

A PAGE FOR YOUNG GIRLS OF ALL AGES

Conducted by CHRISTINE TERHUNE HERRICK



GIRLS AND HOUSEKEEPING

contrary, I have known many girls who made endless resolutions about this, and they were all knocked endwise when the right man came along, as I hope they will be in your case.

In the second place, because, putting the thoughts of matrimony aside, a woman can never tell when she may have housekeeping cares thrust upon her. She may have to keep house for her father or brother. Some relative with little children may die, and it may seem her clear duty to go and take care of them and keep house for them.

An Old Maid's Paradise

Even if none of these things happens I can hardly believe that you look forward with equanimity to an old age in a hotel or a boarding house. Have not all of you dreams of one day possessing a little home of your own? There may not be a man in it. It may be an old maid's paradise, shared by a brother, a sister, a friend, or it may be only a solitary establishment. But you anticipate having such a nest one of these days after the first stress of life is past. The older you grow and the more weary you become the more you will look forward to it. Do you recollect the charming little poem of Kingsley's:

"When all the world is young, lad,
And all the trees are green;
And every goose a swan, lad,
And every lass a queen;
Then hie for boot and horse, lad,
And round the world away;
Young blood must have its course, lad,
And every dog his day.

When all the world is old, lad,
And all the trees are brown;
And all the sport is stale, lad,
And all the wheels run down,
Creep home and take your place there,
The spent and maimed among;
God grant you find one face there,
You loved when all was young."

This is the way a man feels, but how much more must it mean to a woman to have a place of her own! For women were made for home life, and while they may go out into the world and do good

work there, there is always in their hearts a longing for home. Sooner or later the woman usually comes to it, in one form or another. When she does come to it, she should be fitted to take care of it.

More than this, it is well for her to know something of housekeeping while she is on the way to a settled home. I have had more than one letter from you girls in which you have spoken of doing light housekeeping in your own rooms. How many of you know how to do it to the best advantage? How many of you have any idea of what food to eat that will best nourish you and keep up your strength and fit you for continuing in your work without losing ground physically?

A woman cannot expect to toil all day and keep her health if she lives on bread and tea, a piece of pie or a chocolate éclair, with an occasional sausage or slice of bacon. She needs wholesome food of the right sort, and she needs to know how to prepare it—and how to buy it before it is prepared.

If this applies to you girls who have to go out to daily work, it is even more important to you who expect to for a while, at least, stay at home. You are in great luck if you to profit by a and misfor- other girls. of you do it! knows how to food intelli-

Once I went chafing dish house of a who prided knowing about (I afterward the way she was by letting the meals and then take the list made out in the kitchen and leave it with the butcher or the grocer.) In writing the list of articles that would be required in the lessons, I had put down among them lobster meat and sardines. One dish was to be lobster a la Newburg and another grilled sardines. I had stated that a pint of lobster meat would be needed and that the sardines should be taken from the box, drained and skinned.

When we entered the dining room, where every-

thing was supposed to be in readiness, the first object that met my eyes was a large live lobster, sprawling and squirming on a tray. Beside him stood a box of sardines, unopened.

"But the lobster is not boiled!" I exclaimed. "Oh, dear, how careless of the fishman!" cried the hostess. "I told him especially that I would need the pint of lobster meat. And he hasn't opened the sardines, either, after I said that I must have them all skinned!"

Take a Course in Housekeeping

She had not known that she could hardly have the lobster boiled and the meat taken out unless she made a stipulation to that effect, and it had not occurred to her that it was not the business of the fishman to open the sardines and prepare the fish for cooking.

There are many other blunders like this made by ignorant young housekeepers, and the comic papers are full of poor jokes made at their expense. Even if you may not make gross errors, you yet increase your cares and the cost of living by not knowing how things are to be done. If you are to have servants to direct, you put yourself at a disadvantage by having no knowledge of how the different departments of the household are to be conducted and by your ignorance of what is wrong if a dish fails or the clothes are not done up properly.

So I advise all you girls to take a course in housekeeping. Learn the simple things that every one is supposed to know how to do, and that just for this reason are seldom done well. Learn how to make good tea and good coffee—the latter not in a patent coffee pot, but the good old boiled coffee, that may be made in a tin pail if your French drip or other patent coffee pot is not at hand. Practice making biscuit, even if you don't undertake bread, and learn how to make quick muffins and griddle cakes, to bake potatoes and to stew them, to broil a steak or a chop, to boil or poach an egg. Gain a little knowledge of soup making and of roasting or stewing. Many a girl can make delicious cake and jelly and other sweets who would be filled with consternation if she were asked to roast a piece of beef. The cake is very well in its place, but the substantial stand you better in the long run.

Housekeeping isn't all cooking, though. The ability to sweep a room is a good thing, and unless you

had studied the matter, you would not believe how few women know how to dust thoroughly and properly or how to clean nickel and brasses and silver, or to polish mirrors and window glass, or to keep lamps in order, or to do many other of the taken-for-granted things that every one is supposed to know. How many of you girls can do these things! Who of you would feel that she was able to keep house if the cares of a home were thrust upon her! Believe me, my dear girls, it is as noble and fine a business to keep house well as to run a shop or a profession, or a school, or anything else that sounds more important than a home. Don't put off learning how until too late, when you may have to be out of the house at work that gives no leisure for housework. If you are at school, take a turn at these things on Saturdays and holidays. Get ready for the work that may be coming to you.

Christine Terhune Herrick

HOW many of you girls know anything about housekeeping? How many of you can cook? And what can you make when you do cook? In my young days, the answer given by nine out of ten girls would have been in one word, "Cake!" That was the one thing we learned how to do before we attempted anything else in the culinary line. Are you girls of to-day like that?

As a matter of course, a great many of you take it for granted that you will do work outside of your home. You are studying to be in some profession or business that will keep you away for the whole day. You do not expect to marry, you will tell me. (I wonder if you are quite honest with yourself or with me when you say that!) So why should you learn anything of housekeeping?

Well, there are a number of reasons in favor of it. In the first place, you never can tell but what you may marry, in spite of all your expectations to the

WHAT MY GIRL-FRIENDS ASK:

DEPARTMENT OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CONDUCTED BY MRS. CHRISTINE TERHUNE HERRICK

WILL you tell me through the pages of your paper how long I ought to wear my hair in a braid? I am 15 years old, and I think I am old enough to do my hair up on top of my head. But my mother doesn't think so, and so I have to wear it in a braid down my back. When will I be old enough to wear it some other way? Very truly yours, EMILY J.

You are pretty old to wear your hair in a braid down your back, unless you are small in stature. Would not your mother be willing to have you turn your braid up at the back and tie it with a bow of ribbon? That is a pretty, girlish way to dress the hair. I should not advise you to dress it on top of your head for a couple of years yet. You will have plenty of time to be grown up. Be a young girl as long as you can.

I AM A YOUNG girl of 20, and I am leaving my home in the South to go to Philadelphia to study art. What would you advise me to do to eke out a two-dollar income? I have a scholarship at one of the big schools, and so will only have the expense of my board and materials; but not having quite enough even for these, I thought perhaps you would advise me on the subject. I hope to be able to do something that will not interfere with my classes at the art school. Believe me, I should be very grateful for your advice. Sincerely, SARA L.

One of the things you can do is to address envelopes. For this work a dollar a thousand is paid, and there are regular establishments where you can secure the work. You can take it home with you, and all the materials are provided. Another good plan would be to go to the Y. W. C. A. and ask them to advise you about work. What can you do? Can you read aloud well, or are you fitted to act as a secretary in the evenings or during your leisure hours, or can you use the typewriter well enough to do a little copying? If you could learn manicuring or shampooing—and neither is very difficult—you could get clients whom you could attend at their homes.

I READ your very interesting story in the Sunday paper. To say that I enjoyed it does not express the pleasure that I took in perusing the paper. I have oftentimes felt that the paper would be of much greater interest to me did it contain a department expressly for girls. The want is supplied now, and the editor—well, the very fact that she is dear Marion Harland's daughter makes us love her. I belong to a club here in our town that considers every woman as a sister, some one to be respected, admired and helped. We are taught to have compassion on all sorts and conditions of women, to guard against all race and sect prejudices, not by word or deed to offend anyone, always to lend a helping hand.

Now, I think of course, I am young and inexperienced, that if we each one of us who belong to this immense universal sisterhood (every girl and woman belongs) would have these few virtuous principles as watchwords to lead us up to ideal womanhood, that if we are faithful and persevering, we will sooner attain that "plain celestial."

I realize that a great deal of good teaching and sisterly "advice" that would never reach them any other way. For instance, a girl leaving a purposeless life reads the newspaper, and oftentimes she sees her fault; her languid

mind realizes that she is not filling the place in the great army that was intended for her. She awakens, shakes off her lazy habits, and in a short time is a new girl. Had it not been for some kind sister's advice or story of the busy life she herself leads, this girl would still be a poor, depressed creature groping in darkness for her real self.

I am certain that with your excellent supervision the department will be a success, and a great help to the girls. We all need advice, and do greatly delight in reading the experience of others. We must all remember that our life is largely what we make it. We can't help troubles and trials coming to us, but we can keep a light heart, and a bright, happy countenance.

This is a simple letter from a plain, little country school teacher, and certain that there will be many letters which will be far more interesting. If it can be of any help to any of the sisters I will be delighted to have the honor of assisting them in any way within my limited power.

This is a good helpful letter, and I thank you for writing to me, my dear little teacher. If more girls felt the earnestness of life as you do and the sisterhood of women the world would be a better and a brighter place to live in. Pass on the good word to those who need it, and help whenever you get a chance.

A FRIEND and I had a dispute about politeness. Will you please tell me who is to say "How do" or "Hello" first, a boy or a girl, after knowing each other for a long while? Also, if first introduced? M. G.

In this country it is the part of the woman to recognize the man first. That is, he waits until she bows before he lifts his hat. I think, however, that between old friends, it is rather absurd to stand upon ceremony in a matter of this kind.

I AM 18 years old and have been receiving the attentions of a young man of 23. He is very affectionate and kisses me a great deal. I don't know whether I am wrong to let him do it or not. Sometimes I like it and sometimes I hate myself for letting him do it. Please tell me truly. I am yours in great confusion. K. M.

You are pretty youthful to think of receiving attentions from a young man. You should not allow him to be affectionate with you unless you are engaged to him and expect to marry him. If you give him the right to caress you, what are you keeping for the man whom you may one day hope to marry? In any case, be chary of demonstrations. The fact that you are repelled by them at times, or, as you say, hate yourself for permitting them, is pretty good evidence that you do not love him as a woman should love the man whose wife she hopes to be.

HAVING read of the new department recently added to the Sunday paper, I hereby submit a few questions which I desire answered in next Sunday's issue. How can I arrange my hair low on the neck? Explain process of arranging. Is it proper, after an acquaintance of five months, for a young lady to allow a gentleman caller to kiss her good-night? Sincerely yours, BLUE BELL.

For a girl of your age it is best to braid the hair in one braid, tie it and then turn it up, the ends

underneath, and tie it on the neck, close to the head, with a broad ribbon. In answer to your second question I refer you to my reply to "K. M."

IT IS with the greatest pleasure that we girls learn that we are to have a department all to ourselves, and that you will be in charge of it. We are all in love with you already, and know that the girls' page will be the most delightful one in the paper. Welcome, dear Mrs. Herrick, and may you be with us for many years to come!

I have just one little question to ask. Do you think I could wear a black ribbon, ruff with a peacock blue coat with gray Persian lamb collar and lapels? I have tried it, and am afraid it would not look well. What do you think? BRUNETTE.

Thank you for your welcome—thanks to all of you girls. Come to me as often as you will. I shall always be more than glad to hear from you.

I am afraid the ruff will not look very well with the combination you mention. If it were gray, or if the gown were black, it would be all right, but under the circumstances, I think you would better not wear the ruff with that especial gown.

IS IT WRONG for a girl to smoke cigarettes if her brother taught her, and the girls she goes with all do it? Also, if a married man makes love to a girl, is it really a sin, or do men just have women taught that it is for their own protection? Married men go wrong all the time, and yet they are the dictators, and every one overlooks work morals in a man. If a girl has the same inheritance as her brother, why should he be forgiven for doing wrong, while I have to write to you to find out how much of the things girls are taught are true. I have a mother, but she's too good to ask such questions of ALICE.

There is no question of moral wrong or right in cigarette smoking. It is not wrong, but it is generally inexpedient. Personally, I would advise you against it. The girl who smokes produces an impression of being fast, even if she is not. Your second query is much more important. The moral law is not the say-so of any one man, but the result of the sense of righteousness of generations of men and women. The fact that men, married or unmarried, go wrong, does not alter the case. Married men are not the dictators; but the laws of decency, as well as of expediency, demand purity. In an ideal state of society we should demand the same standard of purity in a man that we do in a woman, and there are men who recognize this and hold this standard for themselves. Put aside for the moment the accepted laws in the matter and try to grasp the truth that there is something in you that would revolt against a lowering of such standards. More than that, recollect that if you did depart from this law of self-respect you are bound to suffer, not only in your own estimation, but also in the esteem of the men who find you attractive now just because you do hold yourself in reserve, but who would look upon you in quite an

other way if you took the same light view of purity which you assert they hold.

You are in a rather dangerous position, you poor child! I wish I could say something that would be of real help to you. Let me beg you, for the sake of your own comfort and peace of mind, to have nothing more to do with married men of the stamp you describe in the part of your letter which I have not made public. Nothing but suffering can come from it. You may think your mother "too good" to ask about such matters, but depend upon it, she has right on her side. It's a way mothers have! Some day you will come around to her point of view. In the meanwhile, hold fast to your self-respect.

I AM an old girl (36), but as unused to the world as a girl of 16. Do you think I should go to a small Western town from a small Eastern town two years ago. Am a stenographer, and expect to leave here within a week to take a better paying place in a large city. To explain how a woman could have reached my age and yet be so provincial, will say I come from a fine old family, but have lived an almost isolated life in my home town, owing to family circumstances. I ask you these questions because I do not know what to do. I have never stopped at a first-class hotel. Will you start at the first stop and tell me just what to do? I do not know how to order from a menu card. Will you tell me? I am so sensitive to ridicule. Please write me fully. I am a bright, fresh-looking woman, and no one suspects my dense ignorance, nor could I acknowledge it to any but you, Mrs. Herrick. I will deeply appreciate any help you may give me, and feel sure your page will be a great help and pleasure to girls. E. R.

When you go to a hotel, you will be met at the door by a porter, and you can either go to the office with him or ask him to engage a room for you from the clerk. The former is the better plan, although if you wish it the clerk can bring the register to you to be signed. But it is altogether customary for a woman to go to the office to engage her room, and you need not feel that you are doing anything conspicuous. State what sort of a room you wish, and learn the price. The clerk will give the key of your room to a bellboy or a porter, who will show you to your room. When you are there, do as you please. If you want the chambermaid, ring for her and tell her what you need. After that, behave as you would in any private house where you felt at home. Leave the key at the office when you are going out. Bear in mind that for the time being the hotel is your home and that you have a right to order anything in it that you are prepared to pay for. Don't be afraid of any one.

Keep the same thing in mind when you order meals. Take your time over the menu card. Select what you want as you would if the waiter were not there. If you look grave and dignified the attendants will think you are a haughty, reserved person who knows it all, and will defer to you. Keep up

this impression. Tip the waiter a quarter for any order of from \$1 to \$3, and beyond that on a scale of 10 per cent. The bellboy who takes up your bag will expect a dime tip. The chambermaid will look for a quarter if she has done anything special for you. If not, don't tip her.

Don't be afraid of anything or any one. In all probability they are all as much in awe of you as you are of them. Do write to me again, and tell me how you get on. I am interested in you.

WHAT is your opinion of a young girl who has to take the place of mother, as this letter defines.

Do you think keeping house on \$5 a week for three grown-up folks possible? Would like to see such a menu for one week published some time in your paper. MADGE.

I don't like to seem critical, my dear child, but have you any idea of how self-absorbed you are! That is a great fault with young girls—and with some old girls, too. As you go on in life it will become worse unless you take it in hand now. Try to think of others more and study their happiness rather than your own.

In answer to your first question, I think you have a pretty hard task, that requires great unselfishness and gentleness. This is a work that God has given to your hand. Try to discharge it in the right way, for the happiness of others.

No, I do not think you can feed three persons on five dollars a week unless your supplies are helped out in some other way than by purchase. If you have a garden or keep poultry or a cow, you can make it out without difficulty, but it would be hard to give three persons three substantial meals a day for such a sum. I suspect that it would be almost impossible, unless you lived very plainly.

An answer to your second question in a way replies to your third. I cannot give you a stated menu, but I will say in general terms that you would have to study manners of cooking vegetables and cheap cuts of meat, and you would have to give little meat to your household. Have substantial vegetable soups often, learn to make good vegetable stews with just enough meat to flavor them; do without any sweets except the plainest, and waste nothing. I wish you would write again and tell me how you feed your household—what are your meals for a day or two. It would be helpful and interesting to other girls who have to plan for their households.

Don't think that I am unsympathetic, dear. I know things are hard for you, but believe me when I say you will be much more contented and useful when you have learned to put self into the background and to live for others.