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WOMEN'S TITLES.

Domestic Life in Germany—What The Servant Does.

The domestic machinery of the Germans is much simpler than ours, and in many respects more economical and practical. One truth is soon made apparent to a stranger—that is, that economy is a necessity in Germany. In a family of seven there is usually but one servant. She rises at five, washes the floor and puts her own room in order. At six the baker comes, then the man with the milk and butter. The Germans never put salt in butter, so they buy it fresh every morning. The children are awakened and the maid helps them to dress, then makes the coffee and serves it, first to the older children, who are obliged to be off to school at half-past six in the summer and seven in the winter. This done, in our family, the maid puts my sitting-room in order, washes the floor, dusts the furniture and shakes the rugs. At seven we have coffee, and by half-past seven I am ready to begin my work. After the rest of the family are served with coffee and rolls, the sleeping and other rooms are put in order, each floor being washed or waxed and the rugs thoroughly beaten; then the maid goes to the market to buy the dinner. There are no supplies in the larder in Germany as at home. If cold boiled ham or any cold meat is needed for supper the maid goes to the butcher and buys just enough for the meal.

A custom that struck me curiously was that of having shops in the basements of even the handsomest houses on the most fashionable streets. Butchers, bakers, shoemakers, notion stores, jewelers, all can be found within a radius of a block from any given point. It is undoubtedly convenient for the people, but it mars the beauty of the streets very much. My maid has gone to market, I believe, so by this time she has returned and is preparing the second breakfast, which is served at eleven, and consists of a couple of eggs, and a slice of brown bread, and, perhaps, a glass of milk for a boarder; but for the children and the rest of the family it is usually only a slice of brown bread an inch and a half thick, with a little cold meat. Occasionally a cup of chocolate varies the monotony. Then comes the dinner at two—soup, meat and vegetables and dessert; the latter the children are only allowed to have Sundays. After the soup has been served the lady of the house puts what she intends for the maid in a dish, and on no account would a servant be allowed to take more than had been given her. The same plan is followed with meat and vegetables. After the dinner dishes are washed and the kitchen put in order the maid dresses and takes the children out for a walk in the park, returning in time for five o'clock coffee, which even the little three-year-old boy of my landlady drank every day. It was a problem to me how these children kept their health with coffee in the morning and afternoon and at night. I am sure American children could not endure it.

At eight supper is eaten. Cold meats, tea, or milk or beer, and bread and butter compose the meal. The laundry work is always done out of the house, so that lessens the work of the one maid very materially. All bread, cakes, pies, and even puddings are bought ready-made, as we say of clothes. The bread is much better than ours, because it is always thoroughly done.

A good maid is not paid more than $20 a year, and in many families only $12. They are allowed one Sunday evening out in two weeks, and if they should come home later than they have promised they do not go out again for a month. All disputes between mistress and maid are settled by the police. In one house I was in the quarrels were so frequent that one policeman, at least, was there most of the time.

German women are much interested in their housekeeping; they obey their husbands religiously, because they have to, and are very fond of fancy work and—gossip. They are very tenacious of their titles, and if a lady's husband is a doctor or professor and you do not call her frau doctor or frau professor you offend her mortally. I told my German teacher that I had some friends in Berlin whom I had met some years ago in Rome, and asked how I should address the lady, as I was going there to dine. I thought the gentleman's title was Justizirath; then I might call her Frau Justizirath. "But," I said, "he is also Geheimerath." "Oh, then, that is still higher and she must be called Frau Geheimerath." Later on in the conversation I mentioned that he was also Professor in the University. The look of amazement and surprise I got and the way in which she said, "How lucky that you told me; you must call her Frau Professor," convinced me that I would have made a serious mistake if I had used either of the first-mentioned titles. —[From a Girl's Letter in the New York Christian Advocate.

The next Polar expedition is to be composed exclusively of New York policemen. They have reached more polls with their clubs than anybody in this country, and even say it is warm work.—[Lowell Citizen.

"Puck's" Idea of Holiday Presents.

Puck offers some timely suggestions to its youthful readers, from which we extract the following:—

A PRESENT FOR PAPA.

When the joyous Christmas-time approaches, the little folks are greatly perplexed to determine what they shall select as a present that will please papa. Let them procure an ordinary black jug. There are generally several such vessels lying about the house. Select one holding about a quart. The elder sister, who, in her artless way, consumes much time and pigments in painting placques and panels, should be coaxed to decorate the jug with some dainty little designs apropos to the season, taking the precaution to label each one so that the other members of the family may not mistake a cherub for a stork. Then fill the vessel with old rye, and put a cork in the mouth of the jug. The cork need not be decorated. When papa sees his present, he may not go into raptures over its æsthetic exterior; but when he discovers that it is loaded, his delight will be unbounded, and he will highly praise the thoughtfulness of his little darlings.

INDIAN CLUBS.

Indian clubs should be in every house where there are children. Besides being handy to whack a strange dog over the head, if properly used they develop and strengthen the muscles, promote health, and knock ornaments off the mantel-piece. A very good pair of such clubs can be obtained at no expense by sawing the bottom legs off the bedstead in the spare room. This will cause the bed to slope at a rather sharp angle, but in a sanitary point of view this is an advantage. Eminent medical authority declares that sweet slumber can be more quickly wooed when the body reclines in that position. Pillows can also be dispensed with.

PICTURE FRAME.

Quite a handsome picture frame can be manufactured, by either girl or boy, by simply removing the walnut moulding from a five-dollar mirror, and covering the wood with a couple of coatings of gold paint. This paint costs only fifty cents a bottle, and a dollar's worth is sufficient for the purpose. When the frame is finished, you will be both pleased and surprised to find that it is quite as good as the one which the picture-dealer sells for seventy-five cents.

Idleness, the Hardest Work.

"My boy you are entering by sloth into the most laborious of existences. Stop while there is yet time, and save yourself, otherwise it is all over with you. Labor is the law, and whoever repulses it as a bore, must have it as a punishment. You do not wish to be a laborer, and you will be a slave. Ah, you do not care for the honest fatigue of men, and you are about to know the sweat of the damned; while others sing, you will groan. You will see other men working in the distance, and they will seem to you to be resting. The laborer, the reaper, the sailor, the blacksmith, will appear to you in the light, like the blessed inmates of a paradise. You want fine black cloth, polished shoes, to scent your head with fragrant oil, to please creatures, and be a pretty fellow; you will have your hair close shaven, and wear a red jacket and wooden shoes. You want a ring on your finger, and will wear a collar on your neck, and if you look at a woman you will be beaten. And you will go in there at twenty, and come out at fifty years of age. You will go in young, red-cheeked, healthy, with your sparkling eyes, and all your white teeth, and your curly locks, and you will come out again broken, bent, wrinkled, toothless, horrible, and gray-headed! Ah, my poor boy, you are on the wrong road, and indolence is a bad adviser, for robbery is the hardest of labors. Take my advice, and do not undertake the laborious task of being an idler."—[Les Miserables.

Physicians have Found out

That a contaminating and foreign element in the blood, developed by indigestion, is the cause of rheumatism. This settles upon the sensitive sub-cutaneous covering of the muscles and ligaments of the joints, causing constant and shifting pain, and aggregating as a calcareous, chalky deposit which produces stiffness and distortion of the joints. No fact, which experience has demonstrated in regard to Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, has stronger evidence to support than this, namely, that this medicine of comprehensive uses checks the formidable and atrocious disease, nor is it less positively established that it is preferable to the poisons often used to arrest it, since the medicine contains only salutary ingredients. It is also a signal remedy for malarial fevers, constipation, dyspepsia, kidney and bladder ailments, debility and other disorders. See that you get the genuine.

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