

is far easier than when undertaken as a matter of business for a stranger, but the menkind think, even if they do not speak, and are willing to make allowances; and that home is the happiest where the household wheels move on oiled springs, and the mother or wife or sister truly understands, not only theoretically but practically, the feminine science of housekeeping as well as more occult or more showy accomplishments. A good housekeeper can generally obtain from £20 to £50 per annum, and even more sometimes. Owners of large country and town houses employ housekeepers several of whom are now-a-days ladies, though most are chosen from the upper class of servants. The housekeeper holds a perfectly unique position in the household, and her meals are served in most instances in her private room. She is responsible for the fulfilment of all the duties of the women servants, and has also the planning of all the meals and the providing for the large household with food, and is, therefore, obliged to look ahead and provide "for the meat in due season." The lady of the house often shifts the whole burden of household cares on to the shoulders of the housekeeper, especially if she "visits" and goes much into Society. In noblemen's families or in those of gentlemen the fortunate possessors of homes of historic interest, the housekeeper oftentimes adds to the post of housekeeper that of show-woman, and conducts visitors over the building. But housekeepers are also employed—and these situations are much in vogue just now—by gentlemen needing someone to undertake the charge of their home, which has been deprived either by death, ill-health, or any other reason, of the surveillance of its natural head, the wife, the mother, or else by bachelors, and advertisements for such may often be seen in the daily papers. One taking such a post must be honest, a fairly good cook, understand domestic work, and be of nice appearance. It is often an excellent opening for "old servants," but many ladies take such places now, though the position is an awkward one to fill. Yet in many cases it has proved a happy one to both employer and employed; but a great deal of tact and a quick knowledge of when to, and when not to, intrude her presence is necessary. Widows are more usually preferred by "the men" for such posts than their maiden sisters. Such a housekeeper must have a knowledge of buying food, and be quickly able to recognise a good joint on seeing it. She must also know when things are in season, and how to make her housekeeping money go farthest, and yet have nice tasty dishes on the table. Yes, good housekeeping is a very serious business, viewed from a business point of view, and even

amateurs ought, on principle, to give it ever their thoughtful consideration, both for the present comfort of the family and their own future, for a really competent housekeeper will generally be able to command both work and pay.

Good housekeepers, or manageresses, as they are more usually called, are in great request for hotels, hydropathic establishments, large business houses, schools, &c., and they are usually well paid and treated with due consideration. At present they can fairly command any price if they are only competent, business-like, firm, yet kind, thoughtful, punctual and precise. Such women are, however, seldom to be met with, especially as they need as well as thorough knowledge of this art of housekeeping, also a knowledge of book-keeping and accounts, without which to housekeep (to coin a word) properly is impossible. Yet advertisers for a "housekeeper" are deluged by answers from hundreds who seek gaily such posts, utterly unconscious of their own inability to fulfil the duties thereof.

HOUSEKEEPING pays sometimes, as I think my readers will admit when they read the following: The housekeeper at Warwick Castle, who had held that honoured position for several years, left on her demise all her personal estate to her master the Earl, which estate amounted to several thousand pounds (I forget the exact figures), the result of her savings, which she had carefully and wisely invested.

BOTH in England and in America the journal of Marie Bashkirtseff, translated by Matilda Blind, the clever writer of George Eliot's life, &c., has been quite one of the books of the day; indeed, it is stated that in America over seventy thousand copies have been sold. It is the diary of no ordinary girl, but of, as all combine in agreeing, a remarkable genius. It is a complete analysis of her character, as far as anyone can analyse their own. It was mostly written by the writer with a view to publication after her death. This young Russian lady was born in 1860, and died 1885 at the early age of twenty-four; yet she had already attained to great celebrity, both as an artist and a musician. The book is a sad one, as, alas! are mostly the biographies of those endowed by Nature with the wild, uncertain, brilliant fire of genius, to which Marie Bashkirtseff had added a remarkable-susceptibility to the tender passion, and fell in love frequently, commencing at the early age of twelve.

WOMAN has hitherto been content, in most instances, to leave the piloting of the vessels in

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