HOUSEHOLD

New Forms for Old Recipes.

New recipes often are demanded by housekeepers who do not realize the possibility of making some formula with which they already are familiar take an entirely new form.

Let us consider the quick biscuit, often called soda, cream-of-tartar or baking-powder biscuit from the materials used in making them light. It is quite an art to handle these skillfully without making them too stiff with flour, and no recipe can supply the dexterity that comes only by much practice. Untrained hands may be more successful with a quick muffin made by combining with each cup of flour, two level teaspoonfuls of baking powder, a little salt and one-half cup of milk. These should be rapidly mixed, put at once in muffin pans and baked quickly. The quantity of liquid may be varied slightly according to the particular brand of flour used. One trial will show whether they better be made soften next time. Once we learn the nature of the ingredients and the effect they have on each other, we may venture upon varieties of a fundamental recipe. The same proportion already given are suitable for dumplings for a stew of meat or fruit. The mixture should be rather stiffer, so less milk is used than when it is to be baked in the muffin pan. Here it is to be dropped from a spoon over the meat and gravy or fruit and syrup, and will not keep its shape unless fairly stiff. When fat is added to dumplings they are likely to be soggy, and a similar result is reached if they are not cooked rapidly. Most good cooks prefer to have the kettle closely covered for ten minutes and then the dumplings, if not too large, will be ready to serve. Eight or ten dumplings may be made from one cup of flour and will cook more uniformly than if made larger.

For dessert use the same dumplings over stewed fruit, such as canned peaches, stewed apples or cranberries. Be sure there is sufficient juice to avoid danger of burning. These may be cooked in a chafing dish at the table while the family are disposing of the previous course. Sweetened or whipped cream is the best and simplest sauce. Again, a portion of the fruit may be put in a buttered cup—like some of the little Japanese ones that are pretty enough in which to serve the puddings at the table—a spoonful of the batter is put over the fruit and the cups placed in a steamer for half an hour. Any good pudding sauce may be served with these.

Eggs, butter and sugar often are added to such a foundation for the muffins, dumplings, etc., but do not improve the quality of the product in proportion to the added expense.

The baking powder biscuit usually is made in this fashion: Flour is sifted, then measured and sifted again with the baking powder and salt. From one to two level teaspoons of baking powder are used with each cup of flour, according to the degree of lightness desired. If shortening is used, it is then chopped or rubbed into the flour, one teaspoon to each cup of flour; for bread a larger amount, up to 1 ounce to each cup for shortcakes. Then the dough is formed by cutting into the flour about one-third as much milk, or milk and water. The dough is then tossed on the board, which is first sprinkled with flour. The rolling pin is used gently to pat the dough into shape until it is half the thickness desired in the biscuit after baking. Twin biscuit and individual shortcakes are made by spreading soft butter on one layer and placing another on top. After baking they separate readily for filling. Or some thick jam may be placed between the two layers before baking. Such "jelly biscuits" are a delight to children.

Try making very thin crisp shortcakes with bananas sliced into a syrup of the juice of a lemon made thick with sugar. After cutting rounds for biscuits there are many ragged edges left. Here is one way to use them, which often is better than shaping more biscuits: Bring them together and sprinkle with grated cheese and fold over and roll out, then cut in narrow strips about 6 inches long and bake until crisp. These are best served with soup or salad. Thus at one time might be prepared enough dough for a fruit shortcake, chicken pie and cheese sticks, but, of course, they are too much alike to serve at one meal. The fruit shortcake may serve for dinner at night. For the next day's luncheon reheat the others and fill with creamed chicken, while the cheese sticks may be crisped in the oven a few minutes to serve with the next day's salad.

The ordinary paper bag may be trusted to hold these while they are heated in the oven, and they will be as good as if freshly baked. Often cold biscuits may be reheated in the gravy of a stew and if quickly served are as satisfactory as dumplings freshly made.

The Systematic Woman.

When asked how she accomplished so much work so easily the mother of a large family replied, "I work by schedule."

That is the secret of all easy work. If you live in a nerve-racking rush, try what keeping a schedule will do for you.

Buy a notebook and head opposite pages with the day and date. Before going to bed plan and write down the work of the next day. In the evening sum up what has been accomplished.

It does not take long to keep this simple schedule, but it is surprising how quickly you learn system from it. Busy women go so far as to plan certain duties for certain hours.

Do not plan to do too much in one day, for then the opposite page is a disappointment which spurs you to unwise efforts or needless discouragement. What is left undone one day may be carried over to the next day's planning page as a jog against procrastination.

Reading over such a notebook is an object lesson to the shiftless housewife who works by fits and starts, gets nothing accomplished, has no time for leisure, and ends by being a nuisance to herself and a burden to her family.

Household Hints.

When mice trouble you, hunt their entrances to the pantry or cupboard and plaster them with a mixture of soft soap and red pepper.

A square piece of cotton, pasted at each corner of the table oilcloth before using it, will prevent the corners from wearing out as soon as they otherwise would.

Soak a common floor mop in coal oil, it will make a good dust absorber. Soak the mop thoroughly, then hang it out in the air for a few days. It will then be ready for use.

A muddy skirt can be washed easily and white, if you will take some sour milk, dilute it with water and soak the skirt in it over night. Then wash in the usual way.

Sometimes hamburg steak is dry and tasteless. Put two or three tablespoons of fresh cream or milk and a few bread crumbs in with it. You will find it juicy and delicious.

No matter how carefully a frock is laundered, if hooks and eyes are used for fasteners, the dress bears tell-tale prints whenever a hook has been ironed. A way of getting around the difficulty is to reverse the position of the hooks and eyes, putting the hooks on the under instead of the upper flap. After becoming accustomed to it, there will not be difficulty in fastening.

EMPIRE'S POSTAL BUSINESS.

Great Increases in the Various Departments Are Shown.

The report of the British Postmaster-General, just issued, states that the Imperial penny postage system now embraces the whole of the British Empire, with the exception of Pitcairn Island. Following on a reduction to a penny per half-ounce letters from Australia to the rest of the Empire there was an increase of about 33 per cent. in the amount of correspondence from Australia to England, as compared with an increase of about 11 per cent. in the five preceding years.

The weight of newspapers, magazines and trade journals sent to Canada by magazine post during 1911 is estimated at 4,747,000 lbs., compared with 3,836,000 lbs. in the year previous.

Money orders to British North America, while remaining stationary as regards numbers, increased in amount to the extent of £36,000. Orders from the Dominion show an increase of 298,000 in number and £760,00 in amount. The increases were mainly in remittances from Canada and Australia.

Estimate of weight of matter despatched from the United Kingdom to Canada and Newfoundland: Letters and postcards, 713,000 lbs.; printed papers, commercial papers, samples, 6,892,000 lbs.; sent from Canada to United Kingdom: letters, 544,000 lbs,; printed papers, etc., 1,742,000 lbs.

The number of parcels despatched to Canada in 1911 was 505,151; received from Canada, 209,405, against 410,898 and 164,760 in the year previous.

Facts and Fancy.

If the world is round, how can it ever come to an end?

A fifth of the people of France are farmers.

Many a man puts his money and his faith in a speculation, and later on draws out his faith.

It takes a month to weave one square foot of Persian rug.

Half truths make whole troubles.

Valparaiso has female conductors on its trolley cars.

It's easy enough to shut up chickens at night, but it's another story to shut them up in the early morning.

Watches were invented in Nuremburg. The first watches were egg-shaped.

Feather your nest—but don't rob the other birds.

Every lazy man can remember when he used to be ambitious.

CANADA'S PREMIER LUMBER MERCHANT IS JOHN R. BOOTH

His First Big Financial Stroke was Buying of the Canada Atlantic Railroad.

Canada's premier lumberman is J. R. Booth. Among the friends of Booth there is a question whether he made his fortune in lumber or in railroading, but it is the general belief that his estate is about equally indebted to these two sources of revenue.

Booth was born in Ottawa, Canada, in 1841. His father was possessed of more than the average means, but before his death, which occurred when the present head of the family was a boy of 15 years, he lost all of his money and thus compelled his son to depend upon himself.

This enforced independence brought out all there was in him. He saved and worked, worked and saved, and at a comparatively early age built a lumber trust on the old-fashioned lines from a tiny sawmill on the Ottawa River. He did not capitalize, but paid hard cash for all that he bought.

His first big stroke in the w l of finance was when he bought the Canada Atlantic railroad, an indifferent sort of institution with few visible assets and fewer prospects. Booth was not dismayed by the handicaps the project offered, but set about his task with the confidence and determination that have been his chief characteristics. The road extended from Montreal to Parry Sound, and covered a distance of about 450 miles.

Booth had no associates in this deal. Out of his lumber earnings, which had been reasonably large up to that time, considering the day and age, he attacked railroading on his own responsibility. Analyzing the situation with his peculiarly analytical mind, he put the railroad's stock in a vault in the Ottawa banks. He was peering into the future when the Grand Trunk

Mr. J. R. Booth.

railroad, then a struggling organization, would be compelled to buy him out. He kept the railroad stock in the bank, unpledged, for five years, when the Grand Trunk first made overtures for their purchase at a price many hundred times in excess of what Booth had paid for them.

No one knows how much Booth made on this deal, but it is believed that the amount gave him his long waited for boost toward great wealth. He is now one of the directors of the Grand Trunk Railroad, while his attention is chiefly devoted to a chain of lumber mills located for the most part in Canada.

ADVENTURE ON THE STEPPE.

A Correspondent Describes a Terrible Experience with Wolves.

There are still wolves on the steppes of Russia, as appears from this story sent to a Swedish paper by one of its correspondents who was travelling in the winter through the wastes of what was formerly known as Lithuania.

It was a bright, frosty winter day, the snow was excellent, and the mail-sleigh glided forward at great speed. A troika with three Poles in it followed behind. Toward sunset we emerged from the dark pine woods upon the steppe, which stretched away in front of us as far as the eye could reach. Soon the stars made their appearance, and the moon rose. It was bitterly cold, and the snow crackled beneath the runners. The horses' breath rose in the air like thick smoke. The songs and shouts of the Poles died away, and profound silence reigned.

Suddenly one of the horse whinnied, then another, and a third shied violently, uttering that terrible cry of which the horse is capable only when in extreme fear. I could see by the light of the moon the shadow of an animal about the size of a dog flitting over the frozen surface of a marsh pool which lay some twenty paces from us on one side of the road. No animal can travel more silently than a wolf when in search of prey, and none can attack so suddenly and unexpectedly. I was slowly raising my gun when a second wolf rose immediately in front of the horses with crest erect and green, phosphorescent eyes. At the same time points of light appeared all over the mere, and the howling of the beasts rang out.

A shot was fired; revolver in hand, Lescek, one of the Poles, stood on the driving seat of the troika. Then from the mail-sleigh I discharged both barrels of my gun, and a savage howl announced that they had taken effect; two of the most daring of our assailants lay rolling in the snow. The three Poles kept firing furiously, although the attack of the wolves was directed more against our sleigh, probably because it was drawn by double the number of horses. Our driver had no other weapon than his loaded whip, but with it he dealt tremendous blows.

The horses struggled madly, and tried with all their strength to break the harness. At each shot from my gun the wolves scattered, only to collect again immediately and renew their attack on the horses. Suddenly there arose a wild yell behind us.

The three Poles were rolling in the snow by the side of their overturned sleigh; Lescek's badly driven horses had torn themselves loose from the troika in their terror, and were careering wildly over the snow-covered steppe, pursued by some of the wolves. They were soon pulled down, and in the stillness of the night their death-screams were terrible. The Poles wallowed about in the snow, shouting, weeping and lamenting by turns.

Their situation was, indeed, sufficiently serious, for only Lescek had had enough presence of mind to hide himself beneath the sleigh, and the mail driver and I, surrounded by wolves, could give them no help. I looked upon them as doomed, and felt sure that we should quickly share their fate.

Suddenly our pursuers disappeared, and although bleeding badly, the horses became calmer; the gleaming eyes of the wolves were seen only here and there out on the steppe. A shot rang out, then a volley, succeeded by yells of pain. A dozen dead wolves lay on the ground, and two huge beasts actually expired beneath the hoofs of the horses as our rescuers came up in their tinkling sleighs.

It was a landed proprietor with his servants whose solitary farm lay only a couple of versts away. None of us were dangerously wounded. The wolves had treated the Poles worst, for their clothes were nearly torn from their bodies; they were bitten, too, but not seriously. The following morning our host, Herr Stanski, came across the skeletons of the three troika horses scarcely half a verst from the scene of our struggle. The poor creatures were still bound together with the harness.

Grains of Gold.

He is an optimist who can believe in the coming of the best while looking at the worst.—Dr. Jowett.

Hope always strengthens to the performance of duty, gives courage, and clears the judgment.—G. MacDonald.

Reputation is an idle and most false imposition; oft got without merit, and lost without deserving. —Shakespeare.

Riches have wings, and sometimes they fly away of themselves, sometimes they must be set flying to bring in more.—Bacon.

When one-half of the Sabbath is given to pleasure religion is not likely to share much of the other half.—Sir Walter Scott.

So long as we love we serve; so long as we are loved by others I would almost say that we are indispensable; and no man is useless when he has a friend.—R. L. Stevenson.

Censure and criticism never hurt anybody. If false, they cannot hurt you unless wanting in manly character, and if true they show a man his weak points and forewarn him against failure and trouble.—Gladstone.

Above the Average.

Mrs. Wayupp—"How much sleep do I need, doctor?"

Doctor—"Well, the average person needs about seven hours."

Mrs. Wayupp—"Then I shall take about fourteen. I consider that I am that much above the average."

In the Market.

"Does Maud like dancing?"

"She does."

"And skating?"

"Oh, yes; she likes anything that may possibly lead to a proposal."

Not one man in a hundred has sense enough to take care of money after he inherits it.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDY

INTERNATIONAL LESSON, JANUARY 5.

Lesson I.—The Creation, Gen. 1. 1 to 2. 3. Golden Text, Gen. 1. 1.

Verse 1. In the beginning—The beginning of the order of things which we see, and in the midst of which human history unfolds.

God—Elohim, the ordinary Hebrew word for God, though not quite as common in the Old Testament as Yahweh (Eng., Jenovah), the personal name of the God of Israel. The name here occurs in the plural, though used with a singular verb, created (Heb. singular). This usage of the plural, which is very common in the Old Testament, is best explained as the "plural of majesty," used to express greatness or dignity. The verb "created" means, in the original, shaped, fashioned. It does not necessarily mean that God created the heavens and the earth out of nothing. But it does denote "the production of something fundamentally new, by the exercise of a sovereign originative power, altogether transcending that possessed by man."

2. Waste and void—A compound expression, signifying formless matter, or chaos. The expression occurs again in Isa. 34. 11, where it is rendered confusion and emptiness, and in Jer. 4. 23, where it is translated as in our lesson.

The deep—Primeval, undivided waters, conceived of by the writer as enveloping the chaotic earth.

Spirit of God.—The Divine Energy which creates and sustains life (Job 33. 4), and to which are attributed the supernatural spiritual spiritual gifts and extraordinary powers of man: "I am full of power by the Spirit of Jehovah, and of judgment, and of might" (Micah 3. 8).

Moved upon—Or, was brooding upon.

God said, Let there be—Note the conscious and deliberate purpose as well as the omnipotence implied in these words. We have here the earliest foreshadowing of the personal sense in which the term "the Word" is used in John 1. 1 in the New Testament. Compare also Psa. 33. 6, "By the word of Jehovah were the heavens made."

Light—Here thought of as a thing in itself, independent of the heavenly luminaries. Compare Job 38. 19, 20:

Where is the way to the dwelling of light?
And as for darkness, where is the place thereof,
That thou shouldest take it to the bound thereof,
And that thou shouldest discern the paths to the house thereof?

4. Good—Suitable for the work for which it was designed.

5. One day—In the mind of the priestly author unquestionably a period of twenty-four hours.

7. The firmament—The vaulted dome of the sky is thought of as something beaten out, or pressed down firm, and forming a solid barrier or partition between the waters which were above it and those on the earth's surface. The earth itself was conceived of as flat and round like a disk, supported partly by the encircling sea and partly by the vast abyss of waters constituting "the great deep" beneath the earth. Up from these subterranean waters hidden channels conducted the waters to the surface of the earth, while through openings in the solid firmament the waters from above descend from time to time in the form of rain. (Compare Psa. 24. 2; 136. 6; Job. 38. 16).

9, 10. Waters . . . gathered together unto one place—That part of the chaotic waters still enveloping the earth beneath the firmament is now gathered together into seas. The Hebrew conception of the earth as relatively small, flat, and round must be borne in mind.

12. Grass—Or, tender grass.

Herbs—Larger plants such as vegetables and cereals.

Yielding seed—Capable of self propagation and at the same time producing food for man.

Wherein—That is, in the fruit itself.

16. Two great lights—The sun and moon. These, with the stars also, were for sighs and seasons. They are not, as in contemporary Babylonian mythology, thought of as dieties or the abodes of dieties.

21. Sea-monsters—The Hebrew word is one that is applied to reptiles, crocodiles, and other aquatic monsters.

Every living creature that moveth.—Both fishes and other creatures that glide through the water or creep along its bed.

25. Cattle—Here referring more especially to domestic animals, though sometimes denoting wild animals.

27. Created—The repetition of this word adds to the solemnity with which the creation of man is introduced. The author thus emphasizes the fact that man's creation is a more wonderful revelation of God's omnipotence even than the creation of heaven and earth (verse 1), or the formation of conscious life (verse 21).

31. It was very good—The final verdict pronounced upon the whole work of creation, in which each portion was in perfect harmony with the rest.

RAZOR ENDED TOOTHACHE.

Distracted Man Slew Himself and Little Blind Son.

Toothache—called by the poet Burns "the hell of all diseases"—seems to have been responsible recently for a terrible double tragedy in the East End of London.

Startled by the words, "Daddy is dead," muttered by his little son, neighbors rushed upstairs at a house in Fern Street, Devons Road, Bromley-by-Bow, and found Henry Agar, a laborer, and another of his children—a blind boy of nearly two years, named Cecil—lying on a bed with their throats cut.

It appears that Agar had suffered recently from violent toothache. He went to the hospital in the morning to have his tooth extracted, but the authorities, it is said, thought that considerable danger would attend its immediate removal.

Agar accordingly returned home in great pain, and went upstairs to lie down in a room, where his baby son, a blind boy, was lying.

Nothing apparently happened to arouse the suspicions of his wife, and at dinner time she sent another son to tell his father the meal was ready.

The child came down hurriedly with the dramatic announcement, "Daddy is dead," and neighbors found both the man and the baby lying with their throats cut. Near by was a blood-stained razor.

Agar was a middle-aged man in regular employment, and he is described as having been very steady and respectable.

DEMOCRACY OF GENIUS.

Only Two Hundred in Every Million Reach Real Greatness.

The dictionary of the names of eminent men compiled by Sir Francis Galton listed 2,000 persons who reached eminence in the various fields of human achievement, and indicated that barely 200 in every million persons were entitled to appear in his roster of greatness. A study of these lists seems to show that the world's famous men seldom have left sons capable of the measure of service that might have gained equal honor for themselves. Only the members of royal families are specially environed and educated and mated with selected husbands and wives to-day, yet the great monarch who founds a line of kings is usually possessed by a series of mediocrities, often good and faithful men, but without the splendid abilities which created the dynasty.

Upon the other hand Galton shows that among English inventors, James Watt alone may be rated as inheriting his talents from his father, while George Stephenson was the son of a miner, and the father of Thomas Telford was a shepherd. Of the poets, Scott was the son of a Scottish lawyer, Tennyson of an obscure clergyman, Shelley of a country gentleman, and Southey of a Bristol linen draper. It was a barber who fathered the artist Turner, and Romney was the son of a builder and cabinet maker. Sir Joshua Reynolds offered the studio of a great master as an environment for his kinsfolk, but neither he nor Wren, the architect, nor Scott, nor Wordsworth, nor Romney left descendants whose powers gained them recognition.

Blame the Geographs.

Ask any hundred English men, women or children what is the name of a capital in Russia and every one of them will reply, "St. Petersburg," says the London Mail. It may be a small matter, but in point of fact the proper name is "Petersburg." The English are the only folk who insist upon the "Saint." The city was founded by Peter the Great and is named after him. It is quite true that Peter was one of the most extraordinary men that ever filled a throne, but no one would have been more astounded than himself at being dubbed a saint. He neither lived nor died in the odor of sanctity, and it is hard to find out how it became the English fashion to miscall the splendid town he founded.

Peeved.

"Was your husband annoyed when you had used his razor to sharpen a lead pencil with?"

"Annoyed? He couldn't have said more bad words if I'd told him the furnace fire was out."

Hard Luck.

Alfred—"Your wife has a private fortune?"

Friend Parker—"Very private; I've never personally been acquainted with it."

"At whom are you looking?" demanded the young lady of the young man who obstructed her path. "Atchoo!" replied the hay-fever victim, and hurried away.