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SOCIAL NOTES.

On Friday afternoon Miss Bews gave a small kitchen afternoon for Miss Campbell, who is to be married shortly. Some of the guests were: Misses Henderson (2), Moffett, Callender, Field, Macdonald, Hain, Tucker, Mrs Crawford, Mrs Archie Hawke, etc.

Mrs B. Bastian also gave an enjoyable afternoon on Friday, some of her guests were: Mesdames R. J. Gilmour, D. J. Morton, T. Macdonald, Gabities, Hoyles, Tapley, Barkley, Traill, Cairn; Misses Dyer, Hackworth, etc.

Last week Mrs A. B. Moffett gave a most enjoyable dance at her home in Gladstone. Some of the guests were: Mr and Mrs Oliver, Dr and Mrs Snow. Mr and Mrs Foster, Mr and Mrs Fosbery Handyside, Mr and Mrs Morrah, Mr and Mrs R. J. Gilmour, Mr and Mrs Maclean, Mr and Mrs H. Macalister, Misses Wylie, Watson, Morrah, Bews (2), Field (2), Prain, Hackworth, Macdonald, Snow, etc.; Messrs Keddell, Douglas, J. B. Thomson, Hewitt, Farnall, Russell, Irving, Gilmour, Prain, Royds, etc.

On Wednesday morning Miss Crofts gave a tea in honour of Miss Campbell. Some of the guests were: Mrs Searell, Mrs T. D. A. Moffett, Misses Campbell, Macdonald, Bews, Galbraith, Hain, etc.

On Tuesday afternoon Miss Irving gave an enjoyable afternoon at Lewis' Tea Rooms for Miss Dorothy Trotter, who is shortly to be married.

THE SQUABBLING PHILOSOPHERS.

Reading through an old biography (writes a correspondent), I came across an amusing account of a sequel to a discussion between Carlyle and Ruskin, which is new to me and may be new to others of your readers. These discussions sometimes developed into somewhat heated arguments, which, however, usually ended in a laugh or jest.

On one occasion, when Ruskin had made a particularly strong attack, Carlyle came out with:—

O. John Ruskil,
Keep your tusk in,
And smooth your ruffled plumes.

Whereto Ruskin instantly replied:—

Tumms Carlyle, O,
That is the style, O,
To poetise a la Jim Crow.

A BLACKHANDER.

Kathleen had proved to be all that a servant should be in regard to her duties; but unfortunately her energies never seemed to extend to keeping her face clean. Her mistress desired to tell her to wash it, but not wanting to offend a valued servant she tried to be diplomatic.

"Do you know, Kathleen," she remarked in a confidential manner, "that if you wash your face in hot soapy water it will make you beautiful!"

"Sure, an' it's a wonder ye never tried it yerself, ma'am!" was Kathleen's surprising answer.

Lilian: "Jack Rapide is a perfect bear!" Rose: "Has he been hugging you, too?"

Of Interest to Women.

THE PROBLEM OF DOMESTIC LABOUR.

(Continued from March 23.)

In last week's issue, an endeavour was made to examine the nature of "domestic labour" and its distribution and remuneration. Of the question still to be answered, the next is, "In what esteem is domestic labour held as a form of service?" The answer may be derived from the wages or emoluments of any kind offered for its performance, from the amount of training demanded for it, from the standard of character asked for, and from the social status of those that make it a vocation.

From whatever viewpoint we take the question is complicated by the existing economic conditions within the home and must be answered with regard to no distinct classes of persons.

The first is that of the married women. As pointed out in the previous article, the remuneration they receive bears no quantitative relation whatever to their service. We are led then to conclude that though a man, generally speaking, is prepared to endow a woman with his worldly goods or part of them because she is to be his help-meet and co-worker, as well as his wife, our economic system recognises in no way the value of women's service to the community as mothers and home-keepers. Further, as a general rule, women, themselves, to judge by social procedure everywhere, consider a large part of such work irksome and derogatory to dignity. In this they are in some degree right, since "drudgery and coarse servitude" are things which civilisation tends more and more to remove by labour-saving appliances and other means, of which more anon; but they are also more wrong than right in so far as they consider the mere opportunity and power to shift their "dirty work" on to other people's shoulders to be a badge of social advancement. To be able to go out calling while another woman scrubs your kitchen floor is no real claim to respect nor any necessary evidence of high character.

The wages of those who hire themselves out as domestic workers are probably less than those of factory workers; they are generally as high as those of girls holding minor positions in offices. I do not think that the unattractiveness of domestic service (it must be unattractive since so few girls will take it up) lies in the smallness of the wage. Nurses are paid small, ludicrously small wages, in the public hospitals at any rate, girl clerks and typists are not highly paid; and yet these avenues of labour are crowded in comparison with domestic service. One cause of the anomaly is certainly the greater independence and the definite hours of work accorded to "outside" workers. Maid-servants are expected to be on duty from seven in the morning till bed-time, except for their weekly or fortnightly afternoon off or evening out. Why should they become domestic servants if they can get into factories, shops, or offices where every evening is free or paid for as overtime at double rates?

When we come to consider the standard of character and training required in domestic labour, we find again the dual answer. Our conventional sentimentality does not take account of such mundane matters as training or even industry and sobriety of character. A man marries a woman for the sake of her fair eyes, not because she is capable or energetic. Education is now bestirring itself on this question, perhaps in some cases with more zeal than discretion; but the establishment of "Home Science" in our schools may help to put domestic labour of every kind on a sounder and more reasonable basis.

For the average servant, the question of training and character has come to this for its only answer: "You must take what you can get," and can women wonder that there is not a better class of girls coming forward as domestic servants when the work is tacitly and generally considered to be a kind of inferior drudgery.

The woman who aspires to be of some importance in her circle, hires a servant, so that she may escape the heavier and more disagreeable work of the house and be more free to enjoy the amenities of social life. The maid to whom she delegates the cooking and baking and scrubbing or the care of the children in the afternoon, is of an altogether different and inferior order. Most probably the servant is her mistress's inferior in those things that opportunity and fortune confer, in education, refinement, and accomplishments, but therein lies the very pity of it. Why should children be entrusted to the care of the ignorant and coarse, if by any means we can attract more educated and refined persons to the work?

And the only way that can be done is by the removal of the badge of social inferiority.

feriority.

It has been done in the case of nursing which implies menial duties no less monotonous or disagreeable than those of domestic service. One may propose to a parent of respectable middleclass station that his daughter should go in for nursing, or typing, but not for domestic service; and yet nursing includes many disagreeable menial tasks, and typing is monotonous and often ill-paid work. The difference is that among us, nursing and typing are considered genteel, domestic service is not. And yet, two generations ago, nursing was a despised profession, taken up by coarse and ignorant persons.

There is no doubt that in a home with any pretensions to comfort and cleanliness, where there are young children to be cared for, there is work for more than one woman, and if the mother is to have any rest or recreation, there must be help obtained for her. At present, that help can scarcely be had, and women are forced to put up with ill-performed and inadequate service, largely because they will not so alter the conditions that sensible, well-trained and refined girls will offer themselves for the work.

Children's Column.

(BY "MATER.")

THE THREE GOBLINS.

This is a tale about three goblins who lived in Fairyland. Now let me tell you what goblins are like. They have funny little squat noses, large mouths, and long ears which make them listen to other people's business when they ought to be attending to their own. The King of Fairyland sent these three goblins, Punch, Brownie, and Moth, on an errand. They were to go into the forest where a poor old woman lived, and gather firewood for her. Of course this had to be done at night, as that is when the fairies do all their good deeds, because they like them to be a pleasant surprise for people in the morning. They were sitting on three toadstools talking about this task. "Isn't it a nice task which his Majesty has been pleased to set us?" said Puck, who was a good natured fairy. "I'd just like to see the old woman's face in the morning when she finds all her sticks gathered."

But Moth and Brownie were rather selfish. Besides, they wanted to join in the bit that night when the fairies danced round the king and queen and all the goblins who had time came to watch them. "I think it's a shame," said Brownie, picking little bits off the edge of the toadstool and putting them in Puck's ears to try to annoy him.

"I've a good mind not to pick up sticks at all, chimed in Moth. "Let's go and see the fairies dance!" "If you two aren't going to help, I'm going to gather the sticks by myself," said Puck, and, jumping off the toadstool, started off in the direction of the old woman's hut. The other two followed, but they were so cross that they broke the toadstool when they jumped off.

Puck carefully chose all the nice dry sticks he could find; but the other two took any they came to, and these were very often green and wet. They soon had enough, and tied them in a bundle, and left them at the door of the hut. "Now," said Brownie, "we can be off," and he and Moth set out at a run through the forest, where the owls were calling to them from dark tree-tops, but Puck did not go. After the other two had gone he sat on a dock leaf and thought how pleased the old woman would be if she found the sticks nicely broken up in the morning. He no sooner thought this than he began to break the sticks into nice little pieces. It took him a long time, and when he had finished he saw that morning was near and that he would be too late for the fairy dance.

The next night our three goblins had to appear before the king. The words he said first were spoken to Puck: "And why," said his majesty, "were you not at the ball last night?" Puck began to feel frightened, "please, your majesty, I stayed to break up the sticks."

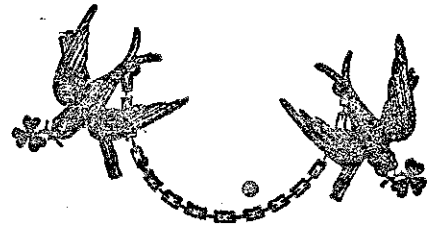
"That was right," said the king, "I am pleased with you. Tonight you shall have a holiday Moth, Brownie, go you to-night and dig out all the thistles from the big field. Thus do I reward selfishness and idleness."

So Moth and Brownie hung their head for shame and spent the whole night digging out the thistles with their sharp little nails, while Puck played hide-and-seek with the other goblins and watched the fairies dance.

In the morning the old woman was delighted to see a nice bundle of sticks broken up ready to light the fire, and she soon had the kettle merrily boiling. She was puzzled to find several green sticks which wouldn't burn, but we know who put them there, don't we?

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The Home.

THE VALUE OF CURRANTS.

If all those whose duty it is to cater for a household only knew what a valuable food there is ready to hand in dried currants the fruit would be on the table every day. One authority on food values says, "These little grape berries contain over three times as much actual nourishment as an equal weight of lean beef."

NERVE VEGETABLES.

Celery is one of the best vegetables for the nerves and for nervous dyspepsia, neuralgia and rheumatism. Lettuce is also good for the nerves and a splendid sleep producer, containing as it does opium in its natural state. Onions are among the best nervines known. Being soporific, they are invaluable for those troubled with insomnia.

TOMATO JAM.

Wipe the tomatoes with a cloth and remove the stem, put into a preserving-pan, with 3lb of lump sugar to each 1lb of fruit, add a little water for syrup. Put the rind and juice of one lemon to each 2lb of tomatoes. Boil till thoroughly cooked, and the syrup thick. Either green or ripe tomatoes will do. This makes a delicious jam.

DEVILLED TOMATOES.

Take three large, ripe, firm tomatoes, plunge them into boiling water for a few seconds to loosen the skins, peel and cut them into thick slices. Cream 2oz butter with the yolk of a hard-boiled egg, which has been pressed through a sieve, half teaspoonful of salt and castor sugar, a little pepper, a teaspoonful of chilli vinegar (heated), and a raw beaten egg. Place this sauce over hot water, and stir till it is thick as cream. Fry the slices of tomato in butter, pour the sauce over, and serve with hot or cold meat.

BARLEY WATER.

In case of fever, chest affections, or severe colds, this drink is to be highly recommended. There are two kinds, clear barley water and thick barley water, but the former is generally preferred. To make it, proceed as follows:—Wash a tablespoonful of pearl barley in two or three waters, and put it into a jug, with one ounce of loaf sugar, and the thin yellow rind and juice of a fresh lemon. Pour over this a quart of boiling water, cover closely, and allow it to stand for two hours. If preferred, black currant jelly, liquorice cut fine, or orange rind and juice can be used for flavouring this drink instead of the things mentioned above. When quite cold, strain carefully and serve. The thick barley water, which, of course, contains more nourishment, is made in the following manner:—Wash thoroughly three tablespoonfuls of pearl barley, and put it in a saucepan with a quart of cold water and the thin rind of a fresh lemon. Boil gently for an hour, then add another pint of cold water and boil for an hour longer. Strain the liquid into a pitcher, and when cold sweeten to taste.

A POT ROAST.

Meat of any kind—beef, poultry, or pigeons—may be used. Slice an onion and

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a few bits of chopped pork, and place in the bottom of an iron saucepan. Place on the top of this any kind of meat that is to be cooked, and add just enough water to stew it in. Be careful to use little water, as more can easily be added as it cooks away, and it spoils the dish to take any of the water out. Keep turning the meat and let it stew or roast slowly till brown and tender; then take the meat out and strain and thicken the gravy, pour over the meat and serve hot. This is a good way to cook a tough piece of meat or an old fowl.

BAKED LEMON PUDDING.

Take five ounces of breadcrumbs, one pint of milk, one ounce of butter, one lemon, and two ounces of powdered sugar and two eggs. Bring the milk to the boil, stir in the butter and pour these into the hot over the breadcrumbs, then add the sugar and the very finely-minced lemon peel, beat the eggs and stir into the ingredients. Bake for three-quarters of an hour.

CUSTARD SHAPE.

Half an ounce of gelatine, lemon rind, half a pint of milk, and two eggs. Soak half an ounce of gelatine in half a pint of milk for one hour, add a little thin peeled lemon rind and a teaspoonful of sugar, put into a saucepan, stir over the fire until the gelatine is dissolved, pour gradually on the well-beaten eggs, pour into a jug, stand in a saucepan of boiling water, stir over the fire until the mixture coats the spoon; pour into a wafer mould. When quite set turn out and serve.

A FATAL REHEARSAL.

Dean Pigou tells an amusing story of a would-be benedict who took the precaution to get a friend to give him the preliminary coaching in the marriage service. Whether in a spirit of mischief or in ignorance, the friend rehearsed him carefully in the office for holy baptism with disastrous results; for when the officiating parson asked him on the fatal day, "Wilt thou have this woman to be thy wedded wife?" he answered glibly, "I did promise and vow three things in my name. First, that I would be a good benedict, secondly, that I would be a good benedict, and thirdly, that I would be a good benedict."

Oke: "Would you be satisfied if I had all the money you wanted?" Over: "I'd be satisfied if I had all the money my creditors wanted."