

THE LADIES' COLUMN.

Fashion's Freaks as Exemplified by the Dressmakers.

SOME HOUSEHOLD DAINTIES.

(Aunt Kate's Budget)

Oatmeal Nice Days Old.

I find that oatmeal-porridge is greatly improved by being made some days before it is required, then stored in a closed jar, brought forth and heated for use. The change effected is just that which theoretically may be expected, viz., a softening of the fibrous material, and a sweetening due to the formation of sugar. This sweetening I observed many years ago in some gruel that was partly eaten one night and left standing until next morning, when I thought it tasted sweeter, but, to be assured of this, I had it warmed again two nights afterward, so that it might be tasted under the same conditions of temperature, palate, etc., as at first. The sweetness was still more distinct, but the experiment was carried no further. I have lately learned that my enilage notion is not absolutely new. A friend who read my Cantor lectures tells me that he has long been accustomed to have seven dishes of porridge in his larder, corresponding to the days of the week, so that next Monday's breakfast was cooked the Monday before, and so on, each being warmed again on the day fixed for its final execution, and each being thus seven days old. He finds the result more digestible than newly-made porridge. The classical nine days' old pease-pudding is a similar anticipation, and I find, rather curiously, that nine days is about the limit to which it may be practically kept before mildew-mouldiness is sufficiently established to spoil the pudding. I have not yet tried a barrel full of pease pudding or moistened pease-meal, closely covered and powerfully pressed down, but hope to do so.—From "The Chemistry of Cookery," by W. Mattieu Williams.

How to Serve Salmon.

A delicious way to serve salmon is to cut it in slices two or three inches thick. Put these into a baking-dish with little lumps of butter put on each slice, some chopped parsley, a small onion minced very fine; plenty of pepper and salt are also to be scattered over the fish. Bake until the fish is flaky. It is an improvement if it is heated often. Drain the fish before putting it upon the platter. Tomato sauce may be served with it if you choose.

Delicious Apples.

The tart apples which are now in the market are almost without flavor. To give them flavor and to make a really appetizing dish for supper, prepare them in this way: Pare them and take out the cores; fill the spaces made with dates. Then put the apples into a deep earthen baking-plate; pour a little water over them, and bake until tender. Less time will be required for them than if the skins were left on; it is necessary to remember this, or they will be left too long in the oven, and lose their form.

Take a Vacation Anyway.

One of the best results of a summer vacation and a little trip away from home is to enable one to see that the world is wide, and that our part of it is only a part of it; and the advantage gained from this knowledge is that our charity and kindly feeling for our neighbor, who differs greatly from us, is increased. We find that the old adage is true, it does take all kinds of people to make a world. Then with what increased delight the usual routine commences in the home again. If any one doubts in regard to the good effects of a brief rest, and what physicians call a change of air and scene, let her try it. However hard it may seem to undress the baby's clinging hands, and to say good-bye to your restless little boys, it will be better for them in the end. From the ceaseless activity and the urgency of a mother's daily life, there must be periods of rest and change, and if no other member of the family can get away for a week that one should be the mother; for in the well-regulated life of a sensible man there is not the friction and the strain upon the nerves which the mother necessarily feels. But the ideal journey is when father and mother go together on a few days' outing, and if there is any power to make parents appreciate all that their children are to them it is the power which separates them for a few days.

Fashion's Freaks.

Red never goes out of fashion. Yellow flowers are very fashionable. Felt will be revived for fall hats and bonnets. Sleeves are to be worn lower on the shoulders. Round turbans are the novelty for early fall wear. Iron-rust browns are the rivals of gray and mushroom. Moths in spun silk webs of gold are worked on ties. Wings of sea gulls are seen now in many a lady's bodice. Astrachan Jersey clothings among the new wool stuffs. Lace dresses are worn in the streets of Paris, but not in New York. Velvet, satin and lace costumes will be all the rage in the early fall. Fancy feathers will be more worn than ostrich tips on the first fall hats. Motifs of embroidery and beads will be much used for dress decorations. Half long Turkish jackets of velvet brooch will be the first dressy fall wraps. Moliere fronts of all sorts are tabooed by women of fashion on the other side. Cockades of owl feathers sprinkled with gold dust appear among fall millinery goods. Velvet leaves veined and edged with gold will be used for bonnet trimmings and dress motifs. The latest in canes is a black thorn with a guinea pig of ebony perched on the solid silver handle. Jet and onchile will play an important part in dress trimmings, decorations and motifs next season. The latest water pitcher is of Egyptian

ware, floral designs, showing morning glories, pansies and grasses forming the ornamental work.

Polarian is a new woollen stuff for jackets, ulsters and trimmings. It comes in smooth, curled, fleecy pile surface, imitating the skins of the Persian lamb.

Breasts of sea fowl, spangled with gold, silver and a mediocred chrome powder, said to be a disinfectant for cholera, are fashionable trimmings for autumn hats and large bonnets.

A novelty in hats is called the "Cadets Joy." It is of gray felt with a conical crown and a heart-shaped brim turned close against the left side of the crown while the right side is narrow and slightly rolled.

For and About Women.

The body of a lady left over night enclosed in three collars or caskets, one of them of lead, in the church at Digny, France, was cremated by spontaneous combustion.

Mrs. Van Cott, the revivalist, has been engaged in her special work for nineteen years. She is now in her 54th year, and says that she is the spiritual mother of 40,000 souls.

A fashionable lady, in boasting of her new "palatial residence," said that the windows were all of stained glass. "That's too bad," cried her mother; "but won't soap and turpentine take the stains out?"

Some English girls wear the divided skirt for a lawn tennis costume, but they cover it with a tunic which comes within three inches of the edges of its frills, and it is difficult to see the superiority of this costume over that with the ordinary skirt. Still, anything for reform.

The *Bharati*, a well-known Bengali journal, is edited by a lady, Srimati Swarna Kumari Devi, the daughter of Debendra Nath Tagore. She is not, however, the only Bengali lady who has distinguished herself in the field of journalistic literature, as the late Bama Sundari Devi started a vernacular magazine and conducted it with ability for many years.

Some Household Hints.

The easiest and best way to remove jelly, blanc-mange, etc., from moulds is to wet a cloth in boiling water and wrap it around the mould for a minute. Then with a little care you will have no trouble in taking the jelly out.

A pretty fancy is to cover the pillow for the baby's carriage, and to make a little robe for him of some light material like that used for curtains. The lining may be of white, but it is far more gay and satisfactory to the baby if lined with some bright color.

Pineapple pie is a delicacy of the season; chop the pineapple, sweeten to your taste, make a rich crust, bake in a deep plate, and in place of a top crust put strips of the dough across, wet them in milk in which you have dissolved a little sugar. This will give the crust a delicate brown and make it tender.

A new way to make tarts was accidentally discovered by the writer. Roll out pie crust quite thin, and cut into three-cornered pieces, bend the edges upward, and put a generous spoonful of jam on each, then cut very delicate strips of crust, and place across like slate; wet the ends of the slate, and press them firmly against the edge of the tart. Bake quickly.

Now that apples are a novelty, and are welcomed in any form, a good dish for the close of a plain dinner is made by paring and removing the cores from as many apples as you will need. Boil the apples in a little water, or, better still, steam them until tender. Meanwhile cook some rice in milk, and when that is done put a thick layer in a pudding dish, and then put the apples in; fill the spaces with rice, but do not cover the apples entirely. Serve with a sauce of milk sweetened and flavored with nutmeg.

Preserved tomatoes are a luxury appreciated in winter. To seven pounds of tomatoes add one pint of vinegar, three and a half pounds of sugar, one ounce each of cloves, allspice and cinnamon. Soak and peel the tomatoes (very ripe ones are best), drain them. Let the vinegar, sugar and spices boil for five minutes, then put the tomatoes into the kettle; these should boil for at least half an hour; if they were not successfully drained, three-quarters of an hour is none too long. Keep them in jars closely covered.

Matrimonial Comedy.

A matrimonial comedy, which caused some amusement in this district some time ago, issued in charges of assault at the Sheriff Court brought against the parties chiefly interested, who are farm servants, named Margaret Biggins and William Bole. They had made arrangements to get married, and the guests were assembled, when, at the last moment, Bole declined to allow the ceremony to proceed unless a promised dowry should be forthcoming. The bride had engaged a lawyer to draw up a marriage settlement, but failed to produce satisfactory evidence of the existence of any funds. The wedding was accordingly broken off. Biggins was charged with having, on the road from the farm of West Overland, on June 29th last, assaulted Bole, by tearing the buckle or strap from his waist, biting him on the thigh, and attempting to throw a jug of vitriol upon him. She pleaded not guilty, but was convicted and fined in £2 or 20 days' imprisonment. Bole was convicted of having, on a subsequent occasion, assaulted Biggins, and was fined in £1 or 10 days' imprisonment.—*Edinburgh Scotsman*.

A Lover's Device.

A young man in Shuehan, N.Y., fell deeply in love with a young lady of Hooeick Falls. She, alas! did not reciprocate. What did the young man do? Did he mope around, and get thin, and reduce his father's meat bill 10 per cent.? Not he; he went and set the girl's father's house on fire and then saved her from the flames. Success rewarded his bravery and devotion, and now he is hard at work helping the old gentleman build another shanty.

When a girl begins to take an interest in the condition of a young man's wardrobe it is a sign that they are engaged. When she loses all interest in it, it is a sign that they have parted—or are married, according to the Philadelphia Call.

Twelve of the 27 translators of the new version of the Old Testament died during the 12 years occupied in that work.

THE KING OF CAMBODIA.

An Interesting Visit to an Oriental Monarch—The Royal Residence

M. Delaporte, a lieutenant on board a French war vessel, gives an account of a recent visit to King Norodom, of Cambodia. "The royal residence," he says, "is a town in itself. Several thousand people are lodged in the enclosure, all of whom are attached to the service of the king. At the end of the first courtyard, surrounded by different kinds of buildings, stands the European palace, which is quite similar to the dwellings of the rich merchants of Saigon. Behind that, in another enclosure, is the native habitation, gardens and huts. This is the division set apart for the harem, and is closed to the profane. The mandarins are the most energetic purveyors of the harem. They hope to obtain favor by giving their best-looking daughters to the King. The women are allowed to go out, and, by one of those strange caprices common enough among the monarchs of the east, who are by turns cruel and paternal, they are allowed to marry, the king giving up all his claims at the request of the lovers; but, on the other hand, any attempt to enter the sacred harem surreptitiously is punished with the utmost severity. The first time I visited Cambodia, a young bonze, in high favor at the court, was discovered flirting with one of the prettiest wives of Norodom. The latter, according to the usual custom, ordered the two lovers to be burned alive. The accused, however, escaped the punishment through the intervention of the old queen mother, who is a zealous Buddhist devotee. Since that time it appears that the fair sex have not become wiser, but their punishment has been changed. On returning from our expedition, the king, who had come to visit the chief of the French protectorate, asked for some details as to the European method of executing, or rather shooting, criminals. M. Moura, without attaching much importance to the question, gratified his majesty's curiosity. But what was our astonishment when two hours afterward we learned that four young women of the harem had been shot in the European military style, and their heads taken off and hung up for the encouragement of the other ladies of the household!

"The king received us cordially, and promised to facilitate to the utmost of his ability our archaeological researches. Afterward he asked for one of our doctors. He was lamed by a recent fall, and it is an article of faith in Cambodia that an infirm or lame king is unfit to govern. He told us in confidence that he was obliged, in conformity with the superstitious customs of his subjects, to consult innumerable quacks, astrologers and diviners. None of them was able to cure him, and all agreed in imputing to evil spirits the persistence of his trouble. Our doctor immediately placed himself at the disposition of his majesty. Ceremony required that the august invalid could only be examined through the intermediary of one of his wives, but the doctor convinced him of the insufficiency of this method, and a close examination of the hurt was made and the remedies applied.

"On going out of the palace we found at the door a group of bonzes on their knees, praying for the recovery of the king. Others were going through the streets chanting and singing psalms. Public prayers had been ordered throughout the kingdom. Around the pagodas and in front of every house tall bamboo canes were placed and dressed with ribbons of various colors. Besides the statues of Buddha, at the cross roads and in the interior of the Chinese dwellings, odoriferous torches were kept burning. Trade was suspended. The people appeared outdoors in their holiday costumes. In the evening and late at night the streets were filled with people carrying torches or lanterns. The sounds of the gong and of the tom-tom were mixed with the constant detonations of fire-crackers, and the sky was continually streaked with rockets, whose explosions and brilliancy were intended to drive away the bad spirits; that were bent on tormenting the sovereign."

"The next day we met a sort of cortege, composed of about 20 natives, who were marching in file, and before whom the crowd of people opened a passage with great respect. This was the escort of the little son of Norodom, who was out for an airing. The child was seated upon the shoulder of a little dignitary of the court. A servant walked behind and shaded him with a parasol. This royal baby was dressed in a silk gown of a brilliant color. He wore a necklace and bracelets, and on his ankles were rings of gold. His hair was shaped, with the exception of a little top-knot carefully rolled up on the summit of his skull, and this was surmounted by one of those white jasmine flowers, whose sweet perfume the women here prize highly, and they gladly make offerings of it on the altars of Buddha."

An Old Lawyer's Lesson.

Young Lawyer (much elated)—"Mr. Coke, congratulate me! You know I told you I had a case. Well, sir, I've won it. Yes, sir; actually won my first case!" Old Lawyer—"You're excusable under the circumstances, but with a little experience you may yet do honor to your profession." Young Lawyer—"Excusable under the circumstances! I don't understand your meaning, Mr. Coke." Old Lawyer—"Don't understand. Listen: If you had been a lawyer of experience you would have lost that case; then you would advise your client to appeal, and if skillfully managed might have been made to last for years, or at least as long as he had any money. But you have won, and that's an end of it. Let it be a lesson to you in future."—*Boston Transcript*.

What Was Remarkable.

The old and terrible Gen. Bigre, says the *New York Dial*, is very rude with his subordinates. Lately he detailed his ordnance officer to represent him on the occasion of an official solemnity. The ceremony finished, the lieutenant returns.

"It seems," said the general, "that you were badly dressed. You were remarked for."

"Why, general—"

"Yes, it was said you looked like a fool."

"But, general, I had the honor to represent you!"

A whale 100 feet in length was caught Monterey, Cal., last week.

WITCH-FINDING IN INDIA.

The Ordeal by Water Among the Tribes of Central India.

The ordeal by water is universal among the barbarous Non-Aryan tribes of Central India, from the Bheels in the west country to the wild men in the almost unexplored jungles of Bustar and the far east, toward the Bay of Bengal. Here is a description of one water test, taken a few years ago from the mouth of an expert withfinder among the Bheels, who got into a scrape for applying it to an old woman. "A bamboo is stuck up in the middle of any piece of water. The accused is taken to it, lays hold of it, and by it descends to the bottom. In the meantime one of the villagers shoots an arrow from his bow, and another runs to pick it up and bring it back to the place whence it was shot. If the woman is able to remain under water until this is done she is declared innocent, but if she comes up to breathe before the arrow is returned into the bowman's hand she is a true witch and must be swung as such." In the case from which this account is taken the woman failed in the test, and was consequently swung to and fro, roped up to a tree, with a bandage of red pepper on her eyes; but it is obvious that this kind of ordeal, like almost all primitive ordeals, is contrived so as to depend for its effect much upon the manner in which it is conducted, whereby the operator's favor becomes worth gaining. A skilful arborer will shoot just as far as he chooses. Ordeal by water is the question ordinary, which may probably be construed as an inquiry whether the water fetch or water spirit will accept or reject the witch, whether he is on her side or against her; and this seemed the best general explanation of a world-wide custom. Another ordeal is by heat, as, for instance, the picking of a coin out of burning oil. But the question extraordinary is by swinging on a sacred tree, or by flogging with switches of a particular wood. Swinging before an idol, with a hook through the muscles of the back, is the well-known rite by which a Hindoo devotes himself to the god, and flogging with rods from a sacred tree manifestly adds superhuman virtue to the ordinary effect of a vigorous laying on. In 1865 a woman suspected of bringing cholera into the village was deliberately beaten to death with rods of the castor oil tree, which is excellent for purging cholera. It is usual also to knock out the front teeth of a notorious witch; the practice also appears to be connected with the belief, well known in all countries, that witches assume animal shapes; for in India they are supposed occasionally to transform themselves into wild beasts, a superstition analogous to our European lycanthropy. A good many years ago there was an old man practicing as a physician near Bringar, in the Himalayas, who was notorious as a sorcerer, inasmuch that his reputation of having devoured many persons under the form of a tiger cost him most of his teeth, which were extracted by the rajah, who then held that country, so as to render him less formidable during his constant metamorphoses. Shaving the heads of female witches is very common among the tribes much infested by sorcerers; it is employed as an antidote, not merely as a degrading punishment, so that one is tempted to trace its origin to some recedent notion of power residing in the hair; and thus even back toward Samson, to Circe, with the beautiful locks, and to the familiar devils of early Christian times, who are said to have a peculiar attachment for women with fine tresses.—*Sir A. Lyall's Asiatic Studies*.

Some Tall Men.

Queen Elizabeth had a Flemish porter who was 7 feet 6 inches; but John Middleton, or the Child of Hale, who was born in 1678, exceeded this, for he was 9 feet 3 inches. Charles Munster, who was one of the Hanoverian Guard, and who died in 1676, was 8 feet 6 inches. Cagarus, the Swedish giant, who exhibited in London in 1742, was 8 feet in height. Of living giants, perhaps the most famous is Captain Bates, a native of Kentucky, but a resident of Ohio, who attained a height of 8 feet, and his wife, Miss Anna Swan, of Nova Scotia, has a similar height. Chang Wu Gon, the Chinese giant, measures 7 feet 8 inches. The Emerald Isle has been famous for giants. Among the most celebrated of the Irish giants was Charles Byrne, or O'Brien, who died in 1783 at an early age of 22. His death was hastened by excessive drinking, to which he was addicted, but especially after the loss of all his money, which he had made by exhibiting himself, which he had invested in a single note of £700, or \$3,500. In height he was 8 feet 4 inches. It is not often that more than one giant is found in a family, but of all the celebrated tall folk was the family that James Toder came from. He was born in 1795 and died in 1829, having reached the height of 8 feet 6 inches. He had two sisters of gigantic growth; one at the age of 13 was 5 feet 8 inches in height, the other at the age of 5 years was nearly 5 feet. Patrick Coster was a celebrated giant. His height was stated to be nine feet, though a memorial tablet at Bristol says his height was 8 feet three inches. He made a competency and died in 1804. He, too, was afraid that the doctors would secure his body, and left orders that he be buried in a brick tomb, secured by iron bars. It is singular what a dislike these giants all had of the dissecting table, though they were perfectly willing to exhibit while alive. There was once a clerk in the Bank of England of great height, whose greatest fear was that the doctors would get his body after death, and he left the most complete directions in regard to the disposal of his remains.—*Cincinnati Enquirer*.

A novel way of presenting the aged "Pinafore" opera has been adopted by an opera troupe at Asbury Park, N. J. A "man-of-war" has been built on Sunset Lake, north of Asbury Park, and the play is given on it, the audience witnessing the performance from the shore. Buttercup comes aboard in a row-boat and everything is as realistic as possible.

Reinforcements have been sent from Portugal to Quilliamme, on the east coast of Africa. The Nile has begun to rise again. The judges who presided over the trial of Stelmacher, the anarchist who was hanged at Vienna last month, have lately been bombarded with letters containing a great variety of threats against their lives.

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