

HOUSEHOLD.

WASHING MADE EASY.

"For one bar of soap use three table-spoonfuls of coal oil, such as you use in the lamp. For a family of five or six, put enough water in the boiler to boil the clothes, add two tablespoonfuls of coal oil and two-thirds of a bar of soap, or its equivalent of soft soap, let it come to a boil, wet your cleanest clothes in cold water or warmed enough for comfort. If wristbands are very dirty, a little soap may be rubbed on them; put them in the boiling water and boil fifteen or twenty minutes. While they are boiling, wet the next boilerful, and it very dirty, add another spoonful of oil and more soap. The last boiler will not need any more oil or soap. It takes about as much soap as the ordinary way, but it is all put in the boiler. After boiling suds, rinse as usual. Two things remember—have plenty of soap in boiling water, and have it boiling when the clothes are put in. If you fail the first time, try, try again; you will be sure to like it. We have washed this way nearly a year—long enough to test it—and our clothes look nice and white, and we say let those rub who want to. Please try and report."

USEFUL RECIPES.

POTATO CAKES.—Make cold mashed potatoes into flat cakes, flour them and fry a light brown.

FISH SAUCE.—Heat a cup of vinegar, stir into it a half cup of butter, a teaspoonful of made mustard and a little pepper.

SCRAMBLED EGGS.—Melt a piece of butter in a frying pan, when it is hot drop in the eggs which have been well beaten, season with pepper and salt; stir constantly three minutes.

CRULLERS.—One cup of sugar, one cup of sour milk, two eggs, three tablespoonfuls of melted butter, one teaspoon of soda, one-quarter of a teaspoon of salt; fry in very hot lard.

PUDDING SAUCE.—One cup of sugar, one-half cup of butter beaten to a cream, two tablespoonfuls of flour, one cup of hot water; let come to a boil, then add the juice and grated rind of one lemon.

CLOVE CAKE.—One cup of butter, two cups of sugar, one and one-half cups of milk, four cups of flour, four eggs, one-half pound of raisins seeded, one teaspoonful each of cloves, cinnamon, nutmeg and soda.

BEAN SOUP.—Soak one quart of beans overnight. In the morning add one quart of cold water and set where it will keep warm one hour; add two chopped onions and one pound of salt pork. Cook until the beans are tender; strain and season.

LEMON LAYER CAKE.—Yolks of two eggs, one cup of sugar, butter size of an egg, one and one-half cups of flour, two teaspoonfuls of baking powder. Bake in three layers. Filling—One cup of sugar, two-thirds of a cup of hot water, one tablespoonful of flour mixed in a little cold water, grated rind and juice of two lemons, yolks of two beaten eggs. Stir all together; boil till thick; cool before spreading.

COTTAGE PUDDING.—One egg, one table-spoonful of melted butter, one-half cup of milk, one-half cup of sugar, one-half of a teaspoonful of soda, one teaspoonful of cream tartar, flour enough to make a cake batter.

DRIED BEEF IN MILK.—Shave the desired quantity of dried beef, add a piece of butter half the size of an egg, and three cups of milk; let it come to a boil slowly. When it boils stir in a tablespoonful of flour mixed with a little cold water, let it boil up, then remove from the stove.

GELATINE PUDDING.—Make a custard with the yolks of four eggs, one pint of milk, and sugar to taste; soak one-third of a box of gelatine in a little cold water, then dissolve it in three-fourths of a cup of hot water, add this and the whites of four eggs well beaten to the cold custard. Pour into a mold and serve cold.

HINTS FOR HOUSE-CLEANING.

To clean steel, apply with a flannel cloth a paste of emery powder and sweet-oil.

Mirrors may be cleaned with cold water and a sponge, or rubbed with a damp cloth dipped into powdered bluing, and then polished.

To polish hard-wood furniture use raw linseed-oil or a mixture of two-thirds turpentine and one third sweet-oil. Apply with a flannel, and polish with flannel, cotton flannel, or chamois-skin.

Clean brass with a solution made by dissolving one tea-spoonful of oxalic acid and two tea-spoonfuls of tripoli in half a pint of soft water. Apply with a woolen rag, and after a few minutes wipe dry, and polish.

A very complete filling for open cracks in floors may be made by thoroughly soaking newspapers in a paste made of one pound of flour, three quarts of water, and a table-spoonful of alum, thoroughly boiled and mixed. Make the final mixture about as thick as putty, and it will harden like papier-mache.

A correspondent desires information as to how to destroy roaches, moths, and bed-bugs. The following method will generally be found effectual for ridding beds of bugs: Take the bedstead apart, carry out of doors and give it a thorough washing with gasoline. Use plenty of the gasoline, and make sure that every crack and crevice is thoroughly saturated. Kerosene may be used instead of gasoline, but needs to be washed off with soap and water after a few hours, while gasoline is volatile and very soon evaporates. The bedding should be thoroughly and carefully examined, cleaned, aired, and if need be, the seams and corners sponged with gasoline. Care must, of course, be taken to allow all the gasoline to evaporate before returning the bedding to the house. The beds must be carefully watched, and the process repeated whenever any signs of the pests are discovered. Remember that gasoline and its vapor are as explosive as gunpowder.

A Curious Incident.

For the past two weeks, a hen has been in the habit of flying at the windows of the box factory of the Ontario Bolt Co.'s works near the Humber River, and on being admitted at once, makes for a certain circular saw, underneath the frame of which she crawls into a box of saw-dust and deposits her egg. After sitting a while she comes forth, clucks a few times and then tries to get out. The eggs laid are of a large size and perfectly white.

SPRING SMILES.

A MOUNTAIN OF SIN.

One day last week, while conversing with a friend, a colored preacher undertook to describe the utter and unapproachable sinfulness of the best men in the world, and in doing this he had recourse to the following vigorous language:

"Ef all de waters what am under de firmament and on de top of de firmament was changed in de twinkling ob on eye inter de blackest ob ink, an' de skies was be changed inter letter-paper, and ebbery blade ob grass war a pen, an' ef all de folks who has ebber libbed was ter write day an night until dey was a million times older den Methusalem, dey wouldn't hab time, nor ink, nor pens, nor paper enuff ter write up de sinfulness of de best man in de hull world, sah."

AN UNLUCKY NUMBER.

"Yo' hab not yet called to see me at de house," said a colored West End belle to her Adonis the other night.

"De trouble is, I has not got de acquaintance of your family," he replied.

"Come up, den, and be introduced."

"Is your fadder at home?"

"Dat am jist whar he am."

"Am dar a dog about de premises?"

"Dar am dot."

"What sizo boot does your fadder w'ar?"

"Number 13."

"I guess den I will defer gwine up to de parental mansion dis evenin'. Thirteen am an unlucky number."

FOR LUCK.

To pick up a horseshoe is a sign of good luck—there is no doubt about it. Maud S. can pick up a horseshoe quicker than any trotter in the world, and see what luck she has. But it isn't always lucky to pick up a horseshoe with a horse nailed to it. A man down in Texas did that the other day, and he was made to decorate a telegraph pole, just for luck. It is not generally known that a horseshoe will cure dyspepsia. A horse planted one in the pit of a man's stomach who was suffering from that painful disorder, and he never complained afterward. The time to plant them is in the Spring. A red-hot horseshoe carried in the hand has been known to cure a boy of picking up things.

NOT INVESTED.

He had been courting her for six months without coming to the point, when she turned on him one evening with:

"Charles, isn't it awful for a girl like me to have to worry over how I shall invest \$75,000?"

He thought it was, and three months later they were married.

"I'll invest that \$75,000 for you, my dear," he observed a day or two after marriage.

"Oh, I was afraid some one might love me for my money, and I gave it to papa," was the artless reply.

The Fisheries Question.

The religious press of the United States have treated the fisheries dispute with considerable moderation, and many have left it entirely in the hands of politicians and political journals. These are not the best qualified judges in an international dispute of any character, especially when the popular vote has the power that it wields in the United States, and we are glad to see our contemporary, *The Baptist Weekly*, giving favorable introduction to a brief and truthful resume of the affair from the Montreal *Witness*:

The "fisheries question" which has given rise to a good deal of unwise newspaper discussion, and in regard to which Senator Ingalls used such violent words, leads the Montreal *Witness* to make the following calm statement, which it will be well for some of our belligerent politicians to read:

"The Canadians are under a treaty with the Americans, and fulfilled their part of the treaty faithfully, which the Americans did not do. The Americans terminated the treaty. They have ever since refused, though constantly asked, to take any steps towards a new treaty or agreement, and still refuse. By this action the relations between the two countries rest upon an antiquated treaty, the provisions of which it was necessary for our government to enforce, if they were to have any control of the national fisheries at all. The manner in which they have done this has been in the highest degree generous. The treaty terminated in the middle of the fishing season of 1885. At the request of the United States Government, which promised that steps would immediately be taken to arrange a new treaty, the American fishermen were allowed, without any return, to continue fishing for that season. The American Government took no steps to arrange a new treaty, because, at the instance of the New England fishermen, Congress flatly refused to do so. The law was enforced during the season of 1886, in the most gentle manner compatible with firmness. Secretary Manning, misinformed doubtless by people on the coast, called this "brutal," a word which had no foundation in fact, and which in the mouth of a diplomat of any other country would be considered an international outrage. This is the whole story."

Great Capture of Elephants.

Mr. Sanderson, superintendent of government, Kheddahs, succeeded recently in capturing an immense herd of elephants, numbering no fewer than 140. This is the largest capture on record, and represents, it is estimated, about a lakh of rupees. The scene of the capture is only six miles from the Tura headquarters station at the Garo hills. The stockade in which the elephants are inclosed is immensely strong, but is being further strengthened against pressure of so many powerful animals by being backed up with powerful timber supports, while an extra stockade is being prepared into which some of the elephants may be admitted before the tying-up process with tame elephants commences. The main stockade is literally tightly packed with elephants of all sizes. Col. Graham Smith, commissary general, who is paying an official visit to the Kheddahs, was, with Mrs. Graham Smith, fortunate enough to be present at this most exciting capture, and to witness a scene unequalled in Kheddah operations. Unfortunately during the drive, one elephant, breaking back, escaped, and in doing so killed one of the hunters.—*Calcutta Englishman*.

FARM.

TO GROW STRAWBERRIES.

The main point involved in the successful culture of this fruit, as recognized by our best cultivators are as follows:

1. Prepare the ground by deep plowing and subsiding; apply a dressing of rotten manure equal to twenty cords per acre; spread it over the ground and mix with the surface soil by repeated and thorough disintegration with a harrow. The best crops are produced on strong, loamy soils; if somewhat clayey it will be all the better, provided it is drained.

2. Give the plants plenty of space. The rows should not be less than thirty inches apart, and the plants about half that distance between each other in the rows.

3. Remove all runners as they appear, and keep the surface well pulverized and clean during summer after the crop has been gathered in the old plantation—the same cleanly treatment applying to newly set out plants. If young plants are wanted, keep a portion of the plantation for the purpose.

4. Cover the plants in winter, after the freezing weather sets in, with straw, leaves, or other similar material, as a partial protection from injury by frost.

5. Do not disturb the roots by any process of cultivation from the month of September until after the crops have been gathered.

6. Make a new plantation every year, and destroy the old plants after they have produced a second crop.

GOOD MILKERS.

There has been not a little discussion of late among English stock and dairy men over Shorthorns. A few years ago it was asserted that the milking properties of this breed were not what they had been in the last century. This was probably correct, but it is not as true to-day, if true at all, as it was then. When the declension of Shorthorn milking value was discovered, a systematic effort was made to bring it up, and with success. A writer in the *Weekly Messenger* remarks: "There are two sides to this milk question. If enormous powers in that direction are required, some of the best must be sacrificed to the demand for more milk. If more beef is wanted, some of the milk must go. In either direction, the powers of the Shorthorn may be drawn out. In both directions, they may be improved until the point is reached where milking saps the muscular system, or the development of muscle and fat dry the sources of milk. To keep the balance is always difficult, and not always desirable."

NOTICEABLE EFFECTS OF PHOSPHATE.

When some strips through a grain field are left unfertilized with phosphate or other concentrated manure, they often appear as if actually stunted by the larger growth on either side. This is often probably the fact. The fertilizer in close contact with the seed gives it such a vigorous start that its roots encroach on the unfertilized soil, from which they drain part of the too scanty supply. The small amount of these concentrated fertilizers used show that it does not need a great quantity of manure to give a crop a good send-off when it is applied in contact with the seed. The same amount of fertilizers spread over the entire surface would make much less show, though before the season was over the roots might, and probably would, reach most of it.

THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF EGGS.

There are 365 days in a year, and of that number we must deduct 100 days as the molting period, as it usually requires about three months for a hen to shed her feathers and put on new ones. We then have 265 days left. As no hen can lay an egg every day, it is apparent that the hen that lays 200 eggs in a year cannot stop to do much work in hatching; she must not become sick, and she cannot afford to lose any time. If a hen lays ten dozen eggs a year (120) she very nearly lays one every other day, and if she does that, and raises a brood, she is performing good work. For a flock, where good layers and inferior layers are together, we should not be disappointed if the hens averaged 100 eggs each and raised broods.

SKIM MILK FOR COWS.

There are many times in butter dairies where the most profitable use of skimmed milk is to feed it again to the cow which has given it. The milk, after the cream has been taken from it, retains the elements that most cows find deficient in their food. With plenty of grain the cow can easily supply the carbon of fat-forming elements of her milk, provided she can get the casein and albuminous portions which the skim-milk furnishes. It is the drain of these that hurts cows most, and they should be supplied, if not in skim-milk, then in some other food equally nutritious.

CHANGING HORSES' COATS.

While horses are shedding their coats they should be well fed and not overlooked. It is important to have the new coat on before active farm work begins, as the changing process is debilitating. Thorough grooming at this time is very important, and there should at all times be work enough to prevent the muscles from becoming weakened by disuse. Unless horses have some work in winter the fat they then put on will do them little good, besides the certainty that the shoulders will gall when the horses are put to hard pulling.

FARM NOTES.

Thin out instead of shortening in a tree when you transplant it. It is a mistaken notion that it is the proper way to cut off the ends of all the limbs.

Not only does the linden tree produce honey in great abundance, but its quality is regarded by many as equal, if not superior, to that yielded by white clover.

When you wash young trees use a cloth. On old ones a stiff scrub-brush is better, as it will dislodge insects that have taken up quarters beneath the scales of bark.

There is no doubt but hardwood floors should be used in creameries when stone flagging, carefully cemented, cannot be had. Thoroughly seasoned maple is one of the best.

One thing seems to have been quite well demonstrated—that a larger quantity of potatoes, as well as potatoes of a better quality, can be raised with chemical fertilizers than with manure.

Green rye is growing in favor among

dairy men as a forage crop for milk cows. It not only causes an increase in the quantity of milk, but the quality of cream and butter is said to be improved by its use.

Vick says a spot for pansies should be selected where it is a little shady, at least in the middle of the day. A place entirely shady is not desirable. A light soil made rich with well-rotted stable manure is a proper place for them.

Analysis has proven that the percentage of flesh-forming constituents of the best quality of linseed cake is about equal to that contained in peas and beans, and equal to those also for muscular development. For the production of fat it is claimed to be superior to corn, oat or barley meal.

One way to improve the market for truck and small fruits is to diminish the quantity and improve the quality of the produce taken to market. Would it not pay better in the end to assort and cull closely, keep all inferior stuff at home to feed the stock, and send only the choicest to market?

Meal will fatten old sheep better than whole grain, as they cannot masticate the grain well with their poor teeth. Sheep dislike to eat meal, as it flies up into their nostrils. This trouble can easily be remedied by wetting it slightly, or what is better, cut the hay, wet it and sprinkle the meal over it.

A Frenchman supplies prepared and warm food to the milk cows of Paris. The feed is delivered twice a day in covered barrels hot from steam vats. It consists of chaffed fodder, roots, pea, bean, or linseed meal, rye, barley, maize. A cow can thus be fed on fourteen cents daily, and the rations are free to be always analyzed at the contractor's expense.

As a rule fattening cattle will require twelve pounds of dry food for every one hundred pounds of live weight, and this under favorable conditions will make one pound of gain. The food to do this must be nutritious and contain thirty-three per cent. of grain. So says Mr. Lawes. Store cattle will do on eight or ten pounds, and keep thrifty.

In the Spring.

Every new spring seems a new creation, only less wonderful than the first, and a fresh revelation of beauty and divinity to man. Nature makes one more effort, and surely this time she will attain the ideal—the perfectness to which all things tend. The seeming failures of the past are as nothing to her, the autumn and winter are forgotten; here and now at last is a new beginning, and an infinite possibility. And so it is that heaven lies about us in spring no less than in our infancy, and in this new world, we, ourselves, are again as gods, knowing good and evil, capable of the greatest things.

Though spring speaks thus in the air and the sunshine, in the running streams, and the budding trees, yet the inspiration and the poetry of the season have their fullest expressions in birds and wild flowers.

To the soul in sympathy with Nature even the cawing of the crows is sweet music when first it breaks the dreary silence that filled the air and the woods all the winter. But the voice of the crow is not significant of the spring, since many of these birds remain with us during the winter, in the shelter of our thickest woods and cedar swamps.

The robin is the real harbinger of spring—the first bird-herald of the new era. Throughout the whole country everybody awaits his coming. School boys and school-girls watch for the first robin. All the country papers announce his arrival, and the great city journals join in the welcome. No one sees him on the way; yet some morning, as if he had just flown down from the skies, there he sits on the topmost spray of a bare tree, and the glad news goes from mouth to mouth that spring has come. The earth is bleak and bare; there is no sign anywhere that Nature will ever wake again from that dead sleep; yet the robin sings as cheerily and hopefully as if all the glory and joyousness of spring were already here, and his song-bursts are to us both an inspiration and a prophecy.

Even with the snow a foot deep, as it was last year in the first week of April, this brave bird showed no loss of courage. There was an old and empty nest on the bough near him—last year's nest—but he cared not for that; he would build another, and this new hope filled him with melodious joys.

This year the robins reached Canada at an unusually early date. They were seen in the trees on the grounds of the University in Toronto on the 8th and 9th of March. An enthusiastic bird-lover, writing to the *Globe* from Sault Ste. Marie a few days afterwards, reported these birds in his vicinity early in February, both this year and last.

But this fact does not warrant the assumption of a warmer climate for the Sault district. Such early arrivals so far to the north must be phenomenal; and the later appearance of birds in the lower parts of the Province may be partly accounted for in another way. It has lately been made known by Canadian ornithologists that the smaller birds in their migrations to the north are averse to crossing the great lakes. Their strength of wing does not seem to be sufficient for so long a continuous flight. Some that attempted it have been seen to alight on early passing vessels, in a much exhausted condition. The probability is that by far the greater number come to a stop when they reach the great lakes on their northward flight. Here they remain, perhaps for several days, and are seen flitting along from tree to tree on the shore, until they reach the ends of the lakes; then they cross the river, and continue their flight to the north.

The absence of any such obstruction on that meridian may partly explain the comparatively early arrivals at the Sault. It is certain that extraordinary numbers of birds are observed for a few days during the migration season at such points as the Mackinac Straits and the Niagara River.

But we return from this digression. It is in the nest-building season that the robin sings his sweetest songs. Long before sunrise he pours forth his melody from the tree tops, and this is the first sound of morning that greets the all-night watcher. Then, in the evening, after he has been hard at work all day, plastering his house in the orchard, he sings his evensong, and the dusk thrills with his raptures. After a rain-shower, too, he will be seen on the top of his favorite tree warbling hopefully to his timid mate, of brighter skies and happier days. Even in the intervals of a storm, when the clouds are yet dripping, he sings courageously, until the heavy pelting drops of the fresh shower drive him to shelter.

Poets and writers of all kinds have united

in glorifying the nightingale and the skylark of England, but no strong voice has ever sung the praise of many of our American birds. Yet there is a rare sweetness in the robin's strain, and if it could be translated into words there would be a poem of bird-song such as not even Shelley has written. It is but a simple homely air, not a fine or varied melody; yet it is rich and deep, and full of unutterable affection and tenderness.

The brown thrush and the wood thrush reach us from the south shortly after their cousin, the robin; but they are shy birds, and are not often seen except by those who are looking after them. They love to be their nests in thickets on the sides of streams in quiet ravines. The robin is more familiar in his habits; but these are not any others of the thrush family, are nearly so numerous as the robins. Yet the cat-bird, the brown thrush, and the wood thrush, are even sweeter singers than the robin. The wood thrush is, without doubt, the best singer among our northern birds. Its note is finer, more varied, and more continuous than the robin's; and it is, moreover, entirely free from a certain harshness which breaks the robin's strain. At times the wood thrush abandons himself to a wild ecstasy of melody that entirely transcends description. On such occasions his song is scarcely excelled by that of his more famous relative, the mocking-bird of the South.

The blue-bird is also one of our earliest and most welcome spring comers. Though not a singing bird, it is much to be admired for its grace of form, its rich coloring, and its quiet, gentle ways.

Meanwhile our homely little Canadian gray-bird has arrived, and soon afterwards we mark the coat of yellow and black, and the long, undulating flight of the goldfinch. As May advances we greet the martens, the swallows, and the little yellow bird or wild canary, as it is sometimes called. Now, too, in the meadows the gay bobolink flutters in the air, his head quivering with sweet, tremulous raptures, till he drops down quietly beside his soberly dressed mate on the nest among the dandelion blooms. The golden oriole and the scarlet tanager reach us next, and seem like bits of the tropics that have, by some chance, been caught on the south wind, and blown to us here. The tanager is the most brilliantly colored bird that visits the North. When it settles on a tree after its meteoric flight the branches seem all aflame. With the coming of these two birds summer may be considered to have fairly set in.

It is interesting to notice the unsettled air of our song birds for the first few days after their arrival. The crows have the business-like ways of old residents; but the smaller birds fly hither and thither in an aimless, uncertain fashion, like a dazed newcomer in a large city. The country seems strange to them yet. It is all so different from the summer glow and the breezes of balm in the land they have just left. At times they seem quite bewildered. But they become more composed presently, and set vigorously to work to build their little dwellings.

HEALTH.

It must not be forgotten that pure air and sunshine are among the most potent of nature's disinfectants.

TO PREVENT SCARS AFTER BURNS.—It very often happens that great disfigurement is occasioned by the contraction of the scars produced by deep burns. To a great degree this may be prevented by daily manipulation of the parts with oil. The scar should be well rubbed, stretched, and pulled, and by this treatment it may be kept soft and flexible.

The burning of sulphur is an excellent means for disinfecting musty rooms, cellars, fruit houses, or any apartment which has acquired a stale or musty odor, as it destroys vegetable spores and germs of all sorts. If any room in a house has a musty odor which cannot be removed by ordinary scrubbing and disinfecting, then shut it up and burn a quantity of sulphur in it as already directed.

DEATH UNDER THE HOUSE.—Death lurks under the house in early spring, in the shape of decaying and moldy vegetables in the cellar, and the decomposing remains of weeds and fungi which developed the preceding season in the damp, dark, unventilated space beneath that portion of the house not included in the cellar. Killed by the winter's frost, this decomposable matter is ready to send forth the pestiferous gases and disease-producing germs which cause some of the common maladies incident to spring. Clear away the filth from these oft neglected places, and save suffering and doctor's bills.

SPRING COLDS.—Many persons take cold more frequently in the spring than at any other season of the year. This is occasioned by neglect of the fact that the grass and walks in early spring are still damp when appearing to be dry, by reason of the slowness with which the ground thaws out after it has been frozen during the winter months. In the spring also, the melting snow and rains keep the soil saturated with moisture for weeks, so that much evaporation takes place from the surface. Sensitive persons, particularly invalids, should protect their feet with rubbers when walking out in early spring, and should resist the temptation to sit or recline on a grass or reed-covered bank without first spreading upon the ground a thick rubber cloth as a protection.

A PLEASANT SORT OF MEDICINE.—The native doctors of Paraguay have a very agreeable way of dosing their patients. According to Dr. Memersay, the *papes*, or native doctors of the *Leaguas*, administer to their patients nothing but water and fruit. The only other remedies employed are various superstitious rites, and the shaking of a gourd filled with stones in the ears of the patient. The result of this variety of "mind-cure" is not given; but the water-drinking and fruit diet must exercise a salutary influence upon the class of maladies most prevalent among these people.

SAND PAPER.—Sand paper is at present made with powdered glass instead of sand. Glass is readily pulverized by heating it red hot and throwing it into water, and finishing the powdering in an iron mortar. By the use of sieves of different sizes of mesh the powder can be separated into various grades, from the finest dust to very coarse, and these should be kept separate. A strong paper is tacked down and covered with a strong glue, and the surface covered with powdered glass of the desired fineness; when the glue is dry the surplus glass is shaken or brushed off. Muslin is better than paper, and lasts much longer in use.