

horses. The oyster industry is rapidly passing from the hands of the fishermen to those of oyster culturists. The oyster, being sedentary except for a few days in the earliest stages of its existence, is easily exterminated in any given locality, since, although it may not be possible for the fishermen to rake up from the bottom every individual, wholesale methods of capture soon result in covering up or otherwise, destroying the oyster banks or reefs, as the communities of oysters are technically termed. The main difference between the oyster industry of America and that of Europe lies in the fact that in Europe the native beds have long since been practically destroyed, perhaps not more than 6 or 7 per cent of the oysters of Europe passing from the native beds directly into the hands of the consumer. It is probable that from 60 to 75 per cent are raised from the seed in artificial parks, the remainder having been laid down for a time to increase in size and flavor in the shoal waters along the coast.

In the United States, on the other hand, from 30 to 40 per cent of all the oysters consumed are carried from the native beds directly to market. The oyster fishery is everywhere carried on in the most reckless manner, and in all directions oyster grounds are becoming deteriorated, and in some cases have been entirely destroyed. It remains to be seen whether the governments of the States will regulate the oyster fisheries before it is too late, or will permit the destruction of these vast reservoirs of food. At present the oyster is one of the cheapest articles of diet in the United States, while in England, as has been well said, an oyster is usually worth as much as, or more, than a new laid egg. It can hardly be expected that the price of American oysters will always remain so low as at present; but, taking into consideration the great wealth of the natural beds along the entire Atlantic coast, it seems probable that a moderate amount of protection will keep the price of seed oysters far below the European rates, and that the immense stretches of submerged land along our coasts especially suited for oyster planting may be utilized and may be made to produce an abundant harvest at a much less cost than that which accompanies the complicated system of culture in France and Holland.

**Elizabethan Medicine.**

The housewife was the great ally of the doctor in the days of good Queen Bess; in the still room the lady with the ruff and farthingale was ever busy in the preparation of cordials, conserves, cooling waters and simples. "All the herbs and flowers of field and garden passed through her fair white hands." Poppy-water was good for weak stomachs; mint and rue-water was efficacious for the head and brain; and even walnuts yielded a cordial. Then there was cinnamon-water, and the essence of cloves, gilly-flowers, and lemon-water, sweet marjoram-water, and spirits of ambergris.

Some of the remedies gravely believed in in those days will make the reader smile. Who would suppose now-a-days that the herb called shepherd's pouch held in the hand would stop the bleeding of a severe sword wound, or a dram of scrapings from a human skull taken daily in white wine stay hemorrhage? Lady Macbeth's doctor—one though, of Shakespeare's time—would have composed a poultice of pounded garden snails, while a quart of ale, dram of treacle, handful of rue, and a spoonful of tin shavings, boiled together, composed a remedy against the bite of a mad dog. The plague medicines were very numerous, and in all probability never effectual; if the patient recovered at all, he had to thank his own constitution. One of the plague waters is composed of rue, agrimony, wormwood, sage, ringwort, dragon's root, pimpinell, marigold, feverfew, burnet, sorrel, wood betony, brown ring-wort, tormentil, rosemary, angelica, burdock, green walnuts, shredded into a kind of salad, and mixed with roots; these were infused for three days, covered close, and then distilled. "Some think," says old Burton, "physicians kill as many as they save, and who can tell how many murders they make in a year, that may freely kill man and have a reward for it?" Who, indeed, especially if allowed to prescribe as above? But Burton, who wrought over sixty years after the death of Elizabeth, recommends as infallible a human skull ground to powder, the corns in a horse's legs, and a wolf's liver.

The whole system of medicine in the days under review was founded on a series of curious theoretical views, partly those of Paracelsus. This physician divided the body into humours and spirits; the humours were blood, phlegm, cholera, and melancholy. Courage was supposed to have its seat in the heart and stomach, reason in the head, and passion in the liver; a white livered man was a coward, and he who would not fight had no stomach for fighting.

A young married woman writes to the New York Crematory Company: "Can you burn a man before he dies? If you can I will be pleased to give you a job on my husband, who is of no earthly use to me or any one else."

**TO REMOVE STAINS.**—Tea, coffee, and fruit-stains are easily removed from napkins and table cloths (if done as soon as stained, all the better) by drawing the linen tightly over a vessel, and pouring boiling water through the stains.

**GOOD WHITEWASH.**—Walls ought first to be washed with thin lime and water; then take a bushel of lime, mix it well with plenty of water, dissolve three pounds of glue in water over the fire, and again whitewash the wall. It should be made the thickness of paint. Dwelling rooms should be whitewashed at least yearly.

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**HAVE A SMILE.**

If thy neighbor offend thee, buy his boy a drum.

Abel has turned up smuggling diamonds. They will be raising Cain next.

Give a tramp the cold shoulder one day and he will come back the next day for potatoes to go with it.

The peal of a breakfast bell often fails to wake a man up. The peal of a banana will do it every time.

Grace (whispering)—"What lovely boots your partner's got, Mary!" Mary (ditto)—"Yes, unfortunately, he shines at the wrong end."

There is a land suit in Germany which was begun in 1604. They must be poor lawyers there not to have gobbled that land four centuries ago.

No, Arabella, the short stop of a baseball nine is not a comma, though he is sometimes knocked into a comma-toss condition.

"This is enough to take away my breath," murmured the youth as he grabbed a handful of cloves before re-entering the theatre.

Hoops and bustles will be all the fashion next Spring, and six fashionable women will once more manage to occupy all the room in a street car.

Wife—"John, our coachman must go!" —"But why, my dear? Our only daughter is married."—"Yes, but—John, I'm not so very old myself, you know!"

"Has that baby got the jaundice?" asked a cranky old bachelor of a young mother.—"Of course it hasn't. Why do you think so?"—"Because it is such an ugly yell."

"Mamma," said a little girl, "I think I've got ammonia." "You must not say ammonia, dear; you must say pneumonia." "But it ain't new, for I think I had it yesterday."

At the Dime Museum: She—"Oh, look at that Indian with his feather headdress. He—'Yes, fine feathers.'" She—"Well, why do the Indians wear them that way?" He—"To keep his wigwag."

A chip of the maternal block: Mamma—"Yes, my child, we shall all know each other in Heaven." Edith—"But, mamma, we can make believe we are out when some of them call, can't we?"

Parent (angrily)—"You have been in the water! You were fishing!" Son—"Yes, ma'am; I was in the water, but I got a boy out who might have been drowned." Parent—"Indeed, who was he?" Son—"Myself."

"Stanley tells of an African who once bore ten men on his hands for ten minutes." That is nothing. We know of a man who has had his wife's entire family on his hands for twenty years, and he is not very strong either.

Little Eddie took a curious freak when he went to bed the other night and attempted to say his prayers backward. "Why, Eddie, what are you trying to do?" asked his mother. "Only trying to say my prayers inside out."

"Do you remember that young man who used to live next door to me, and who sang every night?" "Yes, I remember him." "Well, he has taken to drinking, and is getting lower and lower every day." "Well, I always thought his tone a little too high."

A cynical old bachelor, who firmly believes that all women have something to say on all subjects, recently asked a female: "Well, madam, what do you hold on this question of female suffrage?" To him the lady responded calmly, "Sir, I hold my tongue."

"Your daughter! It is impossible. Why, you look more like twin sisters." "No, I assure you she is my only daughter," replied the pleased mother. And the polite old gentleman spoiled it all by remarking, "Well, she certainly looks old enough to be your sister."

An Eastern man received a telegram from the West announcing the sudden demise of a relative, and replied, "Send on the remains at once." No telegram was received in answer, but a few days later a letter came saying simply: "Thar ain't no remains. He was kicked by a mul."

An Austin man who went fishing recently lost his lunch on the road, and went back to look for it. Meeting a negro who was picking his teeth, he asked, "Did you pick up anything in the road?"—"No, sah, I didn't pick up nuffin—couldn't a dog have found it and eat it up!"

The following advertisement, it is said, appeared recently in a French newspaper: "Found—On Sunday last, a lace mitten, embroidered with pearls. If the person who lost it will be kind enough to leave the other one at the office of this paper, she will greatly oblige the person who found the first."

"Where are you going, pet?" asked a woman of her husband, with whose relatives she was not on very good terms. "I am going to call on my folks," he replied; "but is not this coat rather shabby?" "Yes," replied his wife, turning up her nose; "but as long as you don't go among decent people it is good enough."

How little we know of the inner life of our closest friend! While we may imagine that his thoughts are of friendly serenity, he, in thinking may muse: "Strange he does not mention the five dollars he borrowed from me." Ah, human nature, thou art a deceptive rascal. Thou smotherest the smile of the sweet herb, and thickest the thought of guanine.—*Artemus Traveler.*

A cookery book says, "always smell a salt codfish before buying it." We always do, and after buying a too—good many days after. In fact, the small salt codfish which is sold in this city, and which is sold in the name of salt codfish, is like the darkness that once settled on Egypt; it is something that can be felt.

**SCIENTIFIC COOKERY.**

Mr. Swan has estimated the life of an electric glow lamp at about 8,300 hours. This is a very high average, and the condition under which it was obtained, in the case of the Swan lamp at least, must have been exceptionally favorable.

Suberine, the characteristic component of cork, is a true fat, saponifiable by alkalis and oxidizable by nitric acid, which converts it into a mixture of suberic acid and ceric acid. It is composed of the mixed glycerides of phellonic and stearic acids.

Vulcanized fibre has been employed for valves for marine condensers. It is said to do much better than india-rubber. Valves of this fibre do not skew or corrugate, withstand well the action of water and oil, and give very little trouble after they have been carefully fitted in place.

Aseptol, a new antiseptic, says M. E. Tmaser, has for its scientific name orthoxyphenyl-sulphurous acid. It is an acid phenol, capable of neutralising ammoniacal bases. It is said to be preferable to phenol as an antiseptic, because it possesses the decided advantage of not being poisonous.

The eider duck does not, Dr. Sundstrom of Stockholm, has ascertained, take her young during the summer into the ocean, as is so generally supposed, but remains with them among the islands on the coast. It appears that the eider duck has greatly increased in the south of Sweden during the last few years.

Snails in a state of captivity can, Dr. Rawitz of Berlin, has discovered, be fed on paper. Dr. Kessel confirms this fact by a statement based on his own observations. He says that after feeding snails with highly calcareous paper for some time he found abnormal calcareous deposits in their monstrously developed shells.

It is maintained by Herr S. Ralisher that no steps have established the development of electricity during the conversion of water into steam, and that even upon electrified surfaces the steam which arises is electrically neutral. He also states that it can be experimentally demonstrated that no electricity results from the condensation of the vapor of the atmosphere.

A first study on the parallax of the sun by M. Bouquet de la Grye has been submitted to the Academy of Sciences, Paris. This paper is founded on the calculations made in Mexico by the author and M. F. Arago during the late transit of Venus. From the measurements then taken there results a mean parallax of 8.76, with an apparent approximations of one-hundredth of a second.

Professor Hellriegel has made special researches on the influence of heat and light upon the development of plants. At a constant temperature of 40° C. in the soil the roots of barley cannot develop themselves. A constant temperature of 30° is not destructive, but decidedly injurious. A constant temperature of 20° is best adapted to the wants of the plants, but one of 10° is not distinctly injurious.

For the rapid preparation of standard solutions of carbon disulphide, M. A. Livache takes a solution of soap, with which he incorporates a certain quantity of petroleum. In this solution he can dissolve on stirring more than 200 hundred grams of disulphide of carbon per liter for 150 grams of soap. The solution so prepared, after water is added, remains perfectly limpid, the disulphide of carbon not separating out.

It must be of importance to dyers to learn that Mr. H. Koechlin has published a new method of fixing chromium oxide, founded on the property of alkaline solutions of chrome of giving up their oxide to organic fibres on being left in contact for some hours. Thus, if cotton is steeped in a mixture of two parts acetate of chrome at 16° (Beaume), two parts caustic soda at 39°, and one part of water and after 12 hours' immersion the cotton is washed, the mordanting is complete.

**Bush Horses.**

From the mode of life the half-wild bush horses of Australia lead, unaccustomed to the hand of man, and not dependent upon him for food, they learn to look upon him with alarm and suspicion, and it requires some manœuvring to approach them without creating a premature panic. On the approach of a horseman one or two on the outside sound an alarm and make off toward the rest, who thereupon rush together, and a general concentration takes place. It is a fine sight to see a herd of these horses, of every size, age, and color, mustering in this manner from hill and valley, as if by common consent. Though physically very powerful, they assume no threatening aspect; their safety lies in their speed; and as they eye the suspicious object their meaning is obvious. They say, as plainly as looks and gestures can say: "Now, what do you want? If you are a stranger, pass on quietly; but if you are for a gallop, we are quite ready to try of what mettle that horse of yours is made."

**Establishing Relationship.**

"Ma, is the devil the father of lies?" "Yes, dear."

"And is a lie an invention?" "Yes."

"Then necessity is the devil's wife, ain't she, ma?" "How do you make that out?" "Why, she's the mother of invention."

It has been proved, by repeated experiments, that straw saturated with a solution of lime or common whitewash, is insecticidal. The fact is of great importance, especially in that it is not only a solution of alum has been tried, but being soluble the rain destroys its virtues.

**FOODS FOR PUDDINGS.**—One pint of bread crumbs, (not crumbs of stale bread made for the table), one quart of sweet milk, one cup of sugar, and the well-beaten yolk of four eggs, the grated rind of one lemon, and a piece of butter the size of an egg. Bake until done, but not watery. Whip the whites of four eggs, and beat in one cup of pulverized sugar, in which you have put the juice of the lemon. Spread over the pudding a layer of jelly or raspberry jam; then pour over it the whites of the eggs. Set it in the oven to brown slightly. Serve cold with cream. This is an excellent dessert for an elaborate dinner, as it may be made early in the morning and so be out of the way.

**STRAWBERRY PUDDING.**—One pint of flour, two teaspoonfuls baking-powder, one-half teaspoonful salt, one cup of milk, two tablespoonfuls melted butter, two eggs, one half cup of sugar, one pint berries, or ripe fruit, or one cup raisins, stoned and halved. Mix the baking powder and salt with the flour; add the milk and melted butter. Beat the yolks of the eggs, add the sugar, and beat them well into the dough. Then add the whites of the eggs, beaten stiff, and then the fruit, well rolled in flour. Steam two hours, and serve with lemon, or foamy sauce.

**CHESTNUT STUFFING FOR ROAST FOWL.**—Shell one quart of large chestnuts; pour on boiling water, and remove the inner brown skin; boil in salted water or stock, till soft; mash fine; take half for the stuffing, and mix with it one cup of fine cracker crumbs; season with one teaspoonful of salt, one saltspoonful of pepper; moisten with one third of a cup of melted butter.

**LEMON SAUCE.**—Two cups hot water, one cup sugar, three heaping teaspoonful corn starch, grated rind and juice of one lemon, and one tablespoonful of butter. Boil the water and sugar five minutes, and add the corn starch, wet in a little cold water; cook eight or ten minutes, and add the lemon rind, juice, and butter; stir until the butter is melted, and serve at once.

**WHITE CANDY.**—One quart of graduated sugar, one pint of water, two tablespoonfuls of vinegar; boil just as you do molasses candy, but do not stir it. You can tell when it is done, by trying it in cold water. Pull as if it were molasses candy, and have a dish near by with some vanilla in it, and work in enough to flavour as you pull.

**CHOCOLATE CARAMELS.**—One cup of sweet milk, one cup of molasses, half a cup of grated chocolate, a piece of butter the size of a walnut; stir constantly, and let it boil until it is thick; then turn it out on buttered plates; when it begins to stiffen, mark it in squares, so that it will break readily when cold.

**CELERY.**—A dish which is sure to find favor with lovers of celery, is made by taking the stalks which are not thoroughly bleached, cutting them in pieces of about an inch long, and cooking as you would asparagus, the same length of time being required to boil it; season with milk, pepper and salt.

**SCALLOPED CHICKEN.**—Take equal parts of cold chicken, boiled rice or macaroni, and tomato sauce. Put in layers in a shallow dish, and cover with buttered crumbs; bake till brown. Cold roast turkey, using stuffing and gravy, may be prepared in the same way.

**CHESTNUT SAUCE.**—Remove the fat from the dripping-pan, add nearly a pint of hot water, thicken with flour which has been cooked in brown butter; add salt and pepper and the remainder of the chestnuts.

**FOAMY SAUCE.**—Whites of two eggs, one cup of sugar, one cup boiling milk, juice of one lemon; beat the whites of the eggs till foamy, but not dry; add the milk and lemon juice.

**PARSNIPS.** boiled, then sliced and browned in butter, are delicious.

**WINTER SQUASH** is best when cut in pieces and baked.

**Secret Societies in Germany.**

One of the reasons of the successes of the Socialists is the astuteness displayed by the central authorities in party tactics. Blind fanaticism is no longer the chief characteristic of the social Democracy. Of Burke, that great enemy of revolution, it is said that he took up every cause that he was engaged in like a fanatic and defended it like a philosopher. It may be said of the leaders of this party, that, although fanatics in their cause they display a wonderful amount of sagacity in the choice of means and methods for compassing their ends. Their plans of operations for eluding the law where resistance would be dangerous or hopeless are remarkable for coolness of judgment and thoroughness in execution. Ministers, like von Puttkamer, defend the law against the Socialists on the ground that "Social Democracy, as far as it is of a revolutionary and subversive character, must hide its actions in darkness." But the concealment does not decrease but rather increases the efficiency of its organization. Thus, e. g., in direct contravention of the first paragraph of the Socialist law, which forbids all associations of a social Democratic tendency, they manage to spread their ramifications like a network all over the country. Although meetings of every Socialistic kind are strictly forbidden, yet, as a matter of fact, they are held whenever it is necessary for party purposes and under the very nose of the police authorities. The whole country is mapped out by the Socialists into electoral districts, officers in each case by trusted persons, who are delegated to provincial meetings, and these again act in concert with the common centre (Verkehrsstelle) in Switzerland. To facilitate intercourse in the

local centres without showing the suspicion of the authorities, the "travelling persons" of the district convene meetings from time to time which takes the form of friendly gatherings in houses of acquaintances into the country. Under the innocent title of singing classes, smoking clubs, and the like, associations are formed for party purposes. Sometimes the character and object of Socialist organizations and meetings are no secret to the authorities, but are connived at because it is not always desirable to act up to the utmost rigor of the law, or because it is advisable to ignore the illegality of the proceedings so as to gain information profitable to the powers that be. Much latitude of this kind is allowed at election time for obvious reasons.—[The Fortnightly Review.]

**Two Cautious Women.**

"All women are alike in their fear of the cars," said an Illinois Central conductor. "They carry their caution to absurd extremes. That reminds me of a little story. Down in the southern part of the State we have up at road crossings some of the old-fashioned signs. 'Look out for the cars when the bell rings.'"

"At one of the crossings the other day two women came up, driving an old horse hitched to a buggy. They looked all about and couldn't see any cars, but happened to read the sign."

"Stop," said one, "I hear a bell."

"They both listened, and sure enough, they heard a bell tinkling. One of the women got out, and amid considerable excitement took hold of the horse's bridle. The other one tightened her grip on the lines, set her jaws, and prepared for the worst. They looked anxiously up the track for the train, but still couldn't see it, though they could hear the bell a little plainer than before. They waited and waited.

"Five minutes passed, then ten, and still no train. The old horse went to sleep, while the women's nerves from long straining threatened to throw them into hysterics. Nearer and nearer came the bell against which the sign warned them, and so they stood still.

"In about a quarter of an hour an old brindle cow came walking down the pasture by the side of the track, chewing her cud and monotonously jingling her bell. One of the women cried from nervousness, and the other one got mad at the railroad company, and said they were nothing but mean old monopolies anyway."—Chicago Herald.

**The Expansion of Germany.**

In Germany itself the foundation of a colonial empire has come to be one of the most prominent of national questions; and, as is well-known, Prince Bismarck has placed himself at the head of this new and irresistible movement. The German nation has two objects in view—fresh openings and opportunities for its commerce and new fields for its redundant population, without that national severance from the mother country which is now the result of German settlement in Australia or North America. The Germans are becoming anxious ultimately to secure that emigration shall mean what it now means for Englishmen, not the loss of the national population, but merely its redistribution within the national boundaries. In the Fatherland these colonial aspirations are rapidly taking very practical shape. The Commercial Geographical Society of Berlin has for some years made a special advocacy of colonial extension, and now we have an actual Association for the Acquisition of Colonies, and among several new periodicals specially dealing with this subject, one—the *Deutsche Kolonial-Zeitung*—wholly devoted to securing a colonial empire for the German nation. German commercial energy is just now second only to that of England, and has established itself firmly on nearly every coast. But in regard to new fields for its redundant population no active measures have as yet been taken. It is true that until quite recently there was hardly any area of territory outside Germany that was German soil, and the consequence was that there was no predetermining cause of patriotism to direct the German emigrant to any particular locality. Thus it is that the German patriot is now keenly regretting that there are 7,000,000 of German born citizens in the United States; that much of the prosperity of Russia depends entirely on the German element in the population and that in the quondam Provinces of the Turkish Empire in South-eastern Europe Germans are forced to seek those opportunities from which they are crowded out in the Fatherland. And just as one cause of German emigration is avoidance of the conscription, so the denationalization of so many Germans of enterprise and spirit is regarded not only as so much loss of strength to the German nation, but as so much accession of strength to certain rivals and possible foes. All this is keenly felt in Germany and the argument is common, "Why should not Germany as well as England have new national territories sufficient for the expansion of the nation, sufficient to allow all Germans to push their way without being forced to sever themselves from the Fatherland?"—[The Nineteenth Century.]

"Mamma, be late suppers bad?" "Yes, my child, very bad." "What makes 'em bad?" "Why it injures the health to eat just before going to bed." "Oh, I thought maybe it injured the health to go to bed right after supper." Johnny wasn't hustled off to bed as early as usual that night, just the same.

"No, ma'am!" exclaimed the provoked young man to a young lady, who, on the return of her favorite, had asked him to accompany her to a concert. "No, my second fiddle to any one!" "No one," she asked you to play second fiddle," replied the girl with a smile: "I only asked you to be my beau."