Household

Hints for the Coming Season.

With the advent of the first fruits preparations should be made for putting up the winter's store. A good kettle kept for this purpose should be kept in every well regulated kitchen, and if much preserving is done one large and one small kettle will be useful. They should be either heavy granite or, better still, enameled iron ware. An enameled spoon, dipper and wide necked funnel to fit over necks of glass jars complete the set. Other utensils such as bowls, saucepans, etc., will be found in every kitchen. For jellies provide a good bag of loosely woven double cheese cloth with a hoop sewed in top and a strong hook put in some convenient place so bag can hang free to drip; also have plenty of paraffin on hand to seal the jam and jelly glasses and new rubbers for the necks of the glass jars for canning.

Always remember to have all glasses and other utensils strictly clean and sterilized by immersion in a kettle of water which is then slowly brought to the boiling point and boiled at least ten minutes.

For jams and jellies glasses need not be hot, but in canning, glasses, covers, and fruit must be thoroughly heated, then sealed while jar stands in a pan of hot water, and rubbers must be carefully adjusted before filling in the fruit; the latter should be poured in to overflowing to exclude air.

(Keep these directions in your scrap book and proportions for the different kinds of fruit will be given from time to time.)

Method of Canning in Very Small Quantities. — Cook the required amount of water, sugar and prepared fruit in a small kettle until the fruit is tender, then fill into the hot sterilized jars and seal.

Method of Canning.—Boil sugar and water as a syrup for ten minutes, taking off any scum that may rise. Place the prepared fruit in sterilized jars, fill with some of the syrup and set the covers on, but do not screw down. Now place a false bottom made of slats or an even layer of excelsior in the bottom of a large kettle or wash boiler, and on this place the jars so they do not touch one another. Fill kettle almost to neck of jars with warm water, then bring to boiling point. For small fruits twenty minutes will be enough, but large or hard fruit must boil longer. Have a flat pan with a few inches of hot water at hand, also some more hot syrup; now lift out one jar at a time and set in pan of hot water and fill in enough syrup to overflow, then adjust the rubbers and clean covers, which must be in hot water; screw down tightly, wipe jar carefully and set on folded towel to cool.

Canning Strawberries.—Proportions: Eight cupfuls of hulled strawberries; one and one-half cupfuls of sugar; one-half cupful of water. Method: Select firm, red berries—a small variety is best—and can according to either of the first named methods.

Strawberry Preserves — Proportions: Six cupfuls of hulled berries; three cupfuls of sugar. Method: Crush the berries, add sugar and can according to method. Nice to use in making fancy desserts or winter short cake.

Strawberry Jam. — Proportions: Four cupfuls of sugar. Method: Add half of the sugar to fruit and let stand several hours, then boil gently for fifteen minutes. Add the rest of sugar and boil until fruit is thick and clear. Place in small sterilized glasses, cover with a clean cloth and let stand one or two days. Then cover with a thick layer of melted paraffin and put on covers.

Strawberry and Rhubarb Jelly.—Method: Use equal quantities of firm, red rhubarb and tart firm strawberries. Wash and cut rhubarb into small pieces, wash the berries, then cook separately, as rhubarb needs longer cooking. Use no water, as this fruit draws enough juice. Place the strawberries in bag first, then the rhubarb and let drip overnight. In morning measure juice, then measure an equal amount of sugar. Bring fruit to boiling point and simmer fifteen minutes. Take off scum that rises. Add half of the sugar and simmer ten more minutes, then stir in rest of sugar. After it has again come to boiling point watch, and as soon as juice becomes thick when placed on cold plate it is done. Place in sterilized glasses that have been dipped in water, cover with a cloth and let stand for a few days, then seal with paraffin. If a jelly bag is immersed in vinegar and water as soon as it has been emptied it will look clean and be usable all summer; never wash it in warm water or use soap, or the fruit stains will be set.

Strawberry and Pineapple Jam.—Five cupfuls of hulled berries. Proportions: Three cupfuls of ground pineapple; two cupfuls of hulled strawberries; four cupfuls of sugar. Method: Combine fruit with part of the sugar and let stand a few hours, then cook for fifteen or twenty minutes. Add rest of sugar and cook until clear and well thickened. Put in small glasses, cover and let stand one or two days, then seal as directed for jelly.

Useful Hints.

To make a heavy sewing table cushion, fill a stout cover with rice. This makes a very heavy cushion that can be used as a weight.

It is a wise thing to raise some okra and dry the pods. They will keep indefinitely, and there is no better flavor for soups and bouillons.

After washing lace curtains lay a blanket on the floor of an empty room, spread the curtains on the blanket, stretching them carefully and they will keep in place without fastening until dry.

It is very easy to make a new parasol of an old one by carefully ripping off the old cloth and using it as a pattern to cut a new one, which may be made either of cretonne or English chintz.

It is well when bleaching a piece of lace or linen to place it in soapy water and set it out of doors, where it may get a strong sunlight. It should be covered with a piece of glass to keep the dust out of the bowl.

When it is desired to carry a candle into a drafty cellar or attic where there is danger of it blowing out or setting the clothes on fire, a short candle should be placed in a tumbler, being fastened there by its own wax. It will then burn steadily and safely.

The following is a list of don'ts when cooking bacon: Don't try to cook it too fast. Don't put it on the fire and leave it alone; turn it at least three times during the process. Don't serve it on a cold dish.

Raw wicker should be scrubbed with a stiff brush and white soap suds. Rinse and dry quickly; then brush all over with a sweet oil and turpentine, equal parts mixed. When dry, wipe off with thick, soft cloth.

To make delicious iced coffee, use one quart of strong coffee; boil a quart of milk and add this to the coffee, and then pour in a pint of cream. Place in the refrigerator and serve with whipped cream.

An egg to be perfectly boiled should not be boiled at all. Fill a medium sized pitcher with boiling water and allow the egg to lie in the water for five to eight minutes. It will be soft but evenly cooked.

A good chicken is known by soft feet, smooth skin and soft cartilage at the end of the breastbone. An abundance of pinfeathers always indicates a young bird, while the presence of long hairs denotes age.

Every inch of old tablecloth should be saved. When the tablecloth is past mending, it can be cut into tray cloths, bread cloths, kitchen tablecloths, and it will make very good kitchen towels for wiping glassware.

AN ARCTIC VISITOR.

Capt. Ejnar Mikkelsen's Adventure With a Bear.

Established in winter quarters in Greenland, Capt. Ejnar Mikkelsen and his companion had an adventure with a bear, which Captain Mikkelsen describes in "Lost in the Arctic." He was chopping wood on the floor of the house when an exclamation from Iversen caused him to look up, and he found himself confronting a bear which was not more than twenty paces off.

I spring back hastily, with a sort of mental snapshot of a big, white, furry lump, with shining teeth and flashing eyes, gliding silently and swiftly toward me.

In a moment we have shut and bolted the door, and Iversen puts his back against it to further bar the entrance against our unwelcome guest. We are not exactly prepared. Iversen has but one shot in his gun, and mine is empty; both weapons are frozen, and it is doubtful if we can get them thawed in time. Bruin, however, has no sportsmanlike scruples about waiting until we are ready; he is hungry, and evidently determined to break in.

A mighty thump of his heavy paw settles the matter. Iversen is flung half across the room and upset the caboose, with pots, pans, dinner and all. The next moment he is on his feet again, at my side, with his rifle in his hand.

We glance at each other without speaking. There in the doorway, with his forepaws on the threshold, is the bear, staring in, open-mouthed and dribbling in astonishment at the strange cave he has broken into. Never have I seen such utter consternation in the eyes of any beast.

A sharp click breaks the anxious silence as Iversen cocks his gun. The next moment the cabin is filled with a tremendous roar.

My eyes are fixed on the bear. His great white chest shivers at the shot, a few drops of blood appear, but still he stands there in the doorway, as if petrified with astonishment. Then suddenly he decides to retreat, runs a few steps, stumbles over the sledge, and sinks in a heap to the ground. The fight is over, victory is ours, and the undesired guest has paid dearly for his impertinence.

PLEASED AT THE PROGRESS OF HOME RULE.

This very interesting photograph shows the British Chancellor of the Exchequer on the way to the House of Commons. On the left of the picture is Mr. Montague, M.P., Financial Secretary of the Treasury, on the right, Mr. Percy Illingworth, the chief Liberal whip.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDY

INTERNATIONAL LESSON, JUNE 14.

Lesson XI. The Friend of Sinners, Luke 18. 9-14; 19. 1-10. Golden Text, Mark 2. 17.

Verse 9. And he spake also this parable—A form of introduction used frequently by Luke, and characteristic of his style. In this chapter, as in others in the Gospel of Luke, certain parables have been brought together which have no close connection in thought and were spoken at different times and in different places. This parable has no evident connection with the one which precedes it (verses 1-8) or with the narrative which follows (verses 15-30).

Who trusted in themselves that they were righteous—Had they trusted in God rather than in themselves, this trust would have led them to a recognition of the shallowness of their own formal piety.

And set all others at nought—The word is a strong one, meaning "utterly despised," or "treated as of no account." These Pharisees were probably so situated that it was easy for them to keep the letter of the law. The Talmud speaks of those "who implore you to mention some more duties which they might perform." They believed that they alone were righteous, and had no sympathy with those who, because they were less fortunately situated, were unable to observe with so great exactness all the laws and ceremonies connected with the Jewish religion.

10. Two men went—The temple stood on Mount Moriah, so it would be necessary to go up into the temple to pray. An incident such as the one referred to might easily have occurred at one of the usual hours of prayer.

The one a Pharisee—The Pharisees were a religious party among the Jews whose leading characteristics was their scrupulous observance of the law. They also observed many traditions handed down from their ancestors, and these were even more binding than the commandments of the written law (Mark 7.8). The written law had to be explained in accordance with tradition, which was the norm of all life, national, social, and individual. Thus, to them, religion consisted in the accurate knowledge and scrupulous observance of law and tradition.

And the other a publican — The publicans were the local Jewish tax collectors for the Roman government. They were despised among the Jews because of their unpatriotic conduct in serving a foreign power, and for their dishonesty in extorting more than the required amount of taxes.

11. The Pharisee stood—It was customary for the Jews to stand when they prayed (see 1 Sam. 1.26; Mark 11.25). The words of Jesus seemed to indicate that this Pharisee, however, sought out a conspicuous place to stand.

And prayed thus with himself — The Pharisee really offers no prayer. He asks God for nothing, and merely uses the form of thanksgiving. He addresses his words to God, but is all the time thinking about himself. He congratulates himself because of his goodness and congratulates God on having such a faithful servant.

I thank thee, that I am not as the rest of men—He puts everybody else in a class below himself. Contrast with these the words of St. Paul in 1 Cor. 15. 9, 10.

12. The Pharisee thinks himself superior to other men, not only in what he abstains from, but in what he does.

I fast twice in the week—The Mosaic law enjoined but one fast in the year, the Day of Atonement. During the exile it became customary to observe four yearly fasts in memory of national calamities, the one in the fourth month, commemorated the capture of Jerusalem; that of the fifth month, the destruction of the city and temple; of the seventh month, the murder of Gedaliah (2 Kings 25. 25; Jer. 41. 1); that of the tenth, the beginning of the siege (Jer. 52. 4). Occasionally special fasts were ordered in seasons of drought and other public calamities, and these fasts were always held on Mondays and Thursdays, Thursday being the day on which Moses was supposed to have ascended the mount and Monday the day of his return. So it came about that some of the people fasted on Mondays and Thursdays all the year round.

I give tithes of all that I get — Tithes were required on some things, but not on everything (see Matt. 23. 23). Here the Pharisee boasts of doing more than he was required.

13. The publican, standing afar off from the Pharisee would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven. Contrast his humble manner with that of the over-confident, even familiar attitude of the Pharisee.

Smote his breast—Continued to smite in his earnestness.

A sinner—Better, "the sinner." His load of guilt seems so heavy that he singles himself out as the chief of sinners. (Compare 1 Tim. 1. 15.)

14. Justified—Counted as righteous.

Rather than the other—While this does not expressly state that the Pharisee was not justified, the whole parable would lead us to think that he was not regarded as righteous or forgiven.

Every one that exalteth himself shall be humbled; but he that humbleth himself shall be exalted — Compare Luke 14. 11, where this same statement was used by Jesus on another occasion.

The following narrative is mentioned only by Luke, whose Gospel, written for the Gentiles, refers frequently to the associations of Jesus with Gentiles, Samaritans, publicans, and sinners, all of whom were not highly regarded by the exclusive Jews. Luke thus emphasizes the universality of Christ's mission and message.

1. The incident described took place inside the city of Jericho. Jericho was at this time one of the important cities of Palestine. It was about eighteen miles from Jerusalem and six miles from the Jordan.

2. A chief publican—This is evidently an official title and shows that the office held by Zacchaeus was higher than that of the ordinary tax collector. As Jericho was an important centre of trade, it would be likely that a commissioner of taxes should dwell there.

And he was rich—His riches may have been gained through extortion.

3. The crowd—As usual, a large number of people followed Jesus Some of these may have been Galilaean pilgrims going to Jerusalem for the passover festival.

4. Zacchaeus had, no doubt, heard of Jesus, and was willing to brave the criticism of the crowd in order to see him. His desire may have been, first of all, prompted by curiosity, but he seems to have had an honest heart, and in this instance, as in many others, our Lord's friendly intercourse with publicans and sinners was justified by its results.

Sycomore tree—A tree with fruit like the fig, and leaves like the mulberry, called the fig-mulberry.

5. I must abide at thy house — This is the only reported occasion on which Jesus offered himself as a guest, though he frequently accepted invitations.

7. He is gone in to lodge with a man that is a sinner—They may not have known anything about Zacchaeus's personal character, merely judging him to be a sinner because of his occupation. Christ's friendly actions so outraged their sense of propriety that they all murmured.

8. Overwhelmed by Christ's condescension in coming to his house, Zacchaeus resolves to lead a less selfish life and to make restitution where he has wrongfully acquired wealth.

The half of my goods I give to the poor—The present tense is used. Zacchaeus does not promise for the future, but makes his gift then and there.

I restore fourfold—Fourfold restitution was imposed by the law when a deliberate act of robbery had been committed.

9. To-day is salvation come to this house—Not Zacchaeus alone, but his whole household is included in the blessing of Jesus. The transformation of his own life would make possible a new family with higher ideals and nobler conduct.

A son of Abraham—Though a publican, Zacchaeus was of the house of Israel and entitled to its privileges. It was to such lost sheep that Jesus considered his special mission.

Maxims for Husbands.

Don't argue. Don't be boss. Don't try to show your importance. Don't forget who you are and who your wife is. Don't be deceitful. Don't be selfish. Don't forget that your wife's mother is the same to your wife as yours is to you. Don't forget that the man worth while is the man who can smile when everything goes dead wrong. Don't stay at home all the time. Don't have an affinity. Don't forget to wipe your boots before entering the house.

Of Chili's 187,000,000 acres of land, only about 23,000,000 acres are suitable for cultivation.

Our London Letter

Radium Causes Cancer.

Dr. Walter S. Lazarus Barlow, who has recently had success in the treatment of cancer by radium, says radium in the human body may also be the cause of cancer.

At a recent meeting of physicians and surgeons he told of experiments he had performed upon animal cells and explained that while cancer might be divided into various classes it was nothing more or less than disordered cell growth.

"It is reasonable to suppose," he said, "that there is one cause, and I would suggest to you that in the radium and radiation we have the probable cause."

Radium, he continued, was widely distributed in nature in quantities which had been shown to produce the stimulation of cell growth and later to develop some deleterious effects which culminated in death.

Cancer was very closely associated with inflammation to such an extent, he said, that chronic irritation was the only cause which was universally accepted, but chronic irritation was so closely bound up with bacteria that there arose the question whether radium stimulated an animal cell.

Dr. Barlow said experiments of his had demonstrated that bacteria actually pulled radium out of a solution and attracted it to themselves. If radium, therefore, were circulating in the blood while bacteria were present the latter would attract and locally deposit the radium, forming a focus of that substance, producing stimulation of the cells in the neighborhood. He said radium was present at times in normal human tissues, and it was found in greater quantities in cancerous tissues.

Disposing of the theory that cancer was necessarily caused by irritation, the doctor pointed out that cancer of the gall bladder would be relatively common, whereas it was rare.

British Museum Has a Lift.

In our "tubes," our hotels and our private houses the word "lift" is used to denote the carrying agency that transfers us from floor to floor or from subway to the street, as the case may be. Now, for the first time in its history, the British Museum possesses a passenger lift. It is a very handsome affair in an open bronze gilt grille, which harmonizes quite well with the staircase of white and black marble.

But the most interesting thing about it is the direction in bronze letters, "Elevator." Some see in this a polite concession to our foreign visitors; others a signal by the philologists of the museum that the word has been admitted to the ranks of the King's English.

Roman Bath in the Strand.

The news that the old Roman bath in the Strand, near Somerset House, is going to change hands will have little concern for most persons, as very few Londoners know anything about it. Yet until quite recently it was possible to plunge every morning in an ice cold spring bath built in the time of Vespasian. Visitors to London will find it quite worth while looking up.

Until 1893 it had a gravel bottom and the sides were of Roman brick, but when the famous Essex marble bath, which adjoined and was fed by the same spring, was closed the marble was taken out and used to line the old Roman bath. A flight of marble steps was also transferred from the Essex bath.

Dickens was at one time a visitor to the bath, as readers of "David Copperfield" will recall. "There was," he wrote, "an old Roman bath in those days at the bottom of one of the streets out of the Strand—it may be there still—in which I have had many a cold plunge."

The spring which supplies the bath is believed to be that which formerly supplied also the Holy Well which gave its name to Holywell street.

Britain's Drink Bill Is Soaring.

The United Kingdom spent last year more than £5,000,000 ($25,000,000) on drink than in 1912, an increase of 40 cents per head of the population, and we consumed in round figures 1,300,000 more gallons of spirits, 1,000,000 more barrels of beer and 130,000 more gallons of wine.

This does not, however, mean that as a nation we are growing less temperate, says the Daily Mail. It simply means that we have been enjoying a period of sustained prosperity. Heavy drinking and good trade go together, and a wave of sobriety is often only another way of saying a wave of commercial depression.

It sounds, and it is, appalling enough that we should be spending on drink a sum equal to four-fifths of the entire national revenue, that a working class family should be estimated to waste nearly one-sixth of its income on liquor and that the annual expenditure, if we omit the total abstainers and the children under 15, should work out at all but £7 ($35) a head. But it is an improvement on what has gone before.

Macaulay reckons that in 1688 the English people consumed 90 gallons of alcohol a head; they now only drink a little more than 28. In 1750 there was one public house to every six homes and every 47 persons; there is now but one public house to every 70 homes and 330 persons.

Drunkenness, too, besides having virtually died out as a social accomplishment, has steadily diminished among all classes. It is still a terrible and pervasive evil, with an aftermath of disease, vice, crime and wretchedness that is beyond computation, but so far as one can see its worst days are over.

"Port Wine" Made in London.

All is not port wine that is so labelled. A Standard representative was informed that a large quantity of spurious wine is made in London and designated "port," although neither it nor any of its ingredients has ever been near Portugal. The technical description of port wine, as given by an expert, is as follows.

"The words port or port wine when used by themselves denote a fortified wine of a particular type and having particular characteristics as to sweetness, color and bouquet made from fresh grapes grown in Portugal and shipped from Oporto."

This description does not apply to a large quantity of the so-called "port" wines sold in London. As a matter of fact the cheap "ports" are nearly all made in London. The manufacturers make the wine quite openly and their factories are subject to the inspection of excise officials, but as they make it from dried currants or raisins and use in the manufacture a certain amount of real port wine they avoid the payment of import duties.

"Query Combs" Worn in London.

The "query comb" is the latest hair ornament for women, and is being sold in large numbers in the West End. Its high top is formed into the shape of a question mark incrusted with Parisian brilliants.

High, glittering combs are to be fashionable this season. For those who do not like dazzling ornaments plain Spanish combs with semicircular tops are being sold.

The annual coal production of Nova Scotia exceeded 7,000,000 tons for the first time last year.

Candle lamps sufficiently brilliant for use on bicycles and motorcycles are being used in France.

In Japan a waterproof leather suitable for many purposes is being made from the hides of sea lions.

Australia plans to spend $25,000,000 within three years for extending its telephone and telegraph systems.

For laying electric wires underground without the expense of conduits, a steel taped cable has been invented.

Twenty-two different implements can be constructed from the units of a combination tool invented in England.