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Right Family Relationships

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THE IOWA HOMEMAKER

"A Magazine for Homemakers from a Homemakers' School"

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Right Family Relationships

By MRS. MINNIE ALLEN

RIGHT family relationships are identical with happy family relationships. This thought, a magic wand, lightens all of our candles but one—the strange little blue one—and in their soft but intense light the treasures of our home will shine, will send out new streams of light. For our home is the focus into which we gather faithfully the best that is in our time and from which we send out more powerful rays, intensified by the best of the members of the family, to illuminate the world and to show the roads to progress.

At the entrance to our home glows the eternal LIGHT OF LOVE. Once lit, its flame will grow stronger and more beautiful with each candle that we light with knowing minds and tender hands. There at the door, the tall and bright one, was the first candle that made the house a home. MUTUAL RESPECT is its name, its light is caused by understanding and consideration. It will help each member of the family to recognize the special charm and ability of the others and to safeguard them in their personal development. At times the light of this candle may seem somewhat strong for the sensitive eyes of the young members of the household, yet by gradually and steadily accustoming them to its stern beauty they will never want to miss it. Its spark kindles the next two candles, CONFIDENCE and LOYALTY. The quiet, deep flame of confidence comes from absolute truth, from harmony between words and actions and from strictest honesty. Its light will assist us in our search for truth and will halo the beloved leader. Deeply felt sympathy and unshakable fidelity result in the warm glow of loyalty which has the power of lighting our way long after the doors of our home have closed behind us. However fiercely the storms of life may blow, these lights will shine with reassuring tranquility, will guide our steps safely through all dark hours. And if we have lighted the candle of COOPERATION we shall not have to go alone. Helpfulness and comradeship make its flame so radiant even the smallest family member rejoices at its sight and adds to its shine. Monotony and deadening routine will vanish under its rays, which become still more powerful when economy and efficiency unite in the light of ORGANIZATION, which penetrates all nooks and corners with its pure and clear blaze. With the assistance of the valuable candle of RESOURCEFULNESS, time, energy and material goods can be used to such an advantage that numerous new candles can be lighted.

HOME LIGHTS

So often have I gone through these rooms,
Lighting the seen and unseen candles
That make a house
A home.
You, who have visited me,
Have seen the cheer
Of many colored candles,
But I, who have watched here frequently
alone,
Have lighted many more
That you may never know;
Tall red candles of my pride,
White candles that were prayers,
Strange little blue ones for loneliness,
Some of strong yellow
When I needed courage,
But mostly
A rose-colored candle
That men call joy,
Whose soft flame
Has accompanied me for countless hours
While I worked;
That has haloed each chubby baby's face.
And cast a flattering finish
An all the treasured handicrafts
I made.
It has meant so much to me,
I should like to leave
This light
Burning in the little house
When I go away.

—From the W. Va. Agriculturist,
December, 1924.

They are all made of cheerfulness and fair play and brighten our living room in the form of RECREATION. Sparkling and gay is their flame and each bears the insignia of its owner. Inventiveness and self control, the magic substance for the very intense light that characterizes resourcefulness, have contributed also to this delightful group of recreation candles. Quietly burn their flames when music fills the room, or the sound of a beloved voice rebuilds the poet's world. They seem to leap high, however, when joyful excitement announces the approach to the goal. Let us not forget to put the candle of HOSPITALITY into one of our front windows, and to make its flame radiate with openmindedness and willingness to share. Its welcoming light will invite everyone whose heart responds to the beautiful call: Home, dear, wonderful home! And under its rays the brotherhood among men will become reality and a vital force for the development of mankind. Fellowship and willingness to serve give the material for our other window light, called COMMUNITY SPIRIT, which must be strong and pure so as to

illuminate the paths that lead to our neighbors, to our community, our nation and out into the world. Our community, our nation will reflect the lights that burn in our homes. The more powerful and numerous the candles are which we have lit, the more efficient and progressive our community will be.

In order to insure its growth and development we must continue to make our home a source of new and better life. Responsibility and vision must contribute to the light of the last candle, the candle of SELF-EDUCATION. The progress of mankind depends on the lights in our home. Let us watch and guard them, that their flames will be powerful and pure so that their light may unite with the eternal light of God.

THE HEARTHSTONE

"When the logs are burning free,
Then the fire is full of glee;
When each heart gives out its best,
Then the talk is full of zest;
Light your fire and never fear,
Life was made for love and cheer."
—Henry Van Dyke.

THE HOUSE

"The cornerstone in Truth is laid,
The guardian walls of Honour made,
The roof of Faith is built above,
The fire upon the hearth is Love;
Though rains descend and loud winds
call,
This happy house shall never fall."
—Henry Van Dyke.

"The lintel low enough to keep out pomp
and pride;
The threshold high enough to turn decent
aside;
The doorband strong enough from robbers
to defend;
This door will open at a touch to welcome
every friend."
—Henry Van Dyke.

Farm women from 42 counties attended the special meeting of County Project Leaders held in Ames during Farm and Home Week, February 1 to 6.

Appreciation of the work in home economics being done at Iowa State College and thru organized home project work over the state was expressed in the discussions.

If you are doing Home Furnishing club work, why not have a Picture Memory contest? Ask your county agent for a copy of the rules and regulations.