About the House

WAYS WITH THE PARSNIP.

"Fair words butter no parsnips," says the old proverb, and in truth, those of use who are most fond of them know that they are both more attractive and alatable with butter. But parsnips, even if old, need not be dry, as there are many good ways of preparing them, and this fine, fleshy root, with its 10.8 per cent. of carbohydrates and valuable cellulose (of value when rightly cooked, well masticated, and therefore, well digested), is deserving of thorough appreciation. It is found in Europe and Asia and is also a native to England. In Erin's Isle one might guess that it would be cultivated for use as a home-brewed fermented drink as well as food for both man and beast. The fibrous tendency of the parsnip makes it necessary to cook carefully (especially if not in its tenderest stages and inclined to strength of flavor) in unsalted water, in an uncovered vessel and, where greater delicacy is desired, in more than "one" water. Length of time must vary with its condition, or course, but if haste is necessary and the method permit, cut the parsnip into small pieces. Parsley seems never out of place, adding a touch of grace to the palatability as butter does to its smoothness.

Boiled and Broiled.—Wash and boil until tender, then scrape and, if young, serve whole with butter, pepper and salt, with butter and lemon juice, or with a milk dressing. If older they should be cut in slices, serving with the same dressings. Slice cold, boiled parsnips lengthwise and broil on gridiron or toaster and serve with butter.

With Egg Sauce.—Cut cold, boiled parsnips into cubes and heat in milk. Thicken with a little flour rubbed smooth in a well-beaten egg. Add a bit of butter, pepper, salt, and a chopped, hard-boiled egg.

Buttered Parsnips.—Scrape and slice thin the parsnips and cook until tender, or boil whole and then slice thin. Replace in saucepan with half cup butter and tablespoon fresh, chopped parsley. Let simmer a moment after heating through and serve hot, seasoning with salt and pepper.

Fried Delicacy.—Instead of broiling, the slices may be fried in simplest form or dipped in egg and cracker crumbs, sprinkling with a little nutmeg on serving.

Parsnip Cutlets.—Cut into lengthwise slices cold, boiled parsnips and fry brown, after which dip one side in batter of egg and flour and fry till brown, and, as the third step, dip the second side, in turn, in the batter and fry. Serve with tomato sauce in which should be a little minced onion and chopped parsley.

Fricassed.—Boil sliced raw parsnips in milk until tender, adding one-half cup cooked celery or peas. Thicken with a little flour rubbed smooth in butter. Serve with springs of parsley. Another way is to cut parsnips into inch cubes and cook till tender. Drain and brown in butter. When nearly done add a dusting of flour and let this also brown carefully. Remove from stove and add a little milk or the water from the parsnips, making a brown gravy, adding more butter as necessary. Serve on toast.

Mashed Parsnip.—Mash hot, boiled parsnip with cream or butter and the beaten yolk of an egg. Season to taste, then whip in the stiff white of the egg. Brown lightly and serve at once.

Patties.—Make plain-mashed parsnips without egg, into little cakes, adding chopped parsley; dip in flour or egg and cracker, and fry or bake.

HOUSEHOLD WISDOM.

To take out chocolate and cocoa stains wash with soap in tepid water.

Tea should always be kept in a perfectly close vessel and in a dry place.

When a cut will not heal, saturate a piece of absorbent cotton with coal oil and bind on.

A hot bath up to the neck may save the life of a child in convulsions if given at once.

When hands are stained with blacking, wash first in kerosene, then with soap and water.

Make it a rule never to throw out anything unless spoiled, and be sure nothing has a chance to spoil.

An excellent poultice for an inflammed cut or burn is made of equal parts of lard, flour and sugar.

A small piece of wire screening tacked to an ironing board keeps the irons polished and free from all dirt.

Rub sewing machine oil stains with lard, let stand for several hours, then wash with cold water and soap.

Iodine spots may be removed by first washing the stained article with alcohol, then rinsing in soapy water.

To tighten the machine belt without removing, put a drop of machine oil on the belt and turn for a few seconds.

Hang a small bag in a handy place; put in every broken clothes pin. They make the best wedges for a rattling window.

For burning and itching feet, bathe them at bedtime in hot water and afterward pour alcohol upon the itching places.

Sprains should be treated as quickly as possible with hot water, after which the part affected should be rubbed with liniment.

For sore throat, take one glass of hot water, one teaspoonful of soda, and three drops of carbolic acid. Gargle once every hour.

Olive oil is very good for weak people or those who suffer from indigestion. It should be taken with the food whenever possible.

If rice is to be a useful article of food, it should be cooked with milk, butter or stock, which will supply the want of natural fat.

Tops and outside pieces of celery washed and dried may be rubbed fine and make excellent seasoning for gravies, soups and dressings.

Save by putting a small quantity of salt in the water in outer part of double boiler. Salt water boils at a lower degree of heat.

Immediately after table cloths come from the wringer, fold them, lay aside rolled in sheets for two or three hours, then iron while damp.

All puddings that should be smooth and creamy, such as custard, rice and tapioca, ought to bake or steam slowly. If they are cooked rapidly they are apt to curdle.

To clean a lamp burner, remove it from the lamp, soak it several hours in strong washing soda and very hot water, then dry every part carefully.

Cleaning soap is more effective in powdered form. Shave a bar with a knife, which will powder it. Then put in an old salt shaker and keep in a handy place near the sink.

When window shades will not roll up, take the left hand end roller from the socket while the shade is half way down and with the other end in place roll the shade up. This tightens the spring.

Plain pieces, like towels, pillow-slips and sheets will be smooth enough for all practical purposes if put through the clothes wringer instead of being ironed.

In making puddings of rice, always allow three hours of slow cooking. It is a good plan to steam rice for curry for if it is boiled valuable parts are thrown away in the water.

Make a long bag with a drawstring in top to put away the parasols and umbrellas that would hang in closet exposed to the dust. Add a strong hook at one side to hang by.

When dressing a baby the clothes should not be drawn over its head, but instead run the hand through the garment, take the child by the feet, slightly lift the body, and slip the clothing on from the feet.

A soiled black coat may be quickly cleaned by applying to it with a sponge strong coffee to which a few drops of ammonia have been added. Finish the process by rubbing the coat with a piece of colored woollen cloth.

"Papa says he thinks he gave you quite a start when you asked for my hand." "Huh! I don't call that a start; he reached me before I got to the door!"

Most people know that if they have been sick they need *Scott's Emulsion* to bring back health and strength.

But the strongest point about *Scott's Emulsion* is that you don't have to be sick to get results from it.

It keeps up the athlete's strength, puts fat on thin people, makes a fretful baby happy, brings color to a pale girl's cheeks, and prevents coughs, colds and consumption.

Food in concentrated form for sick and well, young and old, rich and poor.

And it contains no drugs and no alcohol.

ALL DRUGGISTS; 50c. AND $1.00.

A STRONG BANK.

The Merchants' Bank Statement Just Issued Shows Its Solid Position.

Confronted by the Annual Statement of the Merchants' Bank of Canada, just issued, one does not require to go far afield to discover the secret of the stability of our Canadian banks, and in these days when there have been rumblings and tumblings in the financial world in the neighboring republic, we pride ourselves in the safeguards to both shareholders and the public provided by our Canadian banking system.

The Statement of the Merchants' Bank presented at the forty-fourth Annual Meeting of the Shareholders, held at Montreal on the 18th inst., sets forth in a practical manner the best features of that system and reflects the greatest credit on that Bank's management. The date of the closing of the books by the Bank has been changed from May 31st to November 30th, and during the past half year the net profits earned, after allowing for payment of charges, etc., amount to the large sum of $473,144.50. The total deposits by the public amount to $36,254,343.97, which is secured by total assets of the Bank which amount to over fifty-two millions of dollars. At a time when the management of our banks have been strengthening the positions of their respective institutions by pursuing a conservative policy and increasing their cash reserves, we find the "Merchants'" to the fore with immediately available assets amounting to a little over nineteen and a quarter million dollars. Entrenched in such a strong position this bank merits the confidence of the thousands of people who are interested in its position. To the shareholders a yearly dividend at the rate of 8% has been paid, while the large balance of $267,400 has been carried forward to next year. The paid-up Capital of the Merchants' Bank stands at $6,000,000, behind which there is a Reserve of $4,000,000.

The statement is a highly satisfactory one from every standpoint, and if the solidity of our Canadian banks at the present time has the effect of creating confidence of many foreign investors in Canada, the thanks of the public are due to such an institution among others as the Merchants' Bank.

PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS.

Interesting Reading About Prominent Actors on the World's Stage.

The King of Norway is one of the handsomest and best-dressed monarchs in Europe. His Majesty has scientific tastes, is interested in new inventions, and especially in any contrivance which may be of use at sea or in the navy. He also likes sport, is a fine shot, rides well to hounds, and is a first-rate billiard-player. King Haakon is a Knight of the Garter, and holds several other British dignities. In this relation it is curious to note that at the Court of Norway there are no nobles and no titles; and in this respect it resembles the Courts of Athens, Belgrade and Bucharest. When he came to the throne he abolished the prefix of "Your Excellency" for Ministers and other dignitaries, and even wished to dispense with the title of "Majesty." Indeed, at the time of his arrival in Norway he was quaintly addressed as "Mr. King."

Captain Pritchard, of the new mammoth Cunarder, has risen from very humble beginnings. A native of Carnarvon, he was left an orphan early in life, and in fulfilment of his mother's last wish he took up a sailor's calling. He first became a cook on the Gleen, a small Carnarvon sailing-vessel, in his fourteenth year, at a salary of $3 per month. After two and a half years Captain Pritchard entered the maritime service proper, and at the end of twelve years was captain and part owner of a brig in the slate trade. He subsequently made voyages in sailing-vessels to every part of the globe, and after twenty-one years of sea life entered the Cunard service in 1879. In the intervening twenty-eight years he has commanded every Cunarder with the exception of the Umbria and Lusitania, and has made no fewer than 250 Atlantic trips.

For many years Lord Rosebery has suffered from insomnia. It is asserted, in fact, that his lordship retired from public life because he thought that the worry and stress of politics had a great deal to do with his sleeplessness. After leaving the House at midnight Lord Rosebery would often instruct his coachman to drive him about the streets for an hour or two in a closed carriage, that being the only way in which he could court sleep. In the swish of the sea waves, however, his lordship claims to have discovered an effective cure, and when staying at Dalmeny Lord Rosebery always sleeps at Barnbogle, a house two hundred yards away. This building is on the edge of the Firth of Forth, and the waves lap the sides of the tower; at high tide the spray is flung against the windows of his room. Lord Rosebery says that Barnbogle is the only place where he can enjoy a good night's rest.

King Alfonso, unlike most spaniards, prefers golf to polo, and, although he plays left-handed, plays a very good game on the links. He is a keen and constant cigarette-smoker, but never smokes cigars, as Cuba was lost to Spain before he had learnt to love Havana. His favorite cigarette is the genuine Spanish article, and these are very small, and are made of almost black tobacco. They are not gummed, like other cigarettes, but simply held together at the ends by a tiny fold-in of the paper. Their perfume is delicate and distinctive. A foreign diplomat tells an amusing story of King Alfonso's childhood. When very young he attended, in Madrid, a certain Court function of especial brilliance. At first he behaved with much dignity, but soon became bored, and, suddenly, clambering down from his seat, proceeded to mount one of the huge golden lions which crouch at the foot of the throne. This he rode astride for several minutes in true boyish fashion—a strange sight, indeed, at the stateliest Court in Europe.

No monarch in Europe works harder than the Sultan of Turkey, for he rises at four in the morning, winter and summer, and goes to his white-tiled bathroom for his bath, after which he sips a cup of coffee, brewed by the cafedjibachi, or chief coffee-maker, and then with a cigarette between his lips, he goes straight to his desk. He works till midday, when he adjourns for prayers; then more coffee and an entree, an hour's siesta, and work again till dinner, which is served at four in the afternoon. During these hours he signs hundreds of documents, for, in addition to governing affairs at home, he is practically his own Foreign Minister.

There is no more ardent disciple of the simple life than General Booth, whose health has been causing so much anxiety of late. He neither smokes nor drinks, and for several years he has been practically a vegetarian, not as a matter of principle, but because he finds that it suits him. He always, if possible, takes a short rest after midday dinner, but apart from this siesta the old General is constantly at work from eight in the morning till about eleven at night. While, however, he lives a life of Spartan simplicity, the General devotes a certain amount of attention to personal details, which would surprise some. He is careful that his clothes are dry, and that he does not stand in a draught while speaking at his meetings. An assistant has travelled with him for many years, who sees to it that when the General goes on the platform the conditions are right in all respects. General Booth has learned by experience that it is the little trials and nerve strains that take more out of him than the big efforts.

Mr. David Lloyd-George, M.P., President of the British Board of Trade, has been called the idol of Wales, and there are few more fervid Welshmen living. He has been a fighter from his youth up. Even as a boy at the Church School he organized a boycott of some of the examinations. And yet the father of Mr. Lloyd-George was a man of peace—a Unitarian minister, of scholarly instincts, who died when the future Cabinet Minister was only two years of age. Mr. Lloyd-George has since confessed what a hard struggle his mother had to bring up her children. Their bread was home-made, and they rarely ate fresh meat, the greatest luxury being half an egg for each child on Sunday mornings. Fortunately, Mr. Lloyd-George possessed a kind-hearted bachelor uncle, who kept a shoemaker's shop, and who made it his duty to see that his nephews and nieces were properly educated. He superintended the education of the children, taught his nephew to love good books, and in the end saw him articled to a solicitor. At twenty-two Mr. Lloyd-George established a practice with his younger brother, and soon he built up a considerable business. Eleven years later he was asked to contest the Carnarvon Boroughs, and won by a majority of eighteen. He has been M.P. for the Carnarvon Boroughs ever since.

DOCTOR WANTED TO AMPUTATE..

Mrs. E. F. Fonger, 34 Myrtle Street, St. Thomas, Ont., says: "I am most thankful I discovered the existence of Zam-Buk. For about 9 months I suffered cruelly from the effects of having a corn removed from my little toe, for with its removal a hole remained and my toe was in a terrible state and the doctor thought it necessary to amputate it. About this time I received a sample box of Zam-Buk and began using it on my toe. The first application gave me the greatest ease from pain and encouraged me to give Zam-Buk a thorough trial. Two months after commencing with Zam-Buk there was no sign of a hole for the flesh had grown in very firmly and all soreness and pains were entirely banished. Zam-Buk brought about this healing when all other remedies failed. We find Zam-Buk so valuable that we would not be without a box in the house."

Zam-Buk heals cuts, bruises, old wounds, running sores, eczema, ulcers, boils, eruptions, scalp sores, itch, piles, chapped hands, burns, scalds, and all skin diseases. 50c. box, all druggists and stores, or Zam-Buk Co., Toronto.

MERELY DEDUCTION.

The fair amateur palmist looked at the left hand of the sweet young girl long and earnestly.

Breathlessly she waited for the palmist's next words.

"Ah! I see by your hand that you are engaged to be married," said the palmist.

"How wonderful!" exclaimed the bride-to-be.

"And," continued the reader of the future and the past, in a more cutting tone, "I see that you are engaged to Mr. Loony."

"Oh, it's perfectly extraordinary!" burst out the blushing girl. "How could you know that?"

"By my long study of the science," was the reply.

"But surely the lines in my hand cannot tell you the na——"

"Who said anything about lines?" replied the prophetic one, with withering scorn. "You are wearing the engagement-ring I returned him three weeks ago!"

Na bor—"That boy of yours seems to be a bright one. He'll cut out a name for himself some day." Popley (angrily)—"He's done it already — on our new piano!"

A kind old gentleman, seeing a small boy who was carrying a lot of newspapers under his arm, said: "Don't all those papers make you tired, my boy?" "No; I don't read 'em," replied the lad.

MAKE THIS YOURSELF

GIVES RECIPE FOR SIMPLE HOME-MADE KIDNEY CURE.

Inexpensive Mixture of Vegetable Ingredients Said to Overcome Kidney and Bladder Trouble.

Here is a simple home-made mixture as given by an eminent authority on Kidney diseases, who makes the statement in a Toronto daily newspaper, that it will relieve almost any case of Kidney trouble, if taken before the stage of Bright's disease. He states that such symptoms as lame back, pain in the side, frequent desire to urinate, especially at night; painful and discolored urination, are readily overcome. Here is the recipe; try it:

Fluid Extract Dandelion, one-half ounce; Compound Kargon, one ounce; Compound Syrup Sarsaparilla, three ounces. Take a teaspoonful after each meal and at bedtime.

A well-known physician is authority that these ingredients are all harmless and easily mixed at home by shaking well in a bottle. This mixture has a peculiar healing and soothing effect upon the entire Kidney and Urinary structure, and often overcomes the worst forms of Rheumatism in just a little while. This mixture is said to remove all blood disorders and cure the Rheumatism by forcing the Kidneys to filter and strain from the blood and system all uric acid and foul, decomposed waste matter, which cause these afflictions. Try it if you aren't well. Save the prescription.

MISSIONARIES' AFRICAN SPEECH.

Has a Literature of Its Own—Interior Rich in Copper.

Mr. G. B. Beak, late acting British vice-consul for the Congo Free State, has returned to England after a 5,000 mile journey across Africa, from Banana, at the mouth of the Congo River, to Mombasa, British East Africa. The journey was made at the instance of the Foreign Office, Mr. Beak collecting details of the life and customs of the natives of the districts through which he passed, says the London Daily Mail.

The Katanga district, at the south of the Congo Free State, and immediately north of British Central Africa, was Mr. Beak's particular objective. He traversed this region for over 1,400 miles, and reports that it is intensely rich in copper mines, which are at present undeveloped for want of railway communication. "When this is established," said Mr. Beak, "Kambove and Ruwe, the two chief towns of the district, are confidently expected to develop into second Johannesbergs."

The climate is good and there is plenty of shooting and fishing. The tse fly and sleeping sickness are the drawbacks. "I passed through a whole district so affected near the Lualaba River. One curious effect of this illness is to drive the patient mad, and I had a very narrow escape at the hands of one of the natives who was in a state of frenzy.

"At Baudouinville, on the western shore of Lake Tanganyika, there is a beautiful new cathedral, erected by the French Peres Blancs. It is really a splendid building. Everything except the stained glass windows had been made locally; these were brought from Europe. I crossed the lake in a little native sailing bark and entered German territory at Karema.

"I found no difficulty in getting through the country on the score of language. That most generally spoken through equatorial Africa is Kiswahili, which the missionaries are trying to establish as the lingua franca of the continent. I know this language well. Nearly every district has its own language; not written; but Kiswahili will carry anyone through equatorial Africa. It has a literature of its own."

WAITING FOR TEMPTATION.

"There are some persons," said Mrs. Burdette one day, "who don't wear the blue ribbon with sincerity. They wear it, perhaps, about as hypocritically as it was worn by an employee of a certain brewer.

"This employee, after years of dissipation, appeared one day at the brewery with the blue ribbon on his breast. Nothing was said to him, and he wore the ribbon for some months. Then one day the head of the firm, happening to notice the man's badge, approached him.

"'Why, Frank,' he said, 'it is strange to see you, a brewer, wearing the blue ribbon!'

"'It does look strange, sir,' the man admitted.

"'Well,' said the brewer, 'why do you do it?'

"'It is like this,' said the workman. 'I wear the ribbon because it makes men like to tempt me, and when I'm tempted I succumb, sir.'"

PATERNAL ADVICE.

"What was the text this morning?" asked Mr. Wibbsley when his little boy had returned from church.

"'A man's a man for a' that.'"

"Um. Very good. I'm glad you remember it. Now get your Bible and turn down a leaf where the chapter is that has it in so you'll know where to find it if you ever forget it."

FARM FINANCIER.

An Ontario farmer refused an offer of $100 for a 2-year-old cow the other day. He prefers selling $100 worth of butter and still own the cow.