About the House

TESTED RECIPES.

Angel Pudding.—One pound of English walnuts, seven ounces of powdered sugar, three teaspoons baking powder, mixed with sugar, nine ounces dates, whites of five eggs, well beaten. Break walnuts fine and cut dates in small pieces, add sugar and whites of eggs last. Bake in moderate oven twenty to thirty minutes. Serve with whipped cream.

Currant Marmalade.—Six pounds of currants, six oranges, one and one-half pounds seedless raisins, five pounds granulated sugar. Cut the oranges in fine pieces, being careful to remove the seeds. Mix fruit with sugar and cook forty minutes. Put in pint jars or jelly glasses.

Hot Potato Salad.—Boil seven or eight potatoes and use before they are cold. Chop half an onion and put into a pan with enough water to cover the bottom. Season with pepper and salt, cooking until the water simmers; add three tablespoonfuls of butter, and when it is melted a tablespoonful of vinegar. Slice the potatoes and pour the dressing on them, serving hot.

Sponge Cake.—Sift one level measuring cup of flour four times on newspaper and set aside. Sift one and one-fourth cups of granulated sugar four times and set aside. Partly beat the whites of six eggs and add one-half teaspoon of cream of tartar and beat stiff, gradually beating in the sugar. Cream the six yolks and beat in one teaspoon of vanilla and one-half teaspoon of almond extract, gradually folding in the flour. Bake from thirty-five to forty minutes in a pan with chimney in a slow oven.

Cracker Pudding.—One cup cracker crumbs, one pint milk, yolks of two eggs beaten with milk, one teaspoon sugar, one teaspoon lemon extract, three tablespoonfuls cocoanut; bake ten minutes, take out, put on top the whites of eggs beat in one cup sugar, one teaspoon lemon extract; keep in oven long enough to brown.

Tiplop Gingerbread. — One-half cup butter, one-half cup sugar, one-half cup molasses, one-half cup sour milk or cold water, one and one-half cups flour, two eggs, not beaten; one tablespoon ginger, one teaspoon soda. The secret of having it light and tender is in beating the soda and molasses together thoroughly and in not beating the eggs. Add molasses and soda before the flour.

Preserved Pears.—Pare the fruit with a silver knife and drop into a bowl of cold water to preserve the color. When all are pared, put into a pan of clear, cold water, and boil until almost tender. Make a syrup of the water in which the pears were boiled, allowing one pound of sugar to each half-pint of water. Drop the pears into the syrup and cook them slowly until they can be pierced with a silver fork. Put the fruit in hot jars and cover with the boiling syrup. Seal tightly.

Calla Lily Cakes.—Make an ordinary sponge cake; drop batter by spoonfuls on buttered, paper lined, tin pan. Allow room for cakes to expand slightly while baking. Put into slow oven, letting them just bake through; when baked too long the cakes will break when made into lilies. Fold cakes while hot into cornucopias, fastening with toothpicks or string until quite cold. Remove strings or picks; lay on pretty dish; fill with whipped cream, placing a strip of orange to imitate the stamen. Garnish with lily leaves and serve.

Boneless Birds.—Grind a pound of lean beef stew, together with one large onion, through meat grinder five times. Season with salt, pepper, a little ginger, pinch allspice, sprinkle of ground nutmeg. Pound well on both sides two thin slices of round steak, and cut as nearly as possible into three-inch squares. Sprinkle with salt and pepper and cover with thin strips of fat pork. Put a spoonful of the ground meat on each square; fold, and fasten edges together with toothpicks. Fry to a rich brown in hot butter and drippings; lift them out and stir in flour to make enough gravy, about two tablespoonfuls. Add hot stock, and, if necessary, some hot water. Put back birds, which should be covered by the gravy, and cook forty-five minutes. When ready to serve, pull out toothpicks, arrange on hot platter, garnish with greens, and serve gravy separately.

Fudge Cake.—One cup sugar; two-thirds cup butter; three eggs, one cup milk, two and one-half cups flour, two heaping teaspoonfuls of baking powder, one-quarter cup of chocolate, one-half cup of English walnuts, broken up coarsely; cream the butter and sugar together, add the cup of milk, and stir in lightly the flour, into which the baking powder has been sifted. Stir in the chocolate, which has been dissolved by placing in a cup and setting in hot water. Add the nuts, and, last, the eggs, which should be beaten, whites and yolks separately.

Fudge Frosting.—One and one-half tablespoonfuls of butter, one-half cup powdered cocoa, one and one-quarter cups confectioner's sugar, a pinch of salt, one-quarter cup of milk, one teaspoonful vanilla; melt butter, add cocoa, sugar, salt, and milk. Heat to boiling point and boil eight minutes. Remove from fire and heat until creamy. Pour over cake to depth of one-quarter inch.

Mother's Ear

A WORD IN MOTHER'S EAR: WHEN NURSING AN INFANT, AND IN THE MONTHS THAT COME BEFORE THAT TIME,

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USEFUL HINTS.

Remove Stopper from Bottle.—Take a thin piece of wire, loop it, and insert loop into bottle. Get the cork in the loop and you can draw it out easily.

Moth Preventives.—The essential oil of cloves, cedar, and cinnamon are sure preventives against moths or bugs.

Protect Quilt Edges.—Baste a width of calico or cheese cloth across the top of quilts, like a binding. When soiled rip off, wash, sew on again, and your quilts always look like new.

Stocking Saver.—Sew pieces of cloth inside the legs of children's stockings. Have the pieces extend well over the knee, as this will keep the knees from wearing out and also will serve as a firmer hold for the elastic.

Cretonne Bed Cover.—During the hot weather, when so much dust blows into the room, a cover of figured cretonne, made large enough to cover the bed and pillows, is useful. It can be of colors to harmonize with the color scheme of the room. It not only protects the bed frm dust but is ornamental as well. It will save the laundering of bedspreads and shams.

"Sure Cure" for Ants.—Put one tablespon of water and one of paregoric in a small saucer on the cupboard shelves, or any place infested by the ants. They will leave. Strips of blotting paper saturated with the paregoric placed on the refrigerator shelves will exterminate the little red ants.

To Drive Away Mosquitoes.—Put a piece of beef on a plate near your bed and you will sleep untroubled. The morning finds them full and stupid.

Mend Lace Curtains.—Take a strip of net or the good parts of an old curtain. Dip curtains into hot starch and apply these parts to the worn places and they will adhere.

Time Saver.—Keep on each floor of a house, duster, dustpan and broom.

Short-stemmed Flowers.—To arrange short-stemmed flowers, such as violets, pansies, and small English daisies, cut a piece of wire screen to fit top of vase. Fill vase with water, put on screen, and arrange flowers and leaves with stems through mesh of screen.

Bath Towels.—When bound on the edges with firm tape they will not pull or strain along the sides as they otherwise would do.

Care of Silver.—Never let silver be near rubber of any kind, as it will mark it badly.

Hanging Curtains.—To prevent curtains from tearing when putting on a rod, place a piece of thin cloth over the end of rod. The curtain will slip along smoothly, saving much time and patience.

Mend Broken Crockery.—When a plate or dish is broken in two, bind together with strips of soft cloth, cover with skim milk and boil four hours. It will be as good as new, and can be used in either hot or cold water ever after.

Burglar-Proof Window Fastener.—Where the sash of the upper and lower windows meet, drill a hole with a brace and bit deep enough to go completely through the sash of the lower window and half way through the sash of the upper window. Insert a heavy nail or small spike of the same length as the hole which you have drilled. This fastens the window together so firmly that nothing short of a crowbar, with its attendent noise, can pry them apart. The nail is removed only to open the windows.

PITH, POINT AND PATHOS.

Happiness is sweetest if its light shines through a mist of tears and sorrow.

A mistake is something that is recognized last of all by the fellow who made it.

The value of anything you are buying is determined by how badly you want it.

Love is a continuous succession of fond farewells and joyous greetings that follow.

Respect for office often falls off when there is no way for the office to effect you.

The value of a fact depends largely upon what it is you happen to be trying to prove.

One essential of success in this world is the ability to make your work please your boss.

It is as hard for the average man to attend to his own business as to let another man's alone.

The hardest thing to learn for most men is that they are not absolutely essential to this world.

Your wife is a person who knows the difference between your character and your reputation.

It is mighty mean to send a penniless man a booklet descriptive of ideal places to spend the summer.

The best proof of the existence of a strong imagination in women is that they fall in love with men.

It must make a monkey mighty happy to hear certain people denying the Darwinian theory of evolution.

No man ever got very far if he kept thinking of the journey rather than the goal at the end thereof.

When you are making the excuse it sounds a lot more satisfactory than when some one is making it to you.

FIRE INSURANCE RIDDLES

AN ENGLISH HOUSEHOLDER'S PREDICAMENT.

Writer in London Daily Mail Tells How Companies Treat the Insured.

Every year enormous amounts are paid by the British public as premiums for the insurance of their houses and goods against the risks of fire. But there is not a single householder in this country who can tell me how much he would be able to get out of the company which insures him if his house was completely burnt out and his goods were totally destroyed, says A. M. Barrington in London Daily Mail.

And the reason of this lies in the absurd fact that, although I, as a householder, pay a fixed annual premium on a fixed insurable amount to protect me from the risks of fire, the company will not pay me that fixed insurable amount, even though all my goods are lost. Although the company cheerfully scoops in the premiums on £1,000 or £5,000—premiums, mind you, in strict proportion to the insurable amount—it is under no obligation to pay that amount, and in practice it never does.

WHAT COMES OFF.

It is only when the fire has come and destroyed all his goods that the householder finds this out. Then, when he claims the £1,000 or whatever the sum may be on which he has paid his premiums, he is met, for the first time, by a demand for proof as to what goods were burnt and whether they were worth that sum.

He is required to produce an inventory comprising every article, to give evidence of their value to show accounts and receipts concerning the articles he has bought, to prove that they are all his and not belonging to his servants or his friends, and then, when he has done all this, he is told that he has not allowed for depreciation, and that 20 or 30 or even more per cent. must come off his claim on that head alone.

A HEAVY LOSER.

The result is that, while fire insurance as at present arranged acts well enough on partial and inconsiderable losses, when a total, or practically a total, loss occurs, the unfortunate householder is a heavy loser. In addition to the mental trouble, such as complete destruction of his home brings on him, he is compelled within a very short time to render all these innumerable particulars, and eventually, to escape the anxieties and expense of a lawsuit, to accept practically what the insurance company determines to give him.

And this is why I say that the time has come for a drastic reform of the fire insurance system—for it is the system and not any individual company or group of companies against which I now protest; and that the public should receive, without question, the full amount on which they have annually paid a proportionate premium, directly they have satisfied the company that the fire has taken place under bona fide circumstances and that the loss has been as complete as they claim it to be.

UNSATISFACTORY SYSTEM.

That is say, on a total loss we want a "valued policy"—a policy which values our goods (after inspection by the company) at a fixed sum, and gives us a right to that sum on the proof of the loss.

At present one loses heavily under the most unsatisfactory system in vogue, and as there is nothing like a concrete case to illustrate the working of a system, I will give my own unfortunate experience of my heavy loss by fire, although I had thought I was fully insured against its risks.

CASE IN POINT.

Some fifteen years ago I insured my furniture for the sum of £1,200, and ever since then I had paid the annual premium proportionate to that amount. Six months since a fire broke out in the middle of the night, and practically all my furniture and effects were destroyed before the local fire brigade had got the fire under what they called "control." Thereupon I sent in my claim for £1,200, with such general details as I could compile within the fortnight allowed to me by the terms of the policy.

Then the trouble began. I was required by the company to set out each article that I had lost, to place against it its value at the time of the fire, and to produce accounts and vouchers in connection with these articles. It was impossible for me to do any of these things properly.

RACKED THEIR BRAINS.

My wife and I racked our brains to the pitch of torment to compile a list which probably left out a hundred articles—most of them small, I do not doubt. The value of those we remembered we could in some instances gauge, but in many instances we could not. We could only draw "bows at a venture," and we had to be very careful not to be too venturesome, for we had before us a warning in large type that in the case of a claim being so exaggerated as to be considered fraudulent, all benefit under the policy would be forfeited.

Finally, as to accounts and vouchers, we had practically none. A stray invoice or two, some twenty or thirty receipts not showing clearly the particular article to which they applied—were all that we had possessed, and these had disappeared in the fire which had overwhelmed our home.

DEDUCTIONS MADE.

The upshot of the whole matter was that the company assumed there was £1,000 worth of goods in the house, declined to pay for engravings and prints (some of which were worth £5 and £10 apiece) because they had not been expressly mentioned in the policy; for the same reason would not pay for two pianos; disclaimed responsibility for several valuable family portraits in oils, on the ground that they were not absolutely mine, but were held in trust; held that the damage in my study, where I kept guns, fishing-rods, some sporting trophies, and a number of books and pictures, was caused not by the fire, but by the explosion of a case of cartridges I kept in that room, and therefore was not covered by the policy; deducted 20 per cent. for general depreciation, while allowing nothing for the appreciation of some old Georgian silver plate; and finalls offecred me £750, or the alternative of an expensive and unsatisfactory arbitration (the terms of the policy denying me the right to place my case before a judge and jury).

"VALUED POLICY."

That, in brief, is the story of my fire insurance, and it must be the experience of many persons after an overwhelming fire. Some companies are undoubtedly more generous than others; but I maintain that the system is wrong, and that what we pay for we should be entitled to get; that the policy should be a "valued policy"—in other words, if £1,000 worth of goods is paid for and is lost, £1,000, and no other sum, should be payable to the loser.

ANXIOUS MOMENTS.

Thousands of Little Ones Die During the Summer Months.

Every mother of small children knows how fatal are the summer months. Dysentery, diarrhoea, cholera infantum and stomach troubles are alarmingly frequent at this time and too often a precious little life is lost after only a few hours' illness. The mother who keeps Baby's Own Tablets in the house feels safe. The occasional use of Baby's Own Tablets prevents stomach and bowel troubles, or if the trouble comes unawares the Tablets will bring the little one through safely. Mrs. Geo. Robb, Aubrey, Que., says:—"I have used Baby's Own Tablets for stomach and bowel troubles with the best results. I feel quite safe when I have the Tablets in the house." Sold by medicine dealers or by mail at 25c. a box from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

A DEMORALIZED PLANET.

(By A. Banker.)

Is the axis of the globe suddenly altering its position; or has this poor old earth of ours become utterly demoralized? We know that the "precession of the equinoxes" greately changes the climate of certain portions of our planet, but that is an extremely slow movement requiring more than twenty-five thousand years to complete an entire cycle. But in the Northern Hemisphere a most strange variation in the climatic condition of a considerable portion of the earth's surface has of late occurred, involving a complete reversal of the ordinary state of affairs.

For instance, during the intensely cold weather of the past winter in Southern Europe and North Africa, the thermometer in Iceland registered as much as between fifty and sixty degrees higher than in the province of Venice; and in the city of Venice itself it was impossible for a time to perform any funerals as the canals were frozen hard and gondolas could not be rowed to the cemetery. And in Constantine, an inland town in North Africa, many of the palms and other subtropical trees were apparently killed by the frost, while the snow which had fallen there was described as having been nearly a yard deep. This, however, was probably an exaggeration. All down the Riviera, that region of sun and genial warmth, too, it was at times intensely cold and inclement. And in England, at nearly the end of June, fires in the rooms were almost a necessity; while in Scotland it is recorded that heavy snow has fallen on some of the mountains; although at the same time at Tromsoe two hundred and fifty miles north of the Arctic circle the weather was described as having been glorious and delightful, with the thermometer at seventy.

Or is the glacial period again approaching, and England instead of being a land of sylvan glades and shady groves, of heath-clad hills and flower-bedecked lanes and coombs, and of lovely fern-adorned glens and vales, once more to be mantled in a shroud of ice, every living creature driven from her dear and inhospitable shores, and, for an epoch, but a gelid wilderness, an ice-bound, storm-swept waste.

And in other respects too, alas, the earth is becoming more and more demoralized. The so-called "New Theology" is causing the unstable to lose their faith in the Holy Bible; the Lord's Day is being desecrated ever more and more; and in many of the pulpits of the land the great atonement for sin made on the cross by the Son of God is utterly ignored, and mere ethics and morality—though imperative of course, to those who would attain to eternal life—are substituted for faith in the Redeemer's sacrifice. For through that alone can an entrance be gained to the glory-land.

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MODERN GIANTS.

Men and Women Who Were More Than Eight Feet in Height.

Marie Fassnauer, a Tyrolese woman, towers to the height of eight feet. But Marie, in spite of her many inches, is not the most exalted lady that ever lived. Just a quarter of a century ago the world gazed with craned head and open mouth at a still taller giantess who looked down on her admirers from a height of eight feet two inches and who was said to be "still growing."

"Marian," as this remarkable maiden was called, had been born only sixteen years earlier in a village near the Thuringian Mountains, and the "Amazon Princess" was for some months the greatest attraction in the spectacle of "Babil and Bijou" at the Alhambra Theatre, London—a character in which she wore a wonderful suit of armor and was crowned with a towering headdress, the topmost plume of which was a good ten feet from the stage.

Nor was Marian distinguished only by her great height, for she had a beautifully proportioned figure, a distinctively pretty face and a most amiable disposition. This magnificent creature had a very brief tenure of life, for she died at Berlin less than two years later and before she had seen her eighteenth birthday.

In 1869 and 1870 Miss H. Swan, the Nova Scotia giantess, caused considerable sensation. Miss Swan seemed destined from the cradle to be a woman of abnormal dimensions, for though her father, a Scottish immigrant, was barely five feet six inches and her mother was half a foot shorter still, Miss Anna reached six feet at the age of 11, and at 15 was the tallest person in Nova Scotia. For a time she was the chief attraction of Barnum's great show, and during this period twice narrowly escaped death from fire. She had, too, some histrionic ability, as was proved when she appeared as Lady Macbeth in New York, and before going to England she made a triumphal tour of the United States.

In her prime Miss Swan was but a few inches short of eight feet, and she found an appropriate husband in Capt. Martin Bates, the Kentucky giant, who was actually two inches taller than herself.

Chang the Chinese giant who ended his days at Bournemouth, England, not many years ago, was a man of enormous size, standing over eight feet in his socks, but he used to declare that he had a sister at home in China who could easily look over his head. This remarkable lady was eight feet four inches in height and had a hand with a span of two feet.

Robert Hales, the Norfolk giant who caused a great sensation in England about half a century ago, was a member of a very remarkable family, which included some women of extraordinary stature. His father, a farmer, was six feet six inches high, and although his mother was but a paltry six feet, it is said that she had an ancestor in the sixteenth century who stood four inches over eight feet.

Of the children of this couple the four sons averaged six feet five inches, and five daughters but one and one-half inches less. Robert, the tallest member of the family, was a little over seven and one-half feet high, and measured sixty-four inches and sixty-two inches around the waist and chest, respectively, while the tallest of the sisters, who died at 20, was seven feet two inches in height and of proportionate build.

The number of deaths occurring among young children during the summer months is simply appalling. In the city of Montreal last week, 175 children under the age of five years died, and nearly all the deaths were due to stomach and bowel troubles. With ordinary care most of these little lives might have been saved. Watch the food given the little ones. Do not feed meats; see that the milk given is pure, and give an occasional dose of Baby's Own Tablets, a medicine which surpasses all others in preventing and curing stomach and bowel troubles.

SUSPICIOUS.

"I guess Mr. Roxley ain't as rich as some people think," said Tommy. "You said he didn't have to work, but could jest go 'round enjoyin' hisself wherever he pleased."

"So he kin," said Jimmy.

"Well, he wasn't at that dandy Sunday school picnic of ours yesterday, an' the tickets wuz only 25 cents."

AWFUL WARNING.

Pa: "Yes, my son; the Egyptians were the most intellectual people on the face of the earth at one time; but finally the nation decayed."

Tommy: "And what caused them to decay, Pa?"

Pa: "Smoking too many Egyptian cigarettes, my son."

SAUCE FOR THE GANDER.

Mr. Fussy: "I don't see why you wear thos ridiculously big sleeves when you have nothing to fill them."

Mrs. Fussy: "Do you fill your silk hat?"

When a man boasts of how he loves his work, it is a sign that he realizes he cannot afford to loaf.