

WOMAN and HER WORK.

There seems to be a doubt existing in the minds of some writers of the present day; as to whether the manners of the young lady of the year of grace 1894, are not decidedly inferior to those of her grandmamma, who was one of the society girls of the season of 1835, or of her mamma, who "came out" in the winter of 1866, and had six offers during her first season; and those who are on the affirmative side of the question make rather a strong point of the fact that the more rapidly our sex has advanced in learning and intelligence, the more attention they have given to the "higher branches" the less they have paid to the very important subject of manners; and they claim, these pessimistic writers that the old charm of sweetness and gracious courtesy of manner, went out with hoopskirts, and is somehow utterly incompatible with the tailor made gowns, and many caped jackets. Of course they don't say so in so many words, but that is the only inference that can possibly be drawn from their remarks; and they lament the dear dead days of crinoline, water-falls, and good manners, even as the discontented farmer of today, laments the good old times when there were no railways to transport his produce to market and all the hay had to be mowed and raked by hand, but which he is sure must have been better than our own time, just because he has heard his grandfather say so.

Now I am not in a position to make comparisons on the subject any more than my contemporaries are, for the very excellent reason that I was not taking a leading part in the questions of the day, either in 1835, or in 1866, but still I have known plenty of people who were, and I have read a good deal of the literature of both periods; with the result that if I should be driven to make a choice between the girl of either of those years, and the maiden of 1894, I should unhesitatingly declare for the latter and I feel satisfied that she would not suffer by comparison if placed side by side with her rival of the past.

I indeed I cannot imagine any fair minded person comparing the two for one moment; the conditions under which they were reared were so utterly different that such a thing seems to me simply impossible.

The young girl of 60 years ago, was quite another being from the trim, square shouldered maiden of today; she was fragile and highly organized as to her system, with a strong tendency towards hysterics, and fainting fits, which was but the natural result of her unhealthy hot house existence.

She wore low necked dresses around the house from the time she got up, until she went to bed again, and she went out walking in little thin soled slippers tied on at the ankles with sandals, and without any heels to raise them out of the wet; her stockings were either white thread, or silk, and she never even saw a flannel undergarment, unless it belonged to her father, or an overshoe, in her life, while the sight of a Scotch tweed dress would have made her faint. Is it any wonder then that she was fragile and had hysterics? Why the only reason in the world that she did not have pneumonia, and spinal meningitis, was because neither of those diseases had been discovered at the time, so she was restricted to a mild form of phthisis and faded away in a gradual decline unless her constitution was unusually strong.

As for her mental health, it was not much better looked after than her physical welfare, she was taught manners, I admit, lots of them, and she was also well instructed in the mysteries of embroidery, and I must admit that she was better versed in the ways of good housekeeping, in simple medical knowledge, and in "still room" lore than any modern maiden, but as for real practical ability to face the world with its hard facts and rough ways she had none! If the damsel of our grandmothers' day was obliged to earn her living, which did not seem to happen very often, her only resource lay in her poor little accomplishments, which she turned to account by imparting them to the younger generation of her own day, in the capacity of a governess, and a tough time she often had, poor girl, because mental endowments were not rated so highly in those days as they are now, neither were they paid for as well, so the way of the girl who tried to support herself in those days was like that of the transgressor—hard; and the natural result of such a condition of affairs made marriage almost the only vocation open to the girl of the period, therefore she was educated almost entirely with a view to making marriage her chief aim, and all her accomplishments seemed to converge in that direction. The graceful little arts and prim coquetties which our grandmothers learned with their other lessons, all had a place in her education. They were calculated to charm and bewilder the other sex, and, like the rest of her old-time manners, however perfect they were then, they would be sadly out of place now.

For instance, when one of Jane Austen's heroines either dropped her handkerchief, or was so unfortunate as to be chased by a mad bull she had only two ways of expressing her gratitude to the man who came to her rescue; she either slipped one foot

gently behind the other, grasped her skirts firmly in each hand and sank down towards the earth in an elaborate courtesy; or else she fainted in his arms.

Now, either of these methods of acknowledging a favor would be decidedly out of place at the present day, and would be productive of extreme consternation on the part of the man who received them. He is not accustomed to anything like that, poor soul, and I should tremble for the effect it would have on his nerves.

As for the belle of the sixties, I really cannot say very much about her. She was a long way off from me, and yet too recent for history to have much to say about her for some years to come; but it is one may judge from the fashion plates of that time, and the pictures of her which still exist in bound volumes of "Punch" she was an airy being, who wore enormous hoops, very small bonnets, huge waterfalls, or chignons, and tottered around on very high heeled boots. I am not quite sure whether she had adopted the famous Grecian bend then, or whether it was a later sister of hers, but I know that she was rather a sassy young woman, it is one may judge from the novels of that time, and that she had almost as decided opinions of her own as any fine de siècle young woman I know, and I don't believe she was one bit more polite, or "careful of her manners" than modern girls are, while I am quite certain she was much more helpless, and less fitted to make her way in the world than the sturdy, fearless lassie of the present day.

Perhaps it may be true that our manners are not as perfect now as they used to be, and that the more attention we bestow on the cultivation of our brains the less we care about our manners, but even so, surely the brains are most important in the long run, because they will surely help us to gain our bread, in this bustling, bustling, age, while I am afraid the manners won't, and even if our girls have fewer pretty ways than the belles of a bygone day, they are none the less to be loved and respected, neither are they any the less man's true helpmeet since it is their very ability to stand by his side as his faithful comrade and perfectly equal friend which is largely responsible for that change of manner of which some writers are complaining. Women are so much more independent now than they used to be that their manners have grown more independent also, and slightly more masculine but not, I hope and believe less refined, or less courteous since the very first requisite, and evidence of gentle birth, and gentle breeding must always be a courteous manner, and a gentle consideration for the feelings of others. Without these no man can be a gentleman, and no woman a lady.

EPIDEMICS IN THE HOUSEHOLD.
Practical Suggestions for the Treatment of Infectious Diseases

Measles is usually considered rather a trifling disorder, and unless it is of an extremely severe type, or unfavorable complications arise, the danger to life is not great. The chest is the weak point, and great care is required in nursing, as bronchitis or pneumonia may be brought on by exposure to draughts or any sudden chill.

The early symptoms are those of a bad cold, chilliness and feverishness, with aching limbs, headache, a constant desire to use the pocket handkerchief, and often hoarseness and cough. These continue for four days, when an eruption of dark red spots appears first on the forehead about the hair and on the cheek bones. They last a few days, generally about seven, then fade away and are followed by slight desquamation sometimes almost imperceptible. Occasionally, on looking in the mouth the red spots may be seen on the palate before they appear on the skin.

The child should be put to bed in a warm, well-ventilated room and allowed to have only liquid food, milk, gruel and broth, while the temperature is high. Anointing with vaseline, and sponge baths given with care under a blanket, are used to relieve the irritation from the rash. The doctor will order some simple mixture to quiet the cough. When there is much discomfort from hoarseness inhaling steam from a pitcher of very hot water will be found soothing, with hot fomentations to the throat.

If there is pain in the chest it may be rubbed with warm camphorated oil and covered with flannel until the doctor comes. Should the rash fade suddenly, and the child be delirious and apparently worse, put him in a warm bath containing four heaping teaspoonsful of mustard; keep him there a few minutes until the surface is reddened, then wrap him in a blanket, give him a little stimulant and send for the doctor at once.

The eyes are weak and must be protected by darkening the room and not allowing the child to try them during convalescence.

Measles is infectious even before the eruption comes out, and the same methods of disinfection as those used in cases of scarlet fever should be followed. If no symptoms appear in two weeks after exposure to infection the child has probably not taken it, though cases are known where it has developed after thirty days.

It is safe to let the patient mix with other children in three weeks from the commencement of the disease, if the rash has entirely disappeared and the cough is well.

As diphtheria is so very serious a disease, whenever a child seems languid and miserable, fretful and depressed, without apparent cause, examine the throat carefully. If it is swollen and covered with patches of gray membrane looking like slate-pencil

dist send for the doctor. It is always safe to have medical advice when the throat is affected.

Until the doctor comes keep the child in bed. If the throat is painful procure a lump of lime, pour cold water upon it; when the effervescence subsides strain off the clear water and apply it to the throat with a brush or swab. If the child is old enough the throat can be gargled with the lime-water. Inhaling the steam from a pitcher of boiling water sometimes gives relief. The neck may be rubbed with warm oil and bound with flannel.

Milk, either hot or cold, should be given every two hours. The cold milk may have the white of an egg shaken with each cupful. Strong beef-tea can be given and the doctor may order stimulant. The strength must be supported by nourishing liquid food. The trouble in swallowing makes feeding a matter of difficulty.

There is no illness in which the mother requires to exercise more firmness than in nursing a child with diphtheria. Life depends upon the applications being faithfully made, and food being given in sufficient quantities. It is often difficult and distressing beyond measure to persist in doing this to the annoyance of the little sufferer, and yet if the membrane gains headway or the strength succumbs there is little hope of recovery.

Plenty of fine linen, old table-cloths or napkins, should be provided, used instead of handkerchiefs, and immediately burned.

Diphtheria being infectious there should be complete isolation. Children between two and seven years old are said to be peculiarly susceptible to the disease, and it possible should be sent out of the house. If it does not develop in twelve days after exposure they have probably escaped the danger.

Disinfection should be as thorough in scarlet fever. Persons in charge of a case of contagious disease must remember that a solemn responsibility rests upon them. If they are careless and do not thoroughly carry out the proper precautions they are directly responsible if the disease is carried elsewhere. No one wants to be the means of conveying suffering and perhaps death to another household. If everything that leaves the sick-room is disinfected and there is perfect isolation the disease cannot be transmitted.

The patient may be released from quarantine in six weeks from the commencement of the disease, if the sore throat and other symptoms have entirely disappeared.

Some authorities consider membranous croup as being practically identical with diphtheria.

Mumps is a disease which is more painful than dangerous. It is an inflammation of the parotid glands immediately under the ears. Sometimes only one side is involved, and occasionally the inflammation extends to other glands of the body. It often begins with a slight feeling of chilliness followed by fever. It is painful to attempt to open the mouth and there is difficulty in swallowing. Tasting vinegar or any acid causes acute pain.

Very little treatment is required and no medicine unless a simple laxative is needed. Applications of warm camphorated oil to the swollen parts, and covering them with cotton batting or flannel, is soothing. The child must be kept warm and given milk and soft food, as chewing is almost an impossibility.

The disease is liable to develop at any time within twenty-four days after exposure to the infection. The patient may be allowed to go out in three weeks from the beginning of the attack, if the swelling has completely subsided.

Chicken-pox is essentially a disease of childhood, for though it does occur in adult life it is rarely contagious among grown persons. The pocks are little vessels filled at first with a clear fluid which afterward becomes less transparent. They appear first on the body and later on the head, only a few coming on the face. In a severe case it is sometimes a matter of anxiety to distinguish it from small-pox. The eruption in this disease is seen first on the face, and is most abundant there. In chicken-pox the vesicles last six or seven days, then dry up and crust over. It is not safe to let a child go to school until all these have fallen off, usually about three weeks from the time the disease begins. If a child has been exposed to infection it may develop at any time within eighteen days.

No treatment is necessary beyond keeping the child within doors, giving nourishing, digestible food, and a laxative if required. A warm bath at night is grateful, and draughts should be avoided.

Whooping-cough commences with the symptoms of an ordinary cold. The cough may begin at any time during the first two weeks, and the peculiar crowing sound, or whoop, which gives the disease its name, is easily recognized. The paroxysms are sometimes very severe, but an eminent medical authority states that he has never known an instance of death occurring in one. The child makes such violent efforts to expel the tenacious phlegm which is irritating him that he does not have time to breathe between the attempts. The glottis, or tiny opening at the top of the windpipe, is spasmodically closed. When it relaxes the air rushes in, causing the whoop, always a welcome sound when the paroxysm is alarming.

If there seems danger of suffocation the arms should be raised high above the head, then brought down and pressed on the chest, the child lying on his back, or he may be turned first on the face and then on the side alternately. Cold water may be dashed in the face and the feet put in hot mustard water. A piece of ice wrapped in cotton may be laid on the stomach. In these severe cases the doctor will prescribe a sedative, and he should always be consulted.

Sometimes the paroxysms are followed by vomiting, and then solid food should be given as soon afterward as possible, that it may be digested and disposed of before another attack comes on. The child should be fed more often than usual and with especially nourishing diet.

Rubbing the chest with warm oil at night and in the morning and keeping it covered with flannel, is a wise precaution. A mustard plaster made with one-third mustard to two-thirds flour, and left on a few minutes until the skin is reddened, sometimes affords relief. Change of air may cut short the attack.

In mild weather the child should be out-

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of doors as much as possible, being properly protected with extra clothing.

The disease is very contagious among children, and may be communicated to adults who have not had it.—Elizabeth R. Scovil in Ladies' Home Journal.

Styles in Engagement Rings.

There is a large variety of engagement rings in vogue at the present time, among which are some very elaborate and unique designs, but the engagement ring that holds popular favor among the young men who are seriously contemplating indulging in nuptial functions is the solitaire diamond.

About two years ago the sapphire, set with a diamond, was the favorite, because it signified that the lady to whom it was presented was true blue and innocent, too. The opal is very rarely, if ever, used as an engagement ring, because most people are prejudiced against it through superstition. Mr. Sartoris presented Miss Nellie Grant, daughter of Gen. Grant, with an opal engagement ring, which she refused to accept, in consequence of which the ring had to be exchanged for another.

The most expensive ruby that has ever been imported into this country was one that, at wholesale, cost \$32,000. It was retained to a wealthy Californian for almost double that price. A greater number of engagement rings are purchased during the months of February and April than any other months of the year. The reason for this cannot be elucidated, unless it is because February is the month previous to Lent and April the month following.

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