

CHAUFFEUR A NEW FACTOR IN SERVANT PROBLEM

Latest Cause of Trouble in Households Employing Large Staffs of Domestics—Few Family Retainers of Old Kind Left—"Lady Help" a London Institution Nowadays

THERE is trouble in the servants' hall of a big household uptown. The whole outfit, except the parlor maid, has walked out, quit absolutely, and there is no chance of effecting a settlement. They just simply want to come back.

The question of wages is not involved. Everybody from the butler down to the second assistant scullery maid was well paid. Each got out on an average three nights a week, and if you had the ear of Mr. Osborn, the butler, why, you could go out to bury a stepmother or see a sick cousin on the fourth, or the fifth, or even the sixth night. Mr. Osborn wasn't "tryin' to be hard on anybody," and he would just say: "Run along, and have a good time; only look fresh an'

that he could have taken his pick from a cluster of willing Peggottys composed of the cook, the three young women who assisted her in the kitchen and scullery, the laundress, the under laundress, the parlor maid, two chambermaids, the mistress's own maid and the two nurses. Once in a while it would happen that he would have to take a meal in the servants' dining room and then it was difficult to keep any of the maids upstairs. With whatever attentions the favorite bestowed, however, he was impartial, extending smiles to all.



ORCHESTRA CHAIRS THE PEACE OFFERING.

nice when the missis appears to be around in the morning." In this establishment there wasn't any office on the domestic staff directly corresponding to housekeeper. Osborn was a sort of majordomo, and the mistress left to him all the details of engaging the servants, with the exception of her own personal maid, and even in that matter Osborn's wishes had due weight. Authority being thus centred, everything ran along as if on ball bearings. But even to such machinery a grain of dust may be troublesome, and in this case the grain of dust blew along. The result was that coars slipped and in a brief time the splendid household machinery was all out of gear.

This particular grain of dust was the chauffeur attached to the household. The word "attached" is used advisedly, because a chauffeur is not a part of a household. Sometimes he may take his meals in the servants' hall, but not as a general rule. He may sleep in the garage, if the master of the household has a private establishment of the kind, but generally speaking, the chauffeur is paid so much a month and is supposed to find himself. He is therefore not a servant in the sense that the valet or even the butler is, and the servants' hall recognizes the subtle distinction. It calls him "Mister" just as it does the butler, but there is a difference.

He is the link with the great world outside that is beyond class distinction, at least from the viewpoint of the servants' hall. True, a butler may graduate into the manager of a restaurant, but then everybody will remember he was once a butler; but a chauffeur—who knows but that in a year or two some wealthy man will back him with enough money to start a garage of his own? And soon afterwards he may get a few touring cars to hire out, and then either start a new taxicab service and make a fortune or become an automobile manufacturer on his own account, and everybody will forget that he ever drove a car for a living. Such a thing has happened.

Enter a New Chauffeur. It used to be the case that the women servants in a big household would set their caps at the butler, if he happened to be young and handsome, or perhaps the second man, because the butler usually has a wife and numerous offspring. These were his guarantees of respectability. With the coming of the chauffeur all this changed. A butler was a butler after all, and a second man could only become a butler. The majority of the servants in an American household are frequently apologetic on the score of their employment.

Butlers in Demand. But handsome chauffeurs are only one of the many things that arise to disrupt the big household in New York nowadays. The incident recorded is hardly characteristic, but the problem of how to keep together an efficient staff of household servants in New York has reached a stage that the jokes of a few years back in the comic papers only approached.

Take the case of the butler, for instance. It is very hard nowadays to get one of the standard English kind, a trained family servant, discreet, who knows his place and who can manage those under him. When such a man quits one place he soon gets another. Only a few weeks ago the wife of a wealthy New Yorker discharged her butler because he had been impertinent. Having been in the service of the family many years, he ventured upon a liberty he should not have taken. The wife of an equally wealthy citizen heard that the butler was unemployed. She made inquiries and found that a certain freedom of manner was the only complaint against him. She immediately sent the butler a telegram.

"He is too good a servant to let slip," she said. "I have had so many of the other kind that I simply feel I could put up with a little impertinence if the man is satisfactory in other respects."

In very few of the big households in New York nowadays is there a servant who comes under the class of old family retainers, and a cry is going up from mistresses of big establishments that no matter what you do in the way

of wages, or making their quarters comfortable, or consenting to a large number of nights out, a year is getting to be a long time for servants to remain in one employ. Both men and women get restless, the women to a greater extent than the men. None seems to cherish the idea of being a servant all her days.

The woman servant has grown fond of change and she likes to go from household to household. She calls it seeing the world. She likes to make new acquaintances and some women servants have the notion that in enlarging their circle of acquaintances they are increasing their chances of getting a husband. Some of the untravelled like to attach themselves in the spring to a household that is going over to summer in Europe, though the more experienced say there is nothing in travelling for a servant, and will give notice if their mistress drops a hint that she is about to take them over to Europe with her.



THE NEW CHAUFFEUR ARRIVES.

the intelligence bureau makes, and the maid servant feels that no matter how many places she loses or gives up, the bureau will soon provide her with another. One has only to talk with mistresses of households to find that they feel very keenly on the subject of the intelligence office, and some say they apply to such a bureau only as a last resort. Often the applicant for a place falls far short of the recommendation furnished her.

A well known woman who has a big house uptown had occasion to consult the head of an agency that is supposed to furnish only first class servants. She wanted a lady's maid, she told the manager over the telephone, and he assured her he had just the servant she wished. Later in the day an Eng-

lish woman appeared. The lady of the house asked her several questions, and decided she would not suit.

"I can come on Monday," announced the applicant.

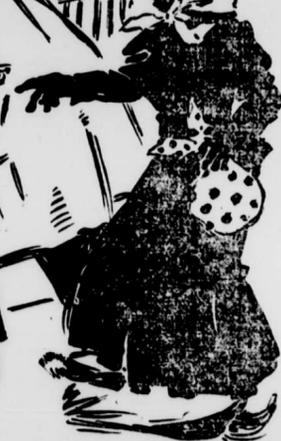
"But I have not engaged you," replied the lady of the house. "I must make some inquiries, and I wish to talk with the head of the bureau before engaging anybody."

The applicant left the room, presumably to depart from the house. A little later the butler appeared.

"Did you engage that young woman, mum?" he inquired.

made herself so much at home that I got suspicious and showed her out." The lady immediately called up the intelligence office. The manager was shocked to learn that one of his clients could have acted in such a manner. He said he would simply have to cross her off his books. On the following Monday the woman appeared again at the door of the house and announced that she had come to take her place. She was detained in the vestibule while word was sent up to the lady of the house. Word came down that she should on no account be admitted. Then the woman banged on the door and made a scene.

Troubles of Commuters. At the same time, in spite of the



AN IMPORTATION.

present characteristics of domestics as a class, once in a while you do hear of women who have grown gray in service. A friend called on an elderly wealthy woman the other day and was shown to her private sitting room, where she found two old women, strangers to her, who were trying hard to put the room in perfect shape.

"They are two old maids of mine," explained the hostess later. "My own maid is ill and I don't like to get a stranger, so as I have been keeping the two on pension for some years I call both in upon such an occasion to do the work."

Writers for the comic papers have made much money out of the difficulty

of getting servants to go into the country, and almost any commuter of experience could furnish testimony on the subject. For a family to finish out a summer with the same two servants in the kitchen is rare. There is a man out of Greenwich who thought he would solve the question by getting a raw immigrant just landed at Ellis Island. He got her at one of the immigrant homes. Her name was Hilja, she was a Finn and she knew no English.

The commuter considerably carried her bag to the subway and braved curious glances all the way home. Hilja began her career in the country by eating a dog biscuit and subsequently complaining of its effects. The next day she had a toothache and it took her half a day to find a dentist to rid her of the offending molar. The whole family turned in and made her comfortable for the rest of the day. Hilja did nothing more for two days. Then going downstairs one morning early the lady of the house found Hilja dressed up and putting on a time table.

"Missy," she said, "me New York," and nothing could stop her. She went to Americans who have never lived in England may fancy the servant question is simpler over there. It may be, but not for Americans, unless you are so fortunate as was a certain tourist on a recent summer who took a house and two servants in London for the summer at \$25 a week for the lot, and was so pleased with the servants, a man and his wife, that he doubled the pay they were receiving from the original lessee of the house. More travellers are apt to fare after the fashion of the American woman who took a beautiful apartment in South Kensington and within two weeks had to discharge eight "highly recommended" general houseworkers and house-maids and cooks. Incompetence was the general fault, and what made the situation worse was that the work of each servant had to be strictly defined. The cook would not budge from her particular domain, even so far as to remove dishes from the dining room table, and the maid objecting to this a row would result, followed by one or more discharges, until finally a woman was hired because she said she preferred to do the whole work of the apartment alone. Within a week the library had accumulated a thick coating of London smoke.

"I am not a charwoman!" indignantly replied the general houseworker when the matter was called to her attention, and she "went."

"Lady Help" in London. One peculiar institution you find in London nowadays is the "lady help," a by-product of the servant problem. The recognition of the "lady help" as an institution arose from a woman who is flouted for anything else to do menial work with a semblance of gentility. However, the intense anxiety of the mistress of the house to avoid wounding the susceptibilities of the "lady help" is frequently results in the former's using more of the arduous herself.

WHEN THE DINOSAUR TRAMPED THE HILLS OF THE CONNECTICUT VALLEY

NEW HAVEN, April 27.—Prof. Richard S. Lull, head of the department of vertebrate paleontology at Yale, presents in the current number of the American Journal of Science a pen picture of the Connecticut Valley during prehistoric times when dinosaurs tramped the hills and strange reptiles moved about. He says: "One of the most remarkable features of the fossil remains of the Connecticut Valley is the dearth of actual bones and the marvellous abundance of footprints. The profusion of species of animals represented by the tracks, which, of course, included the creatures the skeletons of which are known, is so far as my present knowledge goes, as great if not greater than that of any other known vertebrate fauna of prehistoric times, and emphasizes once more the usual incompleteness of our geologic record and the countless multitudes of creatures which peopled our globe in the more remote ages."

"The Connecticut Valley area, extending as it does across the States of Massachusetts and Connecticut, follows in general the depression now occupied by the Connecticut River, except its lower course, where the river forsakes the ancient valley at Middletown and cuts its way through the eastern highlands, reaching the Sound far to the eastward. The story of the Connecticut Valley, as the evidence at hand reveals it, may be summarized as follows: "Far back in the remote Triassic period, when the age of reptiles was yet young, there were laid down in a gradually deep-

ening trough in the older rocks the great accumulations of gravels, sands and clays, interbedded with vast lava sheets which constitute the sediments of the Newark system. The origin of the sediments was the wasting of the older rocks which formed the limiting highlands of either side of the depression; and the organic remains, all of fresh water or terrestrial origin, testify to the presence from time to time at least, of standing bodies of water of considerable extent, of seasonally, if not continually, flowing rivers; and of extensive land areas with slowly drying people left after the infrequent, but torrential showers characteristic of arid to semi-arid regions of the present day.

"The vegetation bore the mark of antiquity in its monotonous sombre green, for brilliantly colored flowering plants had not yet appeared, and apparently here was that sparseness and lack of profusion, except locally, which characterizes our great Southwest. The plants were three main sorts: ferns, cycads and conifers, looked upon by existing animal life as undesirable food, but which for utter want of a better must have tempted some of the denizens of Triassic time, for we have evidence of mid-mannered herbivores among the rapacious devourers of flesh.

"Of the organic remains, those of vegetable origin consist of the impressions and casts of the trunks of trees, some of the latter found at Portland, Conn., being of such size as to indicate a stream of no mean transporting power, and of the impressions of leaves, twigs and fruits, occasionally containing a delicate film of carbon which preserves the most intricate detail with wonderful fidelity.

"Here and there the vegetable remains were of sufficient abundance to influence the production of black bituminous shale bands of 60 to 100 feet in thickness, formed during periods of the accumulation of waters which supported a teeming population of fishes; but never within this area were conditions ripe for the formation of beds of coal such as are found in the Newark strata from Virginia southward.