

A Page for Misses

THE PRACTICAL SIDE of the EDUCATION of the FASHIONABLE GIRL



There is a great reversion taking place to-day in the training and education of girls and young women. With all the sciences and dead languages that they are acquiring, there is evident a desire also to acquire a real grounding in the simpler things of life—in the clever managing of small incomes and in all the details formerly summed up under the term "housekeeping," but now, to better hit the spirit of the age, dubbed "domestic science."

In the modern colleges for women there are to-day departments devoted exclusively to each and every detail of household art, from the actual cooking, sweeping, dusting and bedmaking to the careful manipulating of a small allowance, to the knowing way to buy that a little may go a long way, as well as how to obtain best result from the expenditure for a household that can afford to live on a more or less elaborate scale.

Every girl is at heart a home maker or housekeeper, for at the root these terms are synonymous. The average girl desires the keenest enjoyment in "fussing about the house," "fixing up" her room and feeling herself a really necessary part of the household. She is actually glad to take upon herself the ordering of the house, provided she be allowed perfect freedom in this line and can bring her parents to consent to putting up with her natural mistakes at the commencement. While she is still at school it would, of course, be impossible for her to take full charge of all the home details, but during her vacations and if she attends a small school rather than a school with regular sessions from nine o'clock until one or three, as the case may be, every girl will be found to be infinitely happier if she can be made to feel a certain amount of responsibility of this sort. The preliminary training beneath her own roof and under the kindly supervision and guidance of her mother will also fit her to be a better and a more tactful wife when the time comes for her to manage her own little home than if she starts in her married life absolutely ignorant of the most everyday household matters, and is hence confused and bewildered at every turn.

Mother Has a Reason.
The chief reason, of course, why more girls are not allowed the opportunity of taking charge of the housekeeping when they first leave school is because the mother does not feel she can afford to incur the expense in increased groceries and butcher's bills which is the inevitable result of inexperienced housekeeping, nor the almost equally inevitable upheaval among the servants, and because they realize their ignorance so keenly the daughters do not insist on trying to take the burden of housekeeping from the mothers, who are more tired than even they realize from so many years of thinking and planning for others and who really are in need of complete relaxation from this constant care.

It is because the daily life of the modern girl is so filled with studies and amusement that there is no time for the simple home training from which her mother and grandmother benefited, with the result that the most thoroughly educated girl starts her married life but illy equipped for managing a small house that must be run on an economical basis.

With a sufficient spending of money almost any one can run a house. Good servants and a trained housekeeper can always be bought, but fortunately there are not many young couples so situated that they can start off regardless of bank account, nor is the girl who is not forced to work diligently to make her home attractive at all to be envied.

It is because the girl of to-day realizes keenly her incompetency in every line of domestic knowledge that in the colleges courses in home science are now included in the regular curriculum. In all the smaller cities and towns now also classes are being formed in practical housekeeping, and it is interesting to note that these courses are widely popular among girls of all ages, from the school-girls just commencing their teens to the young married ones who have already been put to the test and been found sadly wanting in all knowledge of housekeeping.

In the Colleges.
In the women's colleges the domestic science courses are worked out on a more elaborate scale. In the cooking course, for example, each student has her own stove, cooking utensils and shelves for the food stuffs, to be utilized in the day's lesson—the meat, dry groceries, vegetables, &c. Of this stove she has complete and absolute charge, for at the end of the term she must understand not only all the details of actual cooking but just how to manage her stove, rake it out, polish and keep it in perfect order for daily use. She is taught the preparation of all kinds of food for cooking, and she is taught first all the simple, homely recipes—bread making and the proper cooking of meats—before she is permitted to attempt any fancy dishes or intricate jellies or pastries.

Everything is taught perfectly, and she must be able to cook perfectly each article undertaken before a new recipe can be started upon.

But even more necessary for a housekeeper to know than the actual cooking is the ordering of the table, and yet how pathetically few girls would be able to distinguish between a young tender, chicken and an old fowl or a good, economical cut of meat and one composed principally of bone that will cut to but poor advantage. There is no exaggeration in stating that the average girl does not know even the seasons when certain vegetables and fish are in market and would gladly order oysters in midsummer, strawberries in January, fresh vegetables every day in the week without any idea that the price is any different at one time of year from another.

In a course of domestic science the pupils go regularly with their instructor to a large market to learn how to choose the material to be cooked for the next meal and to obtain an idea of the standard of the different foods. They are taught to watch the prices of all articles, so that, as the cost fluctuates, they can each day take as much advantage as possible of whatever is lowest and still keep up variety in their menus.

Knowledge of Foods.
Nor is the making out of menus to be disregarded in such a course. After a knowledge of the actual meats, vegetables, fruits, &c., has been acquired, and the student has learned also how each different cut of beef should be treated, the oven or in how many different delectable ways one vegetable can be disguised, then her wits are put to task in the ordering of dainty luncheons, elaborate dinners, simple home suppers, &c.

Far more than elaborate cooking or great quantity on the board, a "good table" implies rather variety from meat to meat.



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and a happy combination of simple and rich fare. A most perfectly cooked and carefully planned dinner is ruined by a wrong combination of dishes, too many sauces and rich food or too much heavy, solid meat. Nowhere does the old adage of "enough is as good as a good meal" apply so well as at a festive board, and the people of America are rapidly coming to see that a few courses perfectly cooked and served are far preferable to long, tiresome dinners made up of an infinite number of heavy, rich dishes.

All housekeeping classes are managed in just the same way as the large college courses. Each girl may not be able to have her own stove and room corner for her work, but every member is given one definite dish or course to buy, prepare, cook and serve. The class, organized generally by a band of girls who arrange to give up a regular afternoon or morning each week to this purpose, is taught by some trained and experienced housekeeper. One week, perhaps, will be given over entirely to a visit to the markets, the next lesson to the making up of a good menu, and so on. A class of this sort can be the greatest fun imaginable, with wonderful possibilities for jolly luncheons toward the end of the course, when each cook has become sufficiently expert to dare ask in her friends to one of her own meals. Select dinners, when boy friends can join the party and remain to wash up the dishes afterward, can be made delightful affairs, for which invitations will soon be eagerly sought. And what a tactful means of showing to the sceptical youth that higher education includes instead of precluding knowledge of home making!

Through these courses in domestic science may come at length a solving of the servant problem. Once a mistress knows the work of the maid sufficiently well to do it herself, then and then only can she hope to teach each branch of the art. When the mistress can really teach then she can take into her house a quite different order of girl from the poorly trained immigrant. One who knows absolutely nothing, undesirable or otherwise, can be taught everything satisfactorily from the start, and in this way only can a thoroughly competent trained servant be made, be she cook, laundress, charmaid, waitress, parlormaid or lady's maid. Only by this means can a correct footing of respect and devotion on the one side, with kindness and consideration on the other, be established.

Aprons of Many Shapes and Sizes

Aprons always appeal strongly to young girls of domestic instincts, and at the expense of a little time and money any one may have a variety of such necessities. Chafing dish aprons should be at least one-half yard long when finished, and are most serviceable if made with bretelles or Gibson straps, which help to protect the front of the blouse. If of muslin or dotted Swiss the lower portion of the apron should be bordered across the bottom with a four inch deep hem, headed by ten pin tucks, and the shoulder straps finished with an inch hem and three pin tucks. For the same purpose there are aprons of fine white lawn, with embroidered muslin ruffles bordering a square skirt and bib, or of hand-made handkerchiefs with pockets and Gibson straps of four inch wide taffeta ribbon.

Two fancy handkerchiefs make the daintiest sort of tea aprons. By having one handkerchief and sewing the two rough edges along adjoining sides of the other handkerchief a space will be left at what represents the bottom of the apron for a fan of finely plaited linen, which should be trimmed to match the lace or embroidery edging the handkerchiefs. Across the remaining point of the uncut handkerchief is placed a band of lace or embroidery through which to run velvet ribbon belt strings, the portion of the handkerchief above the waist thus forming a small three cornered bib. Another tea apron consists of four embroidered muslin handkerchiefs joined to form a square, one point of which is attached to a waist band of white ribbon, from which band at either side of the centre join the right and left corners of the apron and thus hold it in position. A white handkerchief is arranged to form a diamond shaped bib, kept in place by ribbon straps running to the shoulders from its upper and side points.

White lawn striped with a color, flowered lawn or madras, are made into little round sewing aprons frilled with plain white muslin and provided with two small, round pockets edged with tiny frillings and decorated with colored ribbon bows. Flowered dimity is employed for square sewing aprons bordered all round with plain lawn banding. From six to eight inches of the lower edge turned up and divided into four sections form as many pockets, which should be defined by straps of ribbon matching the belt. More ornamental sewing aprons consist of three breadths of dotted Swiss bordered across the bottom with the halves of two handkerchiefs, whose fancifully trimmed edges are joined at the two inner ends over strips of silk. This band is then shirred to form the required number of pockets, fitted with baby ribbon draw strings, and the upper edge of the apron is widely shirred and run through with inch wide ribbon strings.

Really practical work aprons for use at cooking classes are shapely affairs of gingham, linen or barred lawn made up so that either side may be worn outwardly. The model shows the high, square bib to which shoulder straps are buttoned, a lower section with gored front sides which meet at the back and button just below

UTILITY DOLLS.

DOLLS are now utilized as ornamental coverings for so many articles that the collection of the college girl is quite as extensive as is that of the little maiden still in the nursery. Japanese geisha girl dolls garbed in quaintly printed silken garments, demure Quaker ladies in dull gray frocks and shawl kerchiefs, and Colonial ladies in spreading silken petticoats make cozy eyerings for five o'clock teapots. Dolls dressed in the stiff brocades of the pompadour period and with their bisque faces surmounted by elaborately dressed flaxen hair, cover luncheon table, bonbon boxes, or in white satin, lace and orange blossoms, pose as modern brides on wedding souvenirs.

Nurse and French maid dolls with flexible joints, movable eyes and abundant tresses are dressed to accommodate a complete sewing outfit. The coquettish cap conceals a tumbler case, the padded shoulders are pin and needle cushions, the apron pockets hold scissors and bodkins, a ribbon chataleine sustains a stiletto and ribbon runner and reels of thread are kept in the broad hem of the skirt which is turned up on the upper side and divided into innumerable small compartments.

Hat, belt, veil and scarf pin cushions are in the shape of small jointed dolls dressed in padded garments similar to those affected by the various college football teams of to-morrow.

The outspread arms and legs of tan, white and black plush Teddy Bear and Eskimo dolls are used for tie racks. China dolls in Dutch costume and bisque pickaninies in coarse flannel skirts are disguised pen-wipers, and whisk brooms masquerade as colored mummies in bright calico frocks or lurk beneath the figured crepe kidneys of bored looking Japanese.

CROCHETED WHIP.

GIRLS who can crochet or knit will find a whip made of this handiwork an attractive gift for a baby. The innermost part is a soft whip. This is wound around with cotton batting and then bound with a cord so that it is securely covered. Then a case for it is crocheted or knitted and put on with a tassel to finish the pointed end, securely fastened so that if the child tries to put the whip in somebody's eyes it will not do any more harm than a soft handkerchief. Bells are fastened on the whip part way up, and on the handle end there is a loop.

DELIGHTFUL CHAFING DISH SPREADS

ALTHOUGH most girls have probably used a chafing dish occasionally few of them know how many nice things can be made in this convenient way. A girl can have the best kind of a time with a few of her friends by giving a chafing dish party; and it may be just a simple little spread in her own sitting room or a whole luncheon or Sunday night supper. There is always a pleasant informality about chafing dish occasions, even when one has plenty of maids to attend to all the details. Of course, much trouble is saved for the hostess by having the maids, but she can manage very well without them by preparing things beforehand.

If a girl just wants to have a jolly time with a few friends in her own room, either at home or at boarding school, she can be as informal as possible and make all the other girls help. If she is thinking of doing it often she will do well to supply herself with all the necessary accessories—two or three cheap knives, forks and spoons, paper napkins and dishes of one kind or another. For these informal spreads the best dishes are those that will not break and do not have to be washed, because they are thrown away after being used.

Very nice and attractive dishes of this kind can be bought nowadays, and it is certainly an immense comfort to be saved the troublesome dish washing, which is the only unpleasant part of a "spread." The little paper napkins, too, are such a convenience, and many of them pretty enough to make one feel almost sorry to throw them away.

In choosing what to make in the chafing dish a girl must be guided by what material she can conveniently obtain. Oysters can be most deliciously cooked, and mushrooms, too, in several different ways. Creamed chicken is very good, and sardines can be pan broiled so that they taste just like the ordinary broiled sardines. There are also several ways of cooking cheese, from the regular Welsh rabbit to a fried cheese toast. And sweet things, too—fudge, candied nuts and maple sugar candy.

COLLARS AND TIES.

MOST popular among the stiff collars for girls are the turquoises of pique embroidered in small and dainty patterns. The pique is very fine and has small lines. Sometimes the bars run around the collar, and again when a broader bar is used it is cut to run up and down. Other tailored collars which are fashionable are made of plain, rather fine linen, with tucks around the edge.

SOCIAL AMENITIES FOR THE SCHOOL GIRL

There is good in the worst of us. There is bad in the best of us. And it all behooves any of us. To speak ill of the rest of us.

For more girls, and older people, too, for that matter, would let their minds dwell for one moment on the deplorable conceit of constant criticizing of their neighbors they would soon grow more guarded in their unkind remarks and less quick to make fun of the idiosyncrasies of those about them.

A critic means literally one who is so thoroughly versed in his subject, be it music, literature, painting or the drama, that he is appointed to pass judgment on others less learned than which "criticism" that work of art, from which "criticism" others less learned may be able to obtain ideas, and thus build up an opinion for themselves. He acknowledges himself to know even more than the artist, and upon what he says rests the fame or the failure of the creator of the work of art. Does not the girl, therefore, who is always criticizing others, apparently put herself on a superior plane to the rest of the world? "How can Julia do such a thing?" "Did you see the hideous dress Mary wore?" "How ungracefully Jane dances!"

Surely, each of these remarks implies that "I am too sensible to act like that," or "I have better taste than to choose such a gown," or, again, "How much better I can dance than Jane!" Of course, if it is sure to be true, if one is really, really, cleverer, more sensible, more attractive than any one else, then perhaps the criticism may not be so out of place, but how many of us are perfect?

There is a little complaint of J. G. Whittier's which might well be memorized in this connection:—"Search thine own heart; what paineth thee. In others, in thyself may be." There is just one most amusing side to criticism, and that is the frequency with which two girls will say the identical thing of the other to a mutual friend or acquaintance. "Do you really like Marjory?" She is nice, of course, but I think very ordinary" (implying not quite good enough for me to associate with). These girls have evidently not taken a great fancy to each other and each makes of the other the same criticism, and were it not for the pathetic conceit, or, rather, self-satisfaction shown in the remark, how delightfully funny it would

be! And this happens time after time to us all.

There is no surer means of escaping unkind criticism than by never criticizing. "Judge not, and ye shall not be judged" is one of the truest maxims of all time, and it is a known fact that those rare beings who do not gossip and seldom are critical or fault finding with their neighbors will have little, if any, criticism levelled against them as they go their simple, direct way through life.

There is no habit so easy to acquire nor one more difficult to absolutely check than that of fault finding. On the other hand, the conquering of this trait will more than almost anything else make for popularity. How satisfactory it is to have a guest who really enjoys the play or the little excursion and spends her time in commenting upon and bringing to notice one attractive incident after another. How depressing, on the other hand, is the girl who in order to give a great impression of her wisdom, her penetration, her deep knowledge, picks out each small fault in the play or in the picture, being viewed and dilates upon that point just long enough to make it quite overshadow all the really excellent parts.

Just which is cause and which effect it is hard to say, but it is a fact that the persons who make a point of always discerning the flaws soon can only see the weak points, and hence find everything in life unsatisfactory. On the other hand, the girls who start out with and keep to a determination to notice only what is good and pleasing in those about them find that the attractive side quite obliterates all the rest, and they are the girls who have always a happy countenance, for they live in the consciousness of how much that is nice this world contains.

Irish lace by the yard can generally be bought cheaper than if a regular collar piece is purchased. The made collars, too, are not apt to fit the neck so well as a straight strip of lace of just the right width for the neck. On a remnant counter bits of lace often can be found most inexpensively, thirteen or anyway fourteen inches being sufficient for a collar. Washed carefully with a good lace soap, two pieces of lace will last through an entire winter, worn every day in the week. If carefully boned with the strips of celluloid, which fit into little paper cases, the celluloid being slipped out when the collar is washed, a lace collar of this kind is less trouble even than a stiff linen collar. No matter what the waist, a collar band of "baby" Irish or heavy point is bound to look well; nor will the two lace collars cost more in the end than the numberless embroidered collars which it is necessary to have in the course of a winter, so quickly do the collar pins tear the starched linen.

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