Hints for the Home

Salad Suggestions.

Romain and Asparagus Salad.—Wash and chill tender romain leaves, place three canned asparagus in its hollow and pour a few teaspoonfuls of chiffonade or piquant dressing over.

Wax Bean Salad in Onion Rings.—Parboil the wax beans or use canned ones. Skin and slice large Spanish onions, then steam or boil carefully in flat dish. When tender drain and remove half of the centres of each slice. Place on plates or on salad platter. Dress the beans with French dressing or mayonnaise and pile in centre of each ring. This is nice with cold meats and French fried or sauted potatoes.

Potato and Onion Salad.—Pare and cut potatoes into thin slices, parboil until done but not mashed. Drain and pour on a shallow dish. Now take centres of the boiled onion rings from the wax bean salad, mash with a fork, add a sifting of salt and pepper, then mix with enough boiled dressing to make a smooth, rather thick emulsion. Sift salt and pepper over the potatoes, then cover with the dressing and let it stand for an hour to ripen. This is a nice luncheon dish and can be served with rings of hard boiled eggs, curled bacon or boiled ham.

Flower Salad.—Separate, wash and drain a nice white cauliflower, drop into a kettle of rapidly-boiling water and cook until tender. Take up carefully and cool on a platter. For each helping have a blanched cup-shaped lettuce leaf. Place as many of the little sections, flower up, as will form a pretty imitation of a flower, sift lightly with a little salt and pass a fancy dish of thick boiled cream dressing to pour over at the table.

Boiled Cream Dressing.—Ingredients: Two tablespoonfuls of flour, two tablespoonfuls of yellow mustard, two tablespoonfuls of sugar, one teaspoonful of salt, yolks of three eggs, one cup of milk, six tablespoonfuls of cider vinegar. Mix all dry ingredients, adding the well-beaten yolks, and when smooth add milk gradually. Cook in double boiler until smooth and thickened. Add vinegar gradually and cook only until at boiling point. Remove from stove and beat with a revolving beater until partly cooled.

Red Wine Vinegar Dressing.—Ingredients: One teaspoonful of sugar, one-half teaspoonful of salt, one teaspoonful of onion juice, two tablespoonfuls of olive oil, four tablespoonfuls of red wine vinegar. Method: Rub first four ingredients together until smooth, then stir in the vinegar slowly, beating all the time.

Useful Hints.

Beans are the most nutritious of all vegetables.

Whiting and ammonia are best for cleaning nickel.

Every cellar should be aired and sunned often.

As a rule meats containing much fat are not wholesome.

Dates can be stuffed with cream cheese filled with nuts.

Potato water is good to remove mud stains from cloth.

Good mutton should be bright red in color, with firm, white fat.

Fine net of the sort used for curtains can be cut up for boudoir caps.

If you sprinkle salt on mushrooms before they are cooked it will bring out the juice.

Nice little rounded aprons may be out from the good back of a man's worn out shirt.

To keep white paint bright, rub it with a clean kerosene cloth after the ordinary cleaning.

Sprinkle the top of the pie with cold water before baking; it will make the crust more flaky.

Water in which potatoes have been boiled is the best thing with which to sponge and revive a silk dress.

Remember apple jelly can be made at any time through the winter, and is particularly good in the children's school sandwiches.

Tongue for sandwich filling should be mixed fine and rubbed to a paste with mashed boiled eggs, seasoned with vinegar and butter.

For milk that has become scorched the taste may be restored again by standing it in a pan of cold water to which a pinch of salt has been added.

The quickest way to stone raisins is to place the raisins on a tin in the oven until they are heated through, then split them open and the stones are easily removed.

When ironing circular centrepieces or tablecloths see that the iron moves with the straight grain of the cloth, for it is in this way only that the edges will be perfectly flat.

To render pork sausages more digestible, thoroughly prick the sausages and plunge into boiling water for five minutes, after which they may be fried in the usual way.

Here is an excellent way to keep varnished paint bright and clean looking: Fill a cheesecloth bag with flaxseed and soak it in water for a few hours. Then wipe the paint with it.

When darning stockings run a thread round each hole before beginning and draw until the edges lie flat. This makes the hole appear smaller, and it will be much easier to mend.

When washing scrubbing or hair brushes, if they are put to dry with the bristles downward they will last twice as long. If turned the other way the water soaks into the wood and rots the bristles.

The best way to warm up a roast of meat is to wrap it in thickly-greased paper, and keep it covered while in the oven. By having it covered the steam will prevent the meat from becoming hard and dry, and it will become heated through in less time.

WAR vs. INVENTIVENESS.

A Frenchman Perfected a Process for Making Margarine.

While war is undeniably the greatest curse to civilization, it is not without some compensations. It acts as a decided stimulus to inventive effort, not necessarily in the interest of destruction, but of economics. One of the greatest boons of to-day, synthetic butter, or, as it is more commonly called, margarine—was directly attributable to war. Napoleon III., realizing the position of his numerous poorer subjects, and the fact that they could not afford to purchase butter, concluded that it would be better for them to consume a wholesome and nutritious substitute in preference to a dangerous and adulterated article. The outcome of this was the concentration of the efforts of Mege Mouries upon the solution of the problem, which culminated in the perfection of a process for the manufacture of margarine from animal fats. To-day one is able to appreciate the significance and economic value of the illustrious Frenchman's discovery. Margarine is in favor throughout the world, and its production is one of the most prosperous industries. The manufacture has undergone extraordinary development, and has led to still further remarkable conquests of science, especially the superseding of animal fats by nut oils, which have been rendered tasteless and odorless. At the present time there are possibilities quite as golden as those in 1870. The man who succeeds in reducing the cost of manufacturing sugar, even by a cent per pound, will be appreciated by humanity at large. If he can evolve a practical and inexpensive means of manufacturing this commodity from the common root vegetables he will have achieved a greater success; while the discovery of a synthetic sugar which can be sold at half the price of the natural article will bring him a tremendous fortune and an imperishable record on the roll of fame. The discovery of a non-intoxicating beverage that may be sold profitably at one-half the price of the ordinary beers, and yet have the characteristic flavor of the latter, will also bring undying fame. Mercerized cotton has wrought a wide-spread revolution in the textile trade, and an equally striking effect will be produced by the man who perfects the means of producing a cheap artificial wool. The margarine of to-day is as dissimilar from that of 1870 as chalk is from cheese, a result due to the wonderful concentration of energy for which the achievement of Mege Mouries was directly responsible.

CLASS DISTINCTION.

What the War Has Done to Make Britain Democratic.

One certain result of the war will be a more democratic Britain. Constitutionally we have been subject to the will of the masses since 1882, but the class spirit has survived to an amazing degree, and this war is going to end it, writes Ella Hepworth Dixon.

An army in which everyone has volunteered, from colliers and shopmen to members of the Bachelors' and the Wellington, in which all these heterogeneous elements are fighting side by side and sharing good and evil alike—this army is not coming home again with quite the same ideas as when it started. The poor will assuredly lose some of their absurd prejudices about the rich; the rich will be more understanding about the difficulties and temptations of the populace. You cannot lie shoulder to shoulder with another man in a wet trench for days and nights on end, facing hourly death, without finding out his good "points."

The classes and masses, Britain and India, the home country and the Dominions, are being brought together in the hour of trial as they have never been before. There is now but one Empire, and we should be able to forget our class distinctions as well as the divisions of color and race.

It is the same with the women at home. They have given of their best, and have shown a care and sympathy for the women of the lower classes which would not have been possible a few years ago, when charity and district-visiting were the only form of social service which we practiced.

It is not too much to say that in 1915 we shall find ourselves in a different world.

Two heads are better than one—in a kissing match.

CLIMATES CHANGED.

How Some Countries Have Altered Their Weather.

One of the difficulties in the path of new countries is that very often the climate is not just the sort needed for successful agriculture. But science is altering all that. Climates are being changed every year, gradually but surely.

The most common difficulty is usually too small a rainfall. Many countries have such severe droughts that if the tiny annual rainfall were just an inch or two less the soil would be impossible to cultivate, and the whole country would become a desert.

It is in cases like these that the climate-maker steps in. Where lack of rain is the trouble, he is usually the Government's botanical or forestry expert. His solution is to plant trees. For, strange as it may seem, trees increase the rainfall.

They do this in two ways. The leaves of trees are always—owing to their chemical make-up—cooler than the surrounding atmosphere, and so help to bring down what moisture there is in the air, much as a cold mountain top brings down rain. Then, too, the roots help to keep the moisture in the soil when the rain has actually fallen, instead of letting it be sucked up again by the hot sun.

The eucalyptus, or gum-tree, is the great weapon of the rain-maker; and it was recently announced that the Central Pacific Railway, which passes through a huge, flat desert east of the Rockies, has had gum-trees planted for hundreds of miles along the line to lessen droughts.

Malaria and mosquitoes are two other plagues in hot climates. The eucalyptus tackles them, too. The tannic acid in the roots drives malaria away. The mosquitoes just disappear.

The planting of trees—afforestation it is called—is done by the climate-maker for other purposes. Trees make a climate milder and shelter exposed regions. Spain has for centuries recklessly used up its freat forests till it is now bare, with the result that its climate has become very extreme, Spain being nowadays scorchingly hot in the summer, like the Sahara, and very cold in the winter.

Drainage is another weapon of the man who makes climates. The draining of marshy ground not only adds great tracts to the agricultural wealth of the country, but raises the temperature of what is otherwise a moist and unhealthy region. The reason is that water or marsh does not heat up under sunshine as dry land does.

The object of a large scheme of drainage is as often to make the climate healthier as to benefit agriculture. Marshland means ague and malaria.

There are exceptions. The bogs that cover so large a part of Ireland are quite healthful, owing to the amount of tannic acid they contain. So experiments are being made in different parts of the world as to the effect, on undrainable swamps, of injecting huge quantities of tannic acid.

But if Ireland's bogs were scientifically drained, that country would, according to an Australian climate-adjuster, have summers five degrees hotter than she has now.

NAVAJOS FEAR THE DEAD.

Bodies are Got Rid of as Quickly as Possible.

A practice of the Navajo Indians that promotes health among them, however repugnant it may be to us, is their disposition of the dead, says the Christian Herald. In the presence of the living the Navajo is without fear, but his terror of the dead is abject and unreasoning. The dead are believed to be possessed only of malevolent feelings towards the survivors, with unlimited powers for working evil upon those who carelessly place themselves within the power of the spirits.

So when any one dies, the only anxiety of the surviving relatives is to get rid of the body as quickly as possible. If there are any white men living in the neighborhood an effort is made to induce them to perform the offices of undertaker. If not, the disposition of the body depends somewhat upon circumstances. If the hogan—the modern wigwam—is bullt of wood, it is set on fire and burned with the body in it. If of stone, the body is usually taken outside, the entrance to the hogan closed up with stones or sticks, and a hole made in the wall opposite to permit the evil spirits to enter and depart, and to warn passers by that the structure belongs to the dead.

If the death occurred in a rocky country, the body will likely be taken to some crevice and thrown into it. It may be left uncovered, to become the prey of wolves and coyotes, or sticks and stones may be cast over it. If the family lives in a sandy part of the reservation, with no convenient crevices or chasms nearby, the body will be laid upon the sand, a little earth and some stones thown upon it, and a pile of brush laid over all.

"The sun is all very well," said the Irishman, "but the moon is worth two of it, for the moon affords light in the night time when we want it, whereas the sun is with us in the day time when we have no occasion for it."

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDY

INTERNATIONAL LESSON. JANUARY 31.

Lesson V. The Birth of Samson. Judg. 13. 8-16; 24. 25. Golden Text, Judg. 13. 4.

Verse 8. Let the man of God whom thou didst send come again unto us, and teach us.—Manoah is particularly concerned about the visit which his wife received from the angel of the Lord. He is a devout man. His faith is stirred. He has a real desire to learn more about the wonderful thing that is to happen. He does not doubt that a child will be born unto him and his wife who will take a prominent place in the history of his people, and he wants to know, long before the coming of the child, how he is to be taught and what particularly is to be done that he may properly fulfill the functions that are to be his. This desire of the future father to be thoroughly informed, so that when the time arrives he will be ready immediately to begin the training of the child, is a splendid instance of the importance which the Jewish father placed upon his duty to his children, and also shows the implicit faith the ancient Hebrews had in God, who is the creator of all human life.

10. And the woman made haste and ran and told her husband.—The wife of Manoah did not desire to be alone when the angel spoke. She knew the concern of her husband and also the importance of the duty that would be laid upon her; hence she wanted Manoah to be present, so that he, too, could hear and would be able to help her in the days of preparation for the coming of the child and his proper nurture.

11. And he said unto him, Art thou the man that spakest unto the woman?—Manoah wanted to be sure that it was the same visitor. He wanted to have the same message direct from him as his wife had received it.

12. Now let thy words come to pass: what shall be the ordering of the child, and how shall we do unto him?—Manoah insisted that the whole story should be retold; the instruction should again be given with explicitness, so that he, too, would know what had been said in the first instance to his wife.

13. And the angel of Jehovah said unto Manoah, Of all that I said unto the woman let her beware.—The former message is here assumed, and the warning given that all that the woman had heard in the first instance she should take heed to observe.

14. She may not eat of any thing that cometh of the vine, neither let her drink wine or strong drink, nor eat any unclean thing.—These are the outstanding things that the angel had commanded and which he again emphasized particularly. These were not all of the things, however, which he had said to the wife. He adds again, therefore,—all that I commanded her let her observe.

Samson was to be a Nazirite, as Samuel later was (see Sam. 1. 11). Naziritism was the outcome of reaction against the disastrous influence which Canaanitish heathenism had exercised against the Hebrew religion. It was particularly a reaction against the worship and customs of Canaan. (See Num. 6). In later times the prophets looked upon the Nazirites as a class of men whom Jehovah especially raised up to keep alive in Israel the true religion of Jehovah. (See Amos 2, 11).

15. And Manoah said . . . let us detain thee, that we may make ready a kid for thee.—The Hebrew instinct of hospitality shows itself strongly in this passage, as in so many other similar passages in Old Testament history.

16. Though thou detain me.—It will be remembered how Jacob wrestled with the angel, trying to hold him, and succeeded to the point of suffering physical injury. It would seem as though here again the angel of the Lord indicated that he might be detained by Manoah, but even though Manoah did press the prerogatives of the host to their limit and detain the guest, yet he would not eat of the bread which should be prepared.

If thou wilt make ready a burnt-offering, thou must offer it unto Jehovah.—It would seem that a certain seal of authority was to be placed upon the words which the stranger had spoken by the words which he now spake concerning the burnt-offering; which would indicate to Manoah that he had been entertaining a heavenly visitor. We read in verse 22 that Manoah became fearful when he discovered that he had been in the presence of the angel of the Lord, and he said, with great trepidation to his wife, "We shall surely die because we have seen God." But the intuition of his wife led her to show more judgment, for she said, "If Jehovah were pleased to kill us, he would not have received a burnt offering and a meal offering at our hand, neither would he have showed us all these things, nor would at this time have told such things as these."

24. And the woman bare a son, and calleth his name Samson.—The Hebrew of "Samson" is Shimshon, which comes from the word "Shemesh," and means "the sun." This name given to Samson would indicate that he was of a sunny and happy disposition. All Hebrew names, as indicated in a former lesson, have appellative meanings. Jacob means "supplanter"; Benjamin means "the son of the right-hand"; Jerubbaal (Gideon), "Baal contends." See also 1 Sam. 25. 25, where the foolish husband of Abigail is named Nabal, which means "fool."

25. Mahaneh-dan. — Mahaneh means "camp." Mahaney-dan, therefore, means the camp of Dan. This camp was between Zorah and Eshtaol. These two places, Zorah and Eshtaol, were two of the towns of the tribe of Dan, and they were far from the sea.

Prince Albert.
A new photograph taken just before he rejoined H.M.S. Collingwood.

THE CREUSOT WORKS.

Guns Turned Out Are Most Deadly in the World.

The guns used by the French army are turned out by the hundred at the famous Creusot works. The history of these works, as well known as those of Krupp in Germany or Armstrongs in England, says Pearson's Weekly, reads like a romance.

The first mention of Creusot, under the name of "Villa de Crosot," occurs as early as 1253. It was then a simple farm. It is now a town of 30,000 inhabitants.

In the sixteenth century coal was discovered at Creusot, though it was not until 200 years later that a company was formed to mine it. Gradually iron works were erected there and the manufacture of guns started.

In 1838 the works were bought by the Brothers Schneider, and it is a significant fact that the German name of Schneider was to become the great rival of Krupp, the great German gun makers. From that date down to the present time the Creusot guns began to become famous.

The great superiority of the French gun lies in its stability and in the fact that it will stand extreme hard wear. To show its wonderful stability, it may be mentioned that a glass of water placed on the rim of the wheel of the gun remains unspilled after the shot has been fired.

This extraordinary feat, impossible in the case of most guns, has been made possible by the clever application of a special recoil brake which Krupp always declared could not be fitted for field artillery. It was adapted at the Creusot works, however, and that is one point where the French guns are superior to the German.

Another feature of the Creusot guns is what is known as the recuperator, which causes the gun to return to its firing position. The force used is compressed air, possessing the advantage over many of the Krupp guns, in which springs are used, that it never wears out or loses its "spring."

Creusot guns were used in the Balkans, and army officers declared afterward that the guns were as good at the end of the campaign as before it. Only a short time before the German experts had criticised the famous gun as being too complicated and delicate for use in actual war.

The accuracy of fire of these guns is simply marvellous. Once the angle is set the gun continues to belch forth death with unvarying aim. French officers, too, are so expert in their use that they can split a tree three miles away after a couple of shots to get the range.

Taken all around, the Creusot guns not only fire more quickly than the Krupp weapons, but they are lighter and easier to move about. They are far more accurate and they last longer. There are four Creusot guns in a battery, each gun firing an average of twenty rounds a minute.

Occasionally we meet a man who looks as if he had tried to preserve his dignity in alcohol.

You can't always tell. Occasionally the toughest boy in the neighborhood grows up and becomes a minister.

About three weeks after marriage a woman discovers that the capital prize in the matrimonial lottery is still undrawn.

GERMANY'S GREATEST HOPE

PLANS TO INVADE ENGLAND IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

No Sacrifice Will Be Too Terrible by the German People to Attain Their Ends.

Charles N. Wheeler, staff correspondent of the Chicago Tribune, has written a review of the war situation from Aachen, Germany, in which he says:

Military experts, attaches, journalists, authors, short story writers and "Tommies" back from the trenches have discussed the future of the war.

As an American reporter, one who has observed the change that has taken place in Germany in the last few weeks, permit me not only to discuss the new objective of the German army but to indicate about where the first great battle may take place and what its immediate results may be.

This forecast is based on things I have seen, movements of troops, change of bases, preparations for the big battle, and the new dominating motive of all general plans of the German empire—the all comprehending motive of terrible hate for England.

Plans to Invade England.

Germany plans to invade England—a plan that will be supported by a public opinion in the fatherland without regard to the hazard, the ultimate result, or the slaughter that must reach a bewildering total.

The data, based on personal observations and interviews throughout Belgium and in the frontier towns of Germany, and a certain alleged intuitive sense suggest that the supreme battle of the conflict, beside which the clashes already occurring will be secondary, both with respect to the number of men engaged and the casualties, may be fought somewhere within the triangle described by Ostend on the Flemish coast, Calais on the French front, and Lille as the apex.

Plans No Longer Hidden.

To the so-called military experts this forecast may appear presumptuous. Yet it may be here set down with perfect propriety that the average reporter's prediction of events not far off in this Armageddon is about as good a guess as any. Military science, as the experts would understand it, in a measure has been thrown to the four winds by the German war leaders in the last three weeks. That is, the general plan is no longer hidden.

To understand this one has to know by personal experience the awful hatred that has turned all public opinion in Germany into one channel and with but one objective—England.

After New Submarine Base.

Germany has announced boldly that it will stake everything on a dash to Calais and Dunkirk from the east and south and to Nieuport from the north with the avowed intention of establishing a new submarine base at the narrowest point of the channel with which to attack the English fleet to whittle it down.

Germany will not fight the English fleet with German battleships under the present relative armament. Germany definitely intends to pit its underseas craft against English dreadnoughts hoping for such successful raids in time as will seriously cripple the naval power of the hated antagonist and bring about a more nearly equal strength.

To cross the English channel, destroy English shipping, invade the island, raze the coast towns, reduce London—to do this the German nation to-day would make any sacrifice humanly possible. Such a program may be untenable, but it will explain the movements of the last three weeeks and movements that will be made in the next three or four weeks. However, a recurrence of the daring raid successfully made on the east coast at Scarborough and Whitby may be expected or at least attempted.

Hatred is Extraordinary.

The hatred felt toward England by the German people passes beyond the mere meaning of the word as used in the ordinary conversation. This feeling toward Great Britain pervades the fatherland and finds lodgment in the breast of all the people in the great family of 70,000,000 souls.

POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

Optimism is a good thing when not overworked.

But a note never falls due at the proper time.

A cynic is a person who laughs while pretending to shed tears.

The more relatives a man has the more he appreciates his friends.

A man isn't necessarily even a near-genius because he wears his hair long.

The ideal husband exists chiefly in the minds of women who never married.

Rich relatives are used by poor men as objects at which they can point with pride and expectancy.

Before a wise girl attempts to manage a husband she first acquires the art of managing a kitchen.