About the ....House

USES OF KEROSENE.

Here are some very useful and novel ways in which common kerosene oil may be made to serve the housekeeper who finds her battle with dirt a losing struggle :—

A white flannel cloth or piece of white knit underwear dampened with kerosene will clean any porcelain or metal bath tub. Dry the tub first and then rub lightly with the kerosene cloth. Every vestige of foreign matter will disappear, and an instant's brisk rub with a dry flannel will complete the task. A porcelain tub can be kept fresh as new by this treatment.

Kerosene will cut the accumulated grease from the drain pipe of a sink and will keep the sink itself perfectly sweet and clean. Kerosene cuts all grease and fats generally; axle grease disappears before it and tar softens and fades away. It is so volatile that, if put in dry heat, as near an open register or oven door, it will quickly evaporate and leave no stain on the fabric upon which it has been used.

As a bleacher, kerosene stands high. Put half a teacupful into a washtub of water and then proceed with the washing after the usual method. The clothes will be whiter, sweeter and hygienically much cleaner than they can be got without the use of the oil, for kerosene is a disinfectant. It kills all invertebrate life, so that many kinds of germs are utterly destroyed by its use.

Kerosene will clean dirty windows or mirrors, giving them a high lustre. It will make dull brasses shine, if not as well as some of the acid and brickdust pastes used, still so well that a little rub frequently given will keep them in good condition, and one's hands do not suffer by the process as they do if the acids are used. After polishing brass it should be rubbed over with sweet oil and wiped dry.

In the war with insect life kerosene is a sure weapon of defence. If the kitchen table is seized upon by roaches, and used as a nest for their eggs, do not burn it up after ineffective scrubbing and scaldings. Put it in the yard and soak it with kerosene. Not an egg will live. In like manner treat any insect infected furniture.

An odd and easy way to be rid of ants is to put cucumber peel around those places where they appear. The writer has yet to hear of the ant that would not flee the spot.

As a hair tonic kerosene is a specific. Put a little in a jelly glass after putting out the light at night, and dip the tips of the fingers in the oil and rub into the scalp. It will keep the head perfectly clean, white and free from dandruff, and will bring in new hair, a rapid young growth.

Last, and most important, kerosene figures as a household remedy. To quote the woman from whose experience of kerosene the above facts have been drawn :—

"I have saved my eldest boy twice by the use of kerosene. The first time it was out on a ranch in Kansas. He had a fearful attack of membraneous croup. His father was racing over the prairie for a doctor, who could not be got in time. I watched for the boy's death at every convulsive struggle for breath, when into my mind rushed a saying of my old nurse, 'We always killed the croup wid kerosene.' I had a horror of her advice in my childhood, but then I blessed her, as I seized my lamp, blew out the flame and succeeded in forcing some of the oil into my child's mouth. In ten minutes the hardness of the phlegm was gone and the child saved.

"Once again I used it and with none but good effect; and while in all cases where I could have medical aid I should prefer to rely upon my doctor, still I feel that, armed with kerosene, I am equipped to fight croup and win."

VALUE OF CHEERFULNESS.

If a man should be cheerful at home it goes without saying that a woman should be. Whatever her cares or anxieties, the wife and mother must make it a part of her religion to live above them. What is prized in household economy is not a temperament which is gay by fits and starts, up to-day and down to-morrow, full of hilarity on occasions, and heavy as lead at other times, but an even serenity of soul which makes people at ease and happy under the roof. A home in which one treads always on thin ice cannot be tolerable. A cheerful disposition will influence its possessor to make the best of existing circumstances, forget the discomforts of yesterday, and anticipate delightful things to-morrow. To live largely in the present, doing one's best and trusting God, is to maintain an almost unbroken cheerfulness of demeanor and of experience.

A distinction may always be made between high spirits, the sanguine optimism which makes people gay to effervescence, and the equanimity which is a good outfit for the common road in choosing a life partner, either a man or a woman does wisely who seeks one whose habitual cheerfulness will fit him or her for good comradeship.

Much of the lack of cheer which undermines home comfort may be laid to the score of insufficient health. A dyspeptic sees the world as through a haze of indigo. Inability to assimilate food makes poor blood, poor blood means low vitality, and low vitality brings, in its wake, an absence of joy and a presence of pain, which result in fretfulness and morbidness. A resort to the dentist or the doctor, a change of diet, an increased amount of exercise, more sleep, less worry, will often restore to a jaded mind and a weary body, the lost sense of happy cheer, and make a whole family glad where they have been sorrowful.

DOMESTIC RECIPES.

Cookies—One cup of butter, one cup brown sugar, one cup granulated sugar, five egg yolks, one teaspoonful vanilla, one cup of grated chocolate, one-half cup sour cream, one level teaspoonful saleratus. Flour to make a dough that will roll nicely. Roll thin, cut in rings, and bake in a quick oven. The chocolate can be omitted if desired, and the brown sugar also, using two cups of granulated sugar instead.

Peach Souffle.—Press twelve fully ripe peaches, previously pared, through a sieve; add one-half pound of powdered sugar and the beaten whites of three eggs. Whip with an top.

utes. Sprinkle powdered sugar on egg-beater five or six minutes. Put this in a well-buttered pudding dish and set in a hot oven for ten min-

Succotash.—Use double the quantity of corn that you do beans. Cook the beans three or four hours. Put in the corn, cut from the cob, one hour before dinner. Have just water enough to cook them in. Care must be taken not to let them stick. Season with salt, pepper and a lump of butter. If preferred, the water may be drained off and milk or cream added.

String Beans for Winter.—Wash Flour to mave a dough that will the beans, but do not string or cut them in any way. Pack in large stone jars with enough salt water to cover them. Place a weight on to keep them under. More beans can be added at any time, until the jars are full. The salt water must be strong enough to make an egg float. The beans must soak a day in water before using, to remove salt. Ever since we gave this method a trial it has proved perfectly satisfactory. The beans are almost the same as fresh, and can be prepared in the same way.

Rice Puffs—Boil with water enough to cover, or bake in oven with milk, 1 cup rice. When thoroughly cooked, beat into it 3 eggs and 3 scant teacups sifted flour, then 1 scant teaspoon soda, dissolved in butter half the size of an egg, melted. Bake in gem tins in very hot oven, or cook over fire on griddle, turning rapidly to prevent scorching.

HINTS TO HOUSEKEEPERS.

The term "double cream" nowadays not infrequently seen in connection with recipes for dainty desserts, applies to the thick cream taken from new milk which has stood undisturbed for from twenty-four to thirty-six hours. This, when whipped, will make a froth so thick that it can be cut with a knife. Such cream should be thoroughly chilled or there is danger of its turning to butter. If the cream is very thick and heavy and a solid froth is desired beat under the froth which first rises and repeat until the whole mass is thick. When it is so stiff that a knife can be run through it and come out clean whipping should be discontinued.

If paint is to look well after repainting the old paint should be cleaned. To do this dissolve two tablespoonfuls of soda in a cup of boiling water and add sufficient cold water to make a quart. With an old soft cloth wash the paint with this water, then wipe with another cloth wrung out of cold water.

The juice of half a lemon in a teacupful of strong blak coffee, without sugar, will often cure a sick headache.

A piece of ice will not melt so rapidly if wrapped in a newspaper, but the ice in the refrigerator should not be thus protected. Its function in an ice-box is to melt and produce refrigeration. A cloth or a newspaper laid over the top will retard melting while not influencing the refrigeration. It is a great convenience to have a small icebox in the dining room or pantry just for cream milk and butter, but is of course an expense. The refrigerator usually fails because it is not properly cared for, and things put into it which have no business there, like cheese, onions, etc.

JEWELS WORTH $3,000,000.

The Shah of Persia made an excellent impression in England during his coronation visit. Of the eastern guests he was established from the first as a popular favorite, and was received with cheers whenever he appeared at a place of public amusement. On the majority of occasions the Shah was more simply clad than many of his suite, but when he did make an effort to appear dressy the effect was dazzling, displaying greater wealth in gems than any other monarch. He sometimes wore jewels to the extent of $3,000,000. Nothing seemed to have pleased or impressed the Shah more than his visit to the King at Cowes. The King and Queen, on the royal yacht, effected a complete conquest of the Shah, who was undisguisedly taken by the King's reception.

FARM·FIELD AND GARDEN

COOLING FRUIT HOUSES.

Probably the most practicable, and certainly the most economical, method of storage for farm use and for the ordinary fruit grower is that which depends solely on ventilation for regulation of the temperature. At first thought it seems that such means would prove inadequate, but wide experience has shown that, properly managed, a house cooled by ventilation is perfectly satisfactory for fruit storage in any of the northern states.

The requirements are about as follows: First, thorough protection from outside changes of temperature; second, adequate ventilation; third, careful and constant attention, especially when the fruit is first put in, and before.

Walls are best made in two or three layers, with air-tight spaces between. The typical wall for a storage house of this sort is built upon 2x4 studding. On the outside there is laid first a course of good inch boards; over this is placed one or two layers of building paper, and the wall is finished with a course of tight, well-matched novelty siding. Inside the wall is built in much the same way. There is put on first a layer of inch boards, then one or two layers of paper, and finally the whole is ceiled and heavily painted. The painting is very important, as it preserves the ceiling from disastrous swelling and shrinking.

Ventilation is secured only by means of windows in the houses commonly built. Even these are frequently placed with less regard to the currents of air which they will furnish than to the appearance which they will make on the outside of the building. Windows ought to be fewer, and properly constructed ventilators more numerous—the fewer windows the better, in fact.

A ventilating system consists of an intake for cold air, and an outlet for warm air, the two being properly disposed with reference to each other, and so arranged as to serve all parts of the room. The cold air should be admitted near the bottom of the room, or should be conducted there by suitable guides. Perhaps the ideal arrangement is to have the intake brought in beneath the floor, and to have the cold air brought up through registers at such points as may seem best. The warm-air exit must be placed in the upper part of the room. It acts much like a chimney, and the draft in it will be good or bad in accordance with the same laws which govern the chimney draft.

Whatever the arrangement of ventilators, great care and constant attention are required to reduce the temperature by their assistance alone, particularly early in the fall while the days are still warm. The fruit house should be closed up tightly several days or even weeks before the fruit is to be put in. The windows should be closely blinded. Then whenever there comes a cool evening the cold air drafts should be opened. If the night promises to be decidedly cool—cooler than the temperature already secured inside the house — the windows and doors may be thrown open. Then windows and doors must be closed early in the morning before the sun shines into the room and warms it up again. As the temperature rises all the ventilators must be closed to prevent further circulation. Thus, by opening the ventilators nights and closing days, the temperature of the storage room is slowly reduced. When nights begin to be frosty the temperature can be reduced somewhat sharply, and if the house is well built there is very little loss during the day of the capital gained at night. An entirely satisfactory storage temperature of 36 to 40 degrees may be secured in this way under favorable circumstances before the first of November, and a little later this can be reduced to 32 to 34 degrees.

STABLE LIQUIDS.

It is just as important to stop the leaks in stable floors as it is to stop them in the roofs. Concrete, tongued plank flooring or even compact earth, should be provided and then kept well littered with absorbents. Straw, chaff, dry earth and muck, leaves, sawdust, spent tan bark, damaged hay from stack and mow bottoms, and dried grass from fence corners and waste places, furnish a long list from some of which every farmer can provide himself a sufficient quantity if secured in season. From this time on he should be on the lookout and avail himself of the most convenient supplies before winter sets in. The bedding should never be allowed to become so saturated as to keep the hoofs of the animals wet. Frequent removal of the saturated portions of a covered compost heap will increase the bulk of that little savings bank amazingly, and eventually add fertility to the soil and cash to the pocket. But what can we say of the farmer who cares for the solid droppings of his animal and permits the liquid droppings all to go to waste when they are twice as valuable as the solid droppings? It would be something like saving the straw and throwing away the wheat. Sheep are usually wintered under sheds. If they are well bedded both solid and liquid droppings are saved for the bedding is kept tramped down hard and absorbs the latter. Now let us prepare tight stable floors for horses and cattle and with absorbents save the best part of the manure which some of us now so unthinkingly allow to go to waste.

MONTE CARLO COAT.

Monte Carlo coats are in the height of style and are eminently comfortable as well as smart. This excellent model is adapted to taffeta, pongee, etamine, linen and all the season's fabrics, but as shown is of black taffeta with a collar of heavy twine colored lace over one of silk and a finish of straps stitched with silk.

To cut this coat in the medium size 6¾ yards of material 21 inches wide, 6¼ yards 27 inches wide, 2¾ yards 44 inches wide or 2¾ yards 50 inches wide will be required.

The pattern 4174 is cut in sizes for a 32,34, 36, 38 and 40 inch measure.

ORIGIN OF THE CANNON.

It is a curious fact that the first cannon was cast at Venice. It was called a "bombard," and was invented and employed by General Pisani in a war against the Genoese. The original bombard, which bears the date of 1380, is still preserved, and stands at the foot of Pisani's statue at the arsenal. The bombard threw a stone 100 pounds in weight; but another Venetian general, Francisco Barde, improved it until he was able to handle a charge of rock and bowlders weighing 3,000 pounds. It proved disastrous to him, however, for one day during the siege of Zara, while he was operating his terrible engine, he was hurled by it over the walls and instantly killed.

Ethel—"Why, what's the matter, Gertrude?" Gertrude—"Oh, nothing. Only Jack and I had a quarrel the other day, and I wrote and told him never to dare speak or write to me again—and the wretch hasn't even had the decency to answer my letter."

THE SHIRT-WAIST MAN.

"Now, Henry," said Mrs. Peck, "the fashion column in the Daily Clarion says that the men will again wear shirt waists this summer. You need not order any made, for here are several that I cannot use again, as the big sleeves are out of style."

TWO FLAGS FLOAT OVER IT.

Postoffice on the Border Line Between two Countries.

The most curious postoffice in America is the one which stands in Beebe Plain, a town half in Vermont and half in the province of Quebec, Canada, says the New York Herald. The old postoffice was built about 75 years ago exactly on the line between United States and Canada, so that it stands in two countries and serves in the postal service two nations. The cellar of the building connects the two countries and some years ago, when the postoffice was a general store, whiskey was known to be sold in one country and delivered in another without having gone out from under the roof of the old structure.

The combination postoffice is now being run by parent and child, the father being postmaster for Canadian Quebec and daughter postmistress for Vermont. Standing in front of this strange postoffice is a large post, which marks the boundary line, and it is said that one time a man who wanted to get a roadway to his premises moved this post, and many thousands of dollars and no little time were spent to establish the exact line again. Until a short time ago a very peculiar postoffice was used in Argyllshire, Scotland. It was situated in the lonely hills between Drimmin and Barr, three miles from any habitation, and consisted of a simple slit in a rock, closed up by a nicely fitted stone.

When any letters arrived at Drimmin for the district of Barr they were conveyed to the rock by the first shepherd or crofter going so far. Having been dropped in and the slit reclosed, they were left until a shepherd or crofter from the other side happened to come along, when they were taken up and delivered at their destination. No letter was ever known to be lost at this primitive postoffice. At Burra, Shetland, an old tin canister, made water-tight with newspapers and pitch, was once picked up on the shore. It contained 10 letters with the correct cash postage. With these was also a letter for the finder, urgently requesting the posting of the accompanying missives, as they were important business communications. After the letters had been carefully dried they were at once posted to their destinations, which they reached without further adventure.

CONCERNING YOU YOURSELF.

Each ear has four bones.

The human skull contains thirty bones.

The sense of touch is dullest on the back.

The body has about five hundred muscles.

Every hair has two oil-glands at its base.

The lower limbs contain thirty bones each.

The globe of the eye is moved by six muscles.

The cerebral matter is about seven-eighths water.

The normal weight of the liver is between three and four pounds.

The human skeleton, exclusive of teeth, consists of 208 bones.

Hair is very strong. A single hair will bear a weight of 1,150 grains.

The enamel of the teeth contains over 95 per cent. calcareous matter.

The wrist contains eight bones, the palm five; the fingers have fourteen.

The roots of the hair penetrate the skin about one-twelfth of an inch.

The weight of the average sized man is 140 pounds; of a woman, 125 pounds.

The only involuntary muscle composed of red or striped fibres is the heart.

Men have been known to lose by perspiration 5,000 to 6,000 grains an hour.

Straight hairs are nearly cylindrical; curly hairs are elliptical or flat.

One hundred and thirty-seven million cells are in the lungs, which would cover a surface thirty times greater than the human body.

The brain is supposed to contain over 200,000,000 cells, in which thought works out problems.

FAITH.

Wise as we are and deep as we have dug in the field of knowledge there are many things we do not understand and cannot. Everywhere we are confronted with proof of the almost absolute nothingness of the human understanding. In pity and in order that we may live, nature has taught us that certain effects follow certain causes, but of the processes by which she accomplishes her ends we are almost utterly ignorant. In the spring time we sow our seed and wait, knowing that in due time we shall reap. We know only that seed so sown will reproduce itself. How, we will never know, and it is not necessary that we should. The source of life and energy is still an unfathomed mystery. Yet in the consciousness of his ignorance lies man's moral strength. "One step I see before me," and it is enough. The faith which draws man onward and upward is developed by constant intercourse with effects that proceed from hidden causes. Were his life dependent only upon the things he understands, he would be little higher in the scale of being than his horse or his dog. With his sowing and reaping, his planning and waiting, he reaches out into the infinite and finds communion with the Unseen Author in whom he lives and moves and has his being.