

## THE HOME DEPARTMENT.

### Having no Time.

It is a constant complaint among women, whether they keep one servant or none, that they "have no time"—that they are "hurried to death," "tied down" and overburdened with tasks they hardly hope ever to see finished. Indeed, the average woman at home or abroad would seem to be "everlastingly at it," for she carries her work, or the worry of it, with her, wherever she goes.

There are always a hundred things uncommenced, or unfinished that demand her attention and command the employment of her hands. Outside of her regular routine work there arise numberless unlooked for, unforeseen, and utterly unprepared for interruptions which involve a great loss of time as well as an upsetting of all well regulated theories, yet which cannot be set aside or ignored. There must be numberless turnings aside to meet these extra issues, and in the meantime her regular duties must go on, or the neglecting of them involves an immense loss of time, besides a practical and very serious disturbance of the household economies.

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A woman's work is largely composed of details and endless repetitions, and there is no hour in the twenty-four in which she can say her day's work is finished, and fold her hands in perfect confidence that no duty lies in wait for them. From the very nature of her work, she must go on, constantly struggling, constantly failing, constantly hoping. If she is not particularly clear-headed, her work becomes confused, her tasks entangled, and the knowledge that they are constantly falling behind in performance affects her spirits, until she becomes nervous and discouraged, and it is only by hoping against hope that she is enabled to go on with the losing battle.

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Of course, a woman has all the time there is, and if there were twice as many hours, matters would not be mended; there would be twice as many duties to fill them. Occasionally, a woman is so energetic, so practical, possessed of such executive power that she can push right ahead, overcoming obstacles and bringing order out of chaos by the mere exercise of her superabundant "go-ahead-activeness," and by her good generalship, keeping her affairs so well in hand that she does not fear a few extra demands, but this kind of woman is not the "average." She can, and does, take care of herself—she thinks as forcibly as she acts. She is one of the "generals" in the great army of housekeepers, and is fully worthy of her rank. I know it is the custom to say the blame all—or at least in a great measure—lies with the woman herself; but of this I am not so sure. The general is the exception—the rank and file are the rule, and a falling or lack is not a fault. The average woman lacks system; she cannot "manage;" she has not the ability to take advantage

of the odd moments—the little odd bits of time so often sandwiched in between the important things. She does not understand how to piece together these pieces of hours into one perfect whole. She has never been taught to economize her work, or herself, and in her prodigal spreading out of both, she is very extravagant of all. Extravagance in any line means waste, and this continual waste of time and energies by unsystematic and irregular performance of ziz-zag tasks creates a very great want—a lack which nothing but increased ability can supply.

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However woman may be wanting in other directions, she is not lacking in courage, and, nothing daunted, she works bravely on in the face of difficulties that would create a panic in the mind of the average man. She is cheerful in the midst of disappointments, and no matter how disheartening her repeated failures may be, she still courageously looks forward to a time when her persistence shall be rewarded—she will "get through," "catch up," and then she will have "plenty of time."

Now, there ought to be a remedy for all this, but I am afraid I cannot successfully prescribe for the disease. Not many women are willing to "take their medicine." If I were to advise, it would be that my sister should not attempt so much. If they would undertake only what they are reasonably sure they can complete, it would be better for all. There is a great deal of useless work done in every home, and more often than not, it is the useless work they like best to do. And I am not sure I should call it useless, for it serves the purpose of satisfying their love of beautiful things, and is often the only real selfish pleasure they have.

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There are many things that could be left undone, things that are not material to the real comfort of the family; there are others that might be relegated to others, though less skillful hands. We should learn to endure the fact that some work is but half done, or poorly executed. The really necessary, and that which cannot, and should not be shirked, will fill our hands full enough, and one can learn to endure almost anything, if she tries hard enough and long enough. Meantime, there are some lessons she should be diligently learning. A woman quick in thought and rapid in execution can learn to take advantage of the odd moments between the various kinds of work; she can learn to avail herself of opportunities that offer, in simplifying and systematizing her daily tasks. Many kinds of work can be taken up at odd intervals, quickly laid aside and as quickly resumed, and one will not miss the time devoted to its completion because it is composed of minutes that would otherwise be lost. It is the little things

that help, and it is the little that, neglected, so often cause us extra work, and often great loss of time.

A woman should learn to take advantage of any help, from whatever source, and to realize that it is useless to try to do everything herself. In this harum-scarum, hurly-burly existence, which keeps the wheels always going around, we must learn to look upon ourselves as one of the smallest of their many parts, and not try to persuade even ourselves that we are the whole wheel.

### Knowledge of Business Methods.

Women are becoming daily more impressed with their need of some knowledge of business methods in regard to the management of property. As a general rule, very few women have any but a vague idea of what their property rights are, or in what way they may safely invest their earnings or inheritance in order to secure from it a reasonable compensation, and are thus dependent upon the honesty and business integrity of some man in whom they must blindly and ignorantly put their trust.

The right of married women to property which is generally recognized as her separate estate, are more or less protected in courts of equity all over the country, but women's ignorance of the laws is sometimes a great temptation to the one to whom her property is entrusted, and is not infrequently taken criminal advantage of, to her serious loss.

The aversion of some men to allowing a woman a knowledge of business transactions is very often founded upon their own inability to attend successfully to affairs, and they reason that if they—the natural business manipulators—make a muddle of affairs, a woman could hardly be expected to understand money matters.

Even husbands, brothers, and, less frequently, sons, have been known to take advantage of this ignorance and inexperience, and have appropriated the trust funds to their own use, investing her property in their own names, and thus, in case of their death or bankruptcy, leaving the woman penniless, or in very straightened circumstances.

Every woman should have a knowledge of these laws, for her own self-protection.

### Peach Mousse.

Choose very ripe peaches, pare and slice enough to make a pint of pulp when rubbed through a sieve. Add one cup of sugar, and, if you like the flavor, one teaspoonful of noyan, which is a cordial flavored with the kernels of the peach and apricot, especially used for cookery. After mixing these thoroughly, add one quart of cream whipped as directed for mousse. Mousses are made of whipped cream, frozen without stirring during the freezing process, producing a light, moss-like texture. The cream must be free from milk, drained as fast as it is whipped, for there must be no liquid cream in the mousse. Add one-half cup of powdered sugar to one pint of cream. Set the bowl containing the cream in a pan of

cracked ice, and have beside it another pan with a sieve, standing in another pan of cracked ice. Whip the cream with a syllabub churn, or a Dover beater. The cream, bowl and beater must be icy cold, to begin with. As fast as the froth rises, skim it off into the sieve, and any liquid that drips through add again to the first pan to be beaten. Pack the mousse in a plain mold, which should have been rinsed in ice water—the freezer can will do, heaping it in closely, but lightly. Cover and pack as for moulding ice cream. Set aside for four hours to harden, covering the can with sufficient salt and ice to extend a few inches above the contents, covering the freezer with a blanket or piece of carpet.

### Office Work as Discipline.

Here are a few points offered in favor of the office girl as a home-keeper.

She has had thorough discipline in the way of doing, without question, what is asked of her.

She knows thoroughly the worth of a dollar, having been a wage-worker herself.

She will spend wisely, because of her knowledge of what a dollar costs.

If her husband meets with business reverses—and statistics show that 90 per cent of the business men absolutely fail at some time of life—she knows how to sympathize with him, and by her courage and assistance, she may help him to retrieve the lost position in the business world.

She will have a well-regulated home, as she knows the value of systematic work; her husband can safely trust to her in all matters demanding punctuality and timely preparation, and will not be late to his train.

Knowing the trials and temptations of a business life, as well as the nerve-tension and irritability incident thereto, she will be a sympathetic and indulgent wife, because she has experienced these worries herself.

She will be a thoughtful and, in most cases, a hygienic cook, as she knows that a business man's appetite needs fostering and humoring.

Lastly, her husband can safely trust in her, because, having spent a great deal of time in the society of men, she has studied their character and realizes that they are none of them angels—just yet.

### Hints For the Housewife.

If your cake cracks open on top while baking, either your oven is too hot, cooking the outside before heating the inside, or your cake batter was too stiff. To test the heat of your oven before putting in your cake mold, throw a teaspoonful of flour on the bottom of the oven, if it turns a dark brown or takes fire the oven is too hot; if after about three minutes the flour should be a light brown, the temperature is about right.

A can of boiling water set in the oven helps to prevent scorching.

Spread the beaten yolk of an egg on your rusks or pies just before putting in the oven to give them a rich, polished appearance when done.

Nothing made of milk, sugar and