Hints for the Home

Old-fashioned Gingerbread.

There was probably one original method of making this delectable, sweet, dark bread, or plain cake—whichever you may call it. But there have been devised so many variations on the one original method that it is almost lost in obscurity.

The Old-fashioned Kind. — Here is an old family receipt for gingerbread that has been tried and not found wanting by several generations: One half cupful of sugar, one half cupful molasses, one half cupful of sweet milk, one half teaspoonful of soda dissolved in one tablespoonful water, one tablespoonful of butter or lard, melted slightly, one teaspoonful of ground ginger, one teaspoonful of ground sugar, one teaspoonful of cinnamon, one half teaspoonful of baking powder, 1½ cupfuls of flour, one beaten egg. Sift the dry ingredients together into a bowl. Add molasses, milk and shortening. Beat well. Then add the egg. Bake slowly in a loaf, in a flat pan or in small patty-cake pans.

With More Eggs.—Here is a receipt for a sponge gingerbread that uses more eggs in comparison to the other ingredients: One cupful of sugar, one cupful of molasses, one cupful of milk, three cupfuls of flour, two tablespoonfuls of baking powder, one half teaspoonful of salt, three well beaten eggs.

Called Molasses Cake.—This is another family receipt, that goes under the name of molasses cake. It is richer than either of the other recipes given: One half cupful of butter, one half cupful of sugar, two beaten eggs, two cupfuls of flour, one half teaspoonful each of cinnamon, allspice and cloves, one half cupful of milk, one cupful of molasses, one teaspoonful of soda, one half cupful of boiling water. Cream the butter and sugar and add the eggs and molasses. Sift the spices and flour together and add, alternately with the milk. Then dissolve the soda in the boiling water and add last.

Without Eggs.—There are some very good receipts for ginger-bread without eggs, and here is one: One cupful molasses, one cupful of sugar, one half cupful of butter or lard, one cupful of boiling water, one full teaspoonful of soda, one teaspoonful of ginger, one half teaspoonful of cinnamon, four cupfuls of flour. Dissolve the soda in a tablespoonful of the boiling water and add to the molasses. Then add the shortening, melted, the rest of the boiling water and the flour, mixed with the spices. Beat until smooth and bake.

Ginger Sponge Cake. — Sometimes brown sugar is used in gingerbread, as it is in this receipt: Two cupfuls of brown sugar, four eggs, one pint of flour, 1½ teaspoonfuls baking powder, one teaspoonful of extract of lemon, one tenspoonful of ginger, ground or extract, two thirds cupful of cold water. Beat the eggs and then add the sugar and beat for ten minutes. Then add, alternately, the water and the flour, with the spices. Add the extract and mix until smooth. Bake for about half an hour.

Brown Sugar Molasses. — The foregoing receipt used brown sugar, but no molasses. This receipt calls for both these ingredients. One cupful of butter, one cupful of brown sugar, one cupful of milk, one half cupful of molasses, 1½ pints of flour, 1½ teaspoons of baking powder, one beaten egg. Cream the sugar and butter, then add the egg, and cream again, next add the molasses and the flour, sifted with the baking powder. Mix well and bake slowly for 35 or 40 minutes.

With Sour Cream.—This is called oldtime gingerbread in the family where it is made. As it calls for four eggs and a cupful of sour cream, it is hardly a hardtime receipt. But it is a reliable receipt for good times, at any rate. One cupful of dark brown sugar, one quarter cupful of butter, one cupful of sour cream, one cupful molasses, one tablespoonful each of soda and ginger, four egg yolks, three cupfuls of flour. Cream the butter and sugar and then add the egg yolks and cream again. Add the ginger and the molasses and mix well. Dissolve the soda in a tablespoonful of boiling water and add to the sour cream. Then add the cream and the flour to the cake batter. Bake in a long cake.

Are You Housecleaning?

First of all be thorough. And secondly, don't make a fetish of the process and a slave of yourself. Take your house-cleaning easily and smile. Rest between rooms. If you finish that appalling store room at 2 o'clock next Tuesday be sensible and rest during the remainder of the day. Don't begin the hall bedroom and lose all poise and temper by 6 o'clock. Take things sanely. You owe it to yourself to conduct the work of the home in an efficient, dignified manner.

Begin this year to throw away the absolutely needless curtains and garments that are crowding the store room. There is a slogan in most homes that nothing must be discarded. "It will come in good some day," says the average woman. Why not make the curtains, the old suits, the old linen come in good now? Give them to any of the organized societies for aiding the poor. It is criminal to hold back that which is unusued in your home and which can help a less fortunate one. Think that over.

And now that you have cleared out the unnecessary things, investigate the paints, shelves and fixtures of the home. A woman with a can of fresh paint, a brush and the house-cleaning spirit, can do wonders. Make white paint whiter, give a glossy coat to the water-stained window-sills, recolor the shelves. After soap and water there is nothing so rejuvenating as fresh paint.

Things Worth Knowing.

Obstinate whitewash stains may be removed with a few drops of hot vinegar.

Rub alcohol stains off wood immediately with a cloth dipped in vaseline.

Borax will take off the leather stains made by shoes on light-colored stockings.

Instead of boiling beetroots roast them in the oven. The flavor will be much improved.

If bacon is soaked in water for a few minutes before frying it will prevent the fat from running.

A good way to use old underwear is to cut them in squares and sew together and make a batting for quilt or light-weight comfort. This is fine, and saves the price of batting.

After use, all pudding cloths and jelly bags should be washed in very hot water, and when they have been well rinsed, hung up to dry where they are exposed to a good draft.

Before using tea, spread it on a sheet of paper and place in a warm—not hot—oven for ten or fifteen minutes. It will greatly improve the flavor and it will also go much further.

Great saving can be effected in the use of metal polish if it mixed with paraffin oil. A tin of polish and about four egg cupfuls of the oil shaken together will last for months, besides being much cleaner to use.

Few eat enough vegetables and fruits. Lazy livers are on the increase. Diabetes, Bright's disease, rheumatism and kindred troubles caused by dietetic errors are getting to be common diseases.

Women as a rule eat too much starch mixed with sugar and cooked butter. Men eat too much meat, and almost everybody eats too highly seasoned food and more than the stomach can assimilate.

A quantity of anything induces prodigality. Try it yourself and see, but some staple things can be bought in bulk much cheaper and better, and do not deteriorate with keeping.

GERMANY'S SPY POSTERS.

Put Up in France Two or Three Months Before the War.

Late last May the advertising boards in northern and eastern France began to be decorated with brilliantly colored posters of "Bouillon Cubes," which purported to be a new German preparation for making beef tea. No one had any suspicion that the posters were not exactly what they pretended to be until after war had been declared, and the German troops had begun to overrun Belgium.

Then in the fighting round Charleroi, the French captured a German officer, in whose pocket they found a code book that proved that the Bouillon Cubes posters were really cleverly designed means of giving secret military information to an invading army. Nearly every poster differed from the others in some detail of coloring or in the words it bore. For example, the "3 Teller 10 Pfennig" on a poster meant "masked batteries or entrenchments a mile and a half south of this road." "6 Teller 20 Pfennig" meant "roads and bridges mined about here." Other words gave information about the number of horses that could be seized, the possibility of getting food supplies, or the condition of the roads and byways in the neighborhood.

The French soldiers were at once set to work to tear down every such poster they saw. So they have not been of as much value to the invaders as they expected them to be. It is an interesting fact that the advertising space for the posters was taken and paid for in the spring, and the contracts were to run for a year. That was two or three months before war was declared, and more than a month before the assassination of Prince Franz Ferdinand.

Correct.

Papa (concealing something in his hand)—Willie, can you tell me what it is with heads on one side and tails on the other?

Willie (triumphantly) — Oh, I know! It's a rooster on a fence!

"I hear the captain is in hard luck. He married a girl and she ran away from him." "Yes; he took her for a mate, but she was a skipper."

GENERAL LOUIS BOTHA.

He Is Making the Union of South Africa a Reality.

The decision of General Louis Botha, Premier of United South Africa, to take command of the South African forces, following the resignation of General Beyers, who still cherishes antagonism to the British, and who would not fight the Germans in Africa, rounds out the career of a remarkable man who has always been loyal to his flag—loyal to Britain as well as loyal to the Boer Republic.

General Botha was born at Greytown, Natal, in 1863, and when the Boer war broke out he enlisted as a private in Kruger's army. He rose to be commander-in-chief of the Boer forces and won historic victories at Colenso and other places.

When in 1910 Great Britain, in accordance with its wise policy of allowing self-government to every colony and dominion in as full measure as possible, formed the Union of South Africa, with the Boers being given absolute freedom of action, Botha was elected the first Premier. He has been Premier ever since and his position has been a very difficult one. But in every crisis which has arisen he has by strength, wisdom and tolerance safeguarded the interests of both British and Boers. He has watched the interests of his fellow-countrymen, but he has recognized that British dominion in South Africa was a fact to be accepted, and his generous nature has recognized that self-government under British ideals must be the happiest condition which the Boers could live under.

In 1912 Premier Botha was confronted by an inevitable crisis—a political clash between the parties who had a few years before met in a terrible clash of arms. General Hertzog, the Minister of Justice, and the leader of the Dutch irreconcilibles, started a bitter campaign against the British. Among other things, he objected strenuously to the part South Africa played in helping to maintain the Imperial navy. The Union was then granting $400,000 yearly for that purpose and the Unionists demanded an increase.

Botha and Hertzog finally had an angry quarrel. Botha appealed to his Cabinet, practically all of whom supported him, and he then resigned and was asked by Lord Gladstone, the Governor-General, to form another Cabinet. This he did, with Hertzog left out, and he has been Prime Minister ever since.

General Botha.

Personally General Botha is a very brave and very shrewd man, whose vision is wide enough to perceive the short-comings of the large number of Boers who have not enjoyed the benefits of education and whose views are narrow and bigoted. When he went to King George's coronation he was persuaded to wear knee breeches and the other regalia prescribed for a levee. Later he was made an honorary general in the British Army. For these things he was abused by many of the men whom he formerly led with such great courage and skill in the South African war. And in taking his present stand he will be further abused by many of the older generation of Boers. But these old prejudices die, and when they are practically obliterated, as far as it is humanly possible to obliterate such things, the chief credit for bringing peace and prosperity to a happily united, well-governed South Africa, will belong to General Louis Botha.

When Botha met Sir Wilfrid Laurier at the coronation a warm friendship is said to have sprung up between them, and Sir Wilfrid has often had occasion to make reference to his admiration for Botha's generous and expansive nature, his courage and his strength of purpose in standing by his most generous convictions, despite the fact that in doing so he incurred the displeasure of many of his compatriots.

Swelled head is the only disease in which the suffering is done by other people.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDY

INTERNATIONAL LESSON, OCTOBER 25.

Lesson IV. Jesus and Judas—Matt. 26. 14-25, 47-50; 27. 3-10. Golden Text, Matt. 26. 24.

Verse 47. Lo, Judas, one of the twelve—It was well known that Judas was one of the twelve. But even to the hardened bystander it was a shock to think of him as one of the disciples of Jesus and also as Jesus's betrayer. Hence the designation of Judas as "one of the twelve" is not to describe or single him out. It is an exclamation of surprise when he is found not with the other eleven and Jesus, but in a turbulent crowd moving upon Jesus and the eleven.

A great multitude with swords and staves—The indefiniteness of the words "great multitude" leaves the imagination free to compute the size of the crowd. That it was not small in number is clear; "staves and swords" also is an indefinite term. It would suggest that the crowd was not composed of regular soldiery and was heterogeneously armed. That they came from the chief priests and elders of the people would indicate that the temple policy had been drawn into service. This would not be a large body in number and would naturally draw a rabble with it as it proceeded out into the night away from the city. Curiosity is always the concomitant of crime.

48. He that betrayed him—Judas elsewhere is so designated (Matt. 10. 4 and other passages). The stigma stuck to him.

Gave them a sign — Some sign would be necessary in the dark, and especially because the officers of the chief priests and scribes could not be expected to know Jesus.

Whomsoever I shall kiss—Language fails one to describe the perfidy of Judas's act. But to conceive as its means of fulfillment the loving approach of a kiss stupifies one.

49. And straightway he came — He would have the act over with immediately. If he hesitated, the influence of Jesus would control him. Under his control he could not betray him.

Hail, Rabbi—At the last Judas cannot approach Jesus informally as his wont was. He comes with a formal greeting and designates him in a professional way. The kiss of affection under this approach was very thinly disguised.

50. Jesus said unto him, Friend—Jesus matches formality with formality and calls Judas "Friend."

Do that for which thou art come—The meaning is, "You have done that which you planned to do. I understand the meaning of the kiss." The Master saw quickly the parade and pretense of affection.

3. Then Judas—That is, after Jesus was led away to Pilate. As soon as Judas saw this he felt the doom of Jesus was complete.

Who betrayed him—Again the stigma.

Repented himself, and brought back the thirty pieces of silver — He repented to the fullest extent: he brought back the silver. But the silver no longer had aught to do with the betrayal. What was done could not be undone. The repentance was genuine, even apart from the restoration of the money.

4. Betrayed—This word can always be rendered by "delivered up." The betrayal included the delivery.

What is that to us? see thou to it—The priests could not wash away the guilt of Judas. Had they been able to, they would not have been concerned with doing so. Let Judas stand the full brunt of his act. That was their thought. And they doubtless gloated over his discomfiture as much as they did over their good fortune when he came to them to say he would deliver Jesus in their hands.

5. Cast down the pieces of silver—He could not hold them. They were searing his flesh.

Into the sanctuary—The unclean money was even to defile the temple, for it was thrown into the very holy of holies.

And departed; and he went away and hanged himself—He is still pursued by the furies. As an evil spirit which ran hither and thither in the earth seeking rest and finding none, so Judas was hurried by the lash of remorse until he is found hanging on a tree. It is supposed that he strangled himself, the rope having broken. But see Acts 1. 18.

6. And the chief priests took the pieces of silver, and said, It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since it is the price of blood—The word for "treasury" is corbanas and means the "sacred treasury." The exclusion of "blood money" from this treasury was an application of the law against harlotry (see Deut. 23. 18). How true is it that Jesus was counted with harlots and sinners.

7. Bought . . . the potter's field to bury strangers in—Strange that this money should be so associated with death and burial. Strangers doubtless meant the Jews from other lands dying in Jerusalem at passover time.

9, 10. Then was fulfilled that which was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet—The words of the text which follow are not from Jeremiah, but from Zechariah (chapter 11, verses 12, 13). The error is due to the fact, doubtless, that similar texts from Jeremiah (18. 2, 3 and 32. 6-15) were in the writer's mind. The force of the parallel is not in the close similarity of the incidents connected with the prophet on the one hand and Jesus on the other, but in the very low value set upon a prophet in either case. Prophetical insight and activity cannot be estimated. They run beyond all power of calculation. The travesty in the betrayal of Jesus becomes accentuated when the low price set upon his head is considered.

NEW PURE FOOD LAW.

Farmers Will Be Greatly Benefitted By It.

January 1st, 1915, will be the date when the Amended Law Bill, number 99, passed by the House of Commons on the 6th May, 1914, will go into effect, forbidding the use of the word "maple" on any product that is not absolutely pure sap of the maple tree. The following is a copy of the new Law:—

"29A. No person shall manufacture for sale, keep for sale, or offer or expose for sale, as maple sugar any sugar which is not pure maple sugar, nor as maple syrup any syrup which is not pure maple syrup, and any maple sugar or maple syrup which is not up to the standard prescribed by the Sixth Schedule to this Act, or, if such standard is changed by the Governor-in-Council, to such standard as the Governor-in-Council may from time to time prescribe, shall be deemed to be adulterated within the meaning of this Act."

"2. The word 'Maple' shall not be used either alone or in combination with any other word or words on the label or other mark, illustration or device on a package containing any article of food or on any article of food itself which is or which resembles maple sugar or maple syrup; and no package containing any article of food or any article of food itself which is not pure maple sugar or pure maple syrup, shall be labelled or marked in such a manner as is likely to make persons believe it is maple sugar or maple syrup which is not pure maple sugar or pure maple syrup, and an article of food labelled or marked in violation of this sub-section shall be deemed to be adulterated within the meaning of this Act."

The above legislation will prove of great benefit to all maple syrup and sugar makers and will effectively stimulate the industry. Incidentally it will keep the Government busy in following up their good and wise enactment. The grocery trade throughout the Dominion will have to be circularized, putting them on their guard against having the adulterated article on their shelves. Inspectors will also be needed in large numbers to thoroughly safeguard the interests of the purchasing public, who will of course expect to get the pure maple syrup that they are paying for. With all the protective machinery at command the Government should be able to thoroughly cope with the newly-created situation. After all, this new act, to be effective, simply affords another instance of the truth of the oft-quoted maxim: "Eternal vigilance is the price of safety."

ANTICIPATING A PATRIOT.

How Affairs Are Conducted in England During a War Crisis.

An amusing story that illustrates the peremptory way in which affairs are conducted during a war crisis comes from England to the New York Telegram.

A gentleman who lives at Southampton and who owns a speedy power boat wrote to the commander at Portsmouth, offering his boat for the service of his country. In reply, he was considerably surprised to receive this letter:

"Your offer of power boat to His Majesty's government is received and has been noted. It will not be necessary for you to make a formal transfer, as the craft is already in use by His Majesty's naval forces. Difficulty has been experienced in getting some one who understands running her properly, and you could render your country service by returning and operating her for His Majesty's navy."

And the man was so much pleased at the way his craft had been commandeered that he volunteered, and is now an assistant engineer, ferrying naval officers about in the craft he used to own—and enjoying it.

Happiness depends half on what we do and half on what we don't.

Father (impressively) — "Suppose I should be taken away suddenly, what would become of you, my boy?" Irreverent Son—"I'd stay here. The question is, What would become of you?"

"TURPINITE" IS TERRIFIC

IT IS THE DEADLIEST EXPLOSIVE KNOWN.

Inventor Received Little Aid From French Government at First.

Reports have come from the front stating that the French are firing a new explosive of such deadly character that whole battalions of German infantry are found dead in their trenches "standing bolt upright, and still holding their rifles in firing attitude," as though suddenly petrified!

The London Express publishes the following from a writer for whose right to speak with authority the editor vouches:

Most Terrific Ever Known.

"The new explosive invented two years ago by M. Turpin, the "parent" inventor of melinite and of lyddite—which is merely so named from the fact that the first experiments were made at Lydde, in Kent, in presence of the French inventor—is undoubtedly the most terrific and the most widely death-dealing high-power explosive ever known. So lethal in its effect is the new shell on explosions, that should its use become widespread whole armies, indeed entire nations, would be completely exterminated in the course of a few weeks.

Nursed Grievance.

M. Turpin is not only a remarkable man, he is also a man who for many long years nursed a serious grievance, but who considered that he had been deeply wronged in connection with the discovery of his previous inventions, melinite and lyddite. It is said that he became resentful and suspicious, and that he resolved to set to work and discover some new explosive that would completely throw into the shade previous discoveries of which he was the author, but which had been "improved" by official technicians.

For years M. Turpin, in his quiet house in the little town of Pontoise, some twenty miles from Paris, had been silently working away at his new discovery, and at a comparatively recent period he had the satisfaction of seeing the French Government make him the "amende honorable." This modified him considerable, and he offered his new discovery to his country, but his old dislike of War Office methods and War Office technichians persisted, and this somewhat hindered the negotiations:

Lost Appetite.

"M. Turpin, however, was used to War Office procrastination, and he therefore had a special gun made 'on his own.' He had it made in parts in different factories, and these parts were put together elsewhere under his personal supervision. So, too, with the shells. In a small factory close to Pontoise he personally filled them, and then, in the presence of a dozen carefully selected and invited officials, he carried out some of his first private experiments on a deserted part of the Atlantic coast.

"The merest chance enabled me to witness one of these early trials of his new explosive, and I confess that, although I was ravenously hungry half an hour before, I returned to my inn without an appetite for dinner."

He Caught It.

While terms of peace were being discussed at the close of the Boer War, there were several interviews between Lord Kitchener and General Botha, before a working basis for a treaty was agreed upon, says Pearson's Weekly. There was still a good deal of skirmishing going on, and at the end of one interview General Botha got up with the remark, "Well, I'm afraid I must be off."

"There's no hurry," replied Lord Kitchener, pleasantly; "you haven't got to catch a train, you know."

General Botha laughed.

"Perhaps not," he answered, "but I must go now."

Bidding Lord Kitchener good-bye, he hurried off. The next morning came the news of a successful Boer raid on a British armored train on the Delagoa line.

"Ah!" Lord Kitchener commented, when the news was brought to him. "So General Botha did catch his train!"

Charity begins at home, which may explain why the average man is so good to himself.

A man told his daughter that if she learned to cook he would give her a surprise. She learned the art, and he surprised her by discharging the servant girl.

"If only I had wings," sighed the poet. "You wouldn't keep them long," remarked a friend. "Your wife would soon be cutting them off to make a hat."