

WOMAN AND HOME.

SOME OF THE MISTAKES MADE BY THE "EASY GOING" MOTHER.

Keeping Up Appearances—The Base of the Sympathetic Woman—Breakfast Appetites—Early Education of Children—The Best Adviser.

Is the easy going the ideal mother? After a prolonged study of those who are in other ways and unconsciously, often with the purest motives, work great harm in the baby lives entrusted to their care, one is almost ready to believe that the ability to "let alone" is the most valuable trait in a mother. Yet on looking closely into her ways and noting the results of her course that belief is sadly shaken. Let us observe her a little.

The home of the easy going is overrun by babies, that being the easiest way to get along. Now nothing is sweeter than a wholesome baby, but who—besides its mother—wants it always in the foreground, its dressing the most important event of the family life, the details of its breakfast occupying the whole household and its nap throwing a spell of enforced silence on every one within the walls.

Out of the cradle the children become even more pervasive; nothing is forbidden them and no care is taken to teach them the difference between use and abuse. In consequence there is not a clean or whole book on the premises, not a chair that is firm, not a table unutilized. Boys ride the spring furniture and harness the chairs if they do not hack and destroy to the top of their bent. Girls bang the piano, "take tea" in the parlor, scatter sake and doll rags at will.

They think they have a good time; so does their mother, who consoles herself for present discomfort and the alienation of her friends by the belief that they will outgrow all this lawlessness. "Boys will be boys" is one of the first articles in her creed. It is as if a gardener should let weeds grow up among the flowers in the belief that they can be more easily disposed of when of full size and well rooted, forgetting that the strong growing weeds will long before that time have crushed the life out of the flowers, and that even if by great labor they are pulled up and eradicated then they will leave a scarred and seamed surface.

Think of the martyrdom of a guest in the home of the easy going! Not only are the children always under foot, all the chairs sticky and bread and butter on the sofa, but the small tyrants themselves, with their noise and unrestrained wildness, insist on seeing her, probably soil her gown with greasy fingers, handle her parasol and fan, run off with her umbrella and often go so far as to demand any little thing in her possession that pleases their fancy.

And how is the untrained child in other people's houses? Is he not the terror of the hostess, who dreads his encroachments, his violence among the pretty things which her own children have been taught to respect? Is not such a child the true "infant terrible" for which America is famous?

The effect upon the children themselves is the greatest. Left to their own devices, with their wills untrained, the seeds of carelessness and selfishness rapidly grow into weeds which may take a lifetime to root out. A sad wrong is done to children who are defrauded of the necessary discipline, who are not taught to respect the rights of others and to restrain their own lawlessness. Because of this neglect they are dreaded and feared by every one who knows them, when with a little control they might have been a credit to parents, a joy to friends and a welcome guest everywhere.—Olive Thorne Miller in Washington Star.

Keeping up appearances is always a disastrous mistake. It is often a wonder to the student of social life why middle class folks hasten with such joyous alacrity to pass the dividing line between themselves and the wealthy. What possible good can it do to have your neighbors think you are richer than you are?

Perhaps owing to church connection a couple living unostentatiously on \$3,000 a year receive an invitation to a reception in a family living in affluence on a large income. In reality this is not a matter for congratulation, for the misery resulting from such a common incident is often great. To accept it means perhaps a new evening gown, which, when finished, calls for long wristed gloves and slippers. A carriage is another expense which was not thought of at first. Circumstances may be such that all this outfit just at this time, when an insurance premium on the bill for the winter coal is due, cripples the prosperity for some months. The effect may be felt in many ways, and all for what?

An hour's mingling with people out of one's sphere and the satisfaction of reading one's name in the social column next day. But the trouble does not end here. The middle class wife, anxious to show her appreciation of the favor, calls soon after. If her call is never returned she feels bitter. If it is, very likely it happens on a Thursday, when her domestic is out and when nothing is just as it should be. Tears of vexation are in her eyes as she throws herself into a chair after her wealthy caller has driven away, as she recalls the sound of the basement bell and other irritating disturbances of the call.

Sometimes such an invitation is only the beginning of many others, for our middle class couple are bright and their company is agreeable. If this is followed up not only do they spend every cent of the income, but perhaps are led to debt. Money which should go for children and music lessons, for repairs on the house or for new literature is spent in the struggle to make as good an appearance in society as others with far more income.

What could be more idiotic!—Brooklyn Eagle.

The Base of the Sympathetic Woman. It is not the mendicant who comes to you to beg for money and for life's necessities, that eats into your very vitals. It is not the unfortunate victim of poverty and sickness whom you run across occasionally or take the trouble to hunt up that wears and tears your nervous system and keeps your heart aching with sympathy. It is your acquaintance and your friend who discovers your capacity for extending true sympathy. He is constantly making demands upon your heartstrings. He takes everything from you and never sees that you are in trouble of any kind unless told of it in the plainest words, and then he will not listen until he is fully relieved of his own grievances. He is always in deep trouble, and will shift his burdens to you if he can, or otherwise is being continually offended because you do discover for yourself that he is in need of your sympathy.

The world is full of such people and they are the worst kinds of frauds. Men will come to women and tell them how much they need a true and sincere woman friend;

that their lives might have been so different if they had had such a friend; that they are lonely and have so little to live for, that they have many acquaintances but none to whom they can go in confidence, and no one to take an interest in them; no one to save them from perdition, and a lot of other things, all are vague with a pathetic look in their eyes that goes to the heart of any woman. The woman—never thinking that if a man has not the friends that he craves, and plenty of them, that it is his own fault, and his only—to satisfy her own conscience of right and wrong feels that she must do all that she can to keep that man from becoming a wreck.

She gives him her best sympathy, truest friendship—her love. Sometimes she marries him. Sometimes she does not. What ever she does she gives honestly all that is best of herself. He gives her—nothing, but the satisfaction of thinking she is reforming him. Poor fool, she! How many women there are who go through life keeping a reform school. He tears her heartstrings out with anxiety for him, and his sympathy, his most agreeable, charming self goes out to some one whom he cannot impose upon.—Teresa Dean in Chicago Inter Ocean.

Breakfast Appetites. Some people are never hungry at breakfast time, and others make breakfast the heaviest and best meal of the day. It often happens, however, especially with persons who have a light lunch at noon, that the late dinner is made an unduly hearty meal, resulting in lack of appetite for the morning repast.

This condition of things is not an unmixed evil. The number of people who can roll out of bed and consume a hearty meal at once must always be limited to those of exceedingly robust digestion. Many must have breakfast at so early an hour that no opportunity is given for preliminary exercise sufficient to start the dormant secretions, and a hearty meal with the stomach full of the night's mucus results in serious indigestion. Consequently the average individual swallows a cup of coffee and a roll and sallies out.

Under the circumstances probably this is better than the hearty meal. But the trouble lies in the long interval between breakfast and dinner. If a glass of milk or a small sandwich could be supplied at the time when real hunger and subsequent faintness comes on, a thing which so often happens between 9 and 11 o'clock (for those who have had a 6 o'clock breakfast), one would hardly care if breakfast did consist chiefly of the traditional cup of coffee.

For those who can control their meal hours, and who are not obliged to retire so late as to make late rising imperative, attention to two or three apparently trifling things will almost invariably insure a good breakfast appetite.

Do not eat heartily very late in the evening. Rise half an hour or more before the breakfast hour and drink a glass of cold water. This helps to dissolve and wash away the mucus, and by distending the stomach prepares it to receive food later on. Engage if possible in some light work in the few minutes before the meal is ready. Observing these simple things you will find yourself in a condition to digest breakfast unless your system is radically out of gear.—Food.

Early Education of Children. The care of the early education of the child is considered one of the mother's duties; it is one which belongs equally to the father. Each can contribute something that the other does not possess, and thus a more perfect foundation is laid.

It is a pity that children should be sent to school at so early an age. They learn much that is undesirable and little that might not be taught at home, with expenditure of the nerve force needed to make them physically strong. It is a fact, proven by more than one mother, that a child may be taught more at home during the first ten years of his life, devoting two hours a day to study, than he can learn at school, giving the hours required there.

"Whoever educates his children well," says Xenophon, "gives them much, even though he should leave them little." There are few parents, who if they could know that, by giving two hours a day to one duty, they could leave a fortune for their child, would hesitate to assume the responsibility. Do they regard education as less than money? If so, their children can never have the best of that to which they are entitled.

Some parents complain that their children do not "take to books." Are they sure they are blameless? No child, unless he is an idiot, is born without curiosity. That means a desire to know. Have the parents tried to discover what he wanted to know, and to help him find out, or have they ignored his preferences? It is folly to waste time in pounding into a child's head information on subjects for which no interest has been awakened. You might as well command the babe who cries for the moon to turn his attention to the dictionary.

It has been wisely said that self culture is the only means of sound, mental development. But self culture must be begun in babyhood; it must be inspired by the parents and directed by their love, which gives a key to the character of the child that can never be transferred to a stranger.—Housekeeper.

The Best Adviser. Those men who have learned to understand the value of a woman's advice are indeed wise in their day and generation. There is no man in the world who can in some matters give such sound practical counsel as the woman who has your interest at heart and who discovers more by instinct and profound course of reasoning the best thing to do. It is a rare advantage in a man, in whatever pursuit he is engaged, to have as an adviser a sensible, practicable woman. In her is found that rare combination of subtle delicacy of fact and plain soundness of judgment that you so seldom find in an equal degree in a man. A woman friend is a wise counselor. She looks at all sides, has a fine regard for a man's honor in any affair, and will never give him any advice that will injure his character or reputation.

She is so anxious to be proud of him that she will never urge him to any action that will cause her to think otherwise. Besides all this, her womanly timidity makes her sufficiently cautious to not push him into anything without weighing well each phase of the matter, whereas a man would rush in, hit or miss, and too frequently would find himself very wide of the mark, owing to his lack of premeditation. Many a woman, however, who forms a wise counselor jumps at conclusions from her heart's standpoint rather than the severer tests of worldly judgment, and it only proves that this earth is not irretrievably bad when you find how often her views are correct, even when opposed to the calculating long sightedness of more material minds.

The best adviser a man can possess is the one he so frequently thinks it unnecessary to consult—namely, his wife—and he can never appreciate the surprise in store for him until he listens to the words of wis-

dom she lets fall from lips accusatory, usually to only words of endearment rather than practical, common sense talk.—Philadelphia Press.

Be Ready at Meal Time. There is nothing that upsets the household machinery like keeping meals waiting once they are ready to be served. If there is an hour set for breakfast it is the duty of every one to be on hand promptly when the time arrives. It not only fosters a habit of regularity, but it is an act of justice to the efforts of the cook to partake of the viands when they are in prime condition. Just from the oven and not spoiled through ten or fifteen minutes' waiting on the back of the range or a cooling off after they have been set on the table.

Promptness insures a better meal every time, and the late comer should never growl over chops dried out, coffee cold or biscuits soggy, for they are largely due to his own tardiness. Hotel life spoils one for the regularity and system necessary in a private family, and the man or woman who has been many years prior to their marriage will have to materially alter their mode of procedure if they mean to keep their servants and have their household systematically, and, as a natural consequence, smoothly. One cannot blame a cook for leaving a place when the members of the family straggle down one by one, and the dishes are on the table from one to two hours. It is no encouragement toward devising new and dainty things to eat when they can never be judged properly, and many a fault found with the cooking is directly traceable to the irregularity of the household that prevents the serving of meals when they are ready.—Philadelphia Times.

Glycerin Improves Plasters. By mixing powdered gum arabic with glycerin, in the proportions of four of the latter to one of the former, Cap and Garot succeeded in making a compound which, when spread upon linen, forms excellent plasters, firmly adhesive, yet at the same time retaining their flexibility. Any of the numerous substances soluble in glycerin can be introduced into these plasters. Colloidum may be much improved by adding a small proportion of glycerin to the common colloidum, two to 100 parts; this addition is sufficient to impart considerable suppleness and elasticity to the colloidum, and to prevent its cracking and drawing up the skin.

Another useful purpose to which glycerin may be applied is to prevent the drying and hardening of poultices, a small quantity of glycerin added to the paste of which they are composed having the effect of keeping them moist for a long time. A mustard poultice, superior in its action to any prepared in the ordinary way, may be made by mixing together three drams of glycerin, two drams and a half of starch and ten drops of essence of mustard. This may be spread on a fold of linen, and when applied acts very quickly.—Hygiene.

Display of Temper. My dear girl, what earthly good does it do you to lose your temper, to say silly words and very often to show your absolute ignorance by allowing yourself to be drawn into a heated discussion about religion or politics? One never makes converts by showing that one cannot control one's own temper. And one is very much apter to make enemies by making so called smart speeches in defense of a cause than to gain friends. Do not let anybody induce you to get into an argument. If you should be a very quiet one, and one of which you are sure you have all the knowledge that will enable you to come out as victor, and then do not let the subject discussed be either of the two I have mentioned, for they are the best breeders of discussion and the best subjects for upsetting a household imaginable. As the brightest girl in the house you can easily convince the best that discussions about them had better be reserved for some other time, and as the brightest girl you can easily manage that this other time shall never come.—Mrs. Ashmore in Ladies' Pictorial.

Ruskin on Girl Bearing. "You bring up your girls," says Ruskin, "as if they were meant for sideboard ornaments, and then complain of their frivolity." Give them an earnest noble teaching, but noble teachers, and give them the help which alone has sometimes done more than all other influences—the help of wild and fair nature. You cannot baptize them rightly in inch deep church fonts, unless you baptize them also in the sweet waters which the great Lawgiver strikes forth from the rocks of your native land."

Renovating Feathers. Feathers are prepared by exposing them to the sunshine or in a stove until perfectly dry, and then being dipped in water and allowed to dry. When carefully collected and dirty they may be cleaned with lime-water or, still better, with a weak solution of carbonate of soda, or with water containing a little solution of chloride of lime, after which they are rinsed in clean water and dried as before. Old feathers are purified and cleansed in the same way.—Exchange.

We are just beginning to appreciate the use of borax in the household. In many parts of our country the water is so hard that it is necessary to use some softening agent, and few things are better for this purpose and less expensive than borax.

Queen Liliuokalani has a stipend as queen of Hawaii of \$4,000 a year. To this is added the income from crown lands of \$15,000 more per annum. Her standing army consists of sixty-four men all told, three of whom rank as generals.

The Society of Lady Artists in Berlin has under its charge the only art school in all Germany where women can obtain advantages for the thorough study of art. There are free scholarships for talented pupils.

An old bookcase may be furnished up or a very common new one made to look very handsome by using bamboo for decoration. Whatever the wood the shelves should be varnished and thoroughly dried before using.

What is known as "goose flesh" usually results from a low condition of the system and is really a slight chill. If you have such attacks often, it would be wisest for you to consult a physician.

For neuralgia make a small muslin bag and fill it with salt, heat it hot and place it against the aching spot; it will retain the heat for a long time and will greatly relieve.

Old pots and kettles that have become stained or have an odor may be immersed in cold suds and boiled, when they will come out as good as new.

In cooking tough meat or an old fowl add a pinch of soda to the water to make the fowl or meat tender.

CHILDREN'S COLUMN.

A Brave Little Girl. Edith Brill, of Woolwich, England, though only ten years old, has been honored as a heroine by no less distinguished a body than the humane society of that country. The society's bronze medal and certificate were publicly presented to her in the town hall of Woolwich a few days ago. She saved one little boy from drowning and attempted to save another, in both cases under circumstances of great risk to her own life.

The little girl was playing with a number of children in Woolwich dockyard, when two of the children fell into the King William dock. A boy standing at the top



of the steps overbalanced himself, and in falling caught hold of the frock of a little boy 2 1/2 years old, who was standing with him, and both tumbled down the steps into the water. No one was near them at the time. Edith Brill ran to the edge and saw them in the water. She climbed down the steps and went up to her neck in the water and caught hold of the smaller boy. She got him out and placed him on the steps, and then caught hold of the other boy's hand, but he let go and tried to catch hold of her leg and was drowned. The story of the rescue was obtained from the little girl herself and other witnesses at the inquest, and the coroner brought her bravery under the notice of the Royal Humane society.

Mrs. Lucas' Pets. One cold day in the first part of the winter Mrs. Lucas found two caterpillars in her shed. She carried them into the kitchen and put them on the hearth. She poured one drop of milk down beside them for their dinner; they ate it, and then crawled away in the cracks by the chimney.

Every day, all winter long, Mrs. Lucas poured out milk for the two caterpillars, and they always came and ate it all. Sometimes they would lie on the hearth in front of the fire for a long time to get warm. Mrs. Lucas said she thought a great deal of her pets.

When spring came the caterpillars crawled out of doors, and they were never seen again. Mrs. Lucas says caterpillars know as much as cats or dogs, but I think a cat or a dog would have been more grateful than they were. Don't you?—Ruth Prescott in Our Little Men and Women.

False Kindness. The softest little fluff of fur! The gentlest, most persuasive purr! Oh, everybody told me that she was the "loveliest little cat!" So when she on the table sprang And lapped the cream with small, red tongue, I only gently put her down. And said, "No, no!" and tried to frown; But if I had been truly kind, I should have made that kitten mind!

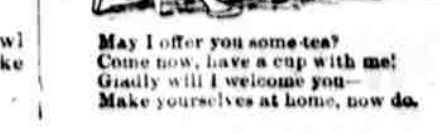
Now, large and quick and strong of will, She'll spring upon the table still, And, spite of all my watchful care, Will snatch the choicest dainties there; And everybody says: "Sweet scamp! She's such a dreadful, dreadful cat!" But I, who hear them, know with shame I only am the one to blame; For in the days when she was young And lapped the cream with small red tongue, Had I to her been truly kind I should have made that kitten mind. —Marian Douglas in Harper's Young People.

Rather Expensive. Little Miss Isabel has a weekly allowance, the amount of which depends on her good behavior, for when she is rude or naughty she is fined a small sum for each offense. A few mornings ago she transgressed and her mamma fined her a penny. She erred again and a second fine was imposed. A third time the same rule was broken and her mamma said: "Now, Isabel, I shall fine you two cents this time, and if you disobey again I shall double it and make it four cents." "Oh, dear me!" sighed Isabel. "I think this a pretty expensive place to live in."—Wide Awake.

Two Definitions. The strong but indirect value of education suggests a child's view of it in regard to drawing. Her estimate of it was the natural outcome of childish imagination. She wrote of herself: "Drawing is my favorite play. When I was little I'd go off by myself and make up a story and illustrate it as I went along, carrying it for several weeks, remembering it by the pictures which I kept. I never told any one." Another child defined drawing as "thinking and drawing round the think."—Boston Herald.

A Hotly Contested Game. Little Dot—Mamma, Dick wants you to go to the playground with your work-basket. Mamma—Dear me! Why? Little Dot—The Nevernuff nite and Dick's Getther nine has been playin a game, and the Getthers won. Dick wants you to mend his clothes so he can come home.—Good News.

Nellie's Visitors. May I offer you some tea? Come now, have a cup with me! Gladly will I welcome you. Make yourselves at home, now do.



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