Modern Methods Applied to Housekeeping

IN THESE days, when so much is being said and done in the interest of woman that her sphere has expanded until the horizon is bounded only by the limitations of her own ambition and ability to be useful, there is probably no subject to which she is turning her attention with more eagerness and interest, or that she finds more in need of her enlightenment and intelligence, than the conduct of the twentieth century home. As she has pushed out into all of the broad avenues of life it was but natural that fainter hearts should watch her with grave apprehension for not only her inexperienced self but the home she seemed to be leaving behind. As she has advanced in the great outer world and her impression is being felt on every hand, there are those who shake their heads dubiously and say that she is outgrowing her home. In this they are quite right and upon this fact is based the real problem of the progressive women of the day.

Some one has said that the twentieth century is the woman's century and it would seem that he is right, but the apprehensive ones may spare themselves their anxiety, for while the woman of today has outgrown the home that was her world fifty years ago she is just as surely growing into a new home that is consistent with her twentieth century womanhood and as the movement of her advancement has evolved a broader, higher womanhood this evolution is but the medium that is to give the world a broader, higher home life.

Beautiful as was the former home where one mother's love and one mother's hands sufficed for the guidance and sustenance of all, that home in the great generality is but a tradition now, having given place to the nursery of a people of a later time and a new condition and upon the mother of today rests a multiplicity of responsibilities that can only be compassed by an enlightened understanding and systematizing of the affairs summed up under the general heads of Domestic Science and Household Economics.

Things She is Learning.

It is not enough that she should understand the general principles of conducting her household, but she must know something as well of the principles that underlie these, hygiene, chemistry, bacteriology and many other things that have in years past been unclassified and in a measure required of her as "mother instinct." It is the great demand upon the housewife of today that has awakened her to the necessity of classifying and systematizing her work, that she may properly prepare herself for it. Of no class of women who are making their own way in the world is as little preparation required as of the average domestic and hence the woman whose cares necessitate her having outside assistance finds herself doubly handicapped and it is for the training of mistress and maid that hundreds of clubs, classes and schools of household economics have sprung up all over the land.

Of these the Oread Institute at Worcester, Mass., furnishes the finest example that the world affords and is every year receiving and training women from every land, who will in turn spread their knowledge of homemaking. The National Household Economics association, which includes some of the most brilliant women of America, is organized for the advancement of scientific homemaking and is doing more, perhaps, than any other one agency to increase the popularity of domestic science.

The household economics department is one of the most popular branches of the women's club movement, and thousands of dollars are being expended annually for the instruction of women who have had every advantage excepting that of proper training in the things essential to the welfare of their families. These women are in turn imparting their knowledge through the industrial missions to thousands of young women whose vocations are to be of a domestic character. The cooking club has come to be a pet diversion of the fashionable women and so the popularity has spread until the fancied stigma attached to domestic service is gradually being removed and it is being raised to the dignified ranks of other professions that are claiming the attention of cultured women.

Some Recent Additions.

One of the most completely equipped schools of domestic science is that opened in September, in Chicago, under the auspices of the women's clubs of that city, the apparatus being furnished by Mrs. P. D. Armour. Here women of every station in life are in daily attendance, receiving instructions in the principles of caring for the one thing common to them all—the home. The school includes classes in plain, fancy and scientific cooking, plain sewing and scientific dressmaking and many other branches that not only teach the mistress of a mansion how to superintend her establishment, but trains young women to skillfully do the work of any or all of its departments.

Within the last month a similar institution has been opened in Omaha at St. Catherine's academy, Eighteenth and Cass streets. The work is at present being carried on under the direction of Miss Herberta Jaynes, recently returned from the Oread institute. The classes are conducted in a large, airy room, in the center of which the tables are arranged in a hollow square. On this table, at regular intervals, are arranged small gas stoves, which are each shared by three of the students, two feet of table space being allowed each. On the shelves and in the drawers below are complete outfits of the utensils used in the preparation of the materials during the lesson. In the center of the square the teacher stands and, with her big revolving blackboard and stove before her, illustrates the principles of each demonstration. There is also a big range in the kitchen and the first lesson is on the fuel, the stove, the building and care of the fire and the use and care of the kitchen utensils.

Learning to Cook in Earnest.

Next, the class is taught the abbreviations and rules for measuring and the methods of cooking are defined. Next they are shown how to boil and bake potatoes and something of cooking cereals. A third lesson is on soupmaking, and then comes instruction regarding the cooking of vegetables. The methods of preparing tea, coffee and other beverages constitute the fifth lesson, and then comes instruction regarding batters, griddle cakes and like mixtures. The preparation and cooking of meats are the eighth lesson, cakemaking, puddings and jellies coming last. The table will accommodate about twenty students at each lesson and when the demonstration is finished each washes and puts away her own utensils. The demand for instruction is great and the students are women from the best families of the city.

While these instructions in domestic science are being given to the more fortunate ones, who can afford to pay well for it, it is encouraging to know that the same privileges, with the same excellent instruction, are being given to many girls and women over the city through the industrial missions, and, though widely apart as their stations in life are, the womanhood of the city and of the nation is being brought together through the medium of an effort for the betterment of the home.

Episodes and Incidents in the Lives of Noted People

IT HAS been said that Admiral Dewey was made prisoner during the civil war at the time the gunboat Mississippi was destroyed by confederates. The admiral says this is not true. "I was not captured," said he, when asked about the matter, "when the Mississippi was run aground and burned. About 150 of our men were captured, but the captain and I managed to pull away in a boat down the river and escaped capture. I have seen the statement made several times lately and am glad to say that it is entirely incorrect. I have never been a captive."

A well known general of the civil war, who has since become prominent in United States politics, and is now a senator from one of the western states, was going to speak at a political meeting at Marlboro, O., and so also was Mr. McKinley, then a congressman. They drove down from Canton together. As they were driving along the general asked his companion for some suggestions, and the latter kindly explained the situation and advanced arguments in support of the position of the republican party. Mr. McKinley, as usual, had his subject well in hand, but in addition was fortified with notes giving certain statistics in corroboration of his argument. He told the general about what line of thought he intended to pursue in making his speech at Marlboro, and the latter, who was to speak first, agreed that he would say very little and would leave the bulk of argument to Mr. McKinley. The general duly made his bow to the audience and his speech. As he became warmed up the recollection of what Mr. McKinley had been talking about on the way to the meeting became stronger and he began pursuing the line of argument that his companion had prepared for himself. The general laid down the proposition just as the major had done in the carriage, and finally said: "And I can prove all this; major, just hand me those documents," and then proceeded to read at length from Mr. McKinley's notes. When the general had finished there was little left for the major to say.

A monument was unveiled at Titusville, Pa., last week to Colonel Edwin Laurentine Drake, the pioneer of the petroleum producing business and the man to whom western Pennsylvania owes much. The central figure of the monument is of bronze, and represents industry smiting the rock. It is a curious fact that Colonel Drake's first well struck oil at a depth of little more than sixty feet, and that no paying well has been found since at so small a depth; so that accident had its part in Colonel Drake's discoveries, as well as the faith and pluck the man is known to have possessed.

Booker T. Washington tells this story in his autobiography, "Up from Slavery:" "The number of people who stand ready to consume one's time to no purpose is almost countless. At one time I spoke before a large audience in Boston in the evening. The next morning I was awakened by having a card brought to my room and with it a message that some one was anxious to see me. Thinking that it must be something very important I dressed hastily and went down. When I reached the hotel office I found a blank and innocent-looking individual waiting for me, who coolly remarked: 'I heard you talk at a meeting last night. I rather liked your talk and so I came in this morning to hear you talk some more.'"

Prof. P. Waldenstrom, a member of the Swedish Parliament, who has come to this country to attend the Yale bicentennial, is at present in Boston. Speaking of the general sorrow in Sweden over the death of President McKinley he said the other day: "To my mind, one of the most impressive incidents in Stockholm at the time occurred when the United States minister to Sweden, the Hon. W. W. Thomas, addressed the people at the unveiling of John Ericsson's statue in the Berzelius park. The news had reached us of the president's death and it was feared that the United States representative would not be present, but he soon appeared on the platform and his opening remarks were, quoting from memory: "Could the president but speak at this moment he would surely say, 'Do your duty on this occasion and let not my death interfere.' As he uttered these words the flags, both the American and Swedish, were raised to the tops of the staffs and when he had finished his address they were all lowered together."

Senator Burton is one of the best known men in Kansas. He is popular because he is a good fellow, and he is always in request at public meetings because he can make a good speech. He told two stories in his Labor day address at Atchison that will bear reproduction: "In my youth," he said, "I got it into my head that I was cut out for an elocutionist. So I let my hair grow long, printed some handbills and started to giving entertainments. At a small town where I was to elocute one night I was going along the street when I met a nice little girl leading a dog. 'My dear,' I said, 'what are you going to do with that dog?' 'I am going to sell it so mamma and me can go to the show tonight,' she responded. It touched me that the little girl should be willing to sell her dog, so I gave her two complimentary tickets and that night she and her mother were in the front of the hall. And after the show was over they spoke to me when I came down off the stage. 'How did you like the show?' I said to the girl. 'Well,' she responded with some hesitation, 'it was pretty good, but I'm glad I didn't sell my dog.'"

Otto Schultze, a stenographer, writes in the "Brandenburg Schulblatt" that Bismarck had a wonderful memory. "When he had delivered a two hours' speech and looked over our shorthand reports the next day he remembered every expression he had used exactly and did not forget them for years." The novelist Spielhagen once told Schultze that he could recall vividly every one of the thousands of persons he had met in his life and every word spoken by casual acquaintances, together with their gestures and the cut of their hair and clothes.