HOUSEHOLD

Favorite Recipes.

Date Cake.—One cup sugar, one large teaspoon butter. Cream sugar and butter, then sift two cups flour, one teaspoon baking soda, one teaspoon cloves, and one teaspoon cinnamon together three times, and add to sugar and butter with one cup sour milk. Then add twenty walnuts and one-half pound dates chopped fine to the above mixture and beat for about one minute and bake in loaf pan in slow oven for about forty minutes. This cake is better when it is three days old.

Beef Loaf.—Take two pounds chopped beef, add a small piece of suet and small onions chopped, one tablespoon flour, and one pint tomatoes. Mix all together well and form into loaf, leaving out juice of tomatoes to pour over top. Season with pepper and salt and add a touch of red pepper. Bake or steam. It is delicious.

Nut Loaf.—One and one-half cups flour, one-half cup brown sugar, three cups flour, three teaspoons baking powder, one-half teaspoon soda, three-quarters teaspoon salt, one-half cup chopped walnut meats. Bake in medium oven three-quarters of an hour and let stand, after mixing, one-half hour before baking.

Mock Mayonnaise Salad Dressing.—Two teaspoons salt, one-half tablespoon mustard, three tablespoons sugar, two teaspoons flour, four egg yolks or two whole eggs, five tablespoons butter, three-quarters cup thin cream, one-quarter cup vinegar. Mix dry ingredients thoroughly, add eggs, well beaten. Heat cream and butter and add to egg mixture slowly. Cook over hot water (double boiler preferred) until thick, stirring constantly. Add vinegar slowly. Strain and let cool.

Parker House Rolls.—Scald one pint of sweet milk and water together, add quarter cup of butter and lard mixed to scalded milk. When cool enough add one yeast cake dissolved in one-quarter cup of water, two tablespoons sugar, beaten white of one egg, flour enough to mix soft sponge. Let rise, then mix in hard loaf as for bread. When light put on kneading board, roll out to about one-half inch thick, cut with biscuit cutter. Spread each biscuit with melted butter, fold over half, and place in pan close together. Let rise to twice their thickness. Heat oven five minutes before baking.

Dumplings.—Two eggs well beaten, add one-half pint of milk, one tablespoonful melted butter, two cupfuls flour, two teaspoonfuls baking powder, and a pinch of salt. These should be about as stiff as biscuits and sometimes require more than two cupfuls of flour. Do not roll them, but pat them down and cut them the same as small baking powder biscuits. Steam twenty to thirty minutes, having the water boiling hard. These are delicious served with stewed chicken and plenty gravy.

Snow Pudding.—White part—One pint of water, one-half cup of sugar, three tablespoons of cornstarch, a pinch of salt, one-half teaspoon of vanilla. Stir cornstarch and sugar out in a little cold water then add the rest of the water. Cook. When done add the well beaten whites of three eggs and put into molds to cool. Yellow part—Cook together one pint of milk, one-half cup of sugar, and the yolks of three eggs. Beat together until it boils. When done, remove from the stove and add a few drops of vanilla. When wanted pour this custard over the white part. This will serve six persons.

Cheesecloth in the Kitchen.

Small cheesecloth bags are frequently the means of saving much time in the kitchen and may be kept on hand in different sizes for different uses.

Made five or six inches square, with stout tapes run in the tops, they are useful for holding tomatoes when they are plunged for a moment into boiling water to loosen the skin. Scalded fingers and tomatoes bruised from contact with fork or spoon while they are in the water are thus avoided.

In a smaller size cheesecloth bags can be used to cover the heads of asparagus while they are cooking. Protected in this way the heads are not easily crushed or broken.

Large cheesecloth bags can be kept on hand for jelly making in the summer. Jelly bags can be used more than once if they are boiled in water to which soda or borax is added until they are clean. They can be bleached almost white again if they are boiled with washing soda, but if they are clean the color of the jelly which they strained will in no wise lessen their usefulness.

Soup vegetables can be put in cheesecloth bags and when the soup is done the vegetables can be lifted from it and chopped to serve in the stock as vegetable soup. If they are cooked loose with the soup meat and bones they are generally so cooked to pieces and so hidden among the bones that it is impossible to get them out in presentable shape.

Very small bags can be filled with seasoning mixture of herbs—parsley, thyme, bay and other kitchen savories—and used to season broth, soup and other meat and vegetable dishes.

Wide mouthed bags with long tapes, which can be tied about the outer edge of bowls or saucepans, are useful for straining custards, jellies made with gelatine, sauces and other liquids which must be strained to make them smooth. These bags should be made of coarse, wide meshed cheesecloth.

Cheesecloth bags in the laundry can be used for holding doilies, small pieces of neckwear and other small articles which are easily lost when they are hung separately on the line.

FARMERS MUST TILL LAND.

One of the Questions of the Near Future in Ireland.

Compulsory tillage will be one of the questions in the near future in Ireland. In most foreign countries those who are entrusted with the care of the land are compelled to till a certain portion of it. But, in Ireland, although there have been several land acts, no such condition of proprietorship has yet been introduced. The result is that in every locality large farmers, graziers and storekeepers have purchased large tracts of land and are keeping them as grazing farms and, as a consequence, are employing only one herd, where twenty or thirty farm laborers could be profitably employed. This is nothing more or less than perpetuating grazierdom in its worst form, and those who live by the land, as well as those who have no direct interest in it, are going to set steadily to work to alter this state of things directly Home Rule is given to Ireland. James Haverly, of Galway, a prominent agitator on this topic, says:

"At the present time we have to import such classes of agricultural produce as hay, straw, oats and meat, while our land is allowed to grow furze and moss for want of being acquainted with the plow. There is also another very important thing to be considered in connection with this subject of compulsory tillage. The chief topic for discussion for Irishmen at present is to change our system of exporting store cattle and substituting a dead meat trade. Does anyone ever consider where we are going to get our fodder from to fatten our cattle unless we compel those who have land to cultivate it?

"If we must import our fodder, it would not pay to fatten our cattle, and all our talk about bringing about a change in our cattle trade is useless unless we first take up the question of compulsory tillage. An Irish farmer with ten or twenty acres should be made to till one acre out of four. Farmers with from twenty to fifty acres should till one acre in five and so on, in proportion to the size of the farm.

PAMPERED POLICEMEN.

Warm Food and Tea Are Provided Glasgow Bobbies.

The London Daily Mirror says: "The policeman's lot in Glasgow should certainly not be an unhappy one. He is, in fact, almost pampered. For Glasgow has just begun to provide her policemen with warm food and tea while they are on night duty by means of electric heaters, or 'hot plates.' These heaters are placed in a number of telephone and signalling boxes at various points in the city, generally at the junction of several beats, for policemen.

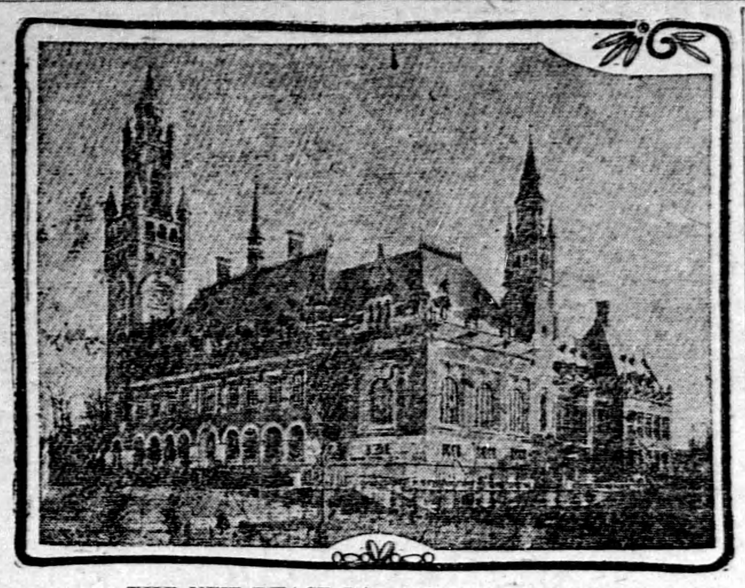
"The 'hot plate' meets with the approval of the constables, for by the former supper system men had to walk considerable distances to obtain hot food and drinks. Now policemen will be able to make their tea for themselves. Twenty minutes is allowed for supper.

"Each box is fitted up with a telephone in direct communication with the nearest police office. A red light can also be made to glow over the box when switched on from the Superintendent's signalling office. This red light means that telephone communication is required with the first constable who sees the signal. The hot plate on which the food is electrically warmed cannot be left in circuit even if the policeman omits to turn off the switch. The total number of signalling boxes to be employed in the Glasgow area is sixty-nine.

"Another luxury for the Glasgow police is an electric lantern instead of the hot old bull's-eye."

In the United Kingdom, where there are no fewer than 616,000 women dressmakers, there are more women workers in proportion to population than in any other country in the world.

Next to Yorkshire, Lincolnshire is the largest county in England; whilst Lancashire can claim a bigger population than any other county.



THE NEW PEACE PALACE AT THE HAGUE.

This building at The Hague, under construction since 1907, will be opened this year. All future international peace conferences will be held there.

THE KAISER IS TREMBLING

OLD PROPHESIES MAKE THE EMPEROR UNEASY.

Soothesayers Say 1913 Will See Germany's Downfall, and Rise of France.

It has long been known that the present year has been regarded by astrologers and mystics of various kinds as one in which events of supreme importance to the world are to take place. The Throne, under the heading "The Astral Year, 1913," prints an interesting article on this superstition. It says that March 21, the Vernal Equinox, according to the Astral soothsayers, saw "the birth of a New World."

Some remarkable predictions have been made in regard to this year from March 21 to the same period in 1914. Mme. de Thebes, the French soothsayer, declared some time ago by her reading of the stars that this was the year when France would rise supreme. "France," she said, "is marked out for a glorious role. Once more the tri-color will float over victory on victory. From March 21, 1913, to March 20, 1914, the true Astral year, France will have entered into a new era, and will enjoy great hours of feverish enthusiasm and joy—no more disappointments, no more pessimism, and anaemia. Mars, the war god, will act upon us, together with the moon; 1913 that is the end of the tunnel, from which we can see the new sun-bathed landscape, the year of the resurrection of French energy."

Mme. de Thebes predicted disaster to Germany. "Germany," she said, "has terror of the year 1913.

She Must Stake Her All.

"The war will be fatal to her. She knows it. She fears it." She went on to say that after the war neither Hohenzollern nor Prussia would rule—"The days of the Emperor are numbered, and after him all will be changed in Germany. I said the days of his reign. I did not say the days of his life."

Mme. de Thebes does not stand alone. Zadiel, who claims to base his predictions on correct astrological readings, has declared that before the year has far advanced a sensation will be created in the world because of some astounding reverses suffered by German arms.

Another famous French soothsayer, Mlle. Couesdon, of the Rue de Paradis, who foretold with extraordinary precision the dreadful fire at the Charite Bazaar and the Martinique earthquake, has clothed a similar prediction in rhymed verse: Translated roughly, this reads:—

I see on the other side
A nation armed
Which is ready to come
But which cannot enter.
It would like to settle here;
I see the spreading eagles;
The arms are shining;
I see this nation moving
And war declared.
England is forced
Into the war you behold,
The fleet is well armed,
The sea will be troubled,
Ships will be sunk.

England to Provoke War.

The French papers, curiously enough, interpret the verse of this pythoness as meaning that the expected war will be provoked by England. But England is hardly a nation armed, nor is it within the realms of possibility that it is going to try and improve itself on the soil of France. The words "aigles deployees" may be a double allusion to aeroplanes, but it suggests rather the German eagles.

The same prophetess declared that "the Turks will be chased out of Europe and Constantinople will become Christian."

It is said that the Kaiser is not by any means disposed to scepticism in regard to astrological predictions. A German paper admits that the Emperor is superstitious, and refers to a prediction which dates from the thirteenth century. It was uttered by Herman the Monk, and deals almost exclusively with the Hohenzollern family in these words: "He shall have a prosperous life and enjoy more than he ever dared to hope: for wonderful things are about to be accomplished and the Prince himself will not be able to divine the astonishing growth of the new power."

Ancient Oracles Foretold It.

This ancient oracle paints, howere, a sinister picture in regard to the thirteenth generation. The present Emperor represents that number, and here is the Latin verse, which, it is said, gives the Emperor spasms of anxiety.

Tandem sceptra gerit
Qui stemmatis ultimus erit.

"At length the sceptre is in the hand of him who will be the last of the royal line."

This is, curiously enough, corroborated by another German prediction, known as that of Mayence, in which the war of 1870 was foretold, as well as the cession to Germany of Alsace-Lorraine. But there is one prediction referred to again in both German and French newspapers more astonishing than these. It is that of the famous sorceress whom William I. consulted in the little village of Fienberg. It was she who foretold correctly the events of his life and ended by prophesying the end of the German Empire in 1913.

A HINT ABOUT SUGAR.

Should Be Used By All in Need of Nourishment.

The late Sir Henry Thompson, one of the greatest authorities on diet, wrote:—"It is scarcely sufficiently known that sugar is a very valuable food where much muscular exercise is taken and much bodily labor performed. Especially in adults who are becoming exhausted with labor sugar may be taken largely, with the effect of rapidly affording a fresh supply of power." By far the best sugar in the world is grape-sugar. That is the kind which nourishes and sustains the body; is easily digested, and in every way beneficial. This invaluable substance is found in the currant. In fact, currants are nearly all grape-sugar, and that is why they are so good for the health. Those who lead an open-air life should make a point of eating plenty of currants. Whether raw or cooked is immaterial, but, as Sir Henry Thompson unmistakably indicated, sugar is a provider of power, and should be used by all in need of nourishment. Common sense dictates the use of the best and most palatable forms of sugar, which is undoubtedly the currant. The Christmas pudding, mince pie, Eccles cake and many other delicacies owe their perfect flavor to the presence of currants.

Grains of Gold.

Courage is one of the world's great words. It has moulded the past with its deed, and it carries the future in its dream.—Edwin Markham.

If our plans are not for time, but for eternity, our knowledge, and therefore our love of God—to each other—will progress forever.—Charles Kingsley.

It is curious to note the old seamargins of human thought! Each subsiding century reveals some new mystery; we build where monsters used to hide themselves.—Longfellow.

There are words and looks and little observances, thoughtfulness, watchful little attentions, which speak of love, which make it manifest, and there is scarce a family that might not be richer in heartwealth for more of them.—Harriet Beecher Stowe.

The common idea is, the more labor the less genius; in other words, the greater the labor the worse the art. The truth is exactly the opposite. Genius alone is capable of that ideal of perfection which causes the intense toil of the true artist.—F. B. Money-Coutts.

EMPIRE'S RICHEST FARMERS

WHEAT GROWN WITHOUT RAIN IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Expert Tells How the Insect Pest Is Dealt With in Novel Manner.

And the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose. . . . In the wilderness shall water break out, and streams in the desert. And the parched ground shall become a pool and the thirsty lands springs of water. —Isaiah, chapter 35.

Isaiah's many prophecies concerning the fertility of the desert places of the earth are having some measure of fulfillment in South Africa, according to Dr. Macdonald, of the Union Department of Agriculture, who is best known as the enthusiastic exponent and pioneer of the dry-farming movement, which has revolutionized agriculture in that country.

In a recent interview, Dr. Macdonald said:

"Before the Government started experimental dry land stations it was widely believed that farming was only possible beside the waterfurrow. This meant a few irrigated patches of land and the rest of the country a desert. But we have changed all that. In each of the four provinces and in Rhodesia thousands of acres of dry land, once considered valueless, are now being ploughed up and planted and are yielding excellent crops.

Grow Rainless Wheat.

"America has grown wheat on an 8-inch rainfall, Australia has grown wheat on a 5-inch rainfall, but we in South Africa have grown a rainless wheat. That is to say that during the past season at Lichtenburg, which is in the dry zone of the Transvaal, we have grown a wheat without a single drop of rain falling upon it from seed time until harvest. This is the Durum wheat, Apulia, which we originally introduced from the dry belt of Italy. Our success has been due to the use of what we term 'moisture-saving fallows.' The great problem of South African agriculture is not the problem of fertility. It is the problem of the conservation of moisture. We have now solved that problem, and made possible the immediate settlement of our dry or arid lands.

"Again, by systematic dipping and fencing, cattle disease is now well under control.

Poison for Locusts.

"But, perhaps the most dramatic success in the campaign against insect pests is to be seen in the conquest of the locust by means of arsenical sprays. The flight of every swarm of locusts is registered and telegraphed to the headquarters of the Union Department of Agriculture at Pretoria, and when the young locusts emerge, the veldt is ringed by poisoned grass, over which they cannot pass. A short time ago the Government of Peru sent an expert to the Transvaal to study our methods of locust destruction, but the only locust which the entomologist could show him was to be found in the museum.

Empire's Richest Farmers.

"Few people seem to be aware of the fact that the richest farmers in the British Empire are the ostrich farmers of Cape Colony. Or, take the province of Natal. It has developed large and profitable industries in sugar cane, wattles, and tea. But these are small in comparison to its future as a dairying country, where milch cows can remain outside all the year round, being grazed on the rich natural pastures of a well-watered region, supplemented by fields of maize, sugar cane and lucerne. With the rise of fruit farming and dairying we may look for the coming of the small holder."

LONDON TO BE WELL LIGHTED

World's Metropolis Will Save 30 Per Cent on the Bill.

London, England, is soon to rank as one of the best lighted cities in the world. An English exchange says: Some streets will be lighted by gas and others by electricity. The electric lights which have been in use during the experimental work in Cheapside are each of 3,000 candle-power, while in Cannon street the high-pressure gas lamps have each 2,000 candle power.

When the whole scheme is complete and the lamps on the sidewalks have given way to centrally-hung lamps, the inhabitants of London may congratulate themselves on the fact that theirs is one of the best lighted cities in the world, and the cost will represent a saving of nearly 30 per cent. on the lighting bill.

The difference between an art, a profession and a trade is that a man is nearly always able to make a living at a trade.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON.

INTERNATIONAL LESSON, JUNE 1.

Lesson IX. Joseph Tests His Brethren. Gen., Chap. 44. Golden Text, James 5, 16.

Joseph's brethren upon leaving Egypt the second time have their money again returned to them, Joseph's cup being at the same time placed in Benjamin's sack. Thus does Joseph plan a final test of the sincerity of his brothers. This test constitutes the subject of our present lesson passage.

Verse 4. Were gone out of the city—Taking Benjamin with them.

Rewarded evil for good—Attempted to steal when you had received the most liberal of treatment.

5. Whereby he indeed divineth—There were many methods of divination among the ancients, such as watching the flight of birds, examining the entrails and vital organs of animals slain for sacrifice, and the method of hydromancy, here alluded to. This latter method consisted of pouring water into a goblet or other vessel and of then throwing into the vessel pieces of gold or precious stones. During the process the movements of the water and the figures which these movements caused to appear therein were carefully studied and permitted to suggest the unknown and the future. Similar means of divination are still practiced in Egypt and elsewhere.

8. How then should we steal?—Their reasoning in itself is convincing. Their faith in their ability to demonstrate their innocence leads them to a rash unconscious pronouncement of the judgment of death upon Benjamin, whose life they were most anxious to protect.

9. Let him die—Their willingness to stake their lives on their integrity was the strongest evidence in its favor.

Bondmen—Slaves.

10. He with whom it is found shall be my bondman—The steward accepts less than they offer, asking only that the one found guilty be surrendered, not to suffer the penalty of death, but to remain in servivitude in Joseph's house. In fixing these terms the steward was obviously under instructions from his master.

11. Hasted—Made haste.

Took down—From the backs of the pack-animals to the ground.

12. And he searched—The steward who had overtaken them and challenged their honesty.

The eldest—Reuben.

The youngest—Benjamin.

13. Rent their clothes—But said nothing. Their silence and their actions were more eloquent than words.

Returned to the city—From whence they had just come, and where they immediately afterward find Joseph still at home.

14. Fell before him on the ground—Still mute with disappointment and humiliation.

15. What deed is this?—Joseph addresses them with affected indignation. He reproaches them, however, not for their dishonesty and ingratitude, but for their folly in imagining they could escape detection.

Such a man as I—A man of my rank and power, and initiated in all the wisdom of Egypt, including its mystical and sacerdotal rites. The implication is that it was utter folly on their part to attempt to rob or receive such a one as he.

16. What shall we say?—The facts in the case seem to allow no ground or excuse.

The iniquity of thy servants—The iniquity which the speaker had in mind was not that of the discovered theft, as Joseph might be expected to infer, but the greater wrong done to Joseph and their father years before, and which had rested heavily upon their consciences all the years.

We are my lord's bondmen—Servitude seemed more preferable to them than the necessity of facing their aged father without Benjamin, for whose safety they had become surety.

17. Get you up in peace unto your father—Joseph presses home his advantage, and in order to bring them to a full realization of their position, insists that he will retain only Benjamin.

In the succeeding verses there follows Judah's speech of intercession, as remarkable for its pathos, beauty, and persuasive eloquence as for its frankness and generosity. The remaining verses of the chapter are part of the assigned lesson.

Probably the hardest thing for a girl to do when she is being kissed by a young man is to make him believe that it is her first experience.

Last year 872,800 births and 456,982 deaths were registered in England and Wales; but, although the natural increase of population was therefore 415,818, the birth rate was the lowest ever yet recorded.