

Woman and Her Work

The class of people in England who can afford to purchase ease and comfort without regard to the price paid for such luxuries, seem to have solved the always troublesome servant question, with wonderful success. I don't refer to the woman who is looking out for a first class general servant, or a good plain servant in a family where one other servant is kept,—she is as badly off as ever, and there seems no immediate prospect that her condition will improve; the probability is that fifty years hence she will be engaged in an unequal struggle with poor, shiftless and incompetent servants. Those who cannot afford to pay for the best—especially in England—must put up with a very indifferent article, while those who can, are pretty certain of getting the very best, such is the power of money. During the last few years the wealthy Londoner has learned to appreciate that paragon of all servants, the east Indian, and since the idea suddenly struck some of the more influential British matrons that as Queen Victoria had found, her Indian servants indispensable, other less exalted people might be just so fortunate, there has been a regular boom in these grave, dark skinned, and most capable servants, who now bid fair to be as common, and as popular in English households, as the negroes are in the southern states. In fact there is scarcely a swell London house, which does not boast its Indian butler now, and a great deal of dignity the magnificent fellows impart to any household in which they are employed. They are almost invariably employed as butlers in titled families and are usually obliged to retain their native costume dressing all in white with huge turbans round their heads, large gold rings in their ears, and bare feet thrust into embroidered heelless slippers. I believe the Duchess of Devonshire boasts an East Indian butler who stands six feet six inches in his bare feet, and who is sometimes to be seen seated beside her coachman, when she drives in Hyde Park. Effective as he is, the East Indian is a very expensive luxury, though his wages seldom exceed twenty dollars a month, and he performs perfect wonders in the way of service for that sum. The trouble is that on account of his religion the Mohammedan must be provided not only with a separate table from the Christian dogs who are his fellow servants, but also with separate stove, separate cooking utensils, separate food, and even separate fire. He must be lodged alone, and preserved in every way from contamination by his fellow servants, and naturally the aristocrats of the servants hall hate him with a bitter hatred. Not only does he make it plain that he despises them but he injures their trade terribly. The English servant makes almost a religion of having his duties clearly defined, and never, on any account overstepping the line of demarcation, but the East Indian, who gets no larger wages is versatile to the last degree, and always ready to turn his accomplishments to account. He never gossips or quarrels with the other servants, considering them too far beneath him for any such familiarity and he is so respectful to a marvellous degree. It is nothing unusual to see the Indian butler set to the table, take entire charge of the dining room, keep the accounts, act as valet when needed, pour the tea on reception days and even look after the decorations when a dinner party or ball is given.

Treasure as he is, he can only be retained at a great sacrifice, because of the abhorrence in which he is held by English servants. They regard him as a heathen, and will not live in the same house with him unless offered very liberal inducements and as it is impossible for even an East Indian to perform the whole work of a house, the mistress must take her choice between paying exorbitant wages, and letting her treasure go. I should think the English climate would offer an unsurpassable obstacle to anything like a general employment of East Indians, as they are so prone to consumption, but those who know best say that they stand the cold remarkably well.

HALL'S
Vegetable Sicilian
HAIR RENEWER
Cleanses the scalp and
puts new life into the
hair. It restores the
lost color to gray
hair. It means
youth and beauty.

What a blessing it would be if the time ever came when the incomparable Indian servant was within the reach of all.

The question naturally arises in one's mind, how these paragons are obtained and if one is obliged to write to India, and pay their passage out. Nothing of the kind! They are obtained at one of the large department stores, or an employment agency. Strange as it sounds these large stores make a specialty of providing the best of servants for their patrons, and this branch of their business is carried on with admirable precision, and there is nothing from a governess to a kitchen maid, that cannot be obtained from them. They are divided into emergency, temporary, and permanent servants they are of all nationalities, and speak all languages from broadest cockney to Hindustanee, and they are all vouched for by the head of the domestic service department.

But the very swiftest place, the one where the highest order of domestic service of every kind is to be procured, is the great employment agency in Kensington. This establishment is a very handsome house on a prominent street bearing no outward evidence of being anything but a private residence, and containing the name of the proprietor on a plain brass tablet, in the vestibule. Inside it is fitted up as a model English home of the highest class.

The would-be employer enters a small office on the first floor, tells the head of the establishment just what she is in search of, lays a fee of two guineas on the table, and sits down to wait for ten minutes. Meanwhile the proprietor presses a button, speaks through a tube, and at the end of the allotted time the servant required makes his appearance. Supposing it is a butler that is required, a man of the exact height, age and size required appears, clad in immaculate livery and ready for service. At a sign from the proprietor he opens and shuts the street door to show how he admits visitors, ushers his prospective mistress into the drawing room, goes out and returns with an imaginary message, stands at the door and announces arrivals, and drawing back the portieres, announces that dinner is served. Proceeding to the dining room where stands a table perfectly set, he goes through all the forms of serving a meal, pouring wine and directing the servants under him. Then he sets and clears a table, arranges a bowl of flowers, composes a salad, and finally descending to the cellar gives a practical exhibition of his knowledge of wines. In short he goes through all the duties which are to be expected of a butler. Should a footman, valet, lady's maid, page or parlor maid be required all are put through the same rigid examination; and in the house there is to be found a model nursery, kitchen, series of bedrooms, living rooms, and even a stable at the back, where the men and maids are put through their paces thoroughly so that no hiring in the dark is done. Only the best of references are accepted and the highest class servants furnished, all their records are carefully traced out from the time they first entered service, and their career is followed with equal care, so that only the best and most perfect servants are ever sent out from that famous agency.

Such is the power of wealth to make the wheels of the domestic machinery glide smoothly.

I was looking over some fashion journals more than a year old, to day, and I was greatly struck by the similarity in the fashions; except by the diminution in the sleeves, and the absence of ripples in the basques the change is almost imperceptible. A little variety in the trimming of the skirts and a slight decrease in their width about runs it up. It is really marvellous how the fashion authorities manage to ring the changes season after season and give some semblance of variety to modes that really scarcely change at all. The skirts seem to be the chief objects of attention this month and they really do display considerable variety, as there is a marked effort to restore the draped skirt, while some of the newest actually open in front over a panel of some contrasting color and material. The draped skirt is a very modest and tentative affair arranged as simply as possible with just a little fullness caught up at the left side near the hip with a buckle. If it ever gains a hold on public favor again the process of revival will be a slow and tedious one, as the average woman looks much better with a little bunchedness as possible about the hips, and the entire bent of fashion now-a-days is to make her votaries look as tall and slender as possible. The circular, and the five gored skirt seem to be the most generally liked and they are cut with very little flare at the bottom, very close fitting around the hips to the knee, and without very much fullness to plait or gather in at the back of the waist.

Strange to say the skirt with a seam down the front, is also popular though it is difficult to see how it can be, since it is

the most troublesome of all to fit, and make look well. It is not always a plain seam, but it is sometimes lapped, and stitched in a tailor effect a little way from the edge, and sometimes the skirt is trimmed up the centre of the front. Many of these skirts end at the knee, where they are met by a circular flounce. One of the oddest of this seasons models shows a yoke fully thirty inches deep in front, and rounding away to a few inches in the back, apron fashion. The lower skirt is made circular to meet the yoke, and put on with rows of braid, stitching, or, if it is an evening dress, a ruche. It is needless to say that such a gown should never be attempted by an amateur, as a very skilled hand is required to make it a success. Neither should any woman who is inclined to be short and stout venture to wear such a skirt which will serve to accentuate all her defects. She should confine herself to the gored skirts with enough perpendicular seams to give her at least an appearance of height.

Where a gown is lined with silk the lining is almost invariably made in the form of a separate foundation skirt trimmed either with knite plaited flounces, or a deep Spanish flounce finished on the edge with a very narrow knip plaiting. Of course it is an extravagant fashion, but a most effective one, especially since the skirts are made without stiffness, and really require something to keep them out.

It will be joyful news to these ambitious souls who have been longing for a silk lined costume ever since the fashion came in, but have never succeeded in reaching the height of their ambition, to hear that silk linings are really going out. They are pretty, and expensive, but there the list of their advantages ends, they are so perishable that if the costume in which they are used is of cloth or any other durable material, they are sure to wear out long before the gown itself is half worn, and unless one can afford to have them renewed the dress must be thrown aside as a ragged lining, even when it is of silk, is something not to be tolerated for a moment. Even when the dress is very carefully worn, and the lining taken every care of, it is sure to soil, for showers will come up unexpectedly when one is out, and the damp sidewalks and muddy boots play havoc with a silk lined skirt. A cloth dress is not usually intended exclusively for house wear, and to have one that is intended for service at all, lined with silk is, in my opinion, a very great mistake. I saw such a lovely costume not long ago, made by a Toronto Ladies' tailor. It was of heavy serge-like cloth, in a peculiar shade of green in which, when you looked closely, you could see the tiniest flecks of red. Both skirt and coat were lined throughout with heavy rose-colored silk, and the effect was charming; but even while I was admiring it I could not help wondering how such a costume would stand contact with our St. John sidewalks during a season of fog or Scotch mist. I fear the glory of the rose silk would be sadly tarnished; and yet the dress was not in any sense a house costume, but was clearly intended for street wear alone.

No doubt the human race would consider it little short of a universal tragedy if

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I guarantee to every victim of the liquor habit, no matter how bad the case, that when my new vegetable medicine is taken as directed, all desire for liquor is removed within three days, and a permanent cure effected in three weeks, failing which I will make no charge. The medicine is taken privately, and without interfering with business duties. Immediate results—normal appetite, sleep and clear brain, and health improved in every way. Indisputable testimony sent sealed: I invite strict investigation.

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should have among her assortment of footwear a pair of good heavy solid laced boots for fall and winter wear. We have a number of these lines now in stock at \$1.75, and \$2.00 per pair.—They are warm and comfortable for this time of year.—Worth while trying a pair.

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Pimples, Freckles, Blotches, Blackheads, Redness,

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ONE BOX of Dr. Campbell's Safe Arsenic Complexion Wafers, if used in conjunction with Fould's Arsenic Soap, will restore the face to the smoothest and fairest Maidenly Loveliness. Used by the cream of society throughout the world. Dr. Campbell's Wafers and Fould's Arsenic Soap are guaranteed perfectly harmless and not deleterious to the most tender skin. BEWARE OF WORTHLESS COUNTERFEITS. Wafers by mail 50c. and \$1 per box; six a razor box, \$5. Soap, 50c. Address all mail orders to

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SOLD BY ALL DRUGGISTS IN CANADA. THE CANADIAN DRUG CO., Wholesale Agents.

there were no looking glasses. Yet, in spite of their widespread use, it is an astonishing fact that none of us have ever seen ourselves as others see us.

In the first place, the reflection in the mirror does not portray our likeness with any attempt at accuracy. The hair is in wrong tone; the eyes are not correct in color, and our complexions are hopelessly labelled by this specious household deceiver. It is certain that if the looking glasses spoke the truth the sale of various complexion washes would decrease to half for any fair skin looks grey and pallid in the glass, and numbers of women who have splendid complexions ruin them by trying to improve them because they look bad in the mirror. You may be certain that, however plain your face seems, it is by no means so plain as it appears in the telltale mirror. Secondly, you cannot assume your natural expression while peering in the looking glass. The eye must be in a certain position before you can see at all and the eye, so far as expression is concerned, governs the face. The consequence is that you can see only one of your expressions in the glass, and that expression is one of attentive examination. All the other expressions by which your friends know you, favorable or unfavorable, you have never seen, and never will see. What a comforting theory this is, and if it is true how much better looking we must all be, than we had any idea of.

ASTRA.

RIGHT FROM THE MINES.

Family Ties may be Broken in the Grand Rush for Gold, but What's Wealth Without Health—Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder is a Wonderful Cure—It Never Fails to Relieve in Ten Minutes.

Fred Lawrie, of Trail Creek, B. C., writes: "I have used two bottles of Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder, and have been wonderfully helped. I can recommend it very highly to all sufferers from Catarrh." And here is another:—Mr. B. L. Egan, Easton, Pa., says: "When I read that Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder would relieve Catarrh in 10 minutes, I must say I was far from being convinced of the fact. I decided to try it. I purchased a bottle. A single puff of the powder through the blower afforded instantaneous relief."

COUNT OF FLANDERS ROBBED.

His Palace Burglarized Regularly Once in Twelve Months.

The palace of the Count of Flanders, only brother of King Leopold of Belgium and next heir to the throne, has once more been subjected to a burglary, this being the fifth visitation of the same kind, the mysterious robbers having paid their respects in this fashion to his royal highness, who is one of the wealthiest princes of the blood in Europe, regularly once every twelve months during the last five years.

There is something distinctively uncanny about these robberies, not only because the palace is so exceptionally well guarded but also because the thieves seem to be thoroughly well acquainted with the whereabouts of the various valuables, and have managed always to get away with their booty without leaving any trace of their identity. The first time they stole half of the superb jewels of the Countess of Flanders, who is a sister of King Charles of Roumania; the second time they got away with the major portion of the gold an silver plate of the count; the third time

they took away the remainder of the plate, while in the fourth year they again rifled the jewel casket of the countess.

Last year they got away with some valuable papers, stocks, etc., while this year it is not the count or countess who is the sufferer, but the lady in waiting of the latter, the Baroness de Liffken, who has lost all her jewels and a number of government bonds.

It must be borne in mind that the palace at Brussels of the count of Flanders is patrolled on every side by military sentinels, as well as by uniformed Brussels policemen, several of whom are stationed at every entrance and exit. Moreover, there are several detectives on duty, just as at every royal palace, while the count has likewise engaged several private detectives to keep watch on his palace in consequence of the repeated robberies.

The latter have had the effect of putting the Brussels police more than ever on the qui vive, and that the thefts should go on without interruption is as inexplicable and mysterious as it is exasperating. It may be added that all the servants employed by the count and countess are old retainers, and until now above suspicion.—New Orleans Picayune.

WET WEATHER.

The dangers of exposure to cold and damp vividly portrayed by one who has experienced them.

Mr. John Conboy, 250 Sidney Street, St. John, N.B., talked to our reporter about



his experience with kidney trouble, and his recent remarkable cure by Doan's Kidney Pills. Mr. Conboy's statement reads as follows:—

"For a number of years I have been troubled with kidney weakness, brought on by heavy lifting and exposure to wet and cold; also a heavy strain whereby I wrenched my back. I experienced great pain in the chest, extending through to the small of my back and around the loins.

"Before taking Doan's Kidney Pills my blood became vitiated, and my kidneys were greatly deranged in their action. I suffered also from nervousness and general debility, and I am thankful to say that by the use of Doan's Kidney Pills, assisted by Laxa-Liver Pills, I am wonderfully improved. I also suffered from constipation and liver complaint, but found Laxa-Liver Pills an excellent remedy, aiding Doan's Kidney Pills in their splendid work.

"I am glad to testify to the wonderful curative powers of these great remedies, especially when they are used in combination, and feel assured that anyone trying them will not be disappointed in the result.

Laxa-Liver Pills Cure Constipation and Sick Headache. 250

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Does not hurt the fingers