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"Try Out Her Cooking."



HIGH rents have wrecked American home life. The usual city apartment makes it difficult for the family to entertain more than two guests at a time; hence the vogue of the delicatessen, the dance hall and the cabaret. People eat out of cans and entertain their friends in public places. Circumstances have forced this upon city-dwellers, and the towns-folk have aped it because they thought it smart. People who live in houses should realize what a blessing God has given them, and they should see to it that the house becomes a home. If the floors are well waxed the rugs won't be down much, and father and mother can end a lot of worry about son and daughter.

A woman who can't cook can't run a house. You may be so considerate of the feelings and susceptibilities of the dear little thing you expect to make your wife that you have made up your mind that she is not going to spend her life leaning over a kitchen stove; but unless she knows how to cook she is not going to be able to superintend the cooking—and what is home without home cooking?

Keep her out of mischief. You know what fleas mean to a dog: as long as he has them to worry about he is not going to get himself or his master into much trouble, but take away the fleas and he becomes a neighborhood pest. If your wife has no household duties to keep her busy she will become a worse pest than a dog without fleas.

Few students want their homes to look as disorderly as their rooms do in college. A girl is supposed to have an instinct for order. They tell an old story about a wise lad (Aesop was probably the first to spring this one) who laid a broomstick across the doorstep. Five girls stepped over it and the sixth picked it up and won a husband. The wise-crackers will say she got just what she deserved, a crank; and the wise-heads will reply that he got just what he was looking for. A good housekeeper is the best makings for a good home-maker.

Wipe the dishes for her. You will see her temper better when it is tried out in hot water, and if it is hot enough you will see her real complexion, too.

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And now for the finish. You will recall that the Novena had two objectives: a good wife and the grace to make her a good husband. Have a little consideration for her feelings. You are accustomed to let her see you at your best. Let her see you at your worst before you ask her to share your joys and sorrows through kingdom come.

L'Envoi

Ruskin expressed the wish that the following lines of Coventry Patmore might be "learned by all youthful ladies of England":

"Ah, wasteful woman!—she who may
On her sweet self set her own price,
Knowing he cannot choose but pay—
How she has cheapened Paradise!

"How given for naught her priceless gift,
How spoiled the bread and spilled the wine,
Which, spent with due respective thrift,
Had made brutes men, and men divine!"

—THE ANGEL IN THE HOUSE.