

WOMAN AND HOME.

MAKING THE DEVELOPMENT OF HOUSEHOLD FANCY WORK.

Biography of the Baby—Care of the Finger Nails—Simple Life for Children—Working for Humanity—Cowardice, Hints for the Housekeeper.

It is quite a study to trace the development of what is called women's fancy work. If we take up an old book on the matter it is hard to recall various chapters on leather work, wax work, and paper flowers, picture work, work in beads and rice, landscapes made of pebbles, moss and pieces of bark, and so on.

It takes but a few minutes, and if the darling, when grown, shall value her baby history surely the reward will be sufficient. Such a record could conveniently be kept in a small blank book and in any way desired. Miss begins with a newspaper notice of baby's birth, and is followed by a minute description of the interesting little maiden.

Then in order of occurrence are chronicled the principal events of her babyhood, together with many hopes, reflections and prayers of her mamma. When baby was a few months old we printed her tiny hand and foot on one page by carefully rubbing ink on them with a sponge and pressing them on the paper.

A lock of silken hair graces one page, and here and there throughout the history are short poems clipped from papers and magazines by way of variety, and which are of course appropriate for baby.

Trimming the nails and the door knobs, making the look like ebony, and common earthenware like choice Sevres. How false! how vulgar! what a sham! Home made decorations are like home made gowns, they serve a purpose, but show the lack of an artistic hand.

They do not make you home attractive. If you have not the qualities of mind and heart that will keep your boys off the street at night, they will not be stayed by a hand-painted milking stool tied with a yellow satin bow and a Turkish scarf across your center table.

Delays are always dangerous, but never so irremediably as in the case of loving words or deeds. It always proves impossible to speak to-morrow exactly the cordial or affectionate word which today demanded of us.

A mother whose child had died suddenly was so entirely prostrated with grief that some of the too officious friends asked her to consider if her sufferings were greater than those of others who had lost friends.

"Oh, it is not the same, it is not the same!" she cried. "My little girl was different from other children, she was so loving! She used to come to me and beg me to kiss her, or take her in my lap for a minute, and sometimes I was busy and told her to run away and play."

Some young ladies who have attended cooking schools during the winter have collections of their favorite receipts. The little books, made by their own hands and illustrated in water colors, are quite unique.

You are distributing tracts or making clothes for the poor, or visiting the sick, or throwing yourself into this cause or that movement with all your body and soul, night and main.

Madam, you are not doing nearly as much good as you think you are. You are only feeding and clothing a few bodies who will in all probability be just as hungry and ragged next year at the same date, and come to you, as usual, with their mouths and rent garments both wide open.

You wonder where your strength has gone to. Why, madam, it went into Thursday night's public reform meeting. It was a part of the enthusiasm which prevailed there. You can't get up such a good time as you had there on empty benches.

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Care of the Finger Nails.

Our finger nails grow out about three times a year. They should be trimmed with scissors once a week, not so close as to leave no room for the dirt to gather, for then they do not protect the ends of the fingers, as was designed by nature, besides, if trimmed too close at the corners, there is danger of their growing into the flesh, causing inconvenience and sometimes great pain.

We are not favorably impressed as to the cleanliness of a person who keeps his nails trimmed to the quick, as it is often done to prevent dirt gathering there, whereas, if a margin were allowed, it would be an index to the cleanliness of the hands, from which the collections under the finger nails are made.

Most persons are familiar with those troublesome bits of skin which loosen at the root of the finger nails, it is caused by the skin adhering to the nail, which, growing outward, drags the skin along with it, stretching it until one end gives way.

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Illustrated Cook Books.

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Against the "Crazy" Quilt.

If I was a woman and had nothing better to do than to sit down and cut scraps of silk and satin velvet into pieces and then spend hours in sewing them together again into a "log cabin" or "crazy" quilt, I'd—well, I'd make clothes for a few of the ragged, distressed and forlorn little creatures of earth who swarm in all cities and are often found in small villages.

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A SONG.

Sing! Sing! What shall I sing? Sing of the rose— Sing of the snows— And sing of the wild wind that through the night blows.

Sing of the rose that withers and dies— Sing of the fair beacon light in her eyes— Sing of the present—sing of the past; Sing of our childhood, too lovely to last; Sing of the snows that fell when the year was dead, and the wind sang a dirge o'er its life.

Sing! Sing! What shall I sing? Sing of the brave— Sing of a grave— Deep down in a heart over which tempests rave, Sing of the grave that fall in the fight; Waived against conscience and fate day and night;

Let the sing of the right—sing of the wrong; Let the buds in your soul blossom in song; Sing of the lowly—sing of the great— And so go up singing to God's golden gate— John Ernest McCain in New York Graphic.

A Very Useful Substance. The material known as woodite, devised by Mrs. Wood, a clever Englishwoman, promises to become a very useful substance. Its chief ingredient is caoutchouc. During the past few months it has given good results for a variety of purposes, and is now declared to be especially adapted to many other uses.

Causes of Nervous Irritability. A prominent physician is quoted as saying: "Were I to give the true reasons at the root of the growing inferiority, nervous irritability and insanity, which are sapping the vigor of the time, they would be two things—the want of proper food by all classes and the sedentary training, or want of training, among young people."

A Good "Recommend." A stranger from the interior entered a Detroit wholesale clothing house the other day and stated that he was looking around for a retail stock. After being welcomed he was asked concerning his financial standing and he promptly replied:

Martha Washington's Complaint. Benson J. Lossing, LL. D., the distinguished historian, writes in a Washington newspaper of a conversation he had in 1848 with Alexander Hamilton's widow. One interesting remark made by Mrs. Hamilton was one in reference to Martha Washington's dislike for society.

Readers of Bad Books. My own conviction is that the objectionable books published in France are far more atrocious by foreigners than by the French themselves, for I can never come across among my French friends, a man who has read them, not, however, because they are objectionable, but because they are written by a transcendent artist.

The Rights of Inventors. It is an easy matter to prove that there is nothing new in the world, and it has come to be the fashion to belittle about every invention made, by showing that something in some respects like the thing invented has been known of dreamed of before.

To Keep Away Drummers. A business man of South Florida adopts this novel plan to keep drummers out of his place, and he says it works admirably. Every morning he places a plug hat and sachel on his counter. As soon as a drummer comes to the door and looks in he sees the plug hat and sachel, and he goes off, believing that another one of the craft has that ground already covered.

Work for Women. A London jeweler recommends diamond cutting and polishing as an excellent employment for women, saying that he believes that any woman or girl with quick intelligence could learn to polish a diamond very fairly in six months.

A young Madras Brahmin, married, in a communication to The Indian Magazine, speaks of his marriage as "the eternal knot of sorrow tied."

WHAT WE SHOULD EAT. Food of the European Workman—A Question of Nutritious Diet—Proportions of Nutrients in Various Articles of Food—Important Facts.

The main difference between the diet of people of moderate means here and in Europe is that the people here eat more meat and other animal foods and more sugar. The European workman usually has but little meat, butter or sugar. In England he often enjoys a richer diet, I suppose, but on the continent ordinary people live mainly upon the cheaper vegetable foods.

The standards for proportions of nutrients help to explain why we need combinations of different food materials for nourishment. Almost any one kind of food would make a one-sided diet. Suppose, for instance, a workman's diet is restricted to a single food material, be wheat or potatoes.

Putting the matter in another way, we might estimate the quantities of each material which would furnish the required energy. A ration made up exclusively of either kind of food would be as one-sided in this case as before.

The Rev. Clinton Locke is a humorist. Not long ago a worthy couple came to him, bearing between them a babe of exceeding tender age.

"We want you to baptize her," said the father.

"What name have you decided upon?" asked the reverend gentleman.

"Alas, sir," answered the father, "dismally, we have not decided. Had the child been a boy we should have named him Benjamin. A favorite name of mine, sir, is Benjamin."