

and skillful work from her servants. But it certainly is well to acknowledge to the fullest possible extent the ability of the "help." "Bridget is gratified by your acknowledging her superiority in her own place." It may seem hard to have a servant leave for higher wages in another place after she has been taught in the former one, but teaching with that result is as good missionary work as is help in city sewing or training schools or giving liberally to the kindergarten.

It is due to the servant girl that she be protected from bad companions, evil suggestions, and possible insult and contamination, but in order to do this the employer must enter into sympathy with her youth and natural longing for society and remember that the rules of etiquette are not necessarily the same in both cases. It is poor consistency to contribute to the support of coffee houses to counteract the influence of saloons and then refuse to allow any followers to the poor little maid in the kitchen. She should be encouraged to seek fresh air and friendly faces at proper times outside to relieve the tedium and confinement of the day's work, and contracts as to holidays ought to be religiously kept, though it would be well to say at the outset, "I may not be always able to give you Thursday afternoon, but if not will give another in its place."

As matters now stand our own countrywomen will not engage in domestic work. They dislike it, regarding it as socially degrading and limiting their personal freedom. It is left almost entirely to foreigners, and as they become Americanized they also look down upon it. Consequently these young women crowd into the shops and factories, keep down wages, and swell the ranks of the overworked and wretched till perhaps misery presses them still lower into moral degradation and ruin. The conscientious housewife owes it to her sex and to society in general not less than to herself to do what she can to change this tendency by brightening and sweetening her own home and seeing that no girl ever passes through it without learning something useful, without seeing housework respected, or without the glow of a kindly interest and the influence of a right view of life and its duties.

DUTY TO DOMESTIC "HELP."

A thoughtful writer in one of our magazines raises the question why so many women prefer the dangers of employment behind a counter or in a factory to domestic "servitude," and suggests that it is the duty of housekeepers to make the latter more attractive than it is in a great number of cases. Of course women find food and shelter in domestic service, better food probably than they ever had before and plenty of it, comfortable beds, and rooms often as good as those of the children of the family. But a cook has it in her power to make the other servants uncomfortable by refusing to take the trouble to prepare an attractive meal for them, and the head of the household ought to be on the watch for this possible discomfort. Then women who have risen at 6 o'clock or earlier should not have to wait till 9 before they eat their breakfast, and whenever possible each girl should be provided with a separate sleeping-room, or, if that be not attainable, the one room ought to be furnished with separate beds, washstands, and bureaus. "Enforced close companionship during sleep and at meals is often one of the greatest trials of a house servant's life."

Enforced drudgery through all the waking hours is unfair, as it is unnecessary. It should be a principle so to arrange the work that every afternoon or evening a girl would have some leisure. The loneliness of housework is to many women one of the greatest drawbacks to domestic service. They fear to be isolated from the family and to be held to a wearisome routine of duty not shared by others. For this, if for no other reason, it is well for the lady of the house to take a share in the work sometimes and to let her daughters help. If a girl never sees her employers work in the parlor or kitchen and hears them always speak of such work as hateful and wearisome it hardly can be expected she will not voluntarily come to take the same view of it. The labor is dignified in the home where the daughters have charge of the parlor or of their own rooms, and where slight changes in the day's labor are recognized and honored. It is only necessary to show interest in the work and respect for it.

There is room for difference of opinion as to whether the employer fares better when she herself is able to do all kinds of housework well or whether her ignorance and helplessness do not call forth more earnest