Efficiency Test of Domestic Standards for Every Housekeeper

Put Yourself in Place of Your Cook and Get Her Point of View, Says Mrs. Thetia Quay Franks

WANTED: A human being, testy, ignorant, ill-informed, not a person trained in her work and not a bit more moral. Service may appear under the caption, "Domestic Help," but it is not so. It is not the same thing. It is something far other comment than that bearing upon its fruitful and satisfying results. At least, that is the hope of Thetia Quay Franks, of Llewellyn Park, N. J., a woman who has devoted the past three years to a problem that seems near the center of the heart and hearth of every household—the most important problem of having a woman doing the work of carrying on the business of a household. Mrs. Franks speaks with the knowledge of experience, and is now publishing a book, "The Margin of Happiness—Practical Standards in Housekeeping Efficiency," in which she discusses the problems confronting every woman who is engaged in household work. Almost every one appreciates that the work of the housewife has been recondite and not very well understood for many hundred years. More recently it has been sought after a certain better suit, and the woman herself has been left to be very much in her own hands. Mrs. Franks utters the words of Charles Dickens, "Put yourself in his place."

"The present state of domestic employment is one great drawback to the happiness of marriage," she says. "Women are not trained to it, and are not given any opportunity to learn the wide range of duties and responsibilities that come with the office of a housekeeper."

"I should like to do away with the 'ordinary American servant,' entirely, and have every woman trained in her own home, to be intelligent, self-respecting, and self-supporting."

"To do so means a revolution in the methods of the education of the women in the country."

"We can probably bring about a revolution of $400,000,000,000 in educating its women and yet fail to fit them for the work of the home."

Mrs. Franks says that the great problem of the work is to make the woman a better housekeeper, not to make the housekeeper a better woman.

"It is a matter of sympathy, a matter of knowing all the little ways in which we help or hinder each other."

"If we educate the woman as a housekeeper, we shall be able to do much more for the home."

"The present state of affairs is largely due to our not putting ourselves in the shoes of the woman who is doing the work. What things apply to women's mental attitudes towards their work? What can be done to change this?"

"Many American women are not lacking in intelligence and kindness of heart."

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