Household

How to Serve Strawberries.

The strawberry could not be recommended to the thoughtful housewife because of any very high nutritive quality it possesses. To be perfectly frank, 10 cents' worth of strawberries contain about one-sixth as much nourishment as 10 cents' worth of apples.

Even watermelon possesses two-thirds more nourishment for the price we pay than strawberries, and yet no fair-minded housewife would want to deprive her family of the joy of an occasional dish of strawberries just on that account.

It may have been in order to furnish some excuse for eating strawberries that there have sprung up around them the tradition of so many virtues. It used to be said that he who ate strawberries would have no tartar on his teeth, that they prevented perspiration in summer time, that they cured gout and consumption and a host of other ills that flesh is heir to. The housewife who believed all these things could well consider strawberries economical.

But why make all these excuses? Why not admit that we like strawberries, that they do us no harm and that we eat them for the very joy of it? For, indeed, to the person who likes the flavor of this most useless of all fruits there is something incomparable about it. The very botanical name for strawberries—fragaria—which indicates its fragrance, is token of the delicate and lovely flavor of the fruit.

There are many ways of serving strawberries, to bring out the flavor in a host of delicious ways. Here are some of the rules that are especially worth trying:

Strawberry Whip.—To make a delicious light dessert, use the white of two eggs, beaten stiff. Add one-half cupful of powdered sugar and 1¼ cupfuls of crushed strawberries. Beat again till stiff enough to hold its shape. The riper the strawberries the better will be the results. Serve soon after making.

Strawberry Cream.—A richer mode of serving strawberries calls for one pint of ripe strawberries and one-half cupful of sugar. They should be mixed and mashed together and put through a sieve. Then whip a pint of stiff cream and add to the strawberries, with a tablespoonful of gelatine dissolved in a third of a cupful of cold water. Mix together, pour in a mould and set on the ice till ready to serve.

Strawberry Cup.—This calls for one quart of ripe strawberries rubbed through a sieve. Add a small glassful of maraschino wine, one pint of white wine, a few whole strawberries and sugar to taste. Serve ice cold for a warm weather beverage.

Here is a delicious recipe for strawberry shortcake: Sift two cupfuls of flour with two teaspoonfuls of baking powder and a half teaspoonful of salt. Work it into one-quarter of a cupful of soft butter and moisten with a little ice cold milk. Divide into two parts and roll each part out with pressure of the finger tops. Place one layer on a buttered layer cake tin. Spread with soft butter and then put the second layer on top and bake in a hot oven. When the two layers are done separate them. Place sugared strawberries between the two layers, cover with the top layer, add more sugared strawberries and serve with a cooked strawberry sauce. To make the sauce, crush two cupfuls of the softer strawberries, add half a cupful of water and cook slowly for about a quarter of an hour.

The rule calls for a quart of cream and one quart of ripe strawberries, one cupful of sugar and one tablespoonful of gelatine. After the berries have been carefully crushed add the sugar and let them stand for an hour or more. Then rub them through a sieve. Soak the gelatine in a tablespoonful of cold water and dissolve in half a cupful of hot water. Add this to the strawberries and mix thoroughly. Now put the strawberry mixture into a pan of cold water and stir it till it begins to thicken. Whip the cream and add it to the mixture, folding in very lightly. Turn it all into the ice cream mould or cylinder and freeze in ice and salt without stirring as it is freezing. Let it stand for four hours before serving, repacking if necessary.

Useful Hints.

Wrap cut bread in waxed paper if you would keep it fresh.

Try scrambling eggs with minced green peppers for a change.

Hang very dusty skirts out on the clothesline in a high wind.

Carrots and spinach are among the best of tonics in the spring.

Dry lamp chimneys on the radiator and on the back of the stove.

The smoke from burning sugar is one of the very best disinfectants.

Discarded inner auto tires can be cut up into the best of rubber bands.

In planning spring menus get as far as possible away from winter dishes.

Keep a pair of ordinary pliers in the kitchen for lifting intensely hot pans.

It is a good idea to buy a supply of extra bobbins for the sewing machine.

Dip matches in hot, melted paraffin if you wish to make them waterproof.

Cut the invalid's toast into inch squares; it can be eaten much more easily.

Use a dish mop to clean windows. With it you can easily reach places otherwise hard to clean. If possible have two, one for drying.

Before using table oilcloth paste at each corner on the wrong side a square of cotton. This prevents the corners from wearing out as soon as they otherwise would.

If silver is rubbed up every day with a dry flannel rag it will not have to be cleaned with silver polish oftener than once a month.

As flour varies at different seasons of the year and by different millings, it is safe to leave out a fourth of a cupful of the required amount; then add, if necessary.

When steaming pudding or dumplings put a cloth over the steamer before putting on the lid. This will prevent the moisture settling and rendering the pudding heavy.

If a baking-dish gets burnt in the using it should not be scraped. Simply place a little water and ashes in it, and the burnt surface will come off easily without injuring the dish.

To remove ink-stains from books take a quantity of oxalic acid, diluted with water, applied with a camel-hair pencil, and absorbed with blotting-paper; two applications will remove all traces of the ink.

After the bread is mixed and molded grease the mixing pan in which it is to stand while rising, and the ease with which it can be taken from the pan when making into loaves will be a pleasant feature of the work.

An enamelled bathtub can be cleaned very easily with a cloth dipped in turpentine and salt. The tub should first be perfectly dry, and after the solution has been applied it should be washed with clean warm water.

Stored potatoes may be prevented from spouting and will keep much better in the earth or cellar floor on which they rest. Another layer of lime should be added on the pile at the height of five feet should they be placed in a bin that high.

NO RULES FOR SUCCESS.

Comes From Something Inside a Man, Says One.

Writing in Pitman's Magazine, a new English publication devoted to business, A. E. Bull outlines the kind of people it is necessary for the man to know who would find success in the commercial world. Says Mr. Bull:

"A remarkably successful man, who had commenced in poverty and who had build up a world-famous business, was once asked to explain the secret of his success.

"'My dear man,' he said to the interviewer, 'it can't be done. I can no more tell you how I succeeded than a bird could explain how it learned to fly.'

"'But,' protested the interviewer, 'you surely have some rules of conduct and business methods that you have adhered to through life, and which would account for your success?'

"'Yes, I have rules,' replied the successful man, 'but rules are nothing. Success isn't a matter of rules. It's something inside a man, something that belongs to his nature and character. If a man has it, he will succeed; if he hasn't, all the copy-book headings in the world won't give it to him.'

"That was the opinion of a man who had succeeded and knew his own nature, and, up to a point, it has a great deal of truth in it.

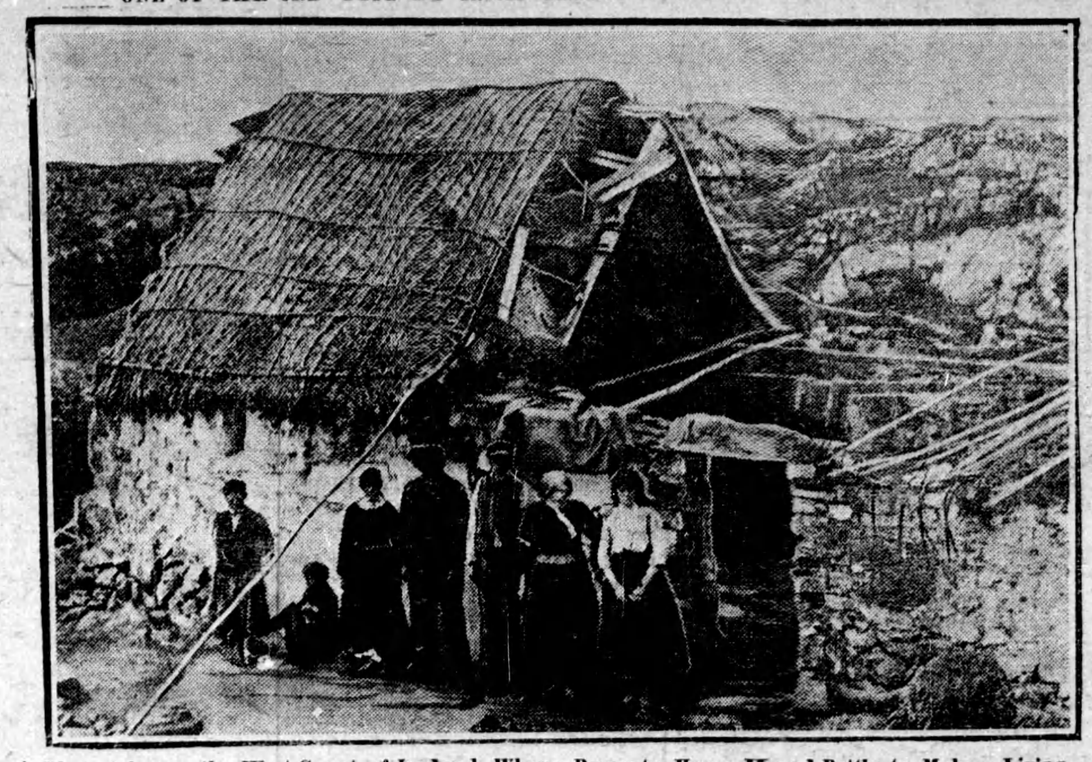
"Here is a second reply to the question which was put to the millionaire. The man who made it was by no means so prosperous, but he had succeeded beyond reasonable expectations. He was certainly more successful than those who knew him best thought he would be, for he was not a particularly able man in any way.

"'I made one rule in life,' he said. 'I regard it as a duty to succeed, so I persistently sought the company of those who had succeeded. If a man was a failure I avoided him, not out of any snobbishness, but because I could not afford to run the risk of catching the infection of failure from him.'

"His was a most curious idea, that success and failure are infectious, and that one can catch them just as he can catch fever and colds. Here is the point of the remark and the truth of it. It is just the same opinion as that of the millionaire, though presented in a different way:

"The things that bring success are the things that belong to character. To succeed one must mould the character aright. Nothing influences character so much as companionship. In his mind it worked out this way: Make companions of weak people and one becomes weak, make companions of strong people and one becomes strong.

ONE OF THE OLD TYPE OF IRISH CABINS NOW FAST DISAPPEARING.



A Photo taken on the West Coast of Ireland, Where Peasants Have a Hard Battle to Make a Living.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDY

INTERNATIONAL LESSON, MAY 24.

Lesson VIII. Unprofitable Servants. Luke 17. 1-10. Golden Text, 1 Cor. 1. 31.

Verse 1. Occasions of stumbling—Stumbling means literally "being ensnared or entrapped." Here it refers to the errors in conduct due to the following of unworthy examples.

2. One of these little ones—It is not likely that Jesus meant by these little ones all the disciples, but rather the more inconspicuous ones among his hearers—those young in the faith, or possibly the children. In Matthew and Mark this verse follows the incident of the children being brought to Christ. But if Jesus referred primarily to the children, his words would also include those not well grounded in the faith, or those who, because of lack of experience and inability to judge between the true and the false, would be easily led astray.

3. If thy brother sin, rebuke him—The sin is not to be passed over unnoticed lest "thou bear sin because of him" (Lev. 19. 17). While one should bear in mind that a rebuke that will help and not embitter the offender must be very wisely and tactfully administered, Jesus certainly meant to teach the disciples that Christians should neither be indifferent nor act as if unconcerned in the presence of wrongdoing.

If there is a connection between this verse and the two preceding, it is to be found in the charity which should be manifested toward those who sin against us, contrasted with the severity with which we should deal with ourselves if we should sin against others. Jesus expected his disciples to conduct severe and thorough self-examinations (compare Matt. 5. 29). These should not make them indecisive in action, nor cause them to become less confident and aggressive in their work; he wished, rather, to train Christian character which would be strong enough to bear discipline and to improve with wholesome criticism.

If he repent, forgive him—Forgiveness without repentance is not required, though the teaching of Jesus throughout regarding malice and vengeance shows plainly that a Christian cannot harbor an unforgiving spirit nor continually bear ill will toward another.

4. Seven times in the day—This number recalls Peter's question, "How oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him?" to which Jesus replied, "Until seventy times seven," though the numbers are not to be taken literally. Unlimited forgiveness is meant.

5. Increase our faith—The high standard of Christian character to which Jesus urged his followers no doubt caused them to feel their imperfections and limitations, and they were impelled to ask again that their faith might be increased.

6. The words of this verse are closely connected in thought with those of Matt. 17. 20, 21. On that occasion Jesus referred to the removal of a mountain, here to a tree. Matthew connects the saying of Christ with the question of the disciples as to the cause of their inability to cure the epileptic, the meaning in both instances being that the seemingly impossible can be accomplished through faith.

A grain of mustard seed—A very small seed (Mark 4. 31).

Sycamine—The word translated sycamine means in modern Greek a mulberry tree, but in the Septuagint, or earliest Greek translation of the Bible, this word is used for the fig tree. It seems likely, therefore, that the fig tree is meant here.

7. Who is there of you—These words were no doubt addressed to a large audience many of whom owned slaves.

A servant—A bondservant or slave.

Plowing or keeping sheep—These occupations are probably mentioned because they are the two most common forms of farm work in Palestine.

8, 9. In this reference to the treatment of slaves, Jesus was merely mentioning the common customs of the people of Palestine, familiar to all his hearers. That different customs, including greater sympathy and appreciation and less class distinction, will prevail in his kingdom is shown in the parable of Luke 12. 37, in which the master himself served. Jesus also emphasized the lesson of friendliness and equality when he washed his disciples' feet.

10. Unprofitable servants — Not worthless, but having done only their duty. Queen Eleanor of Bulgaria was praised for her intimate personal acquaintance with the work of the schools, hospitals, and other philanthropic institutions of her country. She replied: "I deserve no credit for this. It is my duty." This verse does not reflect God's attitude toward his faithful servants, but rather the attitude we should take toward our service. The work of the Kingdom cannot be properly done unless we who pray for the coming of that Kingdom are willing to meet its hardest demands in a spirit of heroic patience. It is encouraging to note the increasing number of Christ's followers who exemplify this spirit.

MAKE FACES AND BE WELL.

New Cure For Disease—Good for Deafness.

Massage and exercise, at various times, have been advocated as a panacea for many and divers ills. Fernet now proposes that by exercise we may be able to influence favorably the encroaching deafness of the elderly, or that following the inflammation of the middle ear. He remarks that children can often move the ears and part of the scalp voluntarily, and some may become quite exceptional in this faculty. He believes that, through exercise, adults will be able to produce such movements.

He has devised three series of exercises, as follows: The first consists of grimaces of the face, contracting in turn the muscles of the lips, nostrils and eyelids, aiming ultimately to reach the ear; next the frontal and occipital muscles are contracted alternately and then the muscles above and behind and in front of the ear. The muscles of the eustachian tube are then exercised by directions which he gives fully. He says: "Medical men, knowing the anatomy of the parts, can train their muscles very effectually in this way; others need an instructor to show them."

Just what the ultimate outcome of this proposal will be is questionable, says the Journel of the American Medical Association. We may picture to ourselves tentatively a future period when all around us will be visible a series of grimacing, ear-wiggling elderly men and women in the act of improving their ears and warding off the encroaching deafness of old age. "Physicians particularly," says Fernet, "need good hearing, and rather than accepting deafness with the fatalism of the Oriental, they should rise up and fight it." If it is to be combatted by this method, the word "fight" is a very appropriate one.

Uncertainty of Life.

Miss Flirt—Jack told me last night that I was his very life.

Her Brother—Jack will soon find out how uncertain life is.

"It is wrong for an old man to marry a young fool." "But how is he to know that she is a fool?" "When she says yes to his proposal he ought to know it."

TO THE RESCUE.

An Incident Which Shows the Sagacity of the Beaver.

The beaver works industriously, and with a degree of sagacity and skill that is astonishing. Mr. Enos A. Mills, the author of "In Beaver World," tells us that the beaver is easily tamed, and that he makes a companionable pet. The author had such a pet at his home in Colorado, and he tells a number of stories about the animal, which he called Diver. Other human qualities than that of industry appear in the incidents related.

Diver had a bad fright one evening. About an hour before sundown we had encamped, as usual, alongside a stream. He entered the water, and, after swimming about for a time, taking a dozen or so merry dives, he crossed to the opposite side. In plain view, only fifty feet away, I watched him as he busily dug out roots of the Oregon grape, and then began to eat them at his leisure.

While he was thus engaged, a coyote made a dash for him from behind a boulder. Diver dodged, and the coyote missed. Giving a wail like a frightened child, my youngster rolled into the stream, and dived. Presently he scrambled out of the water near me, and made haste to crawl under by coat tail behind the log on which I sat.

The nearest beaver pond was a quarter of a mile upstream, yet less than five minutes had elapsed from the time of Diver's cry when two beaver appeared, swimming low and cautiously in the stream. A minute later another came in sight from downstream. All circled about, swimming cautiously, with heads held low in the water. One scented the place where the coyote had attacked Diver, waddled out, and made a sniffing examination. Another came ashore at the spot where Diver came out to me.

Apparently his eyes told him I was a part of the log, but his nose proclaimed danger. After three or four ineffectual attempts to retreat, he plucked up courage, and rose to full height on his hind legs and tail to stare eagerly at me. With head well up and forepaws drooping, he held his gaze for several seconds, and then gave a low whistle.

At this Diver came forth from behind my coat to see what was going on. The old one started forward to meet him, but on having a good look at me, whirled and made a jumping dive into the water, whacking the surface with his tail as he disappeared. Instantly there followed two or more splashes and a number of tail whacks upon the water, as if the beaver rescue party were beating a hurried retreat.

POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

Some people are not on speaking terms with their duty.

One touch of fashion may make all women look like freaks.

A stylish coat on a man's back enables him to put on a bold front.

Few men get far enough up the ladder of fame to make them dizzy.

What you think you deserve and what others think you deserve—alas!

From his point of view, no man ever marries a woman smarter than himself.

There are several kinds of undesirable trusts, but trusting to luck is the limit.

He is a wise man who knows he isn't wise enough to answer all the fool questions asked him.

Nine-tenths of the things that have been said might as well have been left unsaid for all the benefit they are to humanity.

Appealed to Him.

Parson—Do you know the parables, my child?

Johnnie—Yes, sir.

Parson—And which of the parables do you like best?

Johnnie—I like the one where somebody loafs and fishes.

Our London Letter

Recognized by Watch Charm.

A remarkable coincidence that would be hard to beat is reported by the Manchester Guardian.

Just before the opening of the battle of Diamond Hill, in the Boer war, four soldiers, complete strangers, met around an overturned keg for a hasty meal. After the meal one produced a bad florin, which was neatly cut in quarters, and a compact was made that each man should wear the memento on his watch chain should he survive. The four, who belonged to different regiments, then went into action and from that moment neither head anything of the others until a few nights ago, when a farewell dinner was being given to a popular man in Birmingham who was going abroad. The four then with amazement recognized each other by the pieces of metal attached to their watch-guards.

All knew the guest of the evening intimately, and one of them had sent an invitation to the others.

Millions to Improve London.

A volume of figures issued by the London County Council dates back to 1856 and tells of the millions that have since then been spent in the making of modern London. Apart from the cash raised for annual revenue the capital expenditure on the town since 1856 has been four hundred and eighty million dollars. One hundred and twenty of these millions have gone to improve the streets, but many more millions will have to be spent before the thoroughfares are big enough for present requirements.

The drains of London have swallowed up sixty millions. Fifteen millions have been spent on bridges and another fifteen in driving tunnels under the Thames. Ten millions have been spent in providing parks and open spaces. The clearance of unhealthy areas has cost twelve and a half millions, while new dwellings for the poor have cost over ten millions. Ninety millions have gone for education, and the lunatic asylums have taken fifteen millions. The capital expenditure on the tramways has excelled sixty millions.

To keep things going the London County Council draws about thirty-five millions out of the pockets of the ratepayers. As there are four and a half million inhabitants, however, the cost of things is after all only about $7.20 a head.

Britain Has 3,887 Breweries.

A white paper was issued recently which states that the number of breweries in the United Kingdom in the year ended Sept. 30 last was 3,887. The materials used were as follows: Malt, 52,287,637 bushels; unmalted corn, 91,068 bushels; rice, 1,611,356 cwt.; sugar, 3,279,814 cwt.; hops (including a small quantity of "preparations of hops"), 62,911,376 pounds, and hop substitutes, 18,885 pounds.

The number of barrels of beer produced was 37,078,760, and the amount of beer duty charged £13,771,802.

During the year 651,768 barrels of a declared value of £2,118,379 were exported, the principal customers being the British East Indies, £453,968; Australia, £310,493; Belgium, £289,691, and the United States, £269,986. Germany took £46,927 worth of English beer.

Princess Mary Growing Up.

Princess Mary, only daughter of King George and Queen Mary, is enjoying for the first time a suite of apartments of her own, which were prepared under the supervision of the queen.

They overlook the superb flower gardens of Windsor Castle, and the princess was busy during the Easter holidays arranging in them all the interesting knick-knacks and presents which she has acquired since her childhood, special provision being made for her collection of dolls, in which, although 17 years of age, she still takes an interest.

Prince Albert shared rooms with his brother, the Prince of Wales. Owing to the fact that the second son of the king, who is in the navy, has yet to spend two more years away from home, it has not been thought expedient to prepare a second suite for him.

One of the sights of the park was to see the young princess and her brothers galloping about on their ponies. Before the arrival of the elder boys, Princess Mary and Princes Henry and George would have a daily race, and invariably George, who is the youngest, would win.

Navy Living Cost Increases.

The cost of maintaining a first-class battleship has risen since 1904 from something less than half a million dollars a year to nearly a million. The naval authorities are trying to reduce this heavy cost but it is never likely to reach the old figure, although the use of oil fuel makes a large reduction possible in the stokers' department. The eight-gun Queen Mary cost nearly a million dollars more to build than the ten-gun Ajaz, and is costing $250,000 a year more to maintain.

Rubber to be Used for Street Work.

Rubber, which is being produced in increasing quantities to meet a popular demand, is being used for all purposes—notably for domestic service. Later it may be employed for street purposes in cases of illness.

What is probably one of the first rubber floors in the country has been laid down at the offices of the Rubber Growers' Association, in Eastcheap—made from surplus rubber from that subscribed for by the big companies for Guy's Hospital flooring.

A member of the association said that rubber will become much cheaper in the course of the next year or two, and that when the plantations are yielding what they should rubber will be used in the home and elsewhere to a great extent.

"We are proposing, among other things," he said, "to manufacture a rubber street covering, to be lent out in cases of illness, instead of laying down straw, as is done at present."

This new flooring material costs 30s. per square yard, but will, it is claimed, last forever, can be cleaned easily, is noiseless, and it is warm in winter and cool in summer.

Black Tulip Seems Near.

A black tulip, which has been a dream of horticulturists ever since Dumas wrote of such a mythical flower, has been very nearly realized. At the flower show in Horticultural Hall a specimen of tulip has been shown which has such a dark plum color that it might at first glance be mistaken for a black flower. Its growers declare they will be able to exhibit a specimen almost coal black next year.

Charity.

If we could realize that supposing we were all created alike and subject to the same circumstances, we should all make the same mistakes and blunders, our judgment of others would be different. There is no phase of charity so beautiful as thinking charity. If you give all you have to the poor, or show your charity in any other way, it availeth nothing so long as you think unkindly and unjustly. Charity hurts no one by word or deed.

The Largest Flower.

It is believed that the island of Mindanao produces the largest flower in the world. Its habitat is high up the Parag Mountain, 2,500 feet above the level of the sea. The natives give it the name of bolo. Its full-grown blossom, five-petaled, is more than three feet in diameter and weighs 22 pounds. The flower was first found in Sumatra, and was called Fafflesia Schadenburgia, in honor of its discoverer.