

WOMEN AND IDLENESS

WORK MAKES THEM SWEET TEMPERED AND GRACIOUS.

Human Nature Apt to Sour Without a Broadening Outside Influence— Leisure Class Bored by Social Duties and Pleasures.

Work keeps women sweet. Depend upon it, catty women are nearly always idle. For idleness breeds feminine jealousies, tempers and meanness even more often than love as the poets tell us in its function.

For when you come down to it it is the woman who does things, the woman who succeeds, that is the most womanly in the best sense. One who has had all the miserable little "ego" in her, comes rubbed off from contact with a large world, and accepts every friend and old, at an honest valuation. She takes pleasure in the society of women who have made something out of life.

The leaders in any sort of enterprise are never "cats." You see they take breath and clearness of intellect and largeness of heart to get anywhere. Men or women who have not these qualities find it hard to rise.

But the women who are known to do the valuable work of the community, and keep their places through thick and thin, are never feline in the slightest degree. And, by the way, they aren't always those who are most talked about and the oftenest in the public eye. They may be the church-workers who are getting wonderful results we never hear of. And they may be first-class workers in business or art.

From this type the catty woman is a thing apart. As soon as her temperament is discovered she is a marked woman. She suffers the social ostracism of her kind. There may be very little said about her. A shrug of the shoulders at the mention of her name is enough to gauge her unpopularity.

So the cat is happy only in the society of men—and then only so long as she can conceal her felinity or make a point of being generous and sincere. For even men won't tolerate the cat's treachery, once it is revealed to them.

All women who have not home duties to keep them strenuously employed ought to have some considerable outside interest. We have a great leisure class of women in America. They have none but social calls upon them. They are bored by toilsome rounds of dinners and dances, their tours from country homes to town houses and back and forth from Europe. To save themselves from the depths of ennui they play at scandal and they talk scandal. They keep the divorce courts busy and provide topics for the scandal-monger's tongue.

Look at the club meetings and luncheons where the flâneuse languish for want of some one to listen to their insinuating scandal while enlightened women are also engaged to enjoy the companionship and conversation of members of their own sex.

Why? Because each individual has an aim in life.

Effect of Room Furnishings. It is a strange but true fact that it is impossible for a person to live and retain his health in a circular room filled with furniture fitted to the bend of the wall. This has recently been demonstrated in the Mint Lodge Lighthouse in England, where for the sake of economizing space the furniture was made on lines to fit the curves of the wall. Several cases of mental trouble have developed in succession among the men employed at the lighthouse, and specialists assert that this is the result of there being no angles on which the eye may rest, so that it consequently roves around the room until the effect is maddening.

Red wall paper, too, has a most injurious effect upon the nervous system, the first symptom of which is headache. One reason why new houses are so often plagued in red is that it does not show traces of wall dampness as soon as does paper of other colors, and therefore one reason why new houses are so often considered unhealthy is the effect of the wall coloring, which produces the most violent headaches.

The Cure for Scandal. It is told of Hannah More that she had a good way of managing talebearers. It is said that whenever she was told anything derogatory of another her invariable reply was: "Come, we will go and ask if this be true." The effect was sometimes ludicrously painful. The talebearer was taken back, stammered out a qualification or else begged that no notice might be taken of the statement. But the good lady was inexorable. Or she took the scandal-monger to the scandalized to make inquiry and compare accounts. It is not likely that anybody ever a second time ventured to repeat a gossip story to Hannah More, says Modern Women. One would think her method a cure for scandal.

PRESERVING THE COMPLEXION

By Strict Attention to Condition of the Stomach and Blood.

If women understood more about the actual structure of the skin they might find it easier to keep it in good condition. In the first place, it is a breathing organ like the lungs, and second, a natural loom for the manufacture of the beautiful proteic blanket, for such it really is, called the cuticle, scarf, or outer skin which thinly covers the entire exterior of the body.

The scarf skin is woven or built up from beneath by millions of minute scales, which are welded firmly together by the glutinous fluids, which ooze from the deeper parts of the skin, and are smoothed down on the surface by the oil thrown out upon it.

When anything affects the health of the scarf or outer skin some form of skin trouble results. Thus, if too much oil is secreted, the oil accumulates upon the surface and in the glands and produces a muddy complexion and gives rise to face spots. On the other hand, if the supply of oil is scanty a delicate irritable skin results, and is frequently the forerunner of chaps and eczema.

If the perspiration is acid or laden with an excess of irritant impurities, this will in time create inflammation and irritation. Rheumatic or gouty eczema is due to this cause. Lastly, impure blood frequently manifests itself by breaking out upon the skin, showing that the blood itself needs purification and cleansing.

It is evident, therefore, that any difficulty comes either from external or internal causes and indigestion is the more frequent one. Impurities, that are not thrown off through their proper channels from the stomach, make their way into the blood, and out through the skin, and one of the reasons that sandy is so bad for the complexion is that it produces fermentation that is felt immediately by the blood. Sweets in moderation are a necessity, but they should be of the simplest and most wholesome kind, and eaten only in moderation. Acids, produce precisely the same effect upon those with whom they disagree, and too much fat in food will also work out through the blood and complexion. Therefore one should have no doubts as to what properties suit the digestion and blood and a diet should be regulated accordingly.

Copper (Claret Set). Copper and particularly copper combined and ornamented with other metals is constantly growing in favor for articles used on the table as well as those that are purely ornamental. A new claret set shown in

the illustration is of dull copper in laid with silver. The design of grapes with the leaves and the graceful tendrils appears on the jug and the six little cups, while on the round tray the same design is carried out most elaborately. The shape of the jug is plain, but quite effective, and the whole set is both original and handsome in design.

Another pleasing novelty for the table is the nickel asparagus set. The asparagus is laid on the tray and easily conveyed to the plate by the special spoons accompanying the set.

Dining Room Don'ts. Don't fail to make the dining room the cheeriest room in the house, and the time spent in it the happiest of the day.

Don't forget that birth and breeding show up more clearly at the dining table than at any other time. As a man eats, so he is.

Don't ignore details here if you must elsewhere. See to it that the silver shines, the glass glistens and the linen is spotlessly white.

Don't fail to remember that the conversation at the family table should be general. Little pitchers, have big ears, and that they are especially receptive at meal time.

"Dress for dinner." If only to change from one shirtwaist to another, make the change, but add a bow or a few flowers or something to show an attempt to "dress up." It has more of an effect than you think. It refreshes you and the others, and goes a long way toward creating a harmonious atmosphere.

Sex and Occupation. It is curious, but true, that the two occupations longest identified with the female sex—cooking and dressmaking—should each of them be better performed by men.—Grand Magazine.

Rose water, eight ounces, and tincture of benzoïn, two drams, make one of the best skin tonics and whiteners.

FASHION AND THE QUEEN

Alexandra Tries in Vain to Check the Mania for Ospreys.

Do you wear an osprey? If you do not, it is probably a matter of money, not of morals. They cost from \$5 to \$10 and every woman seems crazy to wear one.

There are a few exceptions. Queen Alexandra never wears ospreys. More than that, she has appealed to English women not to wear them, but the Queen herself does not seem able to stem the tide of this fashion.

The women go right on in their mad rush after ospreys. Whereupon one of their number, more tender-hearted, or perhaps more amenable to royal suggestions than the rest, offers a plan for making the osprey wearers yield. She writes:

"Have you read about the Queen's plea for the poor osprey, the bird whose beautiful plumes are cruelly torn from it to deck the toques of the thoughtless members of our sex? Miss Knollys says that the Queen never wears osprey feathers herself. One has often read in the papers descriptions of her Majesty's dress and toque, with the osprey specially mentioned, that this plain statement is most welcome.

"I think the reason of the mistake is a confusion between the words 'sage' and 'osprey.' The former was merely a little spiral spray of flowers, buds and leaves. The latter, of course, the nuptial plume of the bird after which it is called.

If the women who wear birds' ospreys, and birds of paradise plumes could be excluded from court, the poor, dear birds would soon be left in peace. Such is our natural snobbism that even those of us who would never, in any case, be likely to go to court would be unwilling to advertise by any item of our dress our inelegibility to do so.

Commandments of Dress. Know thyself! A monkey does not look well with a lion's tail, neither a wolf in sheep's clothing nor a fat woman in an Empire gown.

Set the pace never follow it. An ape is after all only an ape. Beware of fads. They are the snares set for the pocketbooks of the unwary and are good only for the show girl or the comic opera chorus.

Harken not to the wild tongue of the mode maker. Let thine own heart guide thee in the choice of thy hat and frock. If thou wouldst not make a caricature of thine own beauty.

Consider well the details of thy costume. Great virtue in a hat will not condone great sins in a bonnet. Do not make a man forgive a baby in the glove or a visible pin in the collar.

This is the secret of being well-dressed, that thou be simple and symmetrical, artistic in line and quiet in color, and above all as unobtrusive of thy raiment as Eve of her fig leaf.

And I say unto you, that though a woman may be arrayed in all the glories of Paris, unless she knows how to put them on and carry them off she had better be covered with sackcloth and ashes.

Health and Beauty. There is no better treatment for bringing color and a glow to the hair than by brushing it thoroughly once a day. This very act of brushing, too, is in itself an excellent physical exercise.

The frequent use of an eye cup filled with tepid water and made about the saltness of a tear, or a solution of boracic acid, will rest and strengthen tired eyes and quickly arrest any inflammation.

It has been said that women might add ten years to their lives if they would practice the habit of going to a quiet room and lying down in a perfectly relaxed condition for a half hour or even twenty minutes every day.

In caring for the complexion it is well to remember the necessity of hanging the wash cloth in the fresh air and sunshine every day, to destroy any possible germs and give it a freshness and sweetness which only the sun and air can give.

To remove wrinkles in the neck throw the back several times night and morning to put the skin on a "stretch" and smooth out the wrinkles. At the same time rub the neck with a good cream and pinch and massage to increase circulation.

NEEDLEWORK NOTES. For an awkward tear at the corner of a glove seam, buttonhole the edges loosely with cotton that matches the kid and draw the edges of the buttonholing together.

Buckles made of rhinestones, and often of diamonds, are used on evening waists, not only for the belt but as trimming for the sleeves and wherever a buckle can be found place for.

QUAINT OLD WARE

Pottery from England That Mystified and Amused Milwaukeeans.

An array of curious yellow dishes, with quaint, straggly mottoes in unfamiliar dialect, has been the centre of attraction in the window of a china store on Milwaukee a week for the last few days, and many persons have stopped to spell out the inscriptions and to wonder where the curious stuff came from. A few are familiar with it but most persons are unaware that the "Aller Vale" ware as it is called comes from New-on Abbot in Devonshire England and that the mottoes are in the Devonshire dialect. New-on Abbot is about twenty miles from Exeter and the pottery is an old one.

The ware is a peculiarly rich deep yellow fawn, with simple but effective decoration in dark green and a deep browned, and the shapes are delightfully quaint. A cream jug bears the inscription, "Devonshire Cream Tak and try it." A squat, comfortable teapot holds forth the hospitable invitation, "Du ee mak yer zel at ome and another says, "We all us he main glad to see ee." An other cream jug has the gratifying assurance, "Dawn t ee be 'fraid a'ut. There a plenty more."

Withoutless originally the mottoes on the dishes were all in the Devonshire dialect, but with the march of progress some half-baked English adages are seen, and some Scotch. A cream jug with the warning, "He anny wi the cream is characteristally Scotch, but the sugar bowl is more generous, and says "Help yerself and dinna be blate."

Several of the "Devonshire dishes," as the deep bowls of various shapes are called, bear Burns' well known grace, traced with the pen:

Some hae meat andanna eat, Some hae carmes and want it, But we hae m'eat and we can eat, And so the Lord be thankit!

An eminent congregational divine of Milwaukee strolling past the china store window saw the queer pottery and wondered in. He was much struck with the bowls bearing this grace of Burns and remarked thoughtfully to the storekeeper:

"Now if I were to buy one of these dishes for each of my family I should think I might thereby be relieved from the duty of saying grace three times a day."

Besides the bowls and cream jugs and teapots there are fat posset cups and tall tugs, as the three-handled cups something like a loving cup are called. Milwaukee Evening Wisconsin.

Her Essay on the Cat. A 12-year-old Calico miss has written the following touching obituary of her late cat an animal apparently of a somewhat contentious disposition. Nigretta died Thursday, Aug. 27, 1903 at about 3:20 p. m. at his home on Grand avenue (Chicago). No. 18 A. He was a son of Mrs. Spittre and grandson of Mr. Spittre. He was the only living child of the deceased Mrs. Spittre. He was born Aug. 12, 1891 and was 2 years and 15 days old at the time of his death. His occupation was prize fighting. He was a very good cat, peaceful and quiet in the daytime but very noisy and fightful at night. His mother died when he was very young. His sisters and brothers three in number also died when they were young, thus leaving Nigretta alone in the world. He took up the occupation of prize fighting and was seemingly very happy until Thursday afternoon. It is thought that he was poisoned. He loved to brave and true-hearted prizefighter Nigretta Spittre. —Kanساس City Journal.

Pere Duchesne. Even in England the vile and terrible literary outpourings of Pere Duchesne are a well known part of the French Revolution. The foulness and violence of the denunciations which appeared under that name are beyond expression and the Parisians themselves pictured the writer as a huge big-bellied man, choleric with drink a big swearer and fighter a creature in fact equally formidable and furious. When in 1794 Herbert who roused the lower classes of France to a state of madness under the name of Pere Duchesne appeared in his turn among those on the way to the guillotine the general surprise at his appearance almost overpowered the rage which howled about him. This long-dreaded Pere Duchesne, thought to be a regular butcher in appearance as well as trade, was a little person, pale-looking, refined, with delicate white hands, and sleepied in terror so great that he literally fell against his companions on the fatal journey.—T. P.'s Weekly.

The Pennsylvania Forestry. The Pennsylvania Railroad Company has, it is stated, decided to raise most trees for use as railroad ties. It is estimated that twenty years will be required for them to grow sufficiently for use. Prof. J. T. Rothrock, Commissioner of Forestry of the State of Pennsylvania, will select land and superintend the planting.—Exchange.

A Fool Wager. A German is rolling a barrel of wine through Switzerland on a wager. He bet that he could roll it from his town, Waldkirch-en-Brigaw, to Rome. The barrel contains sixty gallons of wine. The journey is mapped out will take him through Zare, Munster, Luerne, Alorf, St. Gothard Pass, Lago Como and Milan.

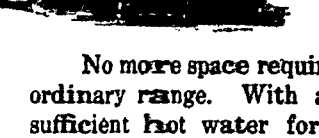
Servants. First Housewife—Some days I mnd about everything the servant does. Second Housewife—Gracious! Fow do you dare?—Detroit Free Press.

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