

AS SEEN THROUGH WOMAN'S EYES.

The Boarding-house Child.

"I haven't seen it stated anywhere that the managers of boarding-houses have advertised for contributions on 'How to make home pleasant and business profitable,'" said the tired-looking woman, "but in case they are seeking such advice I will gratuitously submit a suggestion. They must harness the children of the family. It may be found necessary even to clap them into a straightjacket and gag them, but parents who are really anxious to succeed in their chosen vocation should not shrink from these radical measures.

"Now, I'm a boarder, and a good one—a profitable one. My appetite is normal, my circulation and eyesight are so good that I can get along with very little heat and a plugged-up gas jet, and what is more to the point, I'm a good payer. Hence I say I am a desirable boarder, and people ought to be glad to capture me. Many landladies do indeed recognise my splendid qualities, and when I was out one day last week seeking a new domicile, at least a dozen women fairly begged me to tarry at their firesides at a low rate. But I was forced to decline those invitations because of the impudence of the household cherubs.

"The first call I made was at a house in — street. The weather was bitterly cold that day, and when I reached that house I was half frozen. The landlady sent word that she would be down in a minute, and the daughter, a little girl probably 11 years old, volunteered to entertain me. And she did, with a vengeance.

"'You're cold, ain't you?' she asked, solicitously.

"'Yes,' said I, 'I'm awfully cold.'

"'I thought so,' said she, 'your nose is so red.'

"Did I engage board at that house? Never. If it had been a palace with bargain-counter accommodation at 50 per cent. below cost I wouldn't have subjected myself to that child's merciless criticisms on my physical imperfections, the most prominent of which is my nose, which has, indeed, a florid hue at times.

"At another place the landlady was a musical enthusiast. 'Are you fond of opera?' she gurgled.

"'Yes,' said I, 'some of it. I like the Italian operas, but I can't endure Wagner.'

"'As is my custom, I pronounced it plain, every-day Wagner. The little girl—it was another little girl that time, but a specimen of the same breed—smiled pityingly. 'I presume you mean Vogner, do you not?' she said. 'Just listen, mother. She calls it Wagner.'

"'And did I take a room there? Well, I guess not. I went from there to Princes-street. Again I had to wait for the housekeeper, and again I encountered a little girl. She came up close and watched me as I drew a chair up in front of the fire and tried to warm my toes. Presently she said: 'My, what big shoes you wear, don't you? Do you always wear such big overshoes?'

"I was getting pretty sick of the whole race of juvenile femininity by that time, and I'm afraid my tones were none too mellifluous as I snapped out a reply. 'Yes,' said I, 'I do.'

"'And why do you wear such big shoes?' she persisted. 'Is it because your feet are so big?'

"'Naturally I excused myself to Princes-street, and fared further in my quest.

I had numerous other experiences with youngsters while in quest of board and lodging, but these instances are sufficient to prove that as an advertisement for boarding-houses the advanced progeny of the managers are not a howling success."

Hints for the Home.

TO REMOVE THE STAINS OF CONDY'S FLUID FROM GLASS AND EARTHENWARE.

Take one tablespoonful of kitchen salt and the juice of half a lemon, mix well together, and apply it to the stains with a piece of flannel. Well rub for a few minutes, and the stains will be quite removed.

TO RELIEVE CROUP.

Give the child every ten minutes a teaspoonful of warm olive oil, and rub the chest and back with the warm oil as well. This must be well worked in and flannel laid over the parts.

AFTER A MUSTARD PLASTER.

After a mustard plaster has been taken off, the skin underneath it is often red and tender. This may be at once relieved by making a poultice of oatmeal and tepid water, and laying it over the part till all the pain has gone.

NEW SOCKS AND STOCKINGS.

New socks and stockings should always be washed before being worn. In the first place it makes them last longer, and in the second it prevents risk of injury to the feet through the colouring.

TO KEEP IRONS SMOOTH.

Beeswax and salt will make rusty flatirons as clean and smooth as glass. Tie a lump of wax in a rag, and keep it for that purpose. When the irons are hot, rub them first with the wax rag, then scour with a paper or cloth sprinkled with salt.

TO CLEAN VEILS.

Have you ever tried steaming these? To do it get a piece of an old broom-handle, or a roller, wind the veils carefully round it, being very careful that the edges are even. Lay across a boiler or saucepan of boiling water,

and steam for three-quarters of an hour. Leave on the wood till dry. Crape is even more satisfactory when treated in this manner, the steam giving it the stiffness of new material, and also taking out all the dirt and dust.

CLEANING GOLD LACE.

Put some rock ammonia finely, and apply with a flannel to the lace, rubbing briskly. After a good brushing the lace will look equal to new, and the cloth of the trousers or tunic will be uninjured. Or you may sew the lace in a clean linen cloth, boil it in one quart of soft water and a quarter pound of soap, and wash it in cold water. If tarnished, apply a little warm spirits of wine to the tarnished spots.

HOUSING THE BICYCLE.

Although a bicycle should on no account be kept in a damp place, care must be taken not to leave it in a room so hot as to injure the rubber. As a "safety" does not take much room, it should, if possible, be kept in the house.

CARE OF NICKEL-PLATE.

Nickel plating must be kept quite dry and polished. For this purpose use a chamois leather, which should be wound round the nickel and pulled to and fro. On no account use sand, glass, or emery paper. If it gets very discoloured, clean with whiting or prepared chalk, mixed to a paste with water to which a little ammonia has been added.

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