HOUSEHOLD

CHOICE RECIPES.

Cabbage with Cream.—The so-called plebeian cabbage may be served in a number of appetizing and attractive ways. Prepared with cream it is especially dainty. Wash and blanch the cabbage well. When cool remove the outer leaves and chop the rest fine. Put into a saucepan with a large lump of butter, some salt and pepper. Thicken with about a tablespoonful of flour and then add a cupful of sweet cream. Mix thoroughly and cook for about three-quarters of an hour. Heap on a hot dish and serve. This will accompany any meat, and is a particularly wholesome dish.

Braised Veal.—Lard evenly two sides of a piece of veal, dredge with salt and pepper and a litle flour. Lay two or three thin slices of pork in the bottom of an iron pot, and as soon as lightly browned lay in the veal with a small carrot sliced, one onion sliced, a bay leaf and a sprig or two of parsley. Add two cupfuls of veal stock (this can be made from some of the veal bones which the butcher will throw in if you ask him), and simmer steadily for two or three hours until tender and a golden brown. It must be basted frequently during the braising, adding some stock if necessary.

Prune Souffle.—Soak and stew two dozen prunes, and when tender press through a colander. To the beaten whites of four eggs add six tablespoonfuls of powdered sugar and the prunes and beat well. Put into the mixture one tablespoonful of sifted flour, one-quarter teaspoonful cream tartar and one teaspoonful of lemon extract. Bake twenty minutes in a slow oven. Serve cold with sauce made as follows: One pint of sweet milk, three-quarters of a cup of sugar, the yolks of four eggs and one teaspoonful of lemon, made into a soft custard. The sauce should also be cold when served.

Apple Slump.—Put two quarts of pared, sliced or quartered apples, with one pint of water, into the dish in which the slump is to be cooked. Take one quart of sifted flour and mix through it three teaspoonfuls of baking powder; then rub one teaspoonful of butter into it. Mix with a little cold milk or water, the same as for biscuit. Roll the crust about an inch thick, cut it into quarters, and with it cover the apples, in the dish; then cover the whole with a close-fitting cover and boil or steam until done. Take out on a platter and grate nutmeg over the apples. Serve with a sweet sauce or sugar and cream.

Fricassed Chicken.—Cut two fowls into joints. Season them with salt and pepper, and dip each one in flour. Put them in a saucepan and cover with boiling water. Let them cook very gently for about two hours, or until very tender. When they are done put three tablespoonfuls of butter in a frying pan, add the same amount of flour, rub smooth, then add the water in which the chickens have been boiled, which should not amount to more than a quart. After the gravy has boiled up add a cupful of rich cream, and season with salt, white pepper and a little cayenne. Just before removing from the fire add an egg well beaten. Pour over the chicken, which should be laid on toast or soda biscuits cut in halves.

Potato Chowder.—Pare and cut into dice five good-sized potatoes and throw into cold water. Cut a quarter pound slice of fat ham into shreds and put it in a frying pan with a minced onion and fry a light brown. Put a layer of potato dice in a kettle, sprinkle in ham, onion, salt, pepper and minced parsley, then add more potatoes, pork, onion, etc., until all are used. Add the fat in which the onions were fried and a pint of cold water. Cover and cook gently until the potatoes are nearly done, about twenty minutes. Rub a tablespoonful of butter and same of flour to a smooth paste (roux) and stir into the chowder; then when it begins to thicken add a pint of hot milk, stir carefully together so as not to break the potato dice.

Checken Stew.—Cut a young but full-grown chicken and put it on to stew in a pot with plenty of water, adding salt only; then take a pint of flour, one egg and water enough to mix into a very stiff dough, which knead till perfectly smooth. Roll out into a sheet as thin as possible, and let it stand to dry for at least an hour, then cut into narrow strips, pull these into pieces two or three inches long, and drop—one by one—into the boiling stew—with plenty of water in it—and boil for at least an hour, shaking the pot occasionally, but never stirring or the dumplings will stick together. When done, pour all into a large platter and dust with pepper. This is a delicious stew, and the dumplings, besides being tender and toothsome, can be eaten with impunity by an invalid.

Coffee Bread.—Add to one cupful of scalded milk one-third cupful of shortening, a cupful of sugar and one-half teaspoonful of salt. Cool to lukewarm, and then beat in a yeast cake dissolved in one-quarter cupful of lukewarm milk and enough sifted flour to make a stiff batter. Cover and place where it will keep warm over night. In the morning blend a beaten egg with the dough, add one-half cupful of seeded raisins and roll out the mixture in a sheet three-quarters of an inch in thickness. Put in a buttered dripping pan or a deep pie plate, having in its center a muffin ring or piece of stiff paper pinned together to make a ring. Cover and let rise until double its original bulk. Brush with melted butter, sprinkle with powdered sugar and cinnamon, and bake in a moderate oven about half an hour.

USEFUL HINTS.

Hot sunshine will remove scorch.

Hot tartaric acid will take ink stains out of white cloth.

A package or envelope sealed with white of egg cannot be steamed open.

Even delicate glass can be safely washed in very hot water if slipped in edgewise.

Mutton tea is a pleasant change from beef tea to many invalids, and is very wholesome.

Insects like neither salt nor alum and enough adheres to the carpet to keep them away.

If feather pillows have an unpleasant odor give them a thorough drying before a clear fire.

A piece of salt pork cut thin and bound on a corn or bunion at night will give great relief.

Never keep bread and cake in the same box, as the cake loses its flavor and tastes like bread.

Rice possesses more nutriment than wheat, oats or barley. It will sustain life longer than any other starch producing plant.

Burning oil is spread by water. To extinguish it throw down flour, sand or earth. The idea is to prevent the oil spreading.

You may keep the top of your kitchen range clean when frying steak, etc., by having two sheets of asbestos prepared as covers.

Clotheslines and pegs will last much longer if they get boiled for ten minutes when new. It is a good plan to repeat the boiling occasionally.

Sew buttons on firmly. Do not put a lot of cheap work and trimming on a dress of cheap material. Rather get better material and make it up simply.

Mend a cracked stove with a cement made of wood ashes and salt in equal proportions, reduce to a paste with cold water. Fill cracks when stove is cool.

It is not generally known, but to prevent cakes from burning, place a little bran at the bottom of the tins. This will save a lot of grumbling and vexation.

Many women put paper pads under the stair carpet, and layers of thick brown paper under room carpets. These underlays cost nothing, and can, therefore, be burnt instead of beaten and beaten and re-used as a felt has to be.

Before relaying the carpets after the spring cleaning try washing around the edge of the floor to the depth of a yard from the baseboard with a strong solution of alum water. Several times a month sprinkle salt over the carpet before sweeping.

For a liquid shampoo take four ounces of finely grated castile soap, cover with a quart of cold water, let cook until it forms a jelly. Take from the fire and add two thoroughly beaten eggs; shake well, and it is ready for use.

For coughs, put a lemon in the oven, leave it until warmed through, then squeeze out the juice, and add sufficient honey or sugar to make a thick syrup. Keep it warm, and take a teaspoonful when the cough is troublesome.

Buy a strip of asbestos cloth and use small squares to interline your iron-holders. Keep a good-sized piece fastened to your ironing board to save the sheet, and lay a square under the table pad where the meat platter rests.

To prevent a shabby, dull look coming to the kitchen painted woodwork, wash it in bran water, made by boiling one pound of bran in a gallon of water for an hour.

Hard water is softened by having a little powder lime put in, which at once throws down the chalk in it. The clear fluid can then be boiled without risk of furring pot or kettle.

Light straw hat may be cleaned by being brushed with flour of sulphur, moistened with lemon juice. Rinse the hat well with clear, cold water, but do not let it lie in water and soak.

Equal parts of turpentine and ammonia will take paint out of clothing, even if hard and dry. Saturate the spot as often as necessary and wash off the spot with warm soapy water.

To iron silk sprinkle the article to be ironed with water, then roll them tightly in a towel. After this it is easy to iron out the creases. Do not use a very hot iron, as the silk quickly discolors.

When purchasing tinned meat notice the tin. If it bulges outwards in any part the meat is probably unfit to eat, an outward bulge being a sign that the tin was not properly sealed and air has got in.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDY

ISTERNATIONAL LESSON, UARY 18.

Iesson VII. The ministry of John the Baptist, Mark 1. 1-8; Luke 3. 1-20. Golden Text, Matt. 3. 2.

MARK 1. 1-8.

Verse 1. Mark does not concern himself with the earlier life of Jesus, but proceeds at once with the narrative of his public ministry and preaching, to which he refers as The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The proclamation of that gospel (glad tidings) continued even after the Christ was no longer among men. It began with the utterances that fell from the lips of Jesus himself. The use of the double name Jesus Christ indicates the established faith of the writer in Jesus as the Messiah, which faith is further defined by the addition of the phrase the Son of God.

2. In Isaiah the prophet—Only the substance of verse 3, not that of verse 2, is found in Isaiah (40. 3). The reference to my messenger is taken from Malachi 3. 1, a prophecy which was applied by Jesus himself to John the Baptist.

3. The voice of one crying in the wilderness—The figure in this instance, as in the prophecy of Malachi, is that of a forerunner sent by an Oriental monarch in advance of his journeys to see to it that roads and highways are cleared of obstacles and prepared for his use.

4. John came heralding in the wilderness the coming of One greater than an Oriental monarch, and preparing human hearts and minds to receive the Christ by the preaching of repentance unto remission of sins.

5. All the country—Multitudes of the inhabitants from all parts of Judaea. The appearance of this new prophet stirred the whole nation. Luke specifies publicans and soldiers and Matthew Pharisees and Sadducees as being among those who went out to the river Jordan to hear John preach.

6. Camel's hair . . . a leathern girdle—A short tunic of coarse camel's hair cloth (not of camel's skin), fastened about the waist with a girdle of corresponding simplicity, made probably of rough, untanned leather and like those worn by Bedouins and dervishes to-day.

Locusts . . . wild honey—Food such as the desert afforded. In Lev. 11. 22 we find enumerated the species of wild locusts, the eating of which is permitted by law.

7. Mightier than I—So much mightier that John feels himself unworthy to render the service of a bondservant or slave.

Worthy—Greek, sufficient.

8. Water . . . Holy Spirit—The contrast gives us the key to John's humility. John's baptism unto repentance was in itself incomplete, even as repentance itself is incomplete and must be supplemented by the control of new impulses and aspirations (compare the parable in Matt. 12. 43-45.)

LUKE 3. 1-20.

Verse I. The fifteenth year—Probably A. D. 25-26, reckoning A. D. 11, the year when Tiberius was made the colleague of Augustus with equal authority over provinces and armies.

Tiberius Caesar—The second Roman emperor and successor to Caesar Augustus.

Pontius Pilate—The procurator or governor of Judaea, an inferior official position in the Roman empire, in view of the comparatively small importance to the empire of the province intrusted to him.

Herod—Herod Antipas, son of Herod the Great. In A. D. 40 he was banished to Spain. The entire public ministry of Jesus falls within the period of his reign, and most of it within the territory over which he ruled.

Tetrarch—One of four rulers, that is, ruler over one fourth part of his father's dominion.

His brother—Really his half brother.

Ituraea—The valley region at the foot of Hermon.

Trachonitis—In the ancient territory of Bashan.

Lysanias—Otherwise unknown.

Abilene—A small province of Syria.

2. Annas and Caiaphas—Annas, the rightful life occupant of the office according to Jewish law, had been deposed by the Roman governor, and one after another his sons put in his place. The fourth of these was Caiaphas, who, from the time of his appointment (A.D. 18), was recognized by the Roman authorities as the rightful incumbent of the position. Loyal Jews, however, would still regard Annas as the real high priest.

3-6. Compare comments on parallel verses in Mark given above.

7. Offspring of vipers—A wilderness metaphor and most appropriate in its characterization of the particular group of people to whom it was addressed.

8. We have Abraham to our father—Lineal descendance from Abraham was considered a sufficient guarantee of divine favor by most Jews.

Stones . . . children—Hebrew, banim . . . abanim—a play on words not lacking in emphasis.

9. The ax also lieth at the root of the trees—The ax of the gardener or husbandman, ready for use as the harvest shall determine which of the trees of the orchard are no longer profitable.

12. Publicans—That is, collectors or renters of Roman taxes; men who paid to the Roman government a specified sum in lieu of the taxes from a given district and who, by the collection of exorbitant taxes, then proceeded to enrich themselves.

13. Extort—Extortion was the common method of collection. Those who could escape paying naturally did so.

14. Soldiers—Greek, soldiers on service. The exhortation given these men indicates some of the wrongs they were commonly guilty of.

17. Fan—Such as were commonly used in connection with threshing, the grain being thrown, together with the chaff, against the wind, which, in driving back the chaff, permitted the grain to fall to the ground in a heap by itself, after which it was gathered into the garner.

Unquenchable fire—Not necessarily eternal, but unquenchable in the sense of beyond control or mastery.

19. For Herodias his brother's wife—For whom he had divorced another wife, and whom he had persuaded to forsake her husband. Luke regards the indignity shown to the Messiah's forerunner in casting him into prison as among the greatest wrongs perpetrated by the wicked governor.

A JOKE ON SERVICE.

Mr. R. W. Service.

Some time ago a British Columbian wrote a book of verse entitled "Derby Day in the Yukon, by Yukon Bill." The real name of the author did not appear, but whoever it was signed the name, "M. Markwell" in writing to the George H. Doran Company of New York, who published the book; and the Doran people wrote back to "M. Markwell, Esq."

When the book came out, Robert W. Service, the famous Yukon poet, received a copy from the publishers, and when in New York some time afterwards he sent this letter of appreciation to the head of the firm:

"Dear Sir: Shortly before leaving Dawson I received your book, 'Derby Day in the Yukon,' and beg to thank you for your kindness in sending it to me. I thought the book was bully good stuff and quite true of the Land God Forgot. I showed it among my friends, and much curiosity was expressed as to the identity of Yukon Bill. However, all agreed that the atmosphere, expression, and tone were the real thing, and that he is assuredly a Sourdough of an early vintage.

"Needless to say, I was immensely flattered at the lines addressed to myself. I thank the writer from the bottom of my heart and wish him all prosperity and success. I will write no more Yukon verse, so he has a clear field. In conclusion, I wish again to express my appreciation of his veracious and virile verses, and thank him for the genuine pleasure they gave me."

Sincerely yours,
"ROBERT SERVICE."

It now turns out that the book was written by a woman. And she had never seen the Yukon!

HOW ANIMAL'S FEED.

When one thinks of the many curious ways in which common animals partake of their food, one realizes more than ever the vast difference there is between classes in the creature kingdom. For instance, the squirrel carries its food to its mouth by means of its paws, whilst the elephant uses its trunk. The giraffe, ant-eater, and toad employ their tongues, but spiders masticate their food with horny jaws. The caterpillar is provided with saw-edged jaws, and uses them so well that every day he consumes at least three times his own weight in food. Toads, turtles, and tortoises do not possess teeth. Frogs have only an upper row of teeth, and lobsters and crabs have a set of teeth in their stomachs. The tiger and lion do not grind their food as we humans do; as a matter of fact, their teeth only work with an up-and-down movement much like chopping-knives.

THE ENERGY OF CHURCHILL

NEW HEAD OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY.

Important Reforms Have Already Been Introduced in the Navy By Him.

Young Winston Churchill is being taken seriously by a large part of the British press and public, writes a London correspondent. This tribute to his ability has been a long time coming, but apparently many who were disposed to criticize his methods and temperament are now of the opinion that he has a certain force, which is being used for the good of the nation.

The change in public opinion in the matter has been sudden. A month or two ago Mr. Churchill was merely a bad boy hardly worthy of adult notice except in the way of admonition. The public would not forget a certain reported music hall episode of his early youth or the Sidney Street affair during his service as Home Secretary, when under his personal direction a body of troops and a considerable portion of the Metropolitan Police laid siege to a London tenement in which two alleged murderers were supposed to be hiding.

There was plenty of encouragement given to the public not to forget. Even now music hall comedians have fun with the young man. They parody Sir Joseph Porter's song from "Pinafore" with Mr. Churchill in Sir Joseph's place as First Lord of the Admiralty, "the ruler of the King's navee." "Winnie," they call him, and the audiences always laugh. None of the known peculiarities of Mr. Churchill escapes mention.

MEANING OF THE CHANGE.

There was a good deal of adverse comment when Mr. Churchill became Home Secretary in the Asquith Ministry. The Opposition newspapers refused to take him seriously. When he traded Cabinet places with Mr. McKenna, then First Lord of the Admiralty, much of the irony that would have been uttered by press and public at Mr. Churchill's expense was sidetracked in animated discussion of the meaning of the change.

There had been danger of war with Germany shortly before. That the Government had decided that the fleet needed an overhauling, an application of new methods, was generally accepted as the underlying reason. It was argued that the Government wanted more push and energy in the Admiralty, and that, in spite of all that had been said about him, nobody had push and energy developed better than this young man, half English, half American. The fleet is very dear to the average Britisher's heart, and the experiment of putting Winston Churchill at the head of the Admiralty was watched with verying degrees of hope and trepidation.

Mr. Churchill's first move was to have a new deal in the composition of the administrative body known as the Sea Lords. He appointed new men. There was much comment on this rather radical move, but on the whole it was not in the line of adverse criticism.

SURPRISING APPROBATION.

The recent creation of a naval general staff has been received with a degree of approbation that is surprising in view of what amounted to a habit in certain quarters to poke fun at anything of an administrative character for which Mr. Churchill was responsible. The general staff idea had its opponents, quite as active as its friends, and until Mr. Churchill took the bull by the horns and announced to the country that a general staff was to be created without saying "By your leave" to Parliament or anybody else, the opposition was in the ascendant. But when the thing was done there was a chorus of approbation and mighty little booing.

Under his authority as First Lord of the Admiralty Mr. Churchill has created an operations division and assigned a high ranking officer to take charge of it with the title of director. Other directors of other new divisions were assigned from the naval list.

"The personnel of the War Staff," he said in an explanatory memorandum, "will consist of naval officers fresh from the sea and returning to the sea fairly frequently."

ANOTHER REFORM

is provision for frequent consultation and co-operation between the army and the navy in the preparation of war plans.

"The navy and the army," to quote Lord Haldane, the Secretary of State for War, "are now going to co-operate in this problem of defence in a fashion they never did before." In his memorandum Mr. Churchill made it plain that he intended to do his utmost to abolish what he called "watertight compartments," meaning the establishment of a bureaucratic system in which each bureau came to be sufficient unto itself without necessary co-ordination and co-operation in the various elements of the naval establishment. To overcome this he intends to bring the heads of the General Staff divisions into frequent consultation with the chief of the General Staff, so that each will regard himself as part of a whole and not a separate entity, having no responsibility or relationship to the other branches of the naval establishment.

To guard further against falling into a rut Mr. Churchill has invited the entire commissioned personnel of the fleet to give play to professional opinion. That is a rather dangerous experiment in a great navy, but Mr. Churchill apparently believes that it will do good in brushing away the cobwebs that are bound to appear if constant effort is not made to destroy them.

Mr. Churchill has rather pleased a nation disposed to criticize his acts and is now experiencing the unusual pleasure of being regarded seriously.

STAMP COLLECTING.

Great Many More Collectors Than Ten Years Ago.

Stamp collectors were interested some days ago by the first new Newfoundland postage stamps bearing the head of the Prince of Wales to arrive here.

The young prince, like his father, is an enthusiastic stamp collector. His collection was included in the London exhibition five years ago. One of its chief features is a unique collection of the stamps of his namesake colony, Prince of Wales Island, in which the Prince of Wales takes a keen interest.

Stamp collecting seems to be taking a firmer hold on its devotees and making more recruits than ever. W. S. Lincoln, one of the best-known philatelists in London, England, says that there are thousands more collectors than there were ten years ago. Within that period, he says, stamp collecting has grown from an art to a science. In the old days people collected for quantity, but now it is quality only that counts. Value is found to-day in watermarks. In some kinds of stamps perforations are the hallmark of excellence. In British stamps, for example, the rarest are those with fourteen perforations on the long side. But there are cases in which those with fourteen and a half or fifteen perforations are the prize specimens.

The penny and halfpenny stamps of King Edward always used to have fourteen perforations. The new stamp printers, whose first Georgian stamps raised an outcry, are still supplying halfpenny and penny Edward stamps, some of which have fourteen and a half and others fifteen perforations. Before long they will cease to issue King Edward stamps and these fourteen and a half and fifteen perforation specimens will become scarce, or even rare.

Another stamp which should soon become valuable is the Italian war stamp surcharged "Tripoli," as their issue continued only for a very short time.

CRAZY QUERIES.

Short and sharp would be the shrift of the person who dared to intimate that every one of us at times utters in perfect good faith ridiculous—not to mention nonsensical remarks. Yet the fact is indisputable. For instance, what can be more foolish than the question, "Oh, there you are, are you?" Yet this is asked scores of times a day. Just as absurd is the query, "Hello, going out?" put to one palpably preparing to leave the house. Equally wanting in sense is a question so often put by a wife to her husband. He is perhaps at the most crucial point in his morning shave, when the door bursts open, and his better-half exclaims, "Are you shaving, darling?" The darling's razor hand slips, leaving in its wake a lovely gash; and one could forgive him if he sarcastically exclaimed, "No; I'm just cutting myself!" And yet his wife would think him terribly irritable if he pointed out that her silly query was responsible for the damage.

MISAPPREHENDED.

Gertie—"Those roses you sent me were lovely and fresh. I do believe there is a little dew on them still."

George—"Well, there is since you mention it; but I shall pay it off shortly."