

# AS SEEN THROUGH WOMAN'S EYES.

## The Domestic Sphere.

Be a good housekeeper, and you will be happy, even if you do not have altogether a good time. You must be a good housekeeper in order to be a good wife and mother, and if you are not these you have missed the noblest end of woman.

This, in a nutshell, is popular dogma for the guidance of a woman's success in life. What is the truth in it?

Absolute truth admits of universal application. A universal sense of duty points to the existence of an absolute truth. It is a fact that all women have it on their conscience, to be good housekeepers. Yet all women have not the opportunity to be any sort of wife. In the resultant conflict of apparent duty with unavoidable circumstances there seems to be a flaw in the doctrine which urges upon every woman, above all things, application to household arts and sciences, to the end of fitting herself for the office of wife and mother. So there is a flaw in this—in supplying a reason why woman should work in the domestic sphere. The reason is not because thus she does her best equip herself for marriage. It is rather that thus she best equips herself for service of humanity. That is the missing link of the industrial greatness of woman—the interest of humanity in household labour.

Household labour builds the foundation of human progress. Incidentally it sustains the estate of wifehood and maternity; but these are also means to the same end, which domestic labour independently serves—perpetuation and perfection of humanity.

To progress, humanity must not only exist, it must endure. Most important in supplying the very nerve and sinew of civilisation are those industries which provide food, health, comfort, for humanity. Remotely, these ends are served by agriculture, the professions, trades, commerce—the sphere of industry in which the "new" woman has sought to build a greater empire for her sex—but directly it is from the fruits of household labour that the world gets its force.

There is no question concerning the natural division of labour which makes work done in the house for the home pre-eminently woman's work. That the importance of this work in the social economy is not recognised proceeds wholly from the error of regarding it as an incident of marriage. All women cannot be wives and mothers if they would, but the imperative call to women to labour in the domestic sphere remains so long as an unmothered child cries for bread and for capable hands to make it clean. Woman's work is home work—not for "my" husband and "my" child because of "my" love for them; but for humanity, because nature has destined woman for this service.

## Enjoy as You Go.

Some people mean to have a good time when their hard work is done—say, at fifty. Others plan to enjoy themselves when their children are grown up. Others mean to take their pleasure when they get to be rich, or when their business is built up on a sure foundation, or the farm is paid for, or the grind of some particular sorrow is overpast.

Such persons might as well give up the idea of ever having a good time. The season of delight, which is so long waded and hoped for too rarely comes. Disease, poverty, death, claim each his victims. The lives of those whom we love, or our own, go out, and what is left?

Take your comfort to-day, while there is yet time. Things may not be in the best shape for that visit to your only sister. It might be better if you could wait till you had a more stylish suit of clothes, or till the boy was at home from college to look after the place; but she is ready now. You are growing old; you had better go.

John drives around with the horse. "Jump in, mother," he says. "It is a lovely day. You need the fresh air." Don't say, "I can't go—I was intending to make some cakes," or "My dress isn't changed." Put on your warm coat, tie a veil around your head, and take your ride. If you don't take such things when you can get them, they

are apt to be why when you want them again.

Don't say, "I shall be glad when that child is grown up. What quantities of trouble he makes!" No; enjoy his sunning ways; revel in his affectionate hugs and kisses; they will not be so plentiful by and by. Enjoy his childhood. It will look sweet to you when it is gone forever.

Enjoy the littles of every day. The great favours of fortune come to but few, and those who have them tell us that the quiet, homely joys that are within the reach of us all are infinitely the best. Then let us treasure every sunbeam, and get all the light and warmth from it that the blessing holds.

## What to Do With our Girls.

Women are gradually winning their way into businesses and occupations hitherto monopolised almost exclusively by men, and amongst these must now be added that of a public accountant, which more than one woman is pursuing successfully in the metropolis at the present time.

To say that the work is suited to the average girl would be preposterous, as it requires exceptional faculties, which are given only to the few. The position of a public accountant is in reality that of a glorified book-keeper, and the work is both responsible and imperative in its demands upon the time of the accountant. Extreme accuracy, orderliness, and method are absolute essentials, and a mathematical mind of great clearness is also a desideratum. Any girl with a genuine talent for book-keeping and accounts, with neat handwriting, and the above requisites, should be very carefully trained as her talent may eventually be turned to account as an accountant, and, since there are so few women-workers in the field, there is a good opening for a really clever woman. The first step in the direction is a good, sound, high school education, in which special attention has been given to those subjects which are more directly connected with the girl's future career. Any girl who is unmethodical, inaccurate, or careless, may as well give up all idea of this branch of work at the outset, for the accountant, like the poet, may be said to be born, and not made. The mind must be naturally well-balanced, and the head clear and calm, to begin with, as these qualities cannot be instilled artificially.

When the girl leaves school she should be apprenticed to a public accountant—preferably a woman—and serve her articles for some years—say, five—working hard all the time, and devoting her time and energies entirely to the duties required. The more varied the practice of the accountant, the better, of course, the opportunities of learning the work, and every opportunity should be seized of mastering all details. Sometimes the student remains on with her firm as a clerk, thus gaining still more valuable knowledge, and she may, if successful, obtain an appointment as accountant to a company, before setting up for herself—a step that requires the most careful consideration. The fact of being considered competent by an established firm or company to undertake its business is in itself a recommendation which cannot be over-valued. The expense of the articles is naturally a stumbling block in the path of many would-be accountants, but no expense should or, indeed, must be spared to make the education complete throughout. It will be amply repaid afterwards.

## The Fashionable Game of "Bridge."

There is undoubtedly at the present moment a craze for games of every description. Musical evenings are considered extremely slow, except amongst those whose talents enable them to appreciate the highest form of musical art, or by those who are able to perform.

Progressive whist evenings are delightful when the guests are numerous, but for the thoroughly enjoyable "partie courue" there is no better game than "Bridge."

The game has taken such a strong

hold in India, that nursery of good card games that whist, which was at one time the game par excellence, is now but little played. In London every society woman has her favourite "Bridge" coterie, and the fascination of the game is such that the scientific player and the veriest tyro in the art become absorbed and interested in the game.

In beleaguered Mafeking Lady Sarah Wilson tells us that night after night the tedium of the siege was relieved by "Bridge" playing.

### WHAT IS REQUIRED.

All that is required to play this game are two packs of ordinary playing cards, a sheet of paper, and a pencil; and except for those with very long memories, a record of the score on which the scoring is effected. This latter we give at the end of our article intact, so that it may be cut out and kept for reference.

### HOW "BRIDGE" IS PLAYED.

Four persons should cut for partners, the two drawing the lowest cards taking their places at the card table opposite to each other, having on their right and left the other partners, drawers of the two highest cards. The person drawing the lowest card is dealer in the first game, the deal in subsequent games passing in rotation.

All the cards of one pack, after being shuffled and cut, are then dealt round singly, face downwards. The players then take up their own portion with their hands and arrange them according to the different suits.

The dealer then proclaims what shall be trumps after examining his cards.

### REASONS AFFECTING CHOICE OF TRUMPS.

It is a safe rule to make that suit trumps which is the longest and strongest held. Should it happen that the cards in the dealer's hand are not specially good in any one suit spades should be chosen, as by reference to the score at the end of this article it will be seen that spades count least, so that the penalty in the case of loss of tricks will be the minimum.

Should the dealer be desirous not to name trumps himself, he can delegate the choice to his partner. The fact of his delegation shows the partner that the dealer has no specially long or strong suit.

In some cases it may suit the dealer's hand or that of his partner that there shall be "no trumps," and he or his partner may declare the same.

It is only, however, advisable to have "no trumps" when either hand contains sufficiently high cards to ensure the taking of several tricks, coupled with the presence of aces in the hand, aces, when "no trumps" are declared, taking the place of honours.

### DOUBLE OR SINGLE SCORING.

When the dealer or his partner has declared trumps or whether there shall be no trumps, the player on the left of the dealer has the option of doubling all scores, or if he does not wish to double he may waive such privilege in favour of his partner.

If neither desire that the score shall be doubled the game proceeds by the

player on the left of the dealer leading a card, as in whist; and as soon as this card is on the table, but not till then, the partner of the dealer immediately exposes his cards by placing them face upwards on the table.

The dealer then plays "dummy" whist, his partner in that round having no say in the playing of his cards.

For the benefit of those who are unacquainted with "dummy" whist, it may be observed that each trick consists of four cards, the winner of the trick being the player of the highest card of the suit in that round, unless a trump card be played, which, of course, exceeds in value even the ace of an ordinary suit.

The winner of the trick gathers up the four cards and places them at his side and proceeds to lead for the next trick.

### SCORING.

Ace, king, queen, knave, and ten are counted as honours of the trump suit—that is to say, at the end of each round (when all the cards of one deal are played) the holders of honours count their score above a line. The scale for valuing honours will be seen below.

Tricks are only counted beyond the first six in each round. Thus, if seven tricks are made one only is counted, and its value (supposing spades were trumps), "2," is placed below a line.

Tricks alone count towards a "game," which consists of thirty points, rounds being played continuously until such score be reached by either set of partners.

As soon as thirty is reached by tricks alone, that is by scores below a line, the scoring of tricks in that game is finished, and the losers' score does not count towards the following games—that is, a line is drawn after each game is won.

The second or (if necessary) third games are played in the same manner, each thirty first reached completing each separate game.

The scoring of two games constitutes a "rubber," and the partners first winning this add 100 to their total score.

All scoring of "honours," or (when there are no trumps) of "aces," are

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