

HOME-MAKING AS A REAL ART.

DANGER LURKS IN THE RANGE OF SELECTION.

Few of the Average Households Are Operated Upon a Fixed Income Basis—Americans Are Extravagant.

At the recent 17th annual meeting of the Consumers' league of the city of New York, Miss Ida Tarbell, after commenting upon the value of the work of the organization, challenged the attention of all women when she said:

"It would not be far out of the way to say that woman's chief economical function is spending money, but the American woman has not learned to exercise this important function satisfactorily. Her usual plan is to take all the money she can get, and spend it as she happens to. I think if we should analyze the cause of most financial panics here, we should find that they were caused by the failure of the American women to spend their money wisely and well."

In view of present conditions, when scores of women are confronting changed circumstances, such a statement calls for consideration, for an investigation of the charge, and—supposing it to be true—for an earnest attempt to better affairs. Next in order is the consideration as to whether these same homemakers are in part responsible for the straits to which they have been reduced.

Some socialists have declared that the time must come in the evolution of the race when the life of the home will be set aside for co-operative schemes of living, because such schemes are distinctly economical both of energy and of money. Present conditions tend to wastefulness, to an expenditure of vitality that might be put to better uses, they say. Their assertions are based upon long and convincing tables, recording family expenses among wage earners of from eight hundred to three thousand dollars yearly. Modern housewives, worried by servants, cheated by tradesmen, helpless before furnace and cook, are contrasted unfavorably with their predecessors, the old-time patterns of domestic virtues, who add daily to their supplies of linen and wool, to candles and stores of food.

Truthfully speaking present day education does not fit every woman for spending wisely the family income. A hopeless ignorance of the laws governing domestic science prevails among those otherwise cultured, and learned in the lore of books. And this ignorance is by no means due to incapability of grasping scientific principles in money spending. Too many have succeeded splendidly in business ventures for that to be true. The majority are merely unwilling to acquire the knowledge which will enable them to administer their households economically and happily.

The Price of Knowledge.

For such knowledge one pays a high price in labor, mental as well as physical. If all women can be led to put away the merely childish way of looking at things, and see the end for which they work, then the incentive to action will be found.

A scientific investigator of this phase of social economies has declared: "The changes which took all interesting occupations out of the home came too rapidly for a readjustment of habits; women were freed too suddenly and have not yet recovered a proper balance."

In the old days it was a keep delight to watch the production of household necessities. The room given over to fine sewing, the linen presses, the big out-of-door ovens, were all associations of pleasant, busy hours. Nowadays, household work is largely a matter of cooking, washing dishes, clearing up—and then cooking again, with its consequent disorder. House-keeping has therefore become the spending of a definite sum of money for ready prepared articles—and then, if it be wise household administration, using these articles to produce the best results along all lines.

Danger lurks in the wide range of selection, and the ease with which money can be disbursed. Modern habits of living have too often blinded the woman who spends to the necessity of foresight and the disastrous results of recklessness. Extravagance is in the air. America is a synonym to many nations for senseless spending, not only among the fabulously rich, but among the wage-earners, and the modest, or presumably modest, middle-class.

Proportions of Family Income.

Interesting tables have been drawn up by scientific investigators showing the relative proportion of income to be applied to each need in the families of the average American. For example, if the income ranges from \$2000 to \$4000, an ideal division is about as follows: Food, 25 percent; rent, about 20; operating expenses, 15, more or less; clothes, the same; and for books, travel, charities, and the like, 25 percent. As the income increases, the possibility of gratifying the higher im-

pulses increases, while a decrease in income must cut correspondingly into the money set apart for mental and spiritual refreshment.

And yet how few households are inaugurated upon any fixed basis such as this. How much oftener do the husband and wife trust to luck that matters will adjust themselves satisfactorily. In no other partnership would there be so slight an understanding as to business methods.

"I'm glad I'm not marrying that man," said a thoughtless, and typically American girl, as in the capacity of bridesmaid she chatted gaily to an intimate at the wedding breakfast. "He's made out a list of the sums Nell may spend for things about the house—so much for coal, laundry, food, even down to ice and milk—and, worst of all, he's decided how much she may have for church and clothes. That's not my idea of a generous man."

Yet, if the bridesmaid had but known it, that list made by husband and wife together, which was not a figment of her imagination, represented the greatest compliment a husband could pay his wife. It represented his belief in her ability to manage a home comfortably upon the not over-generous income of a college professor, and his definite trust in her honesty of purpose. The check-book that went with the list, representing the lion's share of that income, banked to the bride's credit, was further proof of the confidence reposed in her.

Temptations to carelessness are so numerous. Any comfort, any expenditure of money to increase health, physical, mental, or spiritual, is legitimate but it is so easy to persuade one's self that the thing desired is designed to increase health. Count the cost of food. Think how much waste there is in the mere ordering of it. More is ordered than is needed. The ordering is left to the cook, who rarely, indeed, does not find it to her interest to make the bills larger than needful. A woman chooses her dressmaker and milliner with the greatest of care. She makes frequent visits to select styles, fabrics, and trimmings. But the family food is ordered hurriedly, and upon the honesty or carelessness of the grocer and butcher depends the quality of foodstuffs brought into the house.

Cook is chosen, all too frequently, in the same haphazard way. In most families expensive food is provided for servants, and there is an added waste along the line of food spoiled by poor preparation, and food is purchased out of season. The same scientific tables that apportion incomes show unswervingly that "only when the income of a family of five, including servants, rises above four thousand dollars a year, should an expenditure of fifty cents per day, for each individual for raw food materials be looked upon with complacency, unless the momentary pleasures of the palate are preferred to the lasting pleasures of health and the satisfaction of the higher nature."

Clothes.

Clothes afford another illustration of the extravagance of American women, and not of extravagance only, but of shockingly bad taste as well. No other form of self-gratification seems such a mania with women. More than one could trace the financial distress of her husband to love of finery. In addition to food and clothes, there is the fictitious value often set upon places of residence. Too often fashionable locations are chosen from a foolish idea of class distinctions, and space, light, and sanitary conditions sacrificed to false standards.

Furnishings of an ideal home should be in accord with the income of its occupant and the actual conditions of its location. There should be an artistic standard of excellence, a desire to secure an harmonious whole. And yet, so few household ornaments are purchased with thought. Cheap imitation is usually the motive. The housekeeper in a smoky city fills her parlor with heavy draperies and carved wood, regardless of their menace to health and their inappropriateness. The pretentiousness of a room furnished to show, occupied only semi-occasionally is another extravagance in living. There are countless ways in which money goes for cheap and tawdry objects that have no reason for being and are only means toward the lowering of the artistic standard of the family.

And so there comes a plea for the right education of the housewife, that her aim may be the health, and, consequently, the happiness of those under her care. Since the mother no longer teaches cooking and sewing to her daughters, as she herself was taught, schools must be provided to teach the next generation to bring back the lost household arts or to teach it to do without them. The crying need in household organization is a complete re-adjustment of its various phases in accordance with modern conditions, and no more worthy career can be found for educating women than that of elevating the home into its proper place in American life. For years schools of domestic science have existed successfully, but the most hopeful sign is the increasing interest in the matter shown by one of New York's well known institutions.

Where Domestic Science is Taught

In the face of 1909, if all goes well, Teachers' College, the pedagogical department of Columbia University, will open in a splendidly equipped new building, now in process of erection, a reorganized school of domestic science. Under more favorable conditions than ever before, women will be trained to solve the most vexatious problems of household economics, and then sent out to scatter broadcast the knowledge they have received. The too scant courtesy which home economics receives as a branch of education will be replaced by a consideration truly inspiring. Popular opinion would make housekeeping mental and degrading service; here it is elevated into an art.

Beside the departments of domestic art, domestic science, and household economics, already in existence, there will be an interesting addition in the shape of a department of domestic administration, in charge of Miss Nutting of the Johns Hopkins hospital. This is especially designed to fit women for administrative positions, in hotels, restaurants, tea rooms, hospitals, charitable institutions and schools or colleges. To be a "managing woman" is no longer to be an object of scorn. An interesting place to visit will be the laundry laboratory. How many young housekeepers know the first principle of successful laundering, and yet, how many have cause to lament the discolored, torn, badly ironed garments that are all that remain of the trousseau lingerie after a few months of washtub wear and tear. Soaps; washing powders, bluing, the starching of clothes—these and other phases of laundry work are to be reduced to a system in the new laboratory.

Education for girls is a modern watchword. Why not, then, if the home is to remain the centre of American life, include in that education not only the arts and the classics, but the management of a household? The girl who finds higher mathematics a mystery and Greek a stumbling-block may be more than competent in household affairs. A belief that home making is the ideal profession for women should become an accepted factor in the training of every woman, rich and poor.

Says Miss Ellen Richards of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology: "The twentieth century household demands of its managers, first of all, a scientific understanding of the sanitary requirements of a human habitation; second, a knowledge of the values, absolute and relative, of the various articles which are used in the house, including food; third, a system of account keeping that shall make possible a close watch upon expenses; fourth, an ability to secure from others the best they have to give, and to maintain a high standard of honest work."—New York Post.

A Boiled Shirt Dinner.

"Did you ever eat a boiled shirt dinner?" asked Whittle, the newsdealer at the Y. M. C. A. corner. When he received an amazed negative answer Whittle continued: "Well, I came near having to pay for one today. I'll tell you how it happened. Saturday I bought a nightshirt at a department store, and after having it wrapped up the clerk asked: 'Will you take it with you?' I said: 'Yes,' and he handed me the package and a sales slip, which I put in my pocket. Then I went to a certain restaurant for dinner. After having dined the waiter tears a slip from his pad with the amount written on, which I also put in my pocket. I walked to the cashier's desk and laid down 15 cents and the check. 'You owe me 35 cents more,' said the young lady cashier. 'What for?' I asked. She handed me the check I had presented. On it was written: 'I shirt 50 cents.'—Philadelphia Record.

Big Tips for Little Favors.

"It is surprising," said James Teamer, of Newark, N. J., the veteran Pullman porter and philosopher, "how big a tip a porter sometimes gets for doing a very little thing." He added: "A passenger once tipped me extra because he said I did not leave his shoe strings coiled up inside his shoes after I had blacked them. He said nothing made him madder than to slip on his shoes in a hurry in a sleeper only to find that he had to take them off again because the shoestrings were inside. Ever since that time I have been careful not to leave shoestrings inside of the shoes I black, and more than one passenger has thanked me for being thoughtful. But it wasn't me that did the thinking. The tip did that for me, and I never forgot it."—Leslie's Weekly.

Publicity.

"We don't hear so much about graft in public matters as we did," remarked the citizen. "I regard that as a very favorable condition." "It is a favorable condition," replied Senator Wadd. "Those matters were becoming altogether too public for a spell."—Puck.

An ingenious Yankee made a locomotive run his toy factory not long since when repairs were necessary in the power plant and there were large numbers of rush orders on hand.

You Only Have to Steer Them and They Take You Everywhere.

"The Men Who Learned to Fly" tell the story of how they did it in an article by George Kibbe Turner in McClure's Magazine. Ten years ago the secret of men flying was mastered, but no manageable machine had been made. Two American bicycle makers set to work to surmount the last obstacle, equilibrium.

"Our idea was to secure a machine which, with a little practice, could be balanced and steered semi-automatically, by reflex action, just as a bicycle is. There is no time to be given to conscious thought in balancing an aeroplane; the action of the air is too rapid.

"The problem of the real power-driven flying machine was exactly what we knew it must be—the question of equilibrium. We secured the use of a swampy meadow eight miles east of Dayton, Ohio. On our tests there it became clear that the flying machine would operate well in a straight line; the difficulty came immediately upon turning corners, as it was necessary to do in the small field. Just what the trouble was we could not tell. Several turns might be made safely; then, all at once, the machine would begin to lose its balance, and must be stopped and brought down to the ground. We kept experimenting to discover the cause of the trouble and the way of dealing with it, and in the latter part of the year 1904 we made some progress. We accomplished a complete circle on September 20, and two flights of three miles each around the course in November and December.

The Wright Brothers now claim to have for sale an aerial warship which will give the government purchasing it a five years' lead in flying machine development.

WISE WORDS.

The thicker the grass the easier to mow.—Aharic.

Borrowing is the canker and death of every man's estate.—Raleigh.

He that contemneth small things shall fall by little and little.—Bible.

Language is the vehicle of thought, but a lot of times it travels empty.—Puck.

Impartial vigor and example are the best means of governing.—Chinese.

The unfortunate thing about being a fat woman is that even a shawl seems tight for her.—New York Press.

It's never necessary for a woman to appear girlish unless she's past thirty and not yet married.—New York Press.

Knowledge is power, and that's all. Naturally it works to better effect in a six-cylinder man than in a two-cylinder man.—Puck.

"Some people claim they don't get nuthin' out o' life." "And they are the kind that don't put nuthin' into it to draw interest on."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

The Sway of the Typewriter.

The typewriter is playing an important part in civilizing the world. The latest invention in this line is a machine capable of transcribing the Japanese ideogram; but typewriters imprinting Arabic, Syriac, Armenian, Hebrew and other Oriental languages have long been used.

In Turkey the printing of anything, from a circular letter to a book, can only be done under permit from the government. Therefore, typewriters which imprint Turkish or Arabic characters are prohibited from passing through the custom-house. Nevertheless, the increasing demand has somehow produced a small supply. Bagdad, a city of 200,000 inhabitants, has twenty machines, all of which write Arabic. In Syria, one of the most polyglot countries in the world, Syriac, Arabic and French writing typewriters are used by many of the business houses. Persia, which uses the Arabic script, is learning to adopt the typewriter. To go farther east, a number of Hindustani writing machines are now used in Bombay and other cities of India. Chinese seems to be the only language which still resists the typewriter's endearments.—Harper's Weekly.

Time Was Money.

A clergyman not long ago received the following notice regarding a marriage that was to take place at the parish house:

"This is to give you notice that I and Miss Jennie Arabella Brearly is comin' to your church on Saturday afternoon nex' to undergo the operation of matrimony at your hands. Please be prompt, as the cab is hired by the hour."—Ladies' Home Journal.



BEST WAY TO MELT BUTTER.

Never melt butter on the stove. Heat your cake dish by filling with hot water, wipe dry, then put in butter; it will then melt.—Indianapolis News.

FOR PRINCESS GOWNS.

Pasteboard mailing tubes, covered with Dresden ribbon and hung up by a narrow ribbon run through the tube, are used by one young woman to hang up her princess gowns, in preference to loops. The gown is hung across the tube at the waist line.—Indianapolis News.

NEW USE FOR SOAP.

A woman states that ordinary yellow soap can be used with as good results for mending torn articles as gum tissue. Wet the piece of yellow soap, run it over the torn place on the wrong side and press with a moderately hot iron. One might try it as an experiment, if nothing else.—Indianapolis News.

SHABBY KITCHEN PAINT.

Kitchen paint will soon acquire a shabby, dull look from frequent cleaning that is necessary in the kitchen. The use of soap only increases the difficulty, especially if the paint is varnished. The best plan is to boil one pound of bran in a gallon of water for one hour, then wash the paint with thin bran water.—New York Press.

TO CLEAN LEATHER.

To clean leather mix together half a pound each of French chalk and Fuller's earth, two ounces of powdered starch and one ounce of yellow ochre. Wet this with boiling water enough to make a thin paste and add one tablespoonful of sweet oil. When cold, spread on the soiled leather and let it remain until dry, then brush off.

Wipe off every particle of the cleaning material and polish the leather with wax melted with turpentine (four ounces of wax and one gill of turpentine). If you wish to darken the leather add a little oil to the wax preparation.

Leather that has become dull and shabby looking may be very much improved by being rubbed over with the white of an egg well beaten.

Leather bags may be cleaned with a sponge dipped in warm water, in which a little oxalic acid has been dissolved.—New York Press.



Southern Pepper Meat—Take four pounds of lean beef, one-half can of tomatoes, two small onions, two small pepper covers, broken in small pieces, one teaspoon of salt. Put tomatoes, onions and peppers in kettle and let them boil, then add meat and one pint of hot water; boil two hours or more until tender; serve on platter with sauce.

Cocoanut Pie—Five eggs, two cups sugar, one cup butter, one cup of milk, one-half teaspoon soda, one teaspoon cream of tartar; dissolve both in milk; three cups of flour; save the whites of three eggs for frosting. Frosting—One and one-half cups powdered sugar, six tablespoonfuls cocoanut; flavor with vanilla; frost while hot.

Leg of Lamb—Boil with two carrots in salt water until the bones will slip out easily. Dish upon hot platter, garnish with the carrots and serve with melted butter or white sauce in which a dozen of oysters have been cooked. Cool the water in which the lamb was boiled, remove all the grease, strain, cook a spoonful or rice in it, season and serve with toasted bread or crackers.

Corn Cake—Mix a cupful of sifted bread flour, one-half cupful of yellow granulated corn meal, two level teaspoonfuls of baking powder, one-half level teaspoonful of salt and one rounded tablespoonful of sugar; stir in one cupful of milk, one well beaten egg and two tablespoonfuls of melted butter or lard. Beat it thoroughly and turn into greased muffin pans and bake in a quick oven about twenty minutes.

Egg Puffs—Soften a tablespoonful of butter to a creamy consistency by working it with a fork; beat three eggs to a froth and add them to the butter; add a level teaspoonful of salt and six tablespoonfuls of flour. Beat all these ingredients together until they foam, then put them into buttered earthen cups or small tin pans, and bake in a hot oven for half an hour, or until they are cooked through and nicely browned.