

THE HOME.

ODDS AND ENDS.

Save pieces of old bed spreads for wash cloths and towels. The best parts of old table cloths when neatly hemmed make nice common napkins.

When cutting up worn-out garments save the buttonholes in one long strip; then in making underwear, in place of spending half an hour making new buttonholes, just sew the strip of old ones on, and presto; they are done.

The ribbed part of worsted socks makes excellent pulse warmers. You may crochet an edging around them if you like.

Use the legs of old cotton stockings for the sleeves of children's shirts and petticoats. It saves buying new material, beside the work of making sleeves. Stocking legs are nice to slip over your dress sleeves while doing any dirty work.

When making trousers for little boys to wear under kilts, use old pants cloth for legs and seat; then make the top part of drilling. They are not so bunglesome as when all made of pants cloth.

If your underwear is in two pieces and you like combination suits better, cut the vests off at the waist line, put a band around, and button the drawers to it. Use the lower part of vests to make little shirts for baby, or the legs of little drawers.

When the legs of flannel drawers and sleeves of flannel shirts shrink, take old worsted socks or stockings, cut off the feet, turn the legs upside down, and sew on the flannel suits; the ribbed part of socks fit snugly around the ankles and wrists and feel very comfortable.

SOME PORK DISHES.

Pork Cutlets.—Cut them from the loin, trim them, and sprinkle on salt and pepper. Prepare some beaten egg in a pan, and on a flat dish a mixture of bread crumbs, chopped onions, and sage. Put some elard or drippings into a frying-pan, over the fire, and when it boils, put in the cutlets, having dipped each one first in the egg, and then in the bread crumbs. Fry them thirty minutes, turning them often. After you have taken them out of the frying-pan, skim the gravy dredge in a little flour, give it one boil, and then pour it on the dish around the cutlets. Have apple sauce to eat with them.

Pickled Pork and Peas Pudding.—Soak the pork all night in cold water, and scrape it clean. Put it on early in the day, and let it boil slowly. For the pudding you must have ready one quart of dried split peas, which have been soaked all night in cold water. Tie them in a cloth (leaving room for them to swell) and boil them slowly till they are tender. Drain them, and rub them through a colander into a deep dish; season them with pepper and salt, and mix with them on ounce of butter and 2 well-beaten eggs. Beat all together until well mixed. Dip a large cloth in hot water, sprinkle it with flour, and put the pudding into it. Tie it up very tight, leaving room for it to swell more, and boil it one hour. When it is done, turn it out of the cloth, cut it into thick slices, and lay it around the pork on the edges of the dish.

Pork Pie.—Take the lean of a leg or loin of fresh pork and chop it, season with salt and pepper. Cover the bottom and sides of a deep dish with a good paste, made with half a pound of lard or butter to two pounds of flour, and rolled out thick. Put in a layer of pork and then a layer of tart apples, pared cored and sliced very thin. Strew over the apples sufficient sugar to make them sweet. Then another layer of pork, and so on till the dish is full. Pour over it half a pint of water. Cover the pie with a thick lid of paste, set it in a brisk oven, and bake well until the pork is thoroughly done. This is a nice dish for those who like pork and fried apples.

Flour Hasty Pudding.—Put on the fire one quart of sweet milk, and when it has come to a hard boil stir into it some wheat flour; thicken and stir it till about the consistency of a boiled custard. Afterwards throw in, one at a time, a dozen small bits of butter rolled in flour. Then stir in two well-beaten eggs and cook it five minutes longer. When done, pour it into a deep dish, and strew brown sugar thickly over the top—maple sugar, if you have it. Eat it warm.

CARE OF THE BABIES.

System and regularity are important factors in forming the baby's habits. His bath, his nap, and his meals should be attended to at the proper time, for many of the ills and dangers that threaten babies' lives are due to the haphazard manner in which they are cared for.

A healthy infant will sleep the greater part of his time during the first few weeks of his life, and should not be awakened to show him to your admiring friends. Handle him very gently. The common practice of keeping him constantly in motion when awake is fruitful of trouble in many ways. Shield his eyes from the light of the lamp or window, as exposure to the light often causes them to be weak. If he has colic do not dose him with peppermint, paregoric, or soothing syrup, for any relief that may come from these remedies, arises from the effect of alcohol, laudanum, or opium, all of which are dangerous drugs to administer to a baby. There are few cases of colic that will not yield readily to an application of warm flannel to the stomach, bowels and feet.

If the mother cannot nurse her child, it becomes a very important matter to find a diet that baby will like, and that will agree with him. I have raised two "bottle babies." With the first one we tried cow's milk, condensed milk, and several other things, but found nothing that was satisfactory until our physician advised us to use lactated food. This we did, and were so well pleased with the result that we

used it for the second baby without experimenting with anything else, and I have never seen a healthier, heartier child than he is.

Food should be given at regular intervals from the first, beginning with two hours apart during the day and early evening, and twice during the night for the first three months; these intervals may be lengthened, until at the age of one year the baby has five meals a day and one at night. The habit of taking the baby to the table, and feeding indiscriminately anything that happens to be found there, is the source of much of the indigestion and bowel trouble which is so often fatal. After the first year it is safe to enlarge his diet gradually, giving the child an occasional soft-boiled egg, meat broth, the juice of stewed fruit or finely mashed potato.

Do not burden the little one with more clothing than is necessary for comfort. Leave him to amuse himself the greater part of the time that he is awake. He will enjoy lying in his crib and playing with his toes much better than to be held on your lap all the time, and you will have an opportunity to rest.

SUGGESTIONS TO HOUSEKEEPERS.

A mirror should never stand or be hung when the sun's rays fall on it. The light and heat produce a chemical disintegration of the quicksilver at the back, which injures the reflective power, and makes the glass seem dim and dull.

Many cooks believe the white meal, made from southern corn, is superior to the yellow, made from that grown at the north. Nevertheless a Johnny cake doesn't seem to advertise itself as such unless it is a golden yellow. The yellow meal is very sweet and nice.

Beans soaked twenty-four hours in tepid water, and then cooked a short time only, merely long enough to make them tender and well done; and beans, put on to cook with little or no soaking and boiled a long time, are quite two separate and distinct dishes. And if you don't believe it you may demonstrate it by experiment. Those soaked the longest will be by far the most appetizing.

In cooking the breakfast table cereals, the object is to give them a chance to absorb water and to cook the starch thoroughly. The larger and drier the grain the more time must be allowed for the accomplishment of this result. Whole grains are improved by a previous soaking; those that are finely ground must be mixed with cold water to prevent the formation of lumps. Others should be sifted through the fingers into boiling salted water. Cook fast at first, then more slowly, over boiling water, covered and without stirring.

THE SECRET OF MERINGUE.

"I wish I could make such delicious frosting as yours, Mrs. Parsons," said her neighbour, who had come to the back door to borrow an egg. "I have often beaten my egg so stiff you could cut it with a knife, and then on taking my pie or pudding from the oven found it as flat as a pancake," she continued, watching Mrs. Parsons heap the snowy mass on her lemon pie.

"Let me tell you a secret I learned all by myself," said Mrs. Parsons, shutting the oven door upon her pie. "Do you always beat your frosting hard after adding the sugar?"

"Why, I don't know. I don't believe I do," was the hesitating answer.

"Then there is the whole trouble," responded Mrs. Parsons, "That is a little secret I learned for myself, as I said. One is very apt after beating the eggs light, to think nothing more is required than to stir in the sugar. The two should be thoroughly beaten, with the egg beater and your frosting will be as thick and light after baking as when put into the oven."

"Well," declared Mrs. Martin, "I'm glad I had to borrow this morning, after all, for this egg is to make a frosting for a tapioca pudding. I'll have one that will surprise the folks," and she quickly took her departure.

Having overheard this conversation it occurred to me that there might be some young housekeepers who have not learned this little secret, which we never saw in a cook book. Of course the old housekeepers can skip this column.

ABSURD ERRORS

Made By Noted Authors, and, Among the Number, Shakespeare.

Shakespeare's anachronisms certainly give him the palm for the greatest number of mistakes. Some of them are also strikingly absurd, as, for instance, the allusion to Cato in Coriolanus, supposed to have been made two centuries before Cato was born, and the allusion to a striking clock in Julius Caesar centuries before such a thing existed. These may, however, be put down to carelessness and the chaotic state of chronology in Shakespeare's time, and none of them are either as absurd or as indefensible as the error of which Coleridge was guilty, when he married his immortal "Ancient Mariner" with the lines:

"The horned moon with one bright star
Within the nether tip."

For such an astronomical monstrosity as this to have been visible, either the star must have been on the earthward side of the moon, or else it must have shone through the solid body of our satellite. What makes it all the more absurd is the fact that an educated man like Coleridge could hardly have been ignorant of such an elementary fact as this.

CHEAP BARBERS IN INDIA.

There are no native barber shops in India. The barber is a peripatetic individual who calls each morning at the residences of his customers. He uses no brush to lather the face, and often dispenses with soap. After wetting the face he finishes the shaving in a few minutes, and then polishes the skin with the palms of his hands. A single shave is worth about one cent, though the charge is usually made by the month.

BOYS AND GIRLS IN CHINA

Women the world over have a fashion of saying that men have the best of everything. This is certainly true in China. According to a small pamphlet just issued for the information of his friends by the Rev. S.G. Miner, a missionary in Foochow, the Chinese man's good time begins at his birth.

In telling of the children of China he speaks first of the boys. One-fourth of the children of the world are born to Chinese parents, and the goddess Mother is most diligently worshipped that they all may be boys. But this is a hard thing for even so great a goddess to control and many girls are born. When the news of a birth is announced everybody asks, "Is it a boy or a girl? If it is a boy all the friends of the parents call at once to offer congratulations and presents, but if the baby is a girl they extend sympathy.

The kindest remarks that the disappointed mother ever hears under such circumstances is: "Well, a girl is worth something." Every city has a baby tower built on its outskirts, which is the burying place for infants. Not infrequently a newly born girl is drowned, left on a missionary's door step, thrown into the street, or, before she stops breathing, is tossed into this death house. A Chinese baby boy is a cute thing as he lies in his bamboo cradle, always peering curiously through his black eyes out of his small, round, sallow face. If it is the summer season a good deal of the baby is visible, since he is not troubled with much clothing; but in winter the child is so muffled in wadded garments that it would make a first-class football. White is the color for mourning in China, so infants are never dressed in it, but in some bright color, often scarlet. If a boy, red cords are tied around his sleeves to make him less mischievous and more obedient when he grows up and another fastened around his neck, from which hang numerous small ornaments, and ancient coins, wards off evil spirits.

When baby is three days old special thanksgiving is made and offerings are laid before the family shrine of the goddess Mother. At the end of his first month relatives from far and near are bidden to a grand feast. They bring presents in silver, lucky cash, and confections. The event of the occasion is the shaving of baby's head. This ceremony is performed before the ancestral tablets or the shrine of the goddess Mother. The mother's mother is the guest of the day. If wealthy she brings many costly presents, the most important being a gay little cap ornamented with embroidery and eighteen figures of the disciples of Buddha, which are believed to attract all the good influences toward the little wearer. A Chinese boy has three names. On this day he receives his "milk" or baby name. When he goes to school his teacher gives him another, and when he is married he receives still another. If he succeeds in getting a degree a fourth official name is bestowed. The milk names are as comical as some of the nicknames of more civilized nations. Some of them are Dirt, Cat, Dog, Pierce, Vagabond, Stupid, Beggar, and the like. The idea is that when the spirits hear the boys called by names so uncomplimentary they will think the parents don't care for them, and will let them alone. Chinese resort to many other names to fool the spirits.

After the shaving festival baby takes his first outing. He pays a visit to his maternal grandmother, who presents to him many small but significant gifts, since each one expresses grandma's desire that baby may quickly grow strong and sturdy and become a proficient scholar and worthy man. At the age of four months the little chap is taught to sit in a chair and thus relieve his mother or attendant of nursing him. Not a bad scheme for mothers of other nations to adopt. The day of days in a Chinese boy's baby life, however, is the first anniversary of his birth. A great feast is spread, and even the most distant relatives are invited. Presents, as usual pour in, the principal ones being pairs of embroidered shoes worked by the women relatives. After the feast baby is set in the middle of the table, amid many articles significant of the various professions and trades. The one he grasps in his baby fingers indicates his future career in life. Should he grab the glittering mandarin's button, intense excitement follows and congratulatory praises abound.

Many thanksgiving and propitiatory services are performed at some idol temple during the early years of the boy's life, and at the age of seven he should begin to go to school; but the parents of the great majority are too poor to pay the teacher and the public school system is unknown in China. It is estimated that not one man in fifty nor one woman in one thousand can read the Chinese newspaper. In the Christian day schools each pupil contributes to the support of the teacher as he is able. Before little Ah Sid or some other cute little Chinese kid begins to go to school the fortune teller is consulted, and on the day fixed by him the little fellow begins his education. If it is hot weather he wears nothing but a loose jacket and a pair of baggy trousers; but in winter he is warmly clad from head to heels. He looks very neat with his clean-shaved forehead and carefully braided cue. Upon reaching the schoolhouse he gives the teacher a present, and salaams to the floor to show his willingness to submit to authority. He next does reverence to and burns incense before a tablet dedicated to Confucius and takes his seat on a stool before a little table and is ready to begin work. He does not have to struggle with the ABC's, but instead wages war on the 214 root words which enter into the formation of the 40,000 words in the Chinese language. The first sentence in the Chinese primer is not "This is a cat," but "Men at their birth are by nature radically good." Another is "To edu-

cate without severity shows a teacher's indolence." A bamboo rod which always lies on the teacher's table and frequently is used, is a proof that this maxim commends itself to the teachers of to-day. Many examples of devotion to literature, bigotry, and superstition are impressed on the boy's mind, and he is taught that China is the only great country on the earth and to hate foreigners. Filial piety is taught with great emphasis, a favorite proverb being, "Of a hundred virtues the chief is filial piety." Mr. Miner appeals for money to establish more Christian schools, that thereby these millions of keen-witted boys may be properly educated.

Suffering and toil are the lot of the Chinese girl. If she is permitted to live at birth the father soon after calls in a fortune teller. He gives him the month, day and hour of his unwelcome daughter's arrival and asks him to calculate. If the lass is born under an unlucky star nothing that she does will prosper. If she is physically imperfect in any way her chances of life are small and if she came into the world on a day of the cycle of the dog and her brother on the day of the cycle of the hare, she is made away with at once, since hares are destroyed by dogs. These little defenceless creatures are very attractive with their bright faces and dark eyes. Hair dressing is of the greatest importance to them, and the styles vary accordingly to the province in which the girl lives. Most frequently it is braided in a heavy strand down the back and tied with scarlet cord. At the age of 13 it is twisted around curious wire frames made to represent a shoe, wings of a bird, a double bow of ribbon or something else, and done up in a womanly style. After marriage her hair is pulled out around the forehead and dressed in square fashion in front. The hair of the girls of the poorer class is brushed as slick as glass and elaborately dressed with ornaments. On holiday occasions, the girl paints and powders her face. Fashions of cut, trimming and color in the garments worn by the girls and women in the different provinces vary little. The most important part of the Chinese girl's dress is her little shoes. For years she is made to suffer agony until the desired smallness of foot is obtained. The custom of binding the feet has no connection with religion and is not prescribed by the law of the country. It is the result of the only vanity that Chinese parents possess concerning their hated daughters.

The little girls of the wealthier class are seldom seen abroad after the age of eight or ten. They are kept at home, as it is thought improper for them to be seen out of doors. Their amusements are few and their life most monotonous. They spend all their time doing beautiful embroidery, and when foreign women visit their homes they ask such questions as "Why are your feet so large?" "Why don't you have your hair combed and glued down on wire shapes?" "How old are you?" and "Why aren't your eyes like ours? Have they faded out?" The daughters of the poor have a much freer life, even if they do begin to slave when little more than babies. When barely able to carry them, they are sent out with basket purposes, as fire is seldom used for anything else. The little girls are also made to care for their baby brothers and sisters, the infant frequently sitting on her back in a scarf which is tied over her shoulders. The infant's feet and head go bobbing and dangling as the little caretaker runs about in the boiling sun swaying from side to side to quiet her charge. While very young, girls are also taught to pick tea, care for silkworms, spin and weave cotton and silk, and weave mats, embroider, and make idol money, besides doing the drudgery in her home. Frequently they are sold as slaves. Sometimes they find a kind mistress, again a cruel one. As to education, the girls receive next to none. Their talents are by no means inferior, but a Chinese writer once said, "The feminine mind is unsteady in purpose and easily swayed from the right," and everybody in China seems to have accepted that as law. A few parents will allow their little girls to study with their boys a year or two. The titles of some of their books are: "Counsels for Girls," "Admonitions for the Inner Apartments," "Four Virtues and Three Obediences."

A LONG SENTENCE.

Read His Doom in the Newspapers, and Voluntarily Entered the Living Tomb.

Wat Reed, the Platte County, Mo., farmer who was sentenced to 99 years in the penitentiary went to Jefferson City and delivered himself to the Warden at the State Prison. He was sentenced for killing his neighbor, Newton Winn, in the courtroom at Platte City.

Reed was out on bond when the Supreme Court of the state, decided his case, affirming the sentence of the lower court. He read the decision in a newspaper while in his room at a hotel, and picking up his valise walked to the station and started at once for the penitentiary. An hour later, when the officers arrived to arrest him, he was gone, and the supposition was that he had become a fugitive. Reed is past middle age and will never leave the penitentiary alive.

The two farmers were neighbours near the village of Grayson, and both were rich. They quarrelled over an affair of business, and became enemies several years ago. A lawsuit culminated in a fight in the courtroom, when Reed shot Winn to death. He emptied his revolver at his enemy, one of the bullets grazing the cheek of the Judge on the bench.

Reed refused to spend his fortune in defending himself and leave his family penniless. He had thousands of dollars in the bank, when he was out on bond, and might have hidden himself in a foreign country, but refused to go. When he arrived at the penitentiary he told the warden his name, took one long, lingering look at the world and entered the living tomb.

SHE DID.

Jane, said the landlady severely, where are the eggs for dinner? I told you to cook that dozen I borrowed from the neighbors.

Yes, ma'am, but you told me later to be sure and return 'em."

CRUELTY IN BENIN LAND

HUMAN SACRIFICES ITS DENIZENS' CHIEF AMBITION.

Something About the Savages Whom the British Are Now Engaged in Chastising — A Country Rich in Precious Woods, Rubber, Gum, Etc.

Civilization has been horrified at the discovery of a fetish dynasty in darkest Africa which for bloodthirstiness and brutality exceeds anything of record in modern times. It is called Benin City, and is located in Upper Guinea, inside the bend of the Elbow, and is presided over by King Dzunami. The massacre of a British expedition in the early part of this month has stirred up the blood of England, and public attention is now directed toward the measures being taken for speedy vengeance. The Niger Protectorate sent nine Englishmen and 250 native carriers to the king for the purpose of negotiating for the opening of trade within his dominion. The old king, mistaking their movement, on account of the numbers visiting him, for a hostile one, waylaid and butchered all the expedition except Captains Boisragon and Locke and seven Kroomen, who escaped, and, after wandering for days in the brush, returned wounded and bleeding to New Benin to tell the story. As the season for inland hostilities ends in March speedy work of the old savage king will have to be made.

Although the inhabitants of this murderous city are savages, they are

GOOD SOLDIERS,

and are well equipped with munitions of war. Their city is strongly entrenched behind an impregnable wall of stone, and the soldiers are armed with quick-firing guns and Snyder rifles. The monarch governs by fear alone, and it is unnecessary to add that his forces are well disciplined. His territory is a rich one, and its products much coveted by Europeans.

Besides all kinds of precious woods, it produces in abundance rubber, gum, copal, gum arabic, tumeric, incense gum and fibers. The ivory is, for the most part, seized by the King, who trades it for slaves. On fetich days human sacrifices are made by the hundreds, just as they were in the Dark Ages. Some years ago a Liverpool man, in company with Captain Galloway, visited the King. For two days they were kept waiting on His Satanic Majesty outside the walls of the city, but were at last admitted. They found him, a big black savage, on a throne, and covered to such a depth with beads that he could not move. His nose and toes protruded, however, and when the flies lighted upon these appendages black slaves stood by and brushed them away. A treaty was signed by the King, which also bore the signature of Queen Victoria. Its terms were never held very sacred by the monarch, however, as afterward he sent word to an expedition of Englishmen that he was just as good the white ruler, and bade her defiance.

THEY REMAINED INDOORS.

The two visitors were invited to stay and witness a human sacrifice, but they did not accept, and were allowed to go their way. As they passed out of Benin City they saw dead bodies on every side, all of whom had been sacrificed for one thing or another. The body of a man was seen nailed to a cross. He had been sacrificed because the weather was too cold. Another was bound to a tree because the weather was too hot. The heads of human beings were upon poles at the different gates of the city, and the roads approaching these gates were strewn with the bodies of the fearful monster's superstitions and anger. One time, when a party of Englishmen were in the vicinity of the city, they were sent word to stay indoors, as it was this chieftain's slaying season. It seems rank and position at his court are purchased by the blood of the innocent. If a warrior kills a thousand people, no matter who they are, his promotion follows. The Englishmen wanted took the King's advice and stayed indoors."

King Dzunami's kingdom is said to be of great antiquity, and was the seat of a great fetish dynasty, which passed from one generation to another, and in a great measure still exists with all its primitive, revolting sacrificial customs. It is his custom to kill a large number of slaves on the anniversary of his father's death. The inhabitants are not numerous, and are chiefly occupied with agriculture and the production of palm oil. It is now in order for England to depose his bloody highness and annex the Benin Kingdom, which is now a vassal country under the Niger Coast Protectorate.

GARMENTS OF 1810.

An elegant lady of the year 1810 wore a dress of striped cotton or woollen material, tied under the arms like the neck of a sack! The skirt had not even the elegance of length—it reached the ankles, no further. Three wide frills adorned the neck. Can anything be more ungraceful than the hat? It had the form of a hussar's hussar and also its name. Another hat, called "Florida," was copied from the helmet worn by the Amazon, Florida, when warring in the Holy Land, so beautifully described by Tasso. Women must have been pretty, indeed, in those days, not to look hideous in these fashions.

Short skirts were worn even at court during those days. They showed half the leg, which was encased in silken stockings and sandaled shoes. The hair was dressed in plaits, imitating helmets, or in Chinese fashion. Turbans were also sometimes worn, and looked very pretty when the hair was dressed accordingly. When no longer worn by the young they became the favourite headdress of grandmothers, and were then laughed at by those who had worn them before.

Spencers, Carriacks, wadded redingotes and Vitchouras also date from this period, which seems 1,000 years removed from the Grecian fashion of the directorate. All is stiff and ugly now, whereas all was soft and lovely then.