About the ....House

SHORT CUTS.

There are no short cuts to good housekeeping—except for the women with plenty of money and a husband willing she should spend it for labor-saving appliances and a good, stout girl to wield them, writes a correspondent. They say the time is coming when Milady can sit in her easy chair and press a button and the work will be done for her. But for the woman of moderate means there are a great many little things, costing but a trifle that will help to make housework a great deal easier. Many of us go without such things rather than ask for them, or under the mistaken notion that we are saving something. Well, perhaps we are saving a little in dollars and cents, but how about the wife's and mother's time and strength? It seems to me they are worth more, to her family, than the small sums she saves by going without things she needs. For instance, I turned pancakes for years with a knife until I was just going to have a pancake turner. I got it—cost 10 cents, and find it a labor-saver.

One short cut is to begin the day right by having breakfast on time, which means whenever the men are ready for it. A man doesn't care whether the sweeping and dusting are done or not if he has meals on time. I prefer to get breakfast the night before—that is, have everything ready. I need not mention the different things we can do, but one thing I want to lay particular emphasis on. See that there is plenty of hot water in the teakettle. Then, after everybody is ready for breakfast, all hands will not have to wait for water to heat to fill up the coffee-pot—such things have happened! Before sitting down to any meal, be sure there is water in reservoir or teakettle to heat for dishwater. That is a decided short cut.

I do not pretend to be a model housekeeper—far from it—but I always have plenty of dishwater. When ready to wash the dishes, take plenty of hot soap suds, set the pan on a chair near the dining-room table, put cups, saucers, spoons, knives and forks, yes, and plates, too, if there are not too many, and they are not too greasy—into the pan, get another chair, sit down, have plenty of good clean wiping towels (another one of the little helps women are inclined to do without), have your dishcloth in the pan so if any dish needs a little washing you can use it. Now, wipe out the dishes.

Lazy? No—just an easier way of doing, that's all. Not neat! I used to think so; thought my dishes must be washed in soap suds and scalded in plenty of hot water, but I wash them this way now and my dishes always shine and are never sticky. It takes more dish towels, but I'd rather wash towels than stand and wash dishes in the old way.

One most important thing is have "a place for everything and everything in its place." Ever hear that before? It's old, but it's true. I find it takes more time to hunt for things laid down where one used them last than it does to go and put them where they belong when one is through using them. Those who do their own work find it very necessary to have things just as handy as possible.

Have plenty of the little things, such as dippers, pans, basins, etc., that we are so apt not to have, I knew a woman once who lived in a nice brick house, but for months had no dishpan or large dipper. Her husband grumbled when asked to buy any thing for the house (by the way, he was not a farmer, but a city merchant, though I've heard that there have been farmers who did the same thing), so rather than ask she went without until she had to have a hired girl, and the girl promptly informed Mr. Man that she wouldn't wash dishes in a milk pan or dip water with a little cup, and the dipper and dishpan were forthcoming next time he went uptown.

Another thing is, have your wits about you. Don't make two trips down cellar when one will do. "Let your head save your heels."

"I'll confess one can slight things and so make short cuts to housekeeping, but it isn't good housekeeping. One can slight the ironing. I do it—but it goes awfully against the grain, for if there is one thing I like to see it is the bars full of white, nicely ironed clothes. There is one short cut I do not approve of—and that is, the use of gray cotton blankets as sheets to save washing. It is not very sanitary to say the least. They're all right if washed often enough, but I heard a girl say, "Why—they save so much washing! We didn't have to wash them last winter, and haven't washed them this." (It was March). I said: "Didn't you wash them last spring?" She said: "No, we hung them on the line and aired them good." I should think they needed it. I may be an old fogy—not up-to-date—but I want my sheets washed every week.

One day, when I was almost tired to death (or thought I was), I said to my husband: "Oh, dear I wish some one would tell me some short cuts to housekeeping."

Man like, he answered, "I can tell you—do less work."

"I don't see how you would manage that. The work is here to do; it must be done, and only one pair of hands to do it." There were some pies on the table I had made that day and he said:

"Quit making pies. We can get along without them." Was that man like? I think, perhaps, less pie-making would be quite a short cut in some homes.

I haven't said a word about system. By all means have a system. Wash on Monday; iron on Tuesday; bake on Wednesday; do odd jobs Thursday; sweep and dust on Friday; bake and clean up on Saturday; go to church on Sunday. Sounds nice, doesn't it? As a friend said: "If my lamps don't get cleaned in the forenoon, they wait until next day, for I will not work in the kitchen in the afternoon." I'm thinking if she had some families to work for she would be glad to get her work done in time to crawl into bed at night.

There are so many things coming up in housekeeping one can't have an iron-clad rule to work by—at least I can't. "The well laid plans of mice and men gang aft aglee," and I find that women's plans are quite apt to do the same thing How often we think at night: "Now, tomorrow I'll do such and such a piece of work," and when tomorrow comes other things come up to do that must be done and our plans and our system, where are they?

There is so much to do—in housework—and so few short cuts, that it is as hard to write on the subject as it is to do the work and have it all come in where it belongs. Things must all be done in just about such a way. If one could always stay young, one could get work out of the way, so much quicker. I used to wash, mop, churn, bake and iron all in one day—twenty years ago—but, alas! I can't do it any more; and if some one could tell me some short cuts to housekeeping—that would not slight the work too much I would be very thankful.

DOMESTIC RECIPES.

Yeast Cake—Four cups light bread sponge; three eggs; three cups brown sugar; one cup shortening; one and one-half teaspoonful soda; one teaspoonful baking powder add fruit spices to taste, and flour to stir as stiff as ordinary cake. Try in small patty tin. This keeps moist long time. Half the recepe makes two small bars.

Omelet.—Yolks of two eggs beaten until light colored and thick; two tablespoonfuls of milk; one salt spoonful each of salt, and pepper. Beat the whites until stiff, cut and fold them lightly into the yolks until just covered. Put a teaspoonful of butter into the frying-pan, pour in the mixture. When brown set in the oven a moment to let the top dry.

Tapioca Pudding.—Put into one quart of milk two-thirds of a cup of tapioca that has been soaked over night. One salt spoonful of salt. Set on back of the stove until the tapioca becomes clear. Beat the yolks of four eggs with one cup of sugar and one teaspoonful of vanilla Stir this into the tapioca (boiling). Beat the whites very stiff, adding a table spoonful of powdered sugar to each white, and place on the pudding shortly before serving.

HINTS TO HOUSEKEEPERS.

When the white of an egg is used, the yolk is often left to harden and is then thrown out. A teaspoonful of cold water poured into the egg-shell will keep it soft. If hardened, beat in a little milk and the yolk may be made usable again. Whites of eggs must be kept covered if not used at once.

In making gingerbread, if the molasses and butter are heated together before the other ingredients are added the cake will be nicer.

Except where otherwise specified, a coffee cup is the usual size intended in recipes. Measure everything in the same sized cup. A salt-spoonful is one-fourth of a teaspoonful; two teaspoonfuls are equivalent to a tablespoonful. Two cupfuls make a pint. About sixty drops equal a teaspoonful.

For every use to which brandy is ordinarily put in cooking, boiled cider is just as good. Boil sweet cider till reduced to one-fourth its original volume.

A little flour sifted over suet will prevent the pieces sticking together while being chopped.

Try out the leaf lard in the oven, suggests an exchange. Put the lard into a pan, set in the oven, let try out slowly, and while hot add one teaspoonful of salt to each quart of lard, and cook a litte longer. One advantage of this method is that the disagreeable odor of the hot fat is not diffused through the house.

GOOD RESULTS.

Are Sure to Follow the Use of Dr. Williams Pink Pills—They Never Fail When Used for Blood and Nerve Troubles.

The reputation held by Dr. Williams Pink Pills not only in Canada but throughout the whole world is one that cannot be equaled by any other medicine. No other medicine in the world is so extensively used as Dr. Williams Pink Pills, and this extensive use is due solely to the merit of the medicine. These pills are not a common purging medicine; they are a scientific blood builder and nerve restorer. Every dose helps create, new, rich, red blood, and this new blood reaches the root of the disease and drives it from the system. That is the whole secret of the success of this remarkable medicine. Thousands and thousands testify to the value of these pills among them being Mrs. Robert Gibbs, Petit Lameque, N. B., who says:—"I wish to thank you for the good results obtained from the use of Dr. Williams Pink Pills. I suffered from kidney trouble and the pains in the back were sometimes hard to bear. I used in all six boxes of the pills and the trouble has entirely disappeared. I would stronly advise others sufferers to use your pills without delay."

Dr. Williams Pink Pills cure all blood and nerve troubles such as, rheumatism, neuralgia, anaemia, partial, paralysis, indigestion, palpitation of the heart and many others. Sold by all medicine dealers or direct from The Dr. Williams Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont., at 50 cents a box or six boxes for $2.50.

The Manufacturers Life
Insurance Company.

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

The seventeenth annual meeting of the shareholders and policyholders of the Manufacturers Life Insurance Company was held in the Company's offices, Toronto, on Thursday, February 4th, at 2.30 p.m. The report submitted was eminently satisfactory to all interested.

A detailed report of the proceedings will be mailed to all policyholders, but we believe that the average busy reader will get a clearer conception of the progress the Company is making by having, as it were, a bird's-eye view of its affairs.

Below will be found the figures pertaining to the main features of the business for 1902 and 1903 and the increases; also a comparative statement of the Company's growth since its organization.

The growth made in 1903 is well shown by the following table:—

	1902.	1903.	Increase.
Net Premium Income	$ 1,054,815.72	$ 1,219,435.91	$ 164,620.19
Interest, Rents, etc.	186,074.11	215,852.67	29,778.56
Total Cash Income	1,240,889.83	1,435,288.58	194,398.75
Payments to Policyholders	316,556.63	366,533.04	49,976.41
Policy Reserves	3,753,892.00	4,461,800.00	707,908.00
Total Assets	4,406,329.19	5,136,668.52	730,339.33
Applications for New Insurance	6,542,336.00	7,764,542.00	1,222,206.00
New Policies Issued	6,082,336.00	7,294,050.00	1,211,714.00
Insurance in Force	30,152,883.00	34,392,303.00	4,239,420.00

The Manufacturers Life began business in 1887, and the following figures for four year periods taken from its returns to the Dominion Government will illustrate its remarkable growth and steady progress:—

Year.	Income From Interest Rents, etc.	Net Premium Income.	Total Premium and Interest Income.	Assets.	New Policies Issued.	Assurance in Force December 31st.
1887	$ 778	$ 27,184	$ 27,963	$ 105,732	$2,564,500	$ 2,342,000
1891	13,236	184,106	197,342	431,610	2,111,100	7,413,761
1895	39,245	324,449	363,694	1,012,569	3,017,760	10,645,021
1899	72,018	510,560	582,578	1,809,505	3,579,109	14,368,236
1903	215,852	1,219,435	1,435,288	5,136,668	7,294,050	34,392,303

OF INTEREST TO TOTAL ABSTAINERS.

The death ratio in the Manufacturers Life has always been favorable in both sections, but exceedingly so in the Abstainers' Section. The past year shows a continuance of this favorable experience. The death losses in the General Section were 75.7% of the expectancy, and in the Abstainers' Section only 41.3% of the expectancy. The saving this year from low mortality in this section is therefore 58.7% as against a saving of 24.3% in the General Section, which means much larger dividends for Abstainers. Correspondence is invited.

HON. G. W. ROSS, President. **J. F. JUNKIN,** Managing Director.

When Your Child Is In Danger

From Croup, Bronchitis, Whooping Cough or Colds, You Can Depend on

Dr. Chase's Syrup of Linseed and Turpentine.

When breathing is difficult and there is a tightness in the chest Dr. Chase's Syrup of Linseed and Turpentine cuts away the phlegm and clears the air passages.

When the bronchial tubes and lungs are irritated, inflamed and sore from hard coughing Dr. Chase's Syrup of Linseed and Turpentine, with its healing, soothing influence, acts as a balm to bring relief and cure to the diseased parts.

Time has proven the reliability of this favorite family medicine. Experience has taught mothers that there is no worthy substitute for Dr. Chase's Syrup of Linseed and Turpentine.

Being composed of simple ingredients, pleasant to the taste and easy to take, Dr. Chase's Syrup of Linseed and Turpentine is especially suited as a medicine for children.

When awakened at night by the dreadful croupy cough of her child many a mother has remembered with gratitude that she had this great medicine at hand for instant use. Promptness is everything in treating this disease of the throat and lungs.

Dr. Chase's Syrup of Linseed and Turpentine; 25 cents a bottle, family size (three times as much) 60 cents, at all dealers, or Edmanson, Bates & Co., Toronto.

To protect you against imitations the portrait and signature of Dr. A. W. Chase, the famous receipt book author, are on every bottle.

PUTTING BABY ASLEEP.

If baby is restless or sleepless do not give it "soothing" medicines to make it sleep. These medicines always contain opiates, and you are merely drugging the little one into temporary insensibility—in fact you are placing its life in peril. Restlessness and sleeplessness is usually the result of some trouble of the stomach or bowels, and if this is removed the child will sleep naturally, and awake bright and healthy. Baby's Own Tablets cure all stomach and bowel troubles, and the mother has a solemn assurance that the medicine contains no opiate or harmful drug. Mrs. Louis Reville, Gawas, Ont., says:—"My baby suffered from colic, cried a great deal and was very sleepless. After giving him Baby's Own Tablets the trouble disappeared and through giving him an occasional Tablet since, he has always been healthy, and is now a strong rugged child. No mother should ever be without the Tablets in the house." You can get Baby's Own Tablets from any dealer in medicine, or if you write to The Dr. Williams Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont., the Tablets will be sent by mail at 25 cents a box.

CONVICTS GET THE NEWS.

Mystery That Puzzles the Prison Authorities.

How prisoners communicate with one another is one of the mysteries of the state prisons. Here is an incident that occurred at Dannemora illustrative of the sort of thing which sometimes stumps the prison officials, says the New York Sun. Warden Deyo was appointed the head of the big jail in the Adirondacks something less than a year ago. The place had been vacant for a while, and of course there had been a good deal of interest at Dannemora in the identity of the new warden. Mr. Deyo got his appointment in Albany, and within an hour after it was made every convict at Dannemora knew about it. This seems impossible, but Mr. Deyo himself is authority for the absolute truth of the story.

The way the keepers first learned that the convicts had this news is interesting. Even in an institution of iron discipline, like Clinton prison, there are certain old convicts who have been in for so many years that they are to the jail what trusties are to a city prison, like the Tombs. One of the trusties said to a keeper:

"Is the new warden a hard man?"

Now, the keeper to whom this was addressed hadn't even heard of Mr. Deyo's appointment. He was surprised, and asked what the convict meant.

"Why," said the old man, "Mr. Deyo is the new warden. He was appointed to-day."

It didn't take the keeper long to find out that what he had just heard as news was known then, and had been for some little time, to every one of the two thousand prisoners in the jail. It was only a short time before this conversation that the news had reached the jail, and how it got into the shops and work yards no one knows. But it did travel like lightning.

When Mr. Deyo arrived at the jail to take charge, the convicts knew he had come, although the railway station is some little distance from the prison The keepers say that they knew just what train he was coming by and knew in the shops the minute he got inside the prison wall. The amount of information these prisoners obtain, without any known means of obtaining it, is staggering to the ordinary mortal.

THE REAL AND THE UNREAL.

Young Lady (in book shop)—"I would like something in the way of a novel that is really interesting."

Proprietor—"Something of the romantic order, or something realistic?"

Young Lady—"Which would you recommend?"

Proprietor—"Oh, it's merely a matter of personal taste. In the romantic novel the hero and heroine marry in the last chapter after all their troubles are ended, and live happily ever after, while in the realistic they marry in the first chapter, and then their troubles begin."

"Are you the society editor?" asked the large women. "No, madam," said the one addressed; "I am only the court reporter." "Really, I am surprised! But perhaps you will do. Your paper said in the account of the affair at my house that floral decorations 'lent beauty to the scene.' I wish you would have your paper state that the floral beauty was not lent. Everything was paid for."

Piles To prove to you that Dr. Chase's Ointment is a certain and absolute cure for each and every form of itching bleeding and protruding piles the manufacturers have guaranteed it. See testimonials in the daily press and ask your neighbors what they think of it. You can use it and get your money back if not cured. 60c a box, at all dealers or EDMANSON, BATES & Co., Toronto

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