About the ....House

FOR THE COOK.

Pickled onions must be small, of even size and perfectly round. Peel them but do not cut the tops and roots close enough to break them apart. As fast as peeled drop into strong brine and let stand for twenty-four hours. Then drain in collander or on sieve and dry with a cloth. Drop into glass jars. Spice vinegar with whole cloves, cinnamon stick, mace, peppercorns, using about a tablespoonful of the mixed spices for each quart jar of onions. Heat the vinegar scalding hot and then cool it and pour into the jars over the onions. Cover jars to keep out the dust and let stand three days, on the second and third days pouring off the vinegar, scalding it and pouring it over the onions. On the third day seal them up. Some housekeepers boil the onions in equal proportions of sweet milk and water to keep them white. Others parboil them in salted water, blanch and cover with spiced white vinegar, adding a very little sugar.

For mustard pickle use about equal proportions of tiny green cucumbers, large ones cut into dice, thinly sliced green tomatoes, cauliflower broken in small tufts, small string beans or large ones cut in small strips, green grapes, green radish pods, nasturtium seeds and very small white onions. Make a brine with a pint of salt to one and one-half gallon of cold water. Soak the vegetables over night in this. Drain off the brine in the morning, scald and pour over the vegetables again, and let get cold. Again drain. To each gallon of vinegar allow a pound each of mustard and curry powder, half cup of salt one cup brown sugar and half a teaspoonful cayenne. Add salt and sugar to the vinegar while heating. Mix the mustard, curry powder and cayenne to a paste with a little of the vinegar and add to the rest, and when scalding hot pour over the vegetables. If you prefer a thick mustard dressing, mix a little flour with the mustard, etc.

To candy, violets, get some fine double blossoms, break off the heads, dip them in water into which previously dissolve a little isinglass, and put them afterward into a little cooled spun sugar. Sprinkle the violets with the finest powdered sugar and lay them in sheets of white paper in the sun or some warm place, but on no account put them in an oven. Spun sugar is made by taking a quarter of a pound of loaf sugar to half a pint of water. Boil it until it forms strongs on a spoon when dipped in it—hence the name. The violets may be gathered on a dry, sunshiny day, otherwise there is danger of their not keeping.

Queen Fritters.—Put one cup of water in a saucepan, place over the fire, and when boiling add two tablespoons of butter, then stir and cook until it forms a ball and leaves the sides of the pan. When cool beat into it, one at a time, four eggs. Dip out by spoonfuls and drop in hot fat. When done drain on brown paper, sprinkle with powdered sugar and serve. They may also be split open, filled with fruit, and served with a sauce.

Fish salads are good supper dishes, and take the place of cold meat. Use any kind of good white fish, halibut, if possible, or salmon. Flake it with a silver fork, and mix with an equal quantity of chopped celery or white cabbage. Place on lettuce leaves and pour over it a thick mayonnaise. For salmon use a white mayonnaise, but for white fish, color slightly with green.

WASHING DISHES.

Ability to wash dishes can be taken as a sure test of a maid's neatness, carefulness, and adaptability, for it is not the simple process some would believe and not every one can wash them acceptably.

One of the primal ventures in a well ordered household is the duty of dish washing and if you are in doubt as to what you may expect from your new maid observe when and how she washes the dishes after the first meal she serves. Then you will know just what you may depend upon in everything else she does. If she tumbles all the dishes in at once or if she neglects to change the water when it has become cold and dirty she is not neat, and unless you wish to train her you will dispense with her services.

This is the science of good dish washing. First, do not allow any length of time to elapse after the meal before the soiled dishes are removed. Have everything ready before the washing begins. Make a suds with soap and not too much soda. The soap must not be left in the water. Glass must always be washed first, next, the fine cups and saucers take their turn and any other pieces of fine china. Following these comes the silver. Then the things that are least greasy and finally the large meat dishes and the pots and kettles.

Everything, of course, has been made ready, plenty of drying towels, towels for the glassware, a wash cloth, mops for soap, the ammonia, and a knife cleaner. It is a good plan to put dishes of one kind in at one time and of another the next. Every glass should be emptied before it is placed in the pan, which is a rule that applies to other dishes. Any dishes that have had milk in should be rinsed before they go into the dish water.

After the dishes have drained awhile, hot water poured over them cleanses and renders them easier to dry. The silver should be placed in fresh suds and the different lines of dishes should be submitted to the same treatment. Dishes must never be left lying in the water and the pan should not be crowded. First it retards progress and renders breakage more imminent. Delicate china placed in hot water will surely crack.

If the day is exceeding busy and something must be neglected do not allow that something to be the dishes.

ODORS IN THE HOUSE.

This question of odors is one over which the homebuilder has to fight her hardest battles, even if she starts with a house properly equipped for the struggle. They say that animals have no discrimination in odors; that is, that their senses make no distinction between the pleasurable and unpleasurable. It often seems as if men were made on the same plan. Many a man will sit contentedly reading his paper in an atmosphere of cabbage or fresh soup that would set a woman's sense of smell on edge. The mother of a family has often to fight her family as well as the odors, the necessary, the inevitable airing of a house after meals being accomplished only against protests.

Food odors are not the only one she has to fight against. Many furnishings and floor coverings have odors, more or less unpleasant. This is an important objection to cheap materials, they are rarely odorless. You should select your furnishings with your nose. Even if the odor is not actually disagreeable, the presence of any odors that are not a distinct pleasure gives a second rate atmosphere to a house. I wonder if the sense is not deficient or lacking in a great many people; this seems sometimes the only possible solution of their indifference to the abominable odor in their houses. How people can, except under compulsion, endure houses pervaded with the smell of moth balls and gasoline, I cannot otherwise understand.

SENSIBLE SUGGESTIONS.

To cut hot bread dip the knife in warm water.

Corks can be made sound and air tight by boiling.

Lettuce leaves strewn about the floor will attract and destroy beetles.

New potatoes are given a delicate flavor if a few leaves of mint are placed in the water in which the potatoes are boiled.

Clean windows with a flannel dipped in paraffin, and polish with a clean duster. It imparts a fine polish, and warns off flies.

Lemon coffee is delicious. Rub each side of a lump of sugar on the rind of a lemon and pour on the coffee in the ordinary way.

Imitation frosted glass is made by dissolving in a little hot water as much epsom salts as it will absorb. Paint the glass with the water whilst it is warm.

When choppong suet sprinkle with a little ground rice; it will not then stick to the knife.

In turning steak do not use a fork, as the holes which it makes in the meat cause the blood to run out.

Old incandescent gas mantles make a splendid polish for silverware. Crush a little on a soft duster and rub on the silver.

Grease spots on silk can be removed by splitting a visiting card and rubbing the spots with the soft internal parts.

After washing hair brushes they can be quickly and thoroughly dried without injuring the bristles by brushing them briskly with a whisk broom, and there is no better way to dry the hair after it has been washed than to hold up a few strands at a time and with a small whisk broom fan it, letting the broom act at the same tim as a comb, gently drawn through it. This method is a good substitute for sunlight, which can neither be had to order nor relied upon with certainty.

UMBRELLA WISDOM.

After coming in out of the rain, let the umbrella down and stand it on the handle that it may dry in this position; the water will thus drip from the edges of the frame and the cover dry uniformly. When placed with the handle upwards, as is frequently done, the water runs to the top of the umbrella, and the moisture is there retained in the lining underneath the ring for some length of time, causing the silk or fabric with which the frame is covered to become tender and soon rot. A silk umbrella is much injured by being left open to dry; the silk becomes stretched and stiff, and will sooner split thus cared for.

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ASTOR'S MARVELOUS PALACE

Spending Millions on His English Estate.

Amazing wonders are being wrought by William Waldorf Astor, the American millionaire and naturalized British subject, upon the historic Hever estate in Kent, which he recently purchased, says the London Daily Mirror. The artistic owner is spending money with a lavish hand in beautifying the expanse of two thousand acres that spread around the old moated castle. Though the cost of the undertaking is probably not definitely known to Mr. Astor himself, the popular estimate is that a million and a quarter pounds will be expended upon the improvements during the next two years.

There is no busier area in industrial England to-day. About a thousand men of all trades have taken up their residence in the neighborhood. Recently The Daily Mirror paid a visit to the place, which nestles at the foot of a hill. The road which hitherto led close to the castle has been diverted, and now passes some hundred yards further away. To make this new road it has been necessary to build two bridges over the River Eden, which winds through the estate.

Round the castle masons and carpenters are building a picturesque model village, toned to harmonize with the grey old walls of the castle. A bridge built across the moat joins the new buildings with the old. But the most gigantic part of the work is the making of a lake, where formerly green meadows stretched. This lake will cover an area of nearly fifty acres and will be sixteen feet in depth.

In its present topsy-turvy state the estate suggests Clapham Junction, for everywhere run railway lines and fussy little engines sport up and down. Each day seven hundred and fifty truckloads of soil are carried away to make a bed for the great lake. Round the outer edge of the estate runs a fine deer fence, and a pond is being dug. High up on the hill a model farm has been built, with every modern and most perfect appliance. Close behind the castle an Italian garden is being laid out, surrounded by high walls, with many niches and stone brackets for statues.

The utmost rigor is observed to keep the public from entering the estate and from taking photographs of the building as it rises. Workmen have been discharged at a moment's notice who have tried to snapshot the operations. Only a few days ago a well known member of the peerage motored over for the purpose of taking a snapshot or two of the place. No allowance was made for the distinguished visitor; he had to depart empty handed.

Mr. Astor himself takes the keenest interest in his great project, and is constantly down at Hever watching the working of the miracle. Hever Castle is of great antiquity and was built by Sir William Hevre in the reign of Edward III. It was here that Henry VIII. domiciled Anne of Cleves.

SICKLY CHILDREN.

More children die during the hot weather months than at any other season of the year. Their vitality is then at its lowest ebb, and an attack of diarrhoea, cholera infantum or stomach trouble may prove fatal in a few hours. For this reason no home in which there are young children should be without a box of Baby's Own Tablets, which promptly cure all stomach and bowel troubles. If the Tablets are given to a well child they will prevent these ailments and keep the little one well and strong. Mrs. Joseph T. Pigeon, Bryson, Que., says: "My little one was attacked with colic and diarrhoea, and I found Baby's Own Tablets so satisfactory that I would not now be without them in the house. "These Tablets not only cure summer troubles, but all the minor ailments that afflict infants and young children. They contain no opiate or harmful drug, and may be given with equal safety to the new born baby or well grown child. There are imitations of this medicine and mothers should see that the words "Baby's Own Tablets" and the four-leaf clover with child's head on each leaf is found on the wrapper around each box. As you value your child's life do not be persuaded to take a substitute for Baby's Own Tablets—the one medicine that makes children well and keeps them well. Sold by all druggists, or you can get them by mail at 25 cents a box by writing the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

FLYING EXPERIMENT.

A flying experiment which carries with it a good deal of interest has been carried out at Billancourt, in France. The experimenter was M. Voisin, who seated himself ready for flight on a raft towed by an autoboat. At a given signal the autoboat put on full speed, the machine began to rise, and M. Voisin, cutting himself adrift from the autoboat, maintained a steady flight for about 300 yards, at a height of about 80 feet. He then brought himself gently down to the surface of the water.

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THE TELEGRAPHIC WIRE

TRAPEZE FOR MONKEYS NEAR VICTORIA NYANZA.

Object of Curiosity to the Giraffe —Hippopotamii Drag Up the Poles.

The world is now so much covered with telegraph and telephone wires that civilized human beings scarcely notice them. They run alongside most of the highways in England, and the oft announced coming of an underground system seems to have no influence in the direction of reducing the number. There is good evidence, however, says the London Globe, for, supposing that the animal world has by no means grown as accustomed to the wires which swing above their heads.

Cows, for example, have been seen standing at the corner of fields listening in awe-struck fashion to the Aeolian strains which smite their ears as a high wind blows across the iron and copper strands. Birds like the topmost wire for a perch. It offers them apparently a finer view than the boughs of trees, which are understood generally as being nature's device for the purpose. Curiously enough, a bird will not sing from the wire; whether it is silenced by the Aeolian rivalry or whether, on the other hand, it has come to see the utilitarianism of the structure and to feel that song is incongruous cannot be explained with our present knowledge.

BEES HATE THE WIRES,

and there are well authenticated cases of a swarm of bees altering their flight to avoid adjacency to the lines. Rooks show the greatest partiality for them, a partiality which they hold with the sparrows, and in some of the older lines, where the wires are closer together than is now thought to be wise, nests are built, and the insulation of the lines damaged accordingly. It has been calculated by one of those statistical persons who had time for the enterprise that there is a bird swinging on the lines each mile of the distance which when summed up gives us a total of some 500 birds amusing themselves in this fashion between London and Rdinburgh.

In distant countries there are amusing instances of the use to which wild animals put the telegraph wires. A report has just reached England giving the details of the ideas of monkeys to telegraphy. These animals are convinced apparently that the wires are put up merely for the purpose of giving them a long trapeze for their performance. Near Victoria Nyanza there is a line of three wires, along which there may be seen hundreds of monkeys enjoying themselves to their hearts' content.

The authorities have tried, by shooting them in considerable numbers, to remove this disposition, but the monkeys still run the risk, and travelers report that they often see them in dozens swinging by the tails and chuckling in their own chattering fashion with delight. This does not serve to improve the telegraphic service, for in the depths of the forest the monkeys' tricks

OFTEN TWIST THE WIRES,

and currents pass from one to another, giving a somewhat confusing result at the ends.

Oddly enough, it is stated by experts that the earlier ideas of the monkeys as to the pleasures of stealing the wire have passed away. Now-a-days it rarely happens that wire is stolen. The idea has spread that some kind persons, recognizing the needs of the monkey tribe, have put the wires up in such a secure way merely that the monkeys may have perfect swinging, and the monkeys are perfectly loyal to the idea and refuse to steal the wire apparently for this reason.

"The curiosity of the giraffe is another disturbing element. Cows here at home stare up at the lines when music is being emitted; horses rub themselves against the poles, but these two do but little damage. The giraffe, however, has the advantage of being able to stretch his long neck and to reach the wires themselves. He has a wonderful regard for the pottery insulator. He reaches up and seizes these not very succulent dainties, and pulls them down, drawing the strands with them. The arms of wood on which the insulators are placed also allure the giraffe, and when he gets fairly settled at the base of a pole he finds rich amusement for a couple of days dragging down the arms and pecking at the insulators. The influence which this has upon the transmission of messages can be imagined.

It is as injurious as the influence of the hippopotamus, which creeps up to the poles, looks cautiously round to see if any one is watching his performance, and then, by a long pull and a strong pull, drags over pole, wires,

INSULTAORS AND ALL.

The comfort is that occasionally the hippopotamus gets entangled in his own devices. He is not a very dexterious animal, even at the best of times; but when he's wrapped round with some twenty feet of wire—and in some cases with twenty feet of three wires—he finds progression somewhat retarded. In time, no doubt, he will learn that it is as well to leave the wires untouched, but it seems as if it will take some years yet before the lesson has gone home.

What the denizens of the deep think of the great sea cables is as much a mystery as the others. In some places the deep cables swing from the ridge of one plateau to the ridge of another, and upon the bight all manner of sea animals find that they can disport themselves. One cable which was picked up recently was merely covered for a mile with all manner of barnacled creatures. They had encrusted one after another on the cable, until that which was only half a foot in diameter was to be measured in feet, the cable itself being hidden by the encrustations. Of course this did but little harm to the transmission of messages, except in a few cases where the cable shield was damaged, when, of course, there was a severance, with all the international trouble which this involked.

Rats are a similar nuisance in respect to cables hidden under the earth. A rat seems to think that everything which is enclosed in lead is a pipe conveying water, and with intent to get at the water he gnaws at the outer covering. Sooner or later the result is disastrous to the efficiency of the cable, and this must be written down as one of the difficulties in the way of underground telegraphy. On the whole, therefore, we are that animals have a bigger influence than is generally supposed. But what they think of it all is another matter. One would so like to discuss the matter with the monkey, the giraffe, and, not least in importance, with the rat.

MADE HER CHOICE.

"Choose between us!"

Winkleton folded up his evening newspaper and savagely threw it on the floor.

"Yes, madam," he continued, "I tell you once for all that you can't have both of us. The last time that dressmaker was in the house for a week I vowed that I never would stand it again, and I won't. As for being under the same roof with two half-crazy and absorbed women, and requiring a rake every morning to get the odd pieces of cloth out of my clothes; to hear the rattle and whir of that confounded sweing-machine, and to sit at my meals and listen to a lot of cut bias, ruffled and flounced, and pleated talk—I've had all I'm ever going to have. If I'm to be turned out of my own house, all right; but you can't have both of us. I leave the day she comes. You'll have to make your decision quick. Come, madam, which shall it be, the dressmaker or me?"

Mrs. Winkleton looked at her husband with a hopeless, half-despairing look, in which were discernible some traces of indignation and a sense of injustice.

"If you must go, dear," she said, softly, "why, I have nothing more to say!"

A Frenchman was boasting that he had thoroughly mastered the English language, when he was asked to write from dictation the following specimen of our choice eccentric vernacular:—"As Hugh Hughes was hewing a Yule log from a yew tree, a man dressed in garments of a dark hue came up to Hugh and said, 'Have you seen my ewes?' To which he replied, "If you will wait until I hew this yew, I will go with you to look for your ewes.'" After an attempt the Frenchman admitted his mistake. He used to imagine he was used to English speaking, but he would be more careful how he used the language in future.

"Now, boys, said the Sunday-school teacher, addressing the juvenile class, "can either of you tell me anything about Good Friday?" "Yes, ma'am, I can," replied the boy at the foot of the class. "He was the fellow what done the housework for Robinson Crusoe."