## A House With No System

It was a charming little bunga-low of five rooms and bath, nestled in the palms and blossoms of a garden. There were two small boys of school age, and a real story-book husband, too, who loved the little family and worked hard to provide every necessity and some of the luxuries, too. But the wife-

She looked old for her years. She grumbled at her housework-in fact, she was always grumbling, for she was always doing house-work. And the trouble? Well, Mrs. Janes just lacked that glorious thing we call system. She poo-poohed the idea of doing a particu-lar task at a definite time. But when Mrs. Janes "broke" and her sister came to take charge there was a vast change in that household. And the sister stayed long enough to show Mrs. Janes "the way to leisure, through system."

Leisure time-a certain amount-in the birthright of every individual. Upon what we do with our leisure time frequently depends the health and advancement, not only of the individual, but of the community as well. And so it is the duty of every housewife to so arrange her household that there shall come to her leisure time.

Mrs. Janes began her day by nerve-straining hustle to get breakfast. She arose early enough, but even at that she had so much to do that it required much hurrying to accomplish it if she were to get the family out in time.. . And just how did her sister change this?

Sister planned a simple breakfast to begin with. One breakfast might have consisted of apple sauce, oatmeal, toast and cocoa. The apple sauce was prepared the day before while she had to be at the cook stove watching something else. It was set aside ready to be dished at a moment's notice. The oatmeal was put into the fireless cooker and was nicely cooked when the family arose in the morning. The bread was cut and trimmed and placed on plates ready to be slipped into the broiler of the gas range and toasted next morning.

The table was set and covered. And this arrangement allowed the housewife to sleep at least one hour longer than she had been sleeping each morning and still gave the family a simple, nourishing breakfast before they left home.

Sister requested the children and the husband to throw back the bed covers so that the beds might air thoroughly until the appointed time for making them. By 8:30 in the morning she was ready to wash dishes. For this task she allowed one hour. But she had more than the breakfast dishes to wash. She stored the dishes from luncheon and evening dinner of the previous day in a zinc-lined covered box under the drain board of the sink,

By this system she washed dishes intensely, just once each day, and devoted a full hour to the performance. Next the living room was put into order and the beds made. By 11 o'clock she was ready for the market on days that she went to market. Luncheon, consisting of scup or drink, was on the table by 12:30. The disher war The dishes were scraped and stacked in the box.

From one o'clock until 2:30 she arranged some particular task for each day. One day it might be a thorough cleaning of the bathroom or one of the bedrooms. From 2:30 until 5, until it was time to begin preparations for dinner, in general she was free. And she kept this time free from household du-ties. This time allowed for enjoying the sunshine or for leisurely tub bathing or the witnessing of a motion picture or a visit or the developing of some talent. One house-wife I know devoted one hour day to the practice of the violin for six years. And when misfortune came knocking at her door, it found her ready to earn a good living with beloved violin.

Of course, it takes will power. Everything worth while does. In the beginning, you will find great temptation to infringe or allow household duties to infringe on your leisure time. You may have to rearrange your plan. But realizing that a plan, however faulty, is the first step toward creating leisure, is a good sign. Try it for a month. You will never go back to the old way again.

#### Building Character

Failure in any kind of work is due frequently to lack of understanding of all that is to be done rather than to lagging efforts. The great work that mothers must undertake in bu'lding human character requires comprehensive vision, broad sympathy and infinite patience. It requires seeing the child in relation to his environment, including home, school and community, and a sympathetic understanding of the child's disposition is a prerequisite to patience and effectiveness in guiding his conduct. It is only through a knowledge of the building materials at her disposal that the mother can strengthen the foundation and beautify the superstructure of her children's characters.

The home is the best workshop for the building of character. The many outside interests that draw people away from home life today have a tendency to weaken the in-fluence of the home. And this tendency is coming to be a dangerous one in that it takes the family outside the home for most of its amusements, so that there is little left of the old-tashioned and unsurpassed pleasure of the members of the family uniting in common pleasures at home. In many families there is but little home discipline, yet without the strong influence of home ties and of discipline there is no stable growth of character. Education is valuable only when it rests upon a foundation of character, and the mother cannot expect the schools to supply the finishing process until the home has placed securely in position the foundation stones. Sincerity, industry, patience, courtesy, tolerance and cheerfulness are some of the most valuable materials that enter into the well built charac-

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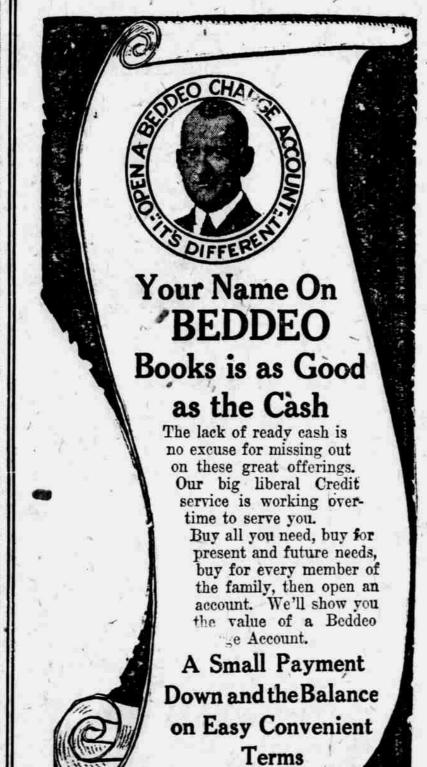
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