

DOMESTIC ECONOMY OF LIFE

NEW YORK, Sept. 23.—The average young woman who comes to New York to work begins her career in a downtown boarding house. The hall room back, four flights up at \$7 per week sees an endless succession of struggling aspirants. If the young woman is successful and gets on, as the phrase is, another year sees her moved down a flight into a room which seems absolute luxury after the year of dressing in the middle of her folding bed, because until it was closed for the day there was not standing room on the floor.

And then as she goes to know the great city she hears the talk of studio life with its smart Bohemian and the tires of the boarding house environment and longs for bachelor quarters of her own. But she must be fairly well established financially before she makes the experiment, for to have a room in a studio building is to assume the responsibility of a year's rental—a thing which a wage-earning woman hesitates to do. As a rule, studio women live in pairs, a chum serving the purpose of companionship and economy, expenses being considerably lessened when shared by two persons, and then a girl prefers to live alone and find a small room which she thinks will be advantageous in a building which is perhaps occupied by a hundred men and women each absorbed in some profession. And then having taken the room there arises the question of furnishing and the skill and ingenuity of the woman is put to the test.

A certain journalistic bachelor has solved the problem in a most practical fashion, but with the true artistic touch. I went up town to see her soon after the construction of one of her new quarters, and, with all the enthusiasm of a householder, she showed me about her latest creation.

ECONOMIZING SPACE.
I got an effect of a wall gay with pictures, a divan heaped with cushions, an old-fashioned bookcase with glass doors, a desk, a couple of chairs, a table, and a stool, with a few chairs scattered about the table, with a few chairs scattered about the table, with a few chairs scattered about the table.

A NOVEL COMBINATION.
I sat down on the divan and my gaze was concentrated on another screen at the further end of the room. I was beginning to be suspicious of her and her mysterious over there," I asked, anxiously.

TROUBLES OF HER OWN.
But the girl who sets up her household goods in a studio finds herself forced into certain duties domestic that are irksome to the bachelor maid. To be sure she does not grapple with the servant question, which forms the sole topic of conversation at so many women's clubs, but there are a thousand and one details of domesticity that enter into her living.

DEPUTIES FEEL AN ILLUST.
Adopt Business Methods in Listing Taxable Property.
Tax Commissioner Sackett reports that the new system of valuation is working very satisfactorily. The deputies who are listing property seem to take more interest in their work than the old assessors and all seem to realize that the success of the new system depends largely on themselves. Mr. Sackett says that there is very little variation in the comparative valuations as returned by the different deputies and that when these are adjusted the total is about the same as equitable that has yet been made up. One feature of the new assessment is the fact that some of the property that has always been held exempt from taxation is now being put on the list. A notable case is that of law libraries which are being returned by the deputies like all other property. There have been a number of very vigorous protests from lawyers who contend that their libraries are exempt, but when requested to produce the statute by which they are exempted they fall back on the proposition that they have never been taxed and know of no reason why they should be now.

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span with just the pretty confusion that is picturesque, and she laughed and said: "Do you know what that means? These days I rise early, and it is 9 o'clock before I sit down to my legitimate work. You wouldn't believe it, would you, but it's true. I am awakened by the thump of a piece of tin being dropped outside my door, and I jump up to take it in and deposit it in my small refrigerator. Of course, the water pail has to be emptied, and all this spatters water about more or less, so I have to wipe the floor. Then, because I have the New England notion of fresh, clean floors and a horror of germs, I rinse the floor cloth in ammonia water and hang it out the window on a string that does duty as clothesline. After which I take in the roll and cream the baker delivers about 7:30, and proceed to get my breakfast of coffee and fruit. After washing of dishes is the next thing on the program, and a jaunt down the corridor

TO A FRIEND.
A little carnation of rosy hue
And sweetly perfumed, was a choice of the few.
Two were pinned on a maiden's breast—
One was white and one was pink.
She said, "The one you like best—
She said, but could either have guessed
How its memory deep in the heart would
sink?"

MUSIC.
The subject of church music is of unusual interest just now, because churches are resuming their services and choirs are mapping out their winter's work. While the sermon or service is the chief feature of any form of Christian worship, yet the music is its proper setting and deserves to be treated by the important place accorded to it. Church music would quickly attain a high degree of excellence if organists and singers would make the idea their own that every element of a church service is an act of worship. It is impossible to fully realize the essential meaning of an act of worship without being filled with awe. The ancient Jews believed themselves actually in the presence of Jehovah and felt the mysterious influence of the Holy of Holies to be a reality. Religious worship was no holiday recreation with them, no place to show off either good voice or good clothes. To stand before the "Builder and Maker" of the universe and claim for an instant His attention is a piece of unparalleled affront unless it is accompanied with the utmost humility and earnestness in adoration.

The idea seems to be coming into fashion that the church service is a sort of amusement or entertainment, a sort of play in a sacred theater. This is in defiance of all reason and destroys all of that "fitness of things" without which there can be no art. Beauty lies in proportion and perfection of relationship. There can be no sacred art without religion and church music that is not religious is not artistic. It is strange that singers do not observe that their singing is much more effective in a church when it avails itself of the spirit of the place and occasion. Even though a person may not be religious, he cannot feel the power of religion when it is musically expressed. The skillful singer will add to his power as a singer the power of the religious sentiment involved in his song and with two working together he will score a real musical and artistic triumph and his triumph will be the powerful expression of the religious idea and its appeal to the religious element in human nature. The effect of the musical part of a service depends as much on the words sung as on the music itself. The average hymn book contains hymns of all degrees of merit and the minister often overlooks everything but the fact that the one he selects fits the subject of his sermon. Often he leaves the selection to the choir leader and he takes the one that can be easiest sung. All this carelessness militates against the real effect of the music. Imagine the effect of these lines—if you can:
There's a Rose that is blooming for you,
There's a Rose that is blooming for me;
Its perfume is pervading the world, friend,
Its perfume is for you and for me.

The words of a comic opera are usually better. There used to be a saying in France to the effect that words were worthless to read were to be set to music, but these can hardly be said to have been so set. There is a kind of tune put down for them, but it may be justly judged by the fact that the word "perfume" is accented on the second syllable.
The first verse of one hymn is:
I saw one hanging on a tree,
In agony and in a glow,
Who fixed his languid eyes on me,
As near the cross as I could go.

It would be hard to prove that the picture drawn would produce any religious feeling in either choir or congregation. Contrast with it the following: "Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord." Or with this: "Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God." Here is another that is a masterpiece of any rational conception of the future state:
Beautiful heav'n where all is light,
Beautiful angels clothed in white,
Beautiful strains that fill the air,
Beautiful harps that thrill the choir.

The last line reminds one of a remark Wagner is said to have made to Saint Peter, after having heard the heavenly orchestra of harps, which was to the effect that "one could have no real music without trumpets and trombones." The same remark could be said to have been so set. There is a kind of tune put down for them, but it may be justly judged by the fact that the word "perfume" is accented on the second syllable.
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The question of taxing property of army officers is a question that is not entirely settled.

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