# Hints for the Home

### Miscellaneous Recipes.

**Bran Muffins**—Two cups bran, one cup whole wheat flour, one tablespoonful molasses, two eggs, two cups milk, one teaspoonful salt, two teaspoonfuls baking powder, raisins. Bake twenty-five minutes.

**Bran Bread**—same recipe as for muffins, but no eggs or baking powder. Use one yeast cake.

**To Roast Potatoes**—Peel and wash potatoes and put them with the meat in the roasting pan. Leave them until they are well browned and serve them on the same platter with the roast.

**Gravy**—Take some of the fat from the pan, use four tablespoonfuls with four tablespoonfuls of butter and stir them together and let this mixture dredge in the pan. Add gradually one and a half cups of boiling water, cook five minutes, season with salt and pepper, and strain.

**Timbale of Pumpkin.**—One pint of stewed and sifted pumpkin, one tablespoonful of butter, four eggs beaten, half a cupful of sugar, one-fourth teaspoonful of cinnamon and half a pint of milk. Pour into buttered molds. Set in a pan of water in a moderate oven until firm. When the timbales are cold, unmold and serve with whipped cream.

**Steamed Fruit Pudding.**—Cover the bottom of a butter mold with dices of bread lightly buttered. Over this place a layer of stewed apples or peaches, then another layer of bread and butter, alternating with the fruit until the mold is three-quarters full. Pour over this a custard composed of two eggs, one-half a cup of sugar and a pint of milk. Fasten the cover of the mold tight, drop into boiling water and steam one hour. Serve with foamy sauce or sweetened cream.

**Ginger Creams.**—One cupful of white sugar, one-half cupful of baking molasses, one cupful of sweet milk, one teaspoonful of soda dissolved in the milk, one teaspoonful each of ginger and cloves, three cupfuls of flour. Add ingredients as named. Spread thinly in tins. Bake and when cool frost with powdered sugar and cut into squares. This is a good recipe to help cut the high cost of living, as there are neither eggs nor shortening in them. They are fine for children's luncheons.

**Mixed Fruit Pudding.**—Peel and core enough tart apples to fill a deep baking pan. Fit them in snugly and fill in the holes left by the cores with seedless raisins and bits of shredded citron and lemon peel. Dust with sugar. Pour over them half a cupful of water and bake in a slow oven until perfectly tender. Remove them from the oven, sprinkle lightly with bread crumbs, dust with sugar and bake 10 minutes longer. Serve with the following sauce: Beat together in a stewpan one tablespoonful of flour and one-half cupful of sugar. Pour over this a cup of boiling water and bring to a boil. Remove from the fire and pour this slowly over one egg well beaten. Flavor with a dash of lemon. Pour over the baked fruit and serve immediately.

### Useful Hints.

Linen is a fabric which can be easily dyed at home.

Never mix any salad with dressing until you are ready to use it.

Macaroni as an article of food is rather more valuable than bread.

A very practical way to finish a floor is to paint it with linseed oil.

A wire bread or cake cooler is a handy thing to have in the kitchen.

If a felt hat is faded or shabby, the crown may be cut off to form a toque foundation.

A pretty way to serve hot biscuits is folded in a napkin on a sweetgrass basket, with a handle.

When a box of sardines is opened it should be drained of its oil at once and the fish turned out.

To have dumplings fluffy and light keep the pot boiling steadily from the time they are dropped in.

It is best not to serve the same dish twice a week, unless it be a vegetable, as everyone likes variety.

Damp salt is an excellent thing to remove stains on cups and saucers caused by tea and careless washing.

If a room is filled with smoke, open windows and wave a towel wet in vinegar and hot water around in it.

The thoughtful housewife saves all the waxed paper that comes to the house for cracker and other boxes.

Salt on the fingers, when cleaning fowl or fish, will prevent slipping, and a little vinegar on the hands will prevent odor.

You will have no trouble with your thread kinking if you thread the needle before breaking thread from the reel.

Bread should not be put into a too hot oven; it should not brown for the first ten minutes, and only gradually afterwards.

To renovate a white enamel bedstead rub the iron parts all over with a cloth dipped in paraffin; then paint it with white enamel paint.

In heating the oven, the drafts should be closed when the coal is well started. In a word, to save fuel plan ahead and then watch drafts.

After washing quilts and comforts and while they are still on the line but nearly dry, beat them with a carpet beater and they will be wonderfully light.

A good way to clean mirrors is to wipe them with a pad dipped in whiting and warm water. Then dry with a soft cloth and polish with a piece of chamois skin.

If eggs are placed in hot water a few minutes before breaking the whites will separate from the yolks very easily. They should be cooled before starting to whip the white.

A paint brush will get dust out of cracks better than any duster will, for a cloth cannot reach all the corners. Try the brush when you are cleaning baseboards, window sashes, etc., and you will appreciate it.

After you have washed the currants for a pudding, dry them, and five minutes before you need them steam them well in a colander. This partly cooks them and makes them swell, and their full flavor comes out.

Many people throw boots and shoes away when they have plenty of life is them to serve their owners. This is especially the case with children's boots. Instead of discarding the hard boots, soak them well in warm olive oil and then dry them and polish with a duster. Afterward clean them with ordinary polish.

**New Deadly Weapon.**

This little steel arrow, about the same size as a pencil, is in great favor with the French aviators. The Flechette, as it is called, when dropped from a height of 3,000 feet, will penetrate a man from his helmet to his feet. Members of the French Aviation Corps have also been experimenting with this arrow for use against dirigibles. Because of the easier manoeuvring and great speed of the aeroplane it can readily soar over the dirigible and drop these Flechettes on the gas bag and probably explode the enemy's craft.

## GERMAN TOYS.

**A Movement Has Begun to Reform Their Character.**

Certain cities of Germany, particularly Nuremberg, have since mediaeval times been celebrated for their toys. The Nuremberg dolls, with porcelain faces, have enjoyed a celebrity that began in the fourteenth century. At the same time, the people of Nuremberg began to make dolls' houses much like those that children admire so much to-day. In the year 1572, the Elector Augustus of Saxony ordered a table service for his three daughters, consisting, among other things, of seventy-one plates, 150 glasses, thirty-six tablespoons, and twenty-eight egg cups. That collection has been preserved to this day. In a sense it is an historical document, as it contains no forks. Forks came later. Albert IV of Bavaria had a very realistic house made for his children. It was complete from cellar to greenhouse, and it included even a household chapel and a ballroom. In the grounds were stables and a menagerie.

In recent years there is a movement in Germany to reform the character of the toys, a movement that has the hearty support of educators. Those who lead the movement have set their faces against the kind of toys with which the market is too often crowded—realistic imitations about which there is no atmosphere of strangeness or romance, and which, for the most part, are commonplace and ugly.

The Dresden toys, so called are designed to remedy this fault; to hold the child's attention by the beauty and simplicity of their design, and by some fantastic deviation from the actual. The toys are the work of men who are interested in encouraging an artistic instinct in the young. Most toys do not foster the child's inherent feeling for beauty and harmony, but actually repress it by reason of their conventionality and ugliness. The new toys are at once simpler and more the product of the imagination. They strongly resemble the wood carvings of primitive peoples, whose imaginative faculties were much like those of the children of to-day.

The toys manufactured on the Dresden plan do not look at all machine-made. They have a novelty, an individuality that pleases the child. Besides the single figures, there are groups designed on the same plan—farms, villages, or menageries. In such series, the toys are colored on a simple and effective basis of color harmony.

Among the prominent reformers of children's toys is the author, Frank Wedekind, who is also the inventor of the "German discus" and the "bicycle swing," which are intended to develop in older children agility as well as control of the body's movements through will power and sureness of eye.

## THE GREAT GRAND DUKE.

**Present Commander-in-chief of the Russian Army.**

If the Russian army is a more efficient instrument to-day than it was ten years ago, it has the Grand Duke Nicholas, its present commander in chief to thank. After the disasters of the Japanese War, the grand duke, already well known as a brilliant cavalry officer, undertook to reorganize the army, and the event has proved that he really performed wonders. In speed of mobilization, agility of movement, and intelligent response to the stragetical opportunities of the campaign, the Russian forces actually showed something that approached even the high standard of their German enemy.

During the Japanese War Nicholas was given no opportunity to distinguish himself; some observers believe that the Czar's jealousy of his more brilliant cousin had something to do with that. But with the collapse of the other military leaders, the grand duke's chance came, and no one else was suggested for the chief command when the present war broke out. Not only is he in authority in the field; no one else has so much influence with the Czar. Indeed, his position in Russia to-day is said to be almost that of a dictator, without the trappings of the office.

In person, the grand duke is a striking figure; he is six feet and six inches in height, spare and active, with the delicate features and graceful bearing of the aristocrat. In youth his head was covered with short golden curls; now at fifty-eight their is not much hair left, and that has turned gray. His eyes are blue and very keen, his nose is prominent, his mouth determined and a little cruel in expression, and his chin strong. His personality is so much more remarkable than that of any of the descendants of Alexander II—he is himself the son of a brother of that monarch—that he has always had to bear some suspicion and dislike both from Alexander III and from the present Czar Nicholas II. It is because he has made himself indispensible to the latter monarch that he has risen to power at last.

No one was of more service than the grand duke in restoring order and confidence after the humiliating breakdown of Russian credit at the end of the Japanese War. No one could accuse Nicholas of being anything but a believer in the essentials of Russian autocracy, but he is said to have supported Count de Witte against the reactionary party at that time, and it was his arguments, so we are told, that finally persuaded the Czar to summon the first Duma.

The father of the grand duke was a man of very dissipated life, and the conduct of the son has not been above reproach, yet he has an intellect, an ambition, and a patriotism that would not let him wholly waste his life in ignoble ways. In blood he is half German, for his mother was of the ducal house of Oldenburg. As a young man he recouped the family's financial fortunes, which his father's extravagances had brought low, by a morganatic marriage with the rich widow of a Moscow tea merchant. After her death he married the Princess Anastasia of Montenegro, who is sister of the Queen of Italy. Both princesses spent much of their girlhood in the royal family at Petrograd, and the Grand Duke is said always to have been in love with his present wife.

## FINEST FIGHT EVER WAGED.

**When Oxfords Were Pitted Against the Germans.**

The personal element in warfare—the battle of brains against brains—is strikingly illustrated in a letter from a captain of the 52nd Foot, 2nd Battalion Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. Writing to his sister he says:

"We were sent off to help the Guards to hold up a line previously held by a regiment which was almost annihilated because they were not dug in deep enough. As soon as it was light the Germans opened with all guns. Lots of our men were buried in the trenches, but we got out into others.

"About three o'clock, I saw the regiment on our left retiring. This was the absolute devil, as it meant I had to get out. I was told to retire and try and stop the Germans getting past a certain road. From then on it was awful. As soon as we left the trenches they opened on us with every gun and rifle.

"Luckily I got the new position and collected about 150 men. Things looked real nasty, as the Germans were pouring in through the gap and filling the wood we were in. Under the circumstances I thought to do something unexpected might upset their apple-cart. So we fixed bayonets and went straight in. We had the finest fight that ever was fought. We first came on some fifty of them, went straight in, and annihilated them. We were very quickly into the next lot, and in a few minutes we were shooting, bayoneting and annihilating everything we came across.

"To cut a long story short, we drove the whole crowd back. I had five holes in my coat as a souvenir. We went on occupying this position in the trenches, which was vitally important, for about three days. The German trenches were only twenty-five yards in front of us. It was very uncomfortable having them so close. Two subalterns and two soldiers placed themselves so skilfully behind a big hump in the ground that they saw the whole length of the German trenches. They then let drive with their rifles, with the result that they stampeded the lot and killed forty.

"I afterwards took a party of twenty-five to reconnoitre, and we found these forty dead. In fact, in a space of 150 yards there may have been 400 or 500 dead. I gave instructions for a lieutenant to remain out with a covering party, and went to search the dead to see who they belonged to. I was just in the middle of the job, when, on looking into the trench, I found it full of live Germans, who at once opened fire. How they missed me I don't know, as I was absolutely on the point of stepping across the trench.

"The thing gave me such a shock that most of the Germans got away. However, the staff are awfully pleased at us having cleared them out at all. I don't think the Germans can hold out much longer—I mean here. Their losses are enormous and their men give me the impression that they try to get wounded or taken prisoners."

## GET FUN OUT OF A FIGHT.

**British Take Hardships and Death Lightheartedly.**

Nothing more clearly shows the excellent spirit of our brave soldiers than the light-hearted manner in which hardship, and even death itself, is faced. The man who marches to action with a rollicking song on his lips, who finds nicknames for the very guns hurling destruction at him, and who makes a a jest even of his own sufferings, is a hard man to beat.

First and last, Tommy Atkins is a sportsman, and even when engaged in the grim game of war he cannot forget entirely the pastimes of peace, as witness the following incident. One of our batteries was firing at a building occupied by the enemy, and our lads in the trenches watched the proceedings eagerly. At the third discharge the target crumpled up like a house of cards, and a prostrate spectator flung up his arms excitedly and yelled: "Goal! Hardy himself couldn't have stopped that one."

Again, when at Mons the long days of retreat became days of advance for our troops, a jubilant British private described the situation tersely as "Half-time. Change over." Another football enthusiast, limping painfully away from the firing-line, answered a sympathetic inquiry with a smile, and the explanation, "Got fouled in the penalty area."

That magnificent bit of marksmanship, when H.M.S. Birmingham shot away the periscope of a German submarine, was aptly described by one of the crew, who remarked, "Well bowled. Just took the bail nicely."

During the early days of the war the scarcity of blankets was a frequent topic in the trenches. "I hear there'll be a lot of chaps without blankets to-night," said one "Tommy." No sooner had he spoken than a perfect hurricane of lead swept over them. "If we get much of this there'll be blankets without men, I'm thinking," came the grim reply.

A private in the trenches, raising himself to get a glimpse of the foe, had his sleeve ripped open by a bullet. "Well, I'll be darned," he said, quizzically. Another, on being told by his pal that they were facing a million of the enemy, took careful aim, fired, and replied, "No, lad; only 999,999."

Two riflemen were discussing the enormous amount of lead used daily, and one suggested the possibility of a shortage. "No, fear," said his chum. "Lead's economical stuff; you can make a little go a long way." It was an Irishman who, on hearing that the German soldiers have an aversion to "cold steel," promptly retorted, "Shure, then, we'll jist make it hot for them."

## AN ESKIMO'S TRADE.

**Give Anything He Possesses for What He Really Wants.**

Among the Eskimos of the Bering Sea region, there is no fixed value for whalebone, furs, or anything they may have to trade. If one of them has anything of value, he will keep it until some white man appears with something that appeals to his eye. And the money value of what may take him does not make any difference to him. If he has a trinket that may be worth a dollar, and some one offers to give him for it something that is worth a thousand dollars, but of which he has no need, he will refuse to trade. But he will give anything he possesses for what he really wants.

An Eskimo of St. Lawrence Island, in Bering Sea, made a catch one season of a big bowhead whale. The head of baleen was worth between ten and fifteen thousand dollars. He knew the approximate value of the head, but he held on to it with no apparent desire to trade. One day a trader appeared with a small gasoline launch, valued at perhaps two or three hundred dollars. The sight of that so took the native that he straightway traded his head of bone for it.

Far out in the straits one day he ran out of gasoline. He abandoned the launch for the canoe he was towing, and paddled back to the island. But he did not regret his trade. He was satisfied, and ready to try for another whale.

## WARSHIPS ON WHEELS.

**Naval Vessels Imitated in Building Armored Autos.**

For many weeks the commons and open spaces around London have witnessed the practising of the Royal Naval Air Service armored cars. There are many squadrons of these in existence, says the London Morning Telegraph, each consisting of four cars, fitted with Maxim quick-firers in revolving armored turrets, a one or three-pounder gun fitted on another chassis, a wireless equipment car, two supply "tender" cars, and a Red Cross car, so that the whole squadron is a complete warship on wheels. Their extreme mobility has proved their use at the front, especially in village fighting.

Besides the armored cars, each squadron has a number of motor cyclists attached as scouts. Fleet Street last week had the presence of a motor cycle carrying a Maxim gun as its side-car equipment, with a gunner and driver. The Motor Cycle Gun Brigade and the Armored Car Naval Division are growing daily, so that the latter has now a complement of nearly 2,000 officers and men.

## THE CROWING OF CÆSAR.

**Mrs. Fraley Slept Undisturbed By His Loudest Summons.**

Mrs. Fraley poured her husband's coffee, and absently put in his two lumps of sugar. She looked pale, and there were tired shadows under her eyes. With a sudden gesture, she pushed back the sugar bowl and faced him resolutely.

"I can't stand it any longer, Henry," she said. "Something must be done."

"Can't stand what?" her husband asked. He was a peacable man, and he had a faint hope that the trouble might not be what he knew it was.

"You know what—the Redmonds' rooster. I never heard such a crow in my life. He begins at three o'clock, and he keeps it up at intervals until seven. It's all right for you to say it's a little thing,—you sleep right through it,—but I can't, and I'm getting completely worn out. I'm going over to see Mrs. Redmond this afternoon and speak about it."

"Well," Mr. Fraley said, slowly, "if you really can't stand it—— But I'd put up with a good deal before I'd have any trouble with the Redmonds. They're mighty nice people, you know."

"If they're such nice people," his wife retorted, "they ought to be willing to get rid of a rooster that tortures their neighbors! Anyway, I'm going."

Accordingly, after luncheon, Mrs. Fraley went upstairs to dress for her call. Just as she was putting on her hat, however, the bell rang, and her maid announced Mrs. Redmond. Mrs. Redmond's smile was half amused, half anxious.

"I came over to speak to you about Cæsar, Mrs. Fraley—that big rooster of ours. I've been so afraid he would annoy you with that ear-piercing crow of his. You see, Cæsar is a prize fowl, and Mr. Redmond paid a big price for him, but we hadn't had him two days before I began to worry about his crowing. I told William I knew it must annoy the neighbors, and we should have to get rid of him. Then Aunt Ellen came.. She is very deaf, but the first morning she came down to breakfast perfectly radiant.

"'Oh,' she cried, 'what do you think has happened? I heard your rooster crow! I haven't heard a rooster crow for ten years. Do you know, I just cried over it. It seemed so wonderful to hear something that didn't come through my ear trumpet!'

"William looked at me, and I knew what that meant. And so I came over to ask you if you could possibly endure Cæsar's racket just while Aunt Ellen is with us. Could you?"

Mrs. Fraley's eyes were warm with sympathy.

"Indeed I can!" she cried. "When I hear him crow, I'll just think how your Aunt Ellen is enjoying it. I'm sure that's little enough to do when she has to miss so much."

So Cæsar crowed unmolested. And, curiously enough, before Aunt Ellen left, Mrs. Fraley found that she could sleep undisturbed by his loudest summons.

## FORETOLD BY ANIMALS.

**There Are Many Superstitions Connected With Them.**

In the case of a lion, it is believed that the wearing of a claw of this animal will bring great strength.

People connected with circuses and shows have a saying that when lions get restless and uneasy either ill-luck or extremely bad weather is at hand, and that when they continually wash their faces in cat-like fashion they are likely to have fits of ill-temper in the near future.

Numberless are the superstitions associated with the tiger. The natives of India believe that its whiskers are a deadly poison, and that when finely chopped and secretly introduced into person's food they will assuredly cause death. What is known as "the evil eye" is greatly dreaded in India, and to avert this parents hang the claws of tigers round the necks of their children.

To see a wolf is supposed to be a good sign, but if a man sees a wolf before the wolf sees him then he will either become dumb for the time or lose his voice.

For a hare to run across anyone's path is considered a very bad sign in some parts of England, because in olden times it was believed that witches transformed themselves into hares in order to bring bad luck to their enemies.

# THE SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDY

**INTERNATIONAL LESSON FEBRUARY 7.**

**Lesson VI., Ruth Chooses the True God—Ruth 1., Golden Text, Ruth 1-16.**

Verse 6. That she might return from the country of Moab.—Naomi went out from Bethlehem-Judah with her husband and two sons. They were called Ephrathites. This is another word for Ephraimites as found in Judg. 12, 5; 1 Sam. 1 1; 1 Kings 11. 26. Bethlehem is spoken of as Ephratah. It was too "small to be among the families of Judah," but it was "the finest site in all the province of Judæa" (George Adam Smith). Bethlehem as is well known, is made up of two words, "Beth," meaning "house," and "Lehem," meaning "bread". The name "house of bread" indicates that the country was exceedingly fertile.

Jehovah had visited his people.—This is a common expression in the Old Testament to denote the beneficence of God (see Gen. 21. 1; 50. 24, 25; Exod. 4. 31; 1 Sam. 2. 21; Psa. 80. 14).

7. Went on the way to return unto the land of Judah.—It was customary for the host to accompany the guest a certain distance along his way. Doubtless Naomi thought that her two daughters-in-law would go with her for a distance and then would return to their own homes. As the next verse shows, when they had gone with her as far as she thought they ought to, she said to them, "Go, return each of you to her mother's house." She presses them to return.

9. She kissed them.—The kiss was the usual greeting at meeting and parting. It is still the salutation in the Orient among men as well as woman (see Gen. 29. 11; 31. 55; Exod. 4. 27). It was a mark of friendliness. There are two instances where it was used for foul purposes. Under the guise of friendship, Joab kissed Amasa, and thus taking him unawares, killed him (2 Sam. 20.9). Another instance is the well-known one of Judas.

10. Nay, but we will return with thee unto thy people.—Both of the daughters-in-law, it would seem, were determined to return with Naomi. After the fervent appeal of Naomi, as recited in verses 11-13, Orpah weakened in her determination to accompany her mother-in-law; but Ruth (verse 14) "clave unto her." The friendliness of Ruth went far deeper than that of Orpah.

15. Behold thy sister-in-law is gone back unto her people, and unto her god: return thou after thy sister-in-law.—Even after Orpah had gone, Naomi insisted upon Ruth going. She wanted to give Ruth every opportunity to go back, not only to her people, but to her god, as it was believed among the Israelites that the God of Israel did not have power over the people of other nations. David at one time pleads that he be not sent away from his own country and from the protection of the God of Israel (1 Sam. 26. 17-20).

16. Entreat me not to leave thee.—This and the following verse express so emphatically Ruth's desire to remain with Naomi that there could be no other question in Naomi's mind as to Ruth's determination and steadfastness. The beauty of the language of these two verses is captivating and shows that "out of the fullness of the heart the mouth speaketh," that beauty of form is associated with beauty of thought and conviction. (See 2 Kings 2. 2-6 for a similar episode between Elijah and Elisha).

17. Jehovah do so to me, and more also.—This is a common form of oath among the Israelites and among other people who came in close association with the Israelites (See 1 Sam. 3. 17; 14. 44; 20. 13; 2 Sam. 3. 9, 35; 19. 13; 1 Kings 2. 23; 2 Kings 6. 31).

18. She left off speaking unto her.—It is an easy play for the imagination to see these two women talking in the road together, stopping as they frankly and firmly express their views one to the other, but when the matter is settled, going on their way with gladness.

### German Soldiers Go Mad.

George Prade, special Paris correspondent at the front, declares that he saw a German train painted red, go through Aix-la-Chapelle from Belgium, filled with German soldiers who had been driven mad by the war. "All exits were sealed," he writes. "The carriages were padded everywhere and each contained a dozen or more soldiers, who were writhing, shouting, foaming at the mouth, or screaming deliriously. Station officials told me that the red train made frequent trips whenever the allies' artillery had been active, and that after the murderous Yser fight it ran continuously."

If it were not for your memory you would be unable to forget