

ment I hastened to mete out a little praise. "Thank you Miss ———, I shall sleep to-night."

Do *your* scrubbers lie awake all night if you are not pleased with them?

"Estelle," I said to one, "don't you understand that you must *not* come to work in a long train?" It was a black grenadine dress, being hot weather, and she carried it while scrubbing, pinned in a huge bunch in front. "I'd like to please you," she conceded, sympathetically, "but I got too big feet."

Rhoda filed a petition one morning to be allowed to have a pail which she assured me was lying in the wood cellar with a hole in it; not that she really wanted it, or that it was to be of any use to her, but she just "couldn't bear to see it lying *vacant* there."

I found fault with the housekeeper for using fresh fruit too frequently instead of puddings. She defended herself by aspersions on the cook's willingness to cook. This necessitated an official visit from Lydia bristling with virtue and a spotless apron. "I would have you understand Miss ——— that my dinners do not always *compete* with the diet slips. When we have been down for cantaloupes I have served rice pudding and Brown Betty," but the dignity of her oratory you would have to hear to appreciate.

"This floor isn't at all as clean as it ought to be," I ventured sternly apropos of the elevator one morning. "No Mum," with cheerful agreement, "but it isn't any good cleaning that floor cloth, its just natcherly dirty anyway." Do you have naturally dirty floors in England?

But why talk of them? To-morrow I shall hear that Robert has quarrelled with Rhoda over a new dustpan and both have gone; that cook is ill and none can be got to take her place, and the new head laundress will ask me wrathfully how she is to send up decent work if she has only "coloured help."

Let me rather go to bed and dream of quiet-mannered, white-capped maids, who only stay four or six years, and then, oh, almost forgotten bliss, give a month's "warning."

GEORGINA J. SANDERS.

### An Acceptable Gift.

The Daimler Motor Company, Ltd., who wish to make a donation to the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital, as the men employed by the firm benefit from the institution to a very large extent, have offered to give either £250 in cash, or one of their 28-h.p. motor cars, the list price of which with accessories is approximately £750. In the latter case they specify that the car shall not be disposed of under the list price, and suggest a raffle as a suitable means of disposing of it. The offer of the car has been gratefully accepted, but as the solicitor to the Hospital has advised that it would be absolutely an infringement of the law if the Committee were to have a raffle, and has urged them not to embark on such a scheme, and the Chief Constable has been instructed to at once commence proceedings if the car is raffled, other means are to be taken to dispose of it.

### New Preparations & Inventions.

#### RAMIE FIBRE FOR CLOTHING AND UNDERWEAR.

Last summer, some fashionable women appeared at great social functions in frocks which excited considerable notice and admiration, because of the novelty and beauty of their material. It transpired that this was made from Ramie fibre, and was called "Tuxedo," and it is openly said in the fashionable world that the new cloth has "come to stay." It will therefore be of interest to trained nurses to know that Ramie fibre is extracted by hand from the bark of an Asiatic plant which belongs to the same genus as the English common or roadside nettle. It is said that for centuries Ramie has been used for clothing because of its lightness and warmth. Modern science having found the fibre has as usual improved upon Nature, and by mechanical methods has produced from the fibre a yarn which is three times as strong as Russian hemp, as lustrous as silk, and not affected by moisture. It is now being made into all kinds of material and utilised for as many purposes, from covering chairs to providing the most up-to-date yachting costume. Recently, a further development has taken place, and "Umustav" underwear, composed of Ramie fibre, has been placed on the market. It is made in different degrees of thickness, but all are characterised by their great lightness and a warmth and yet coolness, due to its porous texture. It seems, in fact, to combine the advantages of silk, wool and linen without their several drawbacks; maintaining the body heat and therefore causing warmth in winter; allowing free evaporation from the heated skin and therefore causing a sensation of coolness in summer. Above all, this material is so strong that it wears much better than any of the others mentioned, and will therefore be specially useful in the Colonies and India, where native washing is of the roughest and most destructive kind. We therefore commend it to the notice of our readers in those countries because they have often complained to us of the special hardships of their laundry arrangements. But we expect that nurses in this country will find the new material equally valuable to themselves for the other reasons we have mentioned, while they will certainly not object to the durability, and comparative cheapness therefore, of garments made of the new fibre. It is stated that Ramie materials can be obtained from any draper, and we are informed that the manufacturers, J. Spencer Turner and Co., of 13, Jewin Crescent, London, E.C., will allow trained nurses a discount of ten per cent. on all their purchases.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)