

EAST INDIAN SERVANTS.

Peculiar Customs Regarding Domestic of the Orient.

Many are the quaint sayings and many their queer ways, writes Mrs. Everard Cotes in *Good Housekeeping*. They make their home in our lives, and have for generations of them and of us, yet I am sorry to think how little we know of their affairs. The washer of dishes is not the washer of clothes, and neither of these would wash the floor or the dog. There is one to cook and one to wait at table, one to dust and one to sweep, one who works with his legs only, running errands, one who earns his living with his fingers and toes, sewing in the veranda. That is the oriental disposition of life, limited work, limited pay, liberal time for eating, sleeping and pulling at the friendly hubble-bubble, a leisured, gossiping existence with few excitements but the great ones, births and marriages and deaths. They are not ideal in the performance of their duties, nor strict in their representation of fact; but their manners are excellent; they will intrigue, in your interest—and an emergency—for the leg of mutton originally destined for your neighbor's dinner; they will boast in your honor to the bazaar, and all your misfortunes are theirs. In centuries to come when the tide of emigration flows easily from pole to pole and people find their work in the world as easily as water finds its level, perhaps they will arrive one day to take charge of the American menage. I can wish the American housewife no better luck.