees, clasped her grimy hands, and lisped "O Lord, dive us patience!" No jest was it nor family speech, only the prayer that had often been the plea from a weary, true mother's heart.

Wonderful Bed Quilts.

[Press Items.]

A Georgia woman has just finished a silk quilt containing 2,400 pieces, and over 1,000 yards of thread.

Miss Allie Martin, of Lusby's Mill, Ky., has a quilt containing 4,863 blocks each three-quarters of an inch square.

Mrs. M. Baker, of Lone Tree, Iowa, has a quilt upon which she has been at work seven years, in which is worked the solar system. She made a trip to Chicago to view the comet and sun spots through the telescope that she might locate them accurately.

Miss Allie Martin, of Lesley's Mills, made a quilt containing 4,863 pieces, and the local editor challenged the state to beat it. Miss Allie Ghoram, of Paris, came to the front with a composite bed covering constructed out of 7,048 individual bits of calico, and she is now the champion.

Parent and Child.

[Rev Wm. Kirkus in N. O. Times-Democrat.]

Children are human beings. We cannot dismiss them from our homes and our hearts as cats can scratch away their grown-up kittens, or birds turn their fledgelings out of the nest. We must retain our superiority. We must, indeed, supersede law by advice, discipline by good example and high personal honor. But we can never become strangers to our children. The time never comes when we can say: I have given you a good education, I have supplied you with money, I have set you up in business, and now I have done with you. We must retain our high position, so that the first thought of our child shall be—in joy or grief, success or failure, virtue or sin—"I will arise and go to my father."

A Plea for Separate Beds.

[London Lancet.]

More quarrels arise between brothers, between sisters, between hired girls, between school girls, between clerks in stores, between hired men, between husbands and wives, owing to electrical changes through their systems by lodging together night after night under the same bedclothes, than by any other disturbing cause. There is nothing that will so derange the nervous system of a person who is eliminative in nervous force as to lie all night in bed with another person who is absorbent in nervous force. The absorber will go to sleep and rest all night, while the eliminator will be tumbling and tossing, restless and nervous, and wake up in the mornings fretful, peevish, fault-finding and discouraged. No two persons, no matter who they are, should habitually sleep together. One will thrive, the other will lose. This is the law.

Why Women Go Wild.

[St. Louis Republican.]

It is partly true that women have gone wild on the subject of clothes, and it is no great wonder coasidering the kind of clothes they are wearing now. Gay toilets are the rule now, not the exception. Only every tenth or twentieth woman appears in sombre hues in an inconspicuous bonnet. She is always the wife of the man who exclaims against the folly of extravagance, who may be found any Saturday on Fourth and Olive, or Locust, loathing the pretty creatures who dress up for his benefit and the other haters of style. Does any one suppose for a moment that women would go to the extremes they do in buying dresses and bonnets, all the new ribbons and flimflams; if men did not congregate on the street corners to see them go by arrayed in all their new glory and millinery?

Women should be pardoned for their love of fine raiment when a glance is given at the new fall styles of dress goods. From her baby days she has been taught to discriminate between good things to wear and common ones. Her mother before her was a fanatic on the subject of laces, and dress has been dinned into her ears, and the love of unique attire since she put off her christening robe instilled into her. She has learned that men admire beauty and art first, simplicity and nature afterwards, in their own circles and by their own hearthstones.

There were never such pretty things worn as now in dresses, cloaks or head-gear. The new fall silks are perfect marvels of beauty and lustre, while the velvets and plushes drive even men into fevers and rhapsodies.

A Good Stomach as an Aid to Religion.

[Philadelphia Times.]

Carlyle prophesied that the kitchen range was to be considered a sort of throne and altar of the future and that the gridiron was to be brandished as a censer in the coming temple of humanity. Some theories look very much as if the good time was coming that way. The theory is that the stomach dominates the conscience through the appetites, and the way to save the race is to get it sound at the core. It is held that religion cannot act on a bad stomach, the result of poor cooking. That science only touches the head and cannot get it right without savory food. That stimulants and a thousand panaceas that men look to are only whips that fail on a long run. All these rids seem to argue a deep-felt need of aid, and having tried many things it is only fair to give the kitchen a good, honest probation, though perhaps it may be well to remember as a hint that men never will get right on bread or even on the best cooking alone.

Rosa Bonheur's Advice.

[Chicago Tribune.]

Rosa Bonheur is 61 years old, but is said to be still full of energy and in excellent health. "I went," says a young artist, "to see Rosa Bonheur the other day, and enjoyed myself very much. One thing I thought strange, considering her own apparent indifference to the world's opinion as to her habits, and especially as to her dress. She said: 'My dear, you can't afford to ignore the opinion of the world, even in small things. If you do, you are sure to suffer. It doesn't pay to be eccentric, even if your eccentricity helps you along in your studies. You must remember that all studies are a means to an end, and you are to sacrifice nothing, nothing whatever, that can defeat or hinder that end.'"

The Secret of It.

[The Household.]

An old farmer being asked why his boys stayed at home when others did not, replied that it was owing to the fact that he always tried to make home pleasant for them. He furnished them with attractive and useful reading, and when night came and the day's labor was ended, instead of running with other boys to the railway station and adjoining towns, they gathered around the great lamp, and became absorbed in their books and papers. His boys were still at home when the oldest was 21, while others had sought city life and city dissipations as soon as they were 17 or 18.

Cabbage and Onions.

[Milwaukee Sentinel.]

If onions which are to be boiled are put in salted water after they are peeled, and are allowed to remain in it for an hour before they are cooked, they will lose so much of their distinctive flavor that they will rarely remind one hours after of what he had for dinner. Onions that are to be eaten raw may be treated in the same way. Both onions and cabbage should have the first water poured off after they have cooked fifteen minutes, and renewed from the boiling tea kettle.

A Crazy Quilt.

[Exchange.]

Blocks for a crazy quilt may have different shapes and styles of fans on them. These blocks and, in fact, all those used in the quilt gain in effect by having a framework of black velvet ribbon. This can be brightened as much as you please by the use of embroidery silks. Brocade silk can be made more effective, if of one color, by having the figures outlined with gay silks.

Cheap Curtains.

[Inter Ocean.]

Cheap unbleached muslin curtains are made to look very picturesque by drawing out the threads a space of two inches on the sides and at the lower edge; hemstitch the same with French cotton and trace with embroidery cotton at regular intervals over the rest of the drapery clustered leaves, and give to the outer edge a finish of plaited lace, which may be had for 5 cents a yard.

To Clean the Teakettle.

[Corres. Housekeeper.]

To get lime off a teakettle, take it out of doors and find a crease in the lime where you can put the point of an old limber knife, and if the kettle is tin, push the knife down gently so as not to harm the kettle, and you will be surprised to see how easily it will come off, how much more water it will hold, and how quickly it will heat.

Baked Apple.

[Exchange.]

A delicious way to prepare baked apple for tea is to cut out the core before baking. When ready to send to the table fill the space left in the apple with sweet cream with a little powdered sugar in it. Quinces are also excellent prepared in the same way. In these butter may take the place of cream if more convenient.

Hand-Painted China.

[Inter Ocean.]

A Philadelphia bride received among her wedding presents a few days ago a dinner service of hand-painted china, two hundred and odd pieces in all, that cost, so the gossips say, $1,500. It took three "hand-painters" six months to do the "decorative art business."

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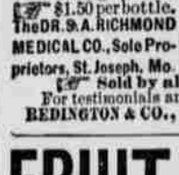

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