

WHERE TRAINING LEVELS RANK

The Beginning of Household Education—Learning to Knit

To Become Capable Housewives, Princess and Peasant Go Through Same School.

NOT long since this advertisement appeared in a German paper: "Wanted—By a young Danish woman, position as cook in a respectable German family. Wishes to learn German. High-class references given."

A cook was needed in the kitchen of a Berlin diplomat. The official's wife had an interview with the applicant and engaged her. Both the official and his wife were struck by the refinement and beauty of the servant; her voice was soft, well modulated, cultured; she was pretty and neat, with soft gray eyes and hair like golden flax. Her salary was \$1.25 a week.

The new servant paid unremitting attention to her duties, cooked the most delicious dishes and learned German rapidly. She was pleasant and obliging, "a perfect jewel," the official's wife declared.

One day a newspaper of Aalborg came to the house. While sipping her tea the mistress glanced over it—suddenly dropped her cup, her lips parted in amazement. Her husband picked up the paper, read a paragraph to which his wife pointed, and also sat speechless.

For they learned that their cook—the highly prized servant—was the daughter of Ole Hansen, the Danish Minister of Agriculture and one of the most popular statesmen of Europe! To learn German housewifery and the German language the young woman had applied for a position, had worked as a cook.

Yet the experience of this young woman was not exceptional. In Germany and Denmark a woman's chief aim is to know well the art of housekeeping. Rich girls and poor girls alike study cooking in kitchens, and no matter how many servants she may possess later in life, a woman's greatest pleasure is in the womanly arts. The Empress of Germany will mend her own stockings; Bertha Krupp, now Bertha von Bohlen, head of the great German gun works and one of the richest women in the world, is a skilled cook; Queen Alexandra of England often concocts dainty dishes which she learned to make in her girlhood days in Copenhagen.

When a little girl comes into the family we prepare her to be a wife," said a prominent Dane while visiting this country. "We realize that a woman cannot manage a household unless she is a housewife herself. How can she direct a cook when she does not know how to cook? How can she direct a seamstress if she does not know how to sew? How can she tell if her laundry is not done well if she has not washed and ironed clothing herself? "And unless a woman is a good housewife, how can she be a good mother?" As a result of the excellent training of girls in housekeeping, the servant problem does not weigh heavily on Germany or Denmark. How many girls are there in wealthy families, even in families of moderate circumstances, in this country who could make a shirtwaist if placed in such a dire extremity? How many girls can trim a hat, hemstitch a handkerchief, knit a pair of socks? How many can make pies—such as mother used to make—or broil a beefsteak? How many on certain days go into the kitchen and wash dishes with the servants, wash and iron a certain portion of their own clothing, help the cook to bake cakes or make soup? It is not unlikely that such suggestions to a well-dressed American miss of wealth or social position would be met with a cry of indignation, scornful laughter and a swish and flutter of haughty skirts.—Go into the kitchen, prepare fringed beef, learn the secrets of Hungarian soups and perspire over an Irish stew? The ideal remains away from the lecture on the art of the

Household Work over-Westphalia Peasant Girl in holiday attire

Renaissance, the song recital of Mile. Singovitzky, the lesson on Sanskrit and miss the engagement with the modiste? Indeed!

A witty German visited this country several months ago, quietly made his observations and before he left commented on what he thought was a characteristic of American life:

"Instead of making soup such as our wives make in Germany, your wives buy prepared noodles. In Germany a woman spends three or four hours over a soup—many things are cooked before adding to it, many rare flavors and spices are blended and numerous ingredients go to make it delicious and palatable. Cooking is an art in Germany—the Germans know how to eat, too."

"In America you have dried-up breakfast foods for breakfast, canned meats and canned vegetables for lunch and dinner. Your idea is to eat as quickly as possible; that of your wives to secure food which can be prepared in as short a time as possible."

GET PRACTICAL WORK

In Germany and Denmark, it is said, fully 90 per cent. of the young women of wealthy families, after their schooling, go into the country on farms and spend a year or so learning the art of housekeeping, beginning with the A B C's and following every detail. With art the German girl learns cooking, with music she learns reading, and literature goes hand-in-hand with laundry work. And the practical arts go ahead of the arts of culture. In the households the most prized possession is—what? The cook-book!

The recipe book in Danish and German families descends from mother to daughter and from generation to generation; next to the Bible it is the most frequently read volume in the home.

When a daughter is born in a wealthy family on this side the ocean what is first made; nurses are engaged, every care and attention is lavished on the little girl; as she grows up her every wish is gratified, she is spoiled, petted, spoiled, and rules the house like a little empress.

In Germany things are different. Great attention is paid to the little girl, of course, but from the time she is able to toddle about she is taught to wait upon herself. As soon as she is able to prattle she is taught to respect her nurses, and as a girl she obeys her governess.

On no occasion would a little girl command her governess to bring to her her shoes and stockings. She is taught to get her clothing herself, to dress herself and do whatever she can without the assistance of others.

CHARMS THAT ARE HELD IN THE FLASH OF GEMS

MAYBE, before long, the efficacy of charms that are popularly associated with precious stones will be recognized and placed on a scientific basis. This is the opinion of George H. Bratley, an English writer, who has been making an extensive study of the subject lately.

Whether one be inclined to agree with him as to the logic of his conclusion or not, it is certain that most people from a poetic point of view would prefer to regard these things in the light of superstition—that connecting link between the present and remote past which in all ages and countries makes different branches of the human race akin.

But no matter whether science can explain it or not, the fact is that superstition concerning gems is rife today—more so than many would suppose.

July's ruby is the emblem of unlimited success; the wearer shall be free from love's doubts and anxiety. If you follow a dangerous occupation—even though December be not the month of your birth—you will find the turquoise a faithful companion, for it will not only bring you happiness, but if your wellbeing be in peril will warn you by turning pale.

That the opal, which typifies October, is fatal to love and sows discord between the giver and receiver, is disquieting information. Especially is it said to bring ill-luck when given as an engagement ring. Still, it is the emblem of hope, so why worry, if you like it?

If you are troubled with bad dreams, perhaps it is because you wear an ornament made of onyx, which is said to contain an imprisoned devil who wakes and gets mischievous when you are asleep.

Unless on the other hand, your bad dreams may be caused by indigestion. In which case, red coral would make your sleep happy; or, perhaps, by what you drank before going to bed—in which case an amethyst might counteract the work of the onyx.

Moonstone has the virtue of making trees fruitful and curing epilepsy. Sapphire produces somnambulism and impels the wearer to do good deeds—while walking in his sleep or waking, the old tradition neglects to tell.

Topaz, for November, promotes digestion, keeps one from having violent hemorrhages, and is an emblem of fidelity.

Unless one born in August wears a sardonyx, he or she need not look forward to conjugal happiness, but to a life of loneliness. Those who shun marriage needn't shun sardonyx, however, for the rule works only one way.

German children never speak at the table unless addressed by the parents. When little girls or boys see a parent enter a room they arise until the mother or father is seated. And just as soon as the little girl can manipulate a needle the kind, gracious mother begins teaching her to sew.

At first it is little dollbaby dresses; then, as she gets older, she makes clothing for herself, and—when she is yet quite a little girl—she commences making linen articles for her dower chest. In this, from year to year, are added pieces of linen to be used only when she becomes the mistress of a household of her own.

On certain days in a well-to-do German family a teacher comes to the house to teach the girls fine sewing and embroidery. When the daughter is old enough the mother takes her to the kitchen and shows her how to cook. Until the age of 14 or 16, girls attend a private school, after which they usually go one year to the selector or advanced school.



Cooking Class in Hotel Kitchen.

While going to school, if she lives at home, a girl's real education in housekeeping begins. On certain days each week she is required to go into the kitchen and help the servants.

On baking day she learns how to bake, finally baking cakes herself. On washing day she washes several articles of her own attire, and on ironing day does some ironing. If only three or four handkerchiefs. She is taught to set the table, to arrange the dishes artistically; she even goes into the kitchen and washes and dries dishes.

One would suppose that by mingling with the servants the daughter would lose their respect. Not so. The servants understand that the little girl is the daughter of the mistress of the house, and respect her all the more because she is not aloof from their work.

Instead of whipping a disobedient daughter, a mother quite often sends her to the kitchen to engage in domestic work for several hours.

German housewives the world over are noted for their thrift and cleanliness. In the German kitchen untouched food that is left over is utilized. The German girl learns what dainty dishes can be made of food which in America careless servants throw into garbage barrels. Consequently there is little waste in the German household, and the kitchen is maintained at comparatively small expense.

During the time a girl goes to school she will accompany her class to the kitchen of a big hotel perhaps three times a week. There the young women don aprons and get to work. On one afternoon the chefs will teach them how to cook vegetables, on another, they

Shun the sapphire, unless you court rigidly the "truth and constancy" which it insures. For, "If a person wears it in any haunt of dissipation, his actions would at once be known to the one he holds dearest." Horrors!

September's stone is the sapphire, and, according to old birth-stone rhyme, a maiden born in that month

A sapphire on her brow should bind; 'Twill cure diseases of the mind.

Amber, we are told, "is excellent for the fire of the soul, for the eyes and for glandular swellings of the throat and lungs." A man with an amber cigar holder is, evidently, assured a fiery soul and healthy lungs; but it's more effective, as well as poetic, to wear the stones in the shape of beads around the neck.

Surprising is the meaning of the diamond, in view of the opinions which so many people hold of the present-day "smart set," who, of course, mainly wear it. Faith, purity, life, joy, innocence and repentance—these the diamond will surely bring.

Authorities usually give April over to the diamond. Away back in the fourteenth century Rabbi Benoni collected for posterity the superstitions regarding precious stones that were then believed—and most of them haven't changed.

Agate quenches thirst, and, if held in the mouth, always fever. It's the birthstone for June—and the June baby who wears it may command health, wealth and long life.

Red coral worn about the person is a certain cure for indigestion.

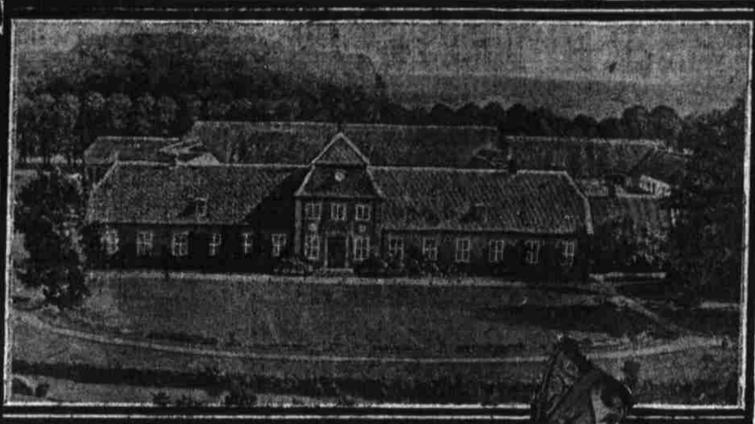
The emerald, the May stone, promotes friendship and constancy of mind; it blinds a serpent that looks at it; the May child who wears it "will be a loved and happy wife."

will learn various methods of cooking meat, and on still another afternoon acquires the art of making salads, desserts and other appetizing dishes.

Naturally, some of the tyros do not cook the most excellent dishes, and the hotel management is paid for permitting the young women to have the privilege of cooking in the kitchens. However, after they have mastered the methods of cooking, many choice steaks and delicious dishes which the young women have made are sent up to the dining rooms.

In the southern part of Germany, as well as in Denmark, are many large farms; the owners are gentle people, often in reduced circumstances. After a young woman has graduated from the selector it is customary to send her to one of these farms. There, with five or six other young women from the city, she finishes her studies of housekeeping in all its branches.

She is treated as a visitor; parties are held for her and young folks invited, and the year passes pleasantly. The fraulein who cares for the young women is well paid for her services; besides this, the Gretchen usually



Typical Farm Where Danish Girls are sent for Training



Black Forest Peasant Girl and Her Home

are invaluable in helping conduct the work of the farm. In parts of Germany fifth women in poor circumstances make a business of boarding girls of position and teaching them sewing, cooking and other housewifery arts.

Imagine such a condition prevailing in this country. Here young women, after passing from the hands of the governess, are sent to private schools and seminaries, where they acquire all the fads and frills of a so-called polishing-off education. They study in laboratories and learn the genealogies of outlandish; they get a smattering of French and other languages, living and dead—speaking them as if the languages were mostly dead; they learn Browning and the fripperies of ultra-correct etiquette, how to smile, talk and dress.

They learn how to play the piano and smudge colors on china; how to wait and take part in tableaux for charity. Cook? Their knowledge is confined to making fudge or taffy in a chafing dish.

WEALTH MAKES NO DIFFERENCE

When Bertha Krupp was married her trousseau cost \$300. In her dower chest were bedolathing, table linen, sheets, napkins and garments which she had made with her own hands. She became a wife with a full knowledge of housekeeping; this heiress to a fortune of \$50,000,000 knew how to sew and cook.

Herr von Studt, Minister of Education, recently announced in the Prussian Diet that all young women who wished to study to become housewives could enter the lycueums, where cooking, hygiene, domestic economy and the care of infants would be taught.

In Copenhagen, Denmark, it is customary for young women who are attending school to go to the royal kitchens to study cooking. As in Germany, Danish mothers teach their daughters the rudiments of housekeeping as soon as they are able to learn. Where there are several grown daughters in a house the management is given to them in turns.

Domestic servants in Denmark possess a fair education and speak German more fluently than the majority of cultured English women speak French. It has been said that there is not a man or woman in Denmark, no matter what his or her position, who cannot read and write.

In Denmark few housewives have trouble with their servants. A system has been perfected which guarantees a housewife honest and good servants, as well as independence and fair treatment, to those employed.

When a young woman obtains employment she goes to a police station and gets a book which testifies to her good character, and in which is entered the name of the woman into whose service she enters. Without this book of character a servant cannot secure employment. This book she gives to her new mistress; in return she gets a key to the front door of the house.

A Danish housewife does not bother herself as to when the girl goes at night, nor does she compel her to return home by a certain hour. All she asks is that the servant is on hand in time to make breakfast in the morning.

The servant enjoys absolute independence. Should she desire to leave the service, she is required to give her mistress two weeks' notice. When she leaves, she receives her book, and reports off at the police station. Should several weeks or months elapse before she again secures employment, she is required to give an account of herself, and tell where she has been, at the police station. If a woman is discovered to have led an improper life, the certification of good character is refused.

SERVANTS TRUSTED IMPLICITLY

In Danish homes servants are trusted implicitly; a mother has no fear whatever of letting her daughters mingle with them in the kitchen. A cooking school was recently opened in Copenhagen, but most young women, after confirmation, are sent to the home of a country minister, where they finish their study in managing a household.

While learning housewifery arts young women in Germany and Denmark by no means neglect their studies in social decorum and the arts. Women of both countries are noted for their grace and graciousness. Many women take up scientific and classical studies; many enter the professions.

In Copenhagen is one of the largest and best girls' educational institutions in Europe. Founded by Mile. Zahle, in 1831, it has developed into a system of schools. There is a Higher Girls' School and several separate schools. The government does not encourage the employment of women, and there are few women employees in the government offices and the postal service.

One woman has qualified as a lawyer, but none has ever been admitted to practice. There are in Copenhagen a number of women dentists, several doctors, three cabinetmakers and several official Parliamentary shorthand reporters. At the head of some of the best preparatory and Latin schools for boys are women.

Unlike the women of this country, women of Germany and Denmark do not find much attraction in business pursuits. They feel that their place is in the home. A mother's pride is in her house, and in raising her daughters to become good housekeepers themselves.

Girls hope to become good mothers, and train themselves so that when they are led to the altar they will not be pointed out scornfully as brides who do not know how to manage servants, darn socks or make soups.