

The Position of the Wife and Mother--Today and Yesterday

Modern Wives Are Pals in Petticoats--Clubwomen Discuss the Question: "Are We Progressing or Retrograding as Mothers?"--Rearing the Daughter

"ARE we progressing or retrograding as mothers?" "Do we bring up our daughters on more rational lines or less, than did the mothers of two or three generations back?"

These were the astonishing questions which the members of a mid-western woman's club announced for discussion at their first meeting in 1906. Whether the discussion was intended as an answer to ex-President Cleveland and other critics of women's clubs in general, or merely as a suggestion of maternal progress during the first five years of the twentieth century, was not stated, but the result was a distinct appreciation of the effects put forth by mothers of today.

The club voted that the mother today desired to accomplish these results in the upbringing of her daughter.

"Endow them with health, and they will be beautiful. Give the training in some practical line of work, and they will be useful. Health, beauty and usefulness make for true happiness. Happiness is success of the highest type."

Some of the members of this club have white hair; some are matrons of a few years only. The comparisons instituted were interesting and illuminating.

First as to health:

A hundred years ago a girl was born healthy or delicate, and she never thought of fighting the fate which was supposed to be hers, either because of the influence of heredity or the ignorance of those to whose care she had been entrusted. A delicate girl was regarded as rather interesting. Callers enjoyed hearing her detail symptoms. Mothers veiled in the sympathy showered upon them by friends whose daughters were vulgarly healthy.

The delicate girl was guarded like a houseplant. No breath of air ever touched her. Screens were drawn about her by day, and at night she slept in a room whose windows were packed all around with rags or strips of newspapers, while a lamp smoked and sputtered to add to the general foulness of the atmosphere. If she went out at all in winter, she was swathed in wraps and thickly veiled. Above all things, she must not exercise, lest she bring on hemorrhages from her delicate lungs. Quite generally, her shoulders drooped and so did the lines of her mouth. Her face remained pathetically girlish, her complexion was delicate and transparent, her eyes were wistful with watching for relief by

death. She was resigned to the wrong thing.

Matrimony played no part in her day dreams. She had no future save that beyond the grave. She spent her time crocheting or knitting shawls for other invalids and innumerable saques and booties for the babies belonging to her girlhood friends, now risen to the estate of matrimony. And by and by she died. It was the one thing she was given a chance to do. The opportunity, nay, the right to fight for better health, was never given to her.

Then delicacy went out of fashion. Sane men and women were bored by symptoms and remedies. Invalids were neglected. Mothers discovered that a semi-invalid was not regarded as fashionable nor a household treasure. The girl who had once been termed a tomboy became a desirable article on the matrimonial market, and young womanhood passed into the strenuous era of enthusiastic physical culture. And from too zealous physical culture sprang rational methods of bringing up girls.

Today a trained nurse presides over the nursery in every wealthy family. Her mission is not to nurse invalids in the circle of young people, but to nip the first symptoms of illness in the bud. If a girl loses color, becomes anemic, turns stoop-shouldered, loses interest in life, she is not doped with cod-liver oil and cooped up in a steam-heated flat, but she is taken promptly from school and given a course in outdoor life. You can see the little daughters of the rich, bare-footed and hatless, playing on private beaches in the summer. You can find girls in their teens camping in the Adirondacks and Catskills every summer, sleeping on pine boughs in the open air and training like athletes under a young woman who has studied for just such service. The average American woman's waist is two inches larger around in 1906 than it was in 1899, and her respiratory organs have gained by the change. The bells of the first empire laced her stays unmercifully and pinched her feet relentlessly. The well-brought-up girl of today treats her body properly because she knows the innermost workings of this marvelous piece of divine mechanism. When she is told to do a certain thing, she asks "why?" and receives an answer.

Fifty years ago if a girl was born with some terrible defect of face or figure, such as a club-foot, a twisted shoulder or a curved spine, she either underwent a rare surgical operation

(after the affliction had been given ample time to get its grip upon her supple young body), or she went thru life "resigned" like her "delicate" sister. Today the mother prides herself on her baby daughter's sturdy figure. If the slightest defect appears, it is immediately treated by skilful manipulation while bones are soft and tractable. There is no waiting to see whether it develops into something serious. Anything that threatens her health or her beauty is taken in hand promptly.

If her hair is thin and coarse, she is sent to a hair-curlerist for treatment. Her great-aunt nursed her hurt pride until she was old enough to buy a chignon or a switch. If her hands are not

just the right shape, she does not weep over them in 16-year-old secrecy, but is sent daily to a manicurist. If her complexion is muddy, her mother does not trust to her outgrowing the affliction. She calls in, not a mistress of cosmetics, but a physician, who traces the trouble to its cause and removes the latter.

If daughter's little nose is crooked, mother does not murmur, "isn't it a pity Helen must go thru life with a nose like poor Aunt Myra's!" She foresees Aunt Myra's pre-natal influence, heredity and other dead doctrines, and trots daughter off to see a specialist who, with delicate ana-

esthetics and even more delicate instruments, alleviates, if he does not remove, the defect. Girls with voices pitched wrongly are sent to throat specialists or singing masters to have a natural womanly speaking voice produced. Surgery steps in here, too, removing growths from throats and noses, excessive cartilage and bones. If a girl has few eyebrows and lashes, she is taught how to encourage their growth by manipulation, vaseline applications, etc. An awkward walk or carriage is no longer considered a gift of the gods, but a bad habit to be corrected by a dancing-master who knows as much of physical culture as he does of the two-step and the waltz.

In fact, everything is done to lift

from the growing girl's shoulders the burden of ugliness. Fifty years ago, novels were written around homely girls who won against beauties by sheer force of their gentler, more womanly natures. It is no longer fashionable to be resigned to ugliness. The most fascinating serial the girl of today reads is the course of beauty articles in the Sunday paper or the monthly magazines for women.

It is said that the girl of today is lacking in breeding and manners. That is because two classes of daughters are in the public eye: the daughters of the super-rich who have grown arrogant and who imagine that wealth endows them with the right to be rude; and the daughters of the poor who flaunt bad manners in public because they know no better. Between these two is that great mass of well-bred girls, some daughters of old families still well-to-do, and others whose fathers may have laid bricks or even carried them, but who through education, self-culture, and contact with the better class of men and women in the business world have mastered the true art of gentle womanhood. The girl whose picture is printed most often in the paper should not be taken as a sample of American daughterhood, the composite result of modern womanhood.

Fifty or a hundred years ago, girls were taught to be useful according to the demands made upon them. They could brew and bake and wash for huge families of children and hired men. They could weave the family linen or knit the family hosiery. They were trained to make the output of the arm yield the greatest possible measure of returns in the family circle.

Today the average girl in the average family would have nothing to do were she trained on these lines. Machinery-made clothing is preferred by her farmer husband to the labor of her hand, which is pronounced bunglesome. Creamery machinery makes the butter she once churned. Machinery gatters up the hay she once raked together.

The farmer's daughter makes lace or embroiders doilies which she sends to the nearest woman's exchange, or she starts a canning factory in her kitchen, building up a reputation as fashionable grocery stores for her pickles and preserves, which in time pay better than her husband's corn or hay.

In the modern house or flat, a woman finds herself too pushed for space to wash or to cook in quantities. Lack of space for supplies drives her to the delicatessen shop, the bakery and the caterer; the servant girl question drives her to the apartment hotel or the co-operative flat or apartment house.

And mothers watching these conditions, realize that every year the domestic problem of the woman becomes less prominent in her life. Co-operative living, lack of space in cities, the ambitions of the American husband, wealth-madness, all these develop the money-making, the commercial instinct in young women, and that is why mothers train them for business rather than for the storeroom and the attic, the cellar and the kitchen.

"If matrimony is the end and object of woman," exclaimed one speaker, "then it is not our duty to train our daughters as their future husbands would have them be! Let me rise and explain that the coming man will demand not a bearer of children, a baker of bread and a brewer of mead, but a congenial companion. He can hire a housekeeper. New economic conditions will regulate his household, which may be found in a hotel or a flat, but only we mothers can give him what he wants in the wife line--and that is a pal in petticoats."

Bangle Beauty

WOMANKIND has gone daffy over the bangle, says the Philadelphia Record. Bangle variations as to size, shape and decoration. While the bangle is usually round, it may be oval or square. These bangles take on yet more finishes than shapes. The small round bangle with the plain bright finish is the most usual. But there's the polished finish, the faceted finish, the antique, the Roman, the rose, the red and the green sapphire. Then the average girl in the average family would have nothing to do were she trained on these lines. Machinery-made clothing is preferred by her farmer husband to the labor of her hand, which is pronounced bunglesome. Creamery machinery makes the butter she once churned. Machinery gatters up the hay she once raked together.

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A Relic of Revolutionary Days



ONE of the most interesting women at the colonial assembly of the Minneapolis chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, Friday evening, was Mrs. Marie Antoinette Lyon, who was busily spinning on the old wheel that belonged to her grand-mother during revolutionary days.

Mrs. Lyon is a granddaughter of Captain Jabez Deming, who was a captain of militia in 1781. Captain Deming's daughter married Captain Giddings and they built the little home shown in the picture at Herriak, Susquehanna county, Pa., in 1816. In this house the little Marie Antoinette was born Feb. 28, 1819. Mrs. Deming made her home with her daughter, and Mrs. Lyon has very vivid recollections of the grandmother who told such interesting tales

to the wee maid as she sat spinning at her wheel.

Mrs. Lyon is 87 years of age. This picture was taken seven years ago. She belongs to a notable family on both sides, for Joshua B. Giddings, a relative, was a famous abolitionist. Mrs. Lyon makes her home with her daughter, Mrs. J. H. Johnson, 2005 Second avenue S.

What Women Want to Know They Ask Betty Blair--Here Are Her Answers

Reception Calls.

If a stranger you desire to call on and immediately after sends out invitations for a reception given in honor of a friend should you send cards and then attend the reception or should you attend the reception and then call? Is it necessary to answer the invitation?—L. M. B.

It would not be necessary for you to call before the reception. Nor to send cards if you are going to be present. Leave a card for your hostess and one for the guest or honor with the servant at the door when you attend the reception and call within ten days after. It is not customary to answer invitations to a reception and the majority of women do not acknowledge them in anyway until the day of the tea when they leave cards a person or if unable to attend, send them. It is always courteous to acknowledge invitations of any kind and acting on that thought a number of Minneapolis women for the past two years have accepted or declined their invitations to receptions, just as they would acknowledge an invitation to a luncheon or dinner. The custom is not general and you may do as you wish.

Five Hundred.

Will you please answer the following questions: In 500 must the joker be played if one holds no other trump and trumps are led? If the joker is led must a trump be played or can one play any card? If one takes all the tricks does he make only 250 even though he bid eight or no trumps? The score cards issued with 500 games sold by a company differ from the one published in your columns a few weeks ago. Who is authority in this game?—V. F. B.

The joker must be played if trump is led and you hold no other trump. If the joker is led it calls for a trump and

a trump must be played if you hold one. If the bid is for more than 250 and you take all of the tricks you make the amount that you bid. The score cards differ in the bids of clubs and spades, some making clubs low and others spades. The playing card companies have issued cards with rules which are regarded as authority.

Dry Cleaning at Home.

How can I clean a Persian lawn with some turpentine gasolene or water? It is not very badly soiled but water would shrink it and I do not like the odor of gasolene. I want to do it at home?—Subscriber.

Place the waist on a clean white cloth and go over it very carefully with fine-grained black magnesia. Rub the magnesia well into the lawn until it will hold no more and then shake out the loose powder. Rub in a second supply of magnesia and put away in a covered box for two or three days and then shake out carefully so that all of the powder will be dislodged.

A Roughened Skin.

I was advised to use powdered borax in my bath. I did so for the past two weeks and I find that my skin burns and smart right after using and is much rougher. I have been using the same toilet soap for five years, so I do not think that it is the soap. What shall I do, please? Shall I continue using the borax in the hope that my skin may become used to it? I shall look for an answer in next Sunday's issue.—A Constant Reader.

Your skin is evidently very tender and sensitive. It is possible that you are using enough borax to make the water soft and that it was the combination of the hard water and the soap that caused the irritation. You might

try benzoin instead of the borax. It is very healing and softens the water in a most pleasing fashion. Bath bags made of bran or oatmeal, orris root and shavings of castile soap are also excellent to use where the water is hard.

What Are Gartlets?

My cousin in the east said something about gartlets in a recent letter, and I would like to know what they are. Can you tell me?—Ignorant.

Gartlets are used to hold up the long street gloves that are now fashionable. They are clasped about the arms just above the elbows and must match the gloves exactly. They are made of half-inch elastic covered with ribbons shirred on both edges and fastened under a ribbon rosette or a jeweled buckle.

Tight Collars.

Will you please tell me if it is dangerous to wear tight collars? I know my collars are sometimes too tight, but I can't tolerate anything around my neck unless it fits good and snug.—A Young Lady.

The danger in wearing tight collars lies in interfering with the circulation. A tight band around the neck cannot but restrict the natural flow of blood, and may cause dizziness or headache. A collar can be well-fitted without being snug. It is the ill-fitting collar that is uncomfortable to wear, not because it is loose, but because it does not conform to the shape of the neck.

A Mantel Shelf.

I have no suitable place in my dining-room for a shelf. Would you kindly tell me if it would be proper to put one in the parlor, and would it be in good taste to put a drapery on the

shelf that is polished the same as the woodwork in the parlor? Would you please tell me what is good to kill the little brown bugs on my fern? Bugs are all over the leaves and they will kill the plant unless they are removed.—A Constant Reader.

Why not put the shelf over the dining-room door if you want to use it for china? It would be all right to put up a shelf in the parlor, but you want to be sure and place it where it will look well. It might be put up over a couch or table, but do not put any drapery on it. The polished wood is decoration enough in itself.

Your fern is evidently covered with scale. Use lemon or fir tree oil and with a soft rag or brush apply the oil which has been made into a wash according to the directions that will come with it. The wash will soften the scale so that it may be easily removed. Use this treatment frequently, after you have rid the fern of the pest, to prevent a return.

Holding a Man's Overcoat.

Can you tell me if it is considered rude not to hold a man's overcoat when he is calling on you? I mean to hold the coat when he is ready to go home?—Mollie.

A man who is able to make calls is quite strong enough to put on his overcoat without assistance. What does he do when he is alone? There may be occasions when it might be well to offer a little assistance, but as a general rule a man should not expect aid from a girl.

Pillow Shams.

Are pillow shams still used, Miss Blair? I want to get something, not too expensive, to dress a bed and I do not know whether shams and a white spread

are in style now or not.—Young Matron.

Shams are not used very often now and pillow slips, embroidered with a scallop, or feathers stitched or inset with some pretty insertion and the sheet trimmed to match and turned back over the spread makes a fashionable and inexpensive trimming for a bed. A cretonne or figured muslin cover with a deep ruffle falling to the floor on either side and drawn up over the pillows is still popular with many women. The bed cover must match the over-drapes to the window, if you have them.

Where to Place the Almonds.

Where should the salted almonds be placed at dinner? The other evening half the people placed them on the cloth and the other half on the dessert plate. Which were right?—Reader.

The salted almonds should be placed on the cloth unless an almond dish is at each place already filled.

A Girl of Seventeen.

How long should a girl of 17 wear her skirts?—Junior.

A girl of 17 should wear her skirts about four inches from the floor.

College Hearts.

How is the game of college hearts played? My cousin writes me it is very popular in the east and I would like to know what it is.—College Girl.

College hearts is a game that is played very much like military euchre. Each table represents a college and the colors of the college are festooned above it. The players are sent out from the different tables to make a score for

their college and every game won entitles the winning players to hang a large tissue-paper heart on their college ribbon. The hearts are of all the dainty colors and have a wire hook thru which the ribbons are strung so that a decidedly picturesque effect is obtained.

A French Seam.

Will you kindly tell me what is meant by a French seam? I hear the phrase used so often in connection with fine sewing and I am not sure that I understand what it means.—Mrs. K.

A French seam is made by sewing the seam up on the right side and then cutting close to the stitching and sewing the seam up again, this time on the wrong side.

A Birthday Letter.

Is it proper for a girl to write a birthday letter to a boy? I think it is, but my friend says a girl should not write letters to boys. Which is right?—Mollie.

It is perfectly proper for you to write a little note of congratulation and good wishes to your boy friend on his birthday anniversary.

"Water, Water, Everywhere."

Will you please tell me where and how the quotation "Water, water everywhere, and not a drop to drink" originated? Also who was Tommy Atkins? I know he was longed to the colonial times.—A Reader.

The quotation "Water, water everywhere, and not a drop to drink" is from Coleridge's poem, "The Ancient Mariner." Tommy Atkins is a nickname for the

English soldier, but never belonged to a real person. Many years ago the English government issued little pocket-books to the soldiers which they were to fill out with their age, name, etc. The fictitious name which was used to show how the form should be filled was Tommy Atkins, and it was not many days before the soldier was known everywhere as Tommy Atkins, and the name has since clung to him.

Information About the Capitol.

Will you kindly tell me where information in regard to our new capital can be obtained? Also what should be the form of superscription in writing to a bank?—A Reader.

I believe that the capitol commission had a small circular containing information about the capitol printed and you can obtain a copy by writing to the custodian. Write to the bank as to any other business corporation and address your letter to the president or the cashier.

Calling at a Hotel.

In calling on a friend at a hotel how is the proper way to reach her? Should I ask the clerk of the hotel to send my card to her or should I go directly to her room?—Ignorant.

If there is a ladies' entrance at the hotel you will probably find a bell boy near at hand who will take your card to your friend. There is no objection to going to the desk, but it is sometimes embarrassing for a young woman to do so, and the best plan is to find the parlor and call a boy to take your card. Unless you are on very intimate terms with your friend it is better to send the card and not go directly to the room.

A Dying Profession

THE hairdressers of Paris are a vanishing sect. They have been dying for a long time. Now they are dying in a more serious sense and are dying by their own hands. For a few francs a month the Parisian lady was accustomed to have a hairdresser come to the house at an appointed hour. The hairdresser came—but never at the appointed hour. As a result the ladies of Paris very often went with uncombed locks until the evening. This had often very disastrous consequences. Dinners were delayed, engagements were broken, weddings were indefinitely postponed, divorces grew to be epidemic.

Finally the Parisian lady decided to do without the hairdresser altogether. She can now buy "store hair." She selects the lovely waves, the puffs and the curls at the hair store and pins them on herself. The puffs come in little bunches two for 5, and it is inconceivable how many bunches of puffs can be pinned on. The front wave comes way down over the forehead and is often bordered with a soft fringe of hair. The waves and even the fringe come from the hair store, but it is no longer called a wig or false front as formerly—it is a "transformation."

About New Dishes

NEW Japanese ware is called Sumida. This is decorated in animals, figures and flowers, and is quite effective for odd pieces such as pitchers, jardiniere, chocolate pots, etc. The ware is covered with a running glaze, such as is found on old Chinese porcelains, and the colorings are wholly Oriental, dark green and rich red predominating.

A so-called "invalid's jar" is simply an old friend the cracker jar, of slightly smaller size and without the under plate, to take up the room on an invalid's table. It is intended to hold the crackers or other little delicacies that an invalid likes to have convenient. They may be had in cut glass or china, in delicate French or Dresden designs.

Specialties in chinaware have become so much the accepted thing that even special bowls of cut glass, offered for whipped cream, occasion no surprise. These are very attractive in shape, having quite a wide-flared top, and are elevated on a base about three inches high. The Colonial cutting, so much favored now, and a more elaborate design called the "Fayette," are the two patterns in view.

The Queen's Cat

CAT is rather a novel present for a queen to give to a god-child, writes a London correspondent. Yet this is the form Queen Alexandra's munificence towards the young son of the duke and duchess of Manchester has taken recently. It happened in this way. Sometimes the queen's cats, like others of their species, exhibit irritability of temper and resent the too free attention of strangers.

The queen, as she occasionally does, invited a party of godchildren to see her pets and play with them. One of them, a lively Persian, resented being romped with. The queen had it at once removed to what is known in the palace as the cats' punishment ward, where it might be taught better manners. The Manchester youngster, who is a bit spoiled, thereupon began to howl and declare that he wanted to play with that cat and no other. Her majesty pacified him by promising to give him the cat, and when he left the palace his nurse carried it with her.

Possibly her majesty's generosity may have been prompted a bit by the thought that if the cat scratched the little ducal heir it might be the means of teaching him a lesson, which, in the absence of parental discipline, he stands much in need of.

The Fireside Sphinx

ANGORA and Persian cats are so hopelessly mixed nowadays that no attempt is made to keep the breeds separate, and they are classed together as long-haired cats.

Do not give an overfed cat any fish or any milk or milk pudding, but feed it twice daily, giving at each meal about two ounces of lean meat, raw or cooked, but the former for preference. If this does not seem to satisfy, you may mix with the meat an equal quantity of brown bread or biscuit crumbs. A dessertspoon of olive oil is beneficial occasionally.

In seeking to breed blues, an ounce of caution is worth a ton of haste. In particular one should have nothing to do with cats having green or pale yellow eyes, but insist that their orbs shall be bright orange. Such cats are very rare, but they do exist, and may be found if one have patience.

Among the leading fashionable cats are orange Persians, smokes, blues, tigers, tabbies and chinchillas. Blacks and whites are always in favor, especially in the long-haired varieties. Our Maine cats, big, black and bushy, are features in catdom.

Beef Croquettes

BEF croquettes offer an excellent method for serving cold pieces of roast, and are more economical than the chicken preparation. First make a poultice or butter sauce, as follows: Mix an ounce of butter and the same of flour in a steppan, and stir until smooth and thick; add gradually one pint of broth and stir gently as it simmers for fifteen minutes. Add the yolk of an egg, season lightly with pepper and salt and remove from the fire; run it thru a hair-sieve that it may be perfectly smooth. This should give you a pint of sauce. When ready to make your croquettes, simmer this sauce until it is reduced one-half, and add enough minced or ground beef to make a mixture that you can handle. Add salt, pepper and chopped parsley and spread on a dish to cool, having the mixture an inch and a half in depth. When ready to cook, cut into equal portions (about a heaping tablespoonful each), mold them lightly with your floured hands until they are cork or pyramid in shape and finish as directed above. If you make double the quantity of sauce, use only half of this, and when ready to serve the croquettes, heat the remainder, add some maceoine or chopped vegetables, pour around the croquettes, garnish with fresh parsley.

Stray Recipes

OYSTERS in a loaf are very good for supper or luncheon. Buy a stale loaf of Vienna bread, and after cutting off a slice from the top scoop out the crumbs, or most of them. There should be a good half inch of bread left inside the crusty shell. Drain a quart of oysters, season with salt, a little tabasco or red pepper, and a tablespoonful of catsup. Fill the loaf with the oysters and dot well with bits of butter. Replace the slice cut from the top. Bake in a rather quick oven for twenty-five minutes, basting frequently with the oyster liquor. Better moisten the loaf with the oyster liquor before placing it in the oven. Serve with a cream sauce.

Potatoes Chamberly are a novelty. Slice and crisp them precisely as for Saratoga potatoes. That is, slice them as thin as possible, and drop them into ice water, afterwards drying the slices between folds of a towel. Arrange the slices in a well-buttered biscuit tin with salt, pepper and bits of butter between the layers. Bake until well browned. Limes are being substituted for lemons to serve with oysters. The limes have a freshness which is delicious, and when a dash of tabasco is added, the result is a very appetizing sauce.

The Potato Useful

FOR washing delicate colored wool goods, ribbons or silks, the white potato is a boon, says the Boston Herald. Grate two large potatoes on a large lemon grater and pour over them a quart of lukewarm water, wash exactly as the soap were used, and in the same way rinse the article in several waters. The color will not be injured and the article will be quite clean if just as much pains is taken in washing and rinsing as the soap were used.

Whenever bread is to be made the water in which the potatoes for dinner were boiled should be set aside and used for making the sponge. Not only will the bread be lighter and whiter, but it will be far more wholesome, since the potato water adds much to the nutritious quality of the bread.

Whenever an oil painting becomes dusty and discolored it may be cleaned by the use of a white raw potato. For artists frequently make use of this method. Commence at one corner of the picture and rub the surface with a raw potato which has been flattened by removing a slice; as fast as the potato becomes discolored remove a thin slice with a sharp knife and continue to rub the picture until the entire surface has been cleaned. Then wipe the picture off with a soft cloth, and it will be found quite clean, and the paints will not be injured or faded.