

## USEFUL HINTS.

**UNBOILED CANDY.**—Use the whites of two or more eggs and take of cold water an equal amount. Beat together thoroughly and add powdered sugar, to make a thick paste, the same as for frosting cake. Drop on buttered papers, in shapes that please the eye, try round forms the size of a quarter of a dollar, flatten by placing the half meat of a nut—Brazil, hickory, or whatever kind you please,—on the top of every drop. A variety can be made by using chocolate, cocoa-nut, or whatever you please. Place the candies in a cool room to dry.

**RAIL-ROAD YEAST.**—Put to soak two yeast cakes, or use a cup of yeast. Stir together two tablespoonfuls of sugar, two of salt and three of flour. Put a small handful of hops into a pint of water, and when boiling strain on to the sugar, salt and flour. Stir so that the flour will not be in lumps and the hop water should be boiling so that the flour will be scalded. Pare 12 medium-sized potatoes and boil whole, pass through the colander, add one quart of boiling water, one of cold and the hop mixture. When cool, add the soaked yeast cakes or soft yeast and set in a warm—not too hot—place to rise for 24 hours. Stir occasionally. Then turn into a one-gallon jar, cork and keep where it is cool. Use two teacupfuls for four loaves of bread. Start the sponge in the morning and in two or three hours you can mix hard.

**TO PREVENT PIES BAKING OVER.**—Good pie apples, such as Greenings, do not require any water. Two or three tablespoonfuls are enough for poorer apples later in the season. Sweeten, season, and add a small piece of butter. Cut the under crust a little larger than the dish, lap it over the upper crust, pinch tight and mark with a fork.

**BROILED MACKEREL AND CREAM.**—Well-freshened salt mackerel, laid flat, skin side down in real cream or in mock-cream are quickly and easily cooked. Unless the fish has been more than usually freshened, it will salt the cream sufficiently. If it needs more, add it just before dishing it up. One pint of cream will broil one ordinary-sized pan or "spider" full,—say three good-sized or four smaller mackerel. Take out the fish carefully, lay on a deep plate or fish platter, pour the remaining cream over it, laying here and there pieces of best butter. (So called "cooking butter" should never be used anywhere, least of all, on fish or meat.) Fresh mackerel is nice, broiled in the same way, only that the cream will need salting before serving.

**BAKED FISH WITHOUT DRESSING.**—Lay a blue-fish flat in the baking-pan, pouring a half-cup of milk over it, as soon as it has begun to cook. Baste it occasionally with cold milk. Encircle it with pared potatoes, after it has been in the oven half-an-hour, and put a few drops on each potato to keep them from getting too crisp. If you are sufficiently fortunate to have a cup, or even half a cup, of sweet cream to use about one half-hour before it is done, the flavor will be wonderfully improved. Have ready some milk and a spoonful of flour, and make your "sauce" in the pan after taking out the fish and potatoes; the fish-juice will flavor the gravy pleasantly. Remember always the general rule for salting just before serving, particularly in all cases of milk. Seasoning of thyme, marjoram, summer savory, sage or parsley, can be added to all recipes at the will of the cook.

**SALT COD-FISH.**—Pare your potatoes, and lay the cod-fish, nicely skinned, on top of them. Boil and serve with a simple gravy of flour and water well cooked, seasoned, and heavily buttered. For breakfast "pick up" finely what is left, and, in the morning, heat over in just water enough to moisten it, butter and pepper it well, and spread like sandwiches on thin slices of bread made into egg-toast. Moisten your slices of bread in cold water, then dip in beaten eggs and milk and lay on a nicely-buttered frying-pan over a quick fire; turn bread quickly, spread on your fish and serve hot.

## Scotch and Irish Recruits.

Albeit an Englishman, I view the Scotch as best material for a soldier, provided he comes from the Highlands, and the game-keeper subordinate par excellence. Such birds cannot be caught readily now. Yet some five-and-thirty years back they came, with written characters often, and were taken in the regiment under a sense of mutual obligation. What were their exceptional qualifications? Well, first, physique and capacity for endurance. The recruit had learned to "rough" it in all weather, and frugally, on small means and poor food. Then he was educated, ergo intelligent and a reasoning being. Thirdly he was patient and persevering. Keep this man from drink, and self-respect and self-interest combined, the probability is that he would avoid pitfalls such as inhabitants of the two sister countries are prone to fall into. Thus Scotland furnishes a large quota of non-commissioned officers, probably three-fourths of those who subsequently rise to commissioned rank. The Lowlander (i. e. Paisley and Glasgow operative) is much on a par with his compeer from manufacturing towns in England. And both are inferior in physique and morale to the countryman. The English farm laborer I would place after the Scot in soldierly qualifications. He has—as much from antecedent life, it may be, as from ethnological type—less bottom, endurance, and certainly less self-dependence in emergency. The Northman has one "pull" over both other nationalities—a strong head. He can stand much drink, carries caution, too, in his very cups, and thus, as Sergeant-Majors well know, gains and retains good conduct badges. National temperament is, doubtless, much concerned in the proportion of army crime, irrespective of individual propensity. The Irishman will

become a raging lunatic for the time being; the Scot "quietly" querulous and self-controlled.

## A Ruse Dog.

One summer afternoon a group of children were playing at the end of the pier which projects into Lake Ontario, near Kingston. The proverbial careless child of the party made the proverbial backward step off from the pier into the water. None of his companions could save him and their cries had brought no one from the shore, when just as he was sinking for the third time, a superb Newfoundland-dog rushed down the pier into the water, and pulled the boy out. Those of the children who did not accompany the boy home took the dog to a confectioner's on the shore, and fed him with as great a variety of cakes and other sweets as he would eat. So far the story is, of course, only typical of scores of well-known cases. The individuality of this case is left for the sequel.

The next afternoon, the same group of children were playing at the same place, when the canine hero of the day before came trotting down to them with the most friendly wags and nods. There being no occasion this time for supplying him with delicacies, the children only stroked and patted him. The dog, however, had not come out of pure sociability. A child in the water and cakes and candy stood to him in the close and obvious relation of cause and effect, and if this relation was not clear to the children, he resolved to impress it upon them. Watching his chance, he crept up behind the child who was standing nearest the edge of the pier, gave a sudden push, which sent him into the water, then sprang in after him, and gravely brought him to shore.

To those of us who have had a high respect for the disinterestedness of dogs, this story may give a melancholy proof that the development of the intelligence, at the expense of the moral nature, is by no means exclusively human.

## The Fishing Industry.

Advices from St. John's indicate that the seal fishery this year has been unusually successful. Many steamers returned to port laden. The Newfoundland fleet have been extraordinarily lucky, but the risk to human life has been criminal. The steamer Ranger, with over 250 men on board, returned to St. John's with the largest catch for her tonnage ever taken into any port in the world. Thousands of people watched the entrance of the vessel into the harbor. She had a heavy list to port and was compelled to steam slowly, and had to creep home inch by inch. Fortunately, the sea was calm all the way. Her deck, covered to the top of the rails with 7,100 seals, was a novel sight never before seen in St. John's. The lazarette contained 750 and 250 were stowed under the bunks in which the men slept. Eight puncheons were filled with oil, and the rest was stowed in the hold. Two hundred and fifty sharks were killed on the voyage, and being short of coal, sharks' livers were used as fuel for three days. Had this ship encountered the slightest rough weather she must have foundered, and all on board would have been lost, as she carried no boats. It is understood that Halifax will be made the headquarters of the Dominion fleet which will after July 1 patrol the Canadian coast and seize all the American vessels fishing within a three-mile limit or putting into harbors for bait or supplies. Canada and Newfoundland will likely act in conjunction in this matter. The fleet will comprise fast schooners and steamers armed with two or three light guns and be commissioned as British cruisers. All American vessels captured in Dominion waters will be brought to Halifax and sold as prizes.

## Nora's Balance.

Last summer, during the excitement owing to bank failures, I was watching the anxious crowd besieging the doors of a bank that was supposed to be in danger, when I overheard the following dialogue between an Irish woman and her husband:

"Nora, dhraw yer money out."  
"An' shure, Patrick, I won't."  
"But, Nora, you musht draw it out."  
"Faith an' I won't dhraw me money out at all."  
"Nora, an' 'don't yees know they'll lose yer money for yees ef yees don't dhraw it out?"

"An' shure, Patrick ain't they better able to lose it than we are?"  
Patrick was evidently overpowered with this last astonishing and unanswerable argument, and they both left the scene apparently satisfied. Fortunately the bank survived the pressure, and its ability to lose Nora's balance was not practically tested.

## A Trial of Iron-Clads.

If the reports of the naval preparations Russia is making are true it is possible that, in the event of war between that country and England, an opportunity will be afforded, for the first time, of testing the merits of modern iron-clads. Hitherto these monuments of naval architecture have been built upon purely theoretical grounds. It is impossible to say what would be the result of a conflict between two fleets of iron-clads. Such a trial might prove that they were defective in wholly unexpected particulars, and that all of the great navies of the world needed to be rebuilt as thoroughly as they have been since the battle between the *Merrimac* and *Monitor*. Indeed, the only trial that has been put upon the modern iron-clad is in the contests that took place between vessels of this type during the war between Chili and Peru, and, for a number of reasons, naval experts have not considered these contests as test cases.

In the coal formations of the world 1,478 species of the fossil flora have been described.

## NEWSY ITEMS.

**Cotton Mills in Texas—Gum Arabic and the War—A New Industry in France, etc.**

Miss Isabella Oates has been appointed vaccination officer at Fordingbridge, England.

Texas will soon abound with cotton mills, says a San Antonio paper, which also chronicles the erection of a mill at Riverside at a cost of \$30,000.

The famous old English watering place of Bath has not been so crowded since the days of Jane Austin, fashionable doctors having again discovered the virtues of its waters.

At Castle Howard, Lord Carlisle's seat in Yorkshire, there is a guest house in the park where a month's rest, with good living, is provided each month for four hard-working women from large towns.

A small piece of what looked to him like glass was picked up in Macon, Ga., recently by a citizen of that place, who took it to a jeweller, by whom it was pronounced a diamond, and worth from \$800 to \$1,000.

The *Journal Official* presents figures to show that Paris is regaining its former prestige as a centre of medical instruction. In 1876 the number of students was 1,927, and in 1884 had increased to 4,547.

The office of the *London Times* has been so altered and rebuilt that it is unrecognizable by anyone who saw it a few years ago. The circulation is not thought to be now over 50,000, but the advertisements show no decline.

Last year's income of the Girard estate in Philadelphia was \$950,000. Its real estate alone is valued at \$7,346,000, besides the college buildings and grounds. The collieries of the estate produce 1,400,000 tons of coal during the year.

The loss of cattle in southwest Florida the past winter is reported greater than in any previous year, one stock raiser estimating his loss at 2,000 head. Pneumonia, a Georgia paper says, seems to have been the disease that played such havoc.

Gum arabic is rapidly rising in price. The average annual consumption is 9,000,000 pounds; the amount in market is only 4,000,000 pounds, and even if the war in the Soudan should be over in a few months, no part of the new crop could be received in Alexandria until next December.

The question of again opening the New Orleans Exposition on Nov. 1 is being agitated. Notwithstanding the expense that would be entailed during the five months intervening between the closing and reopening of the building, in the way of insurance, repairs, and police, it is believed that the enterprise may be made to pay.

At a wedding in Cork lately the bride's youngest brother, just out of a jacket, rose after the breakfast and said: "Ladies and gentlemen, I have to propose a toast, which must be drunk standing." The guests rose accordingly. "Now," said young hopeful, "if you will kindly keep on your legs for a few minutes I will find out who has been sitting on my new hat."

The white brick now made in France from the immense accumulations of waste sand at glass factories is likely to prove a valuable industry. The process of production consists in subjecting the sand to an immense hydraulic pressure and then baking in furnaces at a high temperature, so as to produce blocks of various forms and dimensions, of a uniform white color, and of almost pure silex. The product is unaffected by the heaviest frosts or by the sun or rain.

The *Union Medicale* is greatly pleased with a gigantic skeleton of the meridian elephant in the new gallery of paleontology in the Paris Museum. It is said to surpass in size the skeletons of the greatest mammoths and mastodons, and the fossil is exceptionally interesting in many ways. But the intense satisfaction of the French editor seems to arise chiefly from the fact that his countrymen need no longer envy the British Museum its collection of skeletons, "which," says the writer, "is a great point indeed."

The *Family Doctor* is the latest specimen of English medical literature, and is published weekly at a penny a copy. Such a journal might do great harm if the public could comprehend it, but anxious mothers and fathers will not be likely to look up such phrases as "diffuse hæmatoma," "divergent strabismus," &c., which occur in it. It has an amusing way of telling us what to do in emergencies, e. g.: "When there is any difficulty in judging betwixt arterial and venous hemorrhage, there may be both. Treat accordingly."

The claimant to the Lovat Scottish peerage, a gentleman of high respectability, alleges that his ancestor fled from Scotland and worked in the Welsh mines of Lords Anglesey and Powers (who befriended him) to avoid punishment for having, in a fit of rage, killed a piper. The signature of the fugitive miner on the pay rolls is said to correspond exactly with that of the missing heir. Meantime the existing Lord Lovat has an English peerage conferred on his father, to which the claimant to the Scotch peerage can prefer no claim.

The *Organ fur Oelhandel* gives an account of some experiments lately made at St. Petersburg with pyronaphtha, an illuminating oil, which Bellestein, the celebrated Russian chemist, thinks will supersede kerosene. It is said to be wholly free from danger of fire, and burning kerosene is easily extinguished by it. Pyronaphtha itself can be readily put out by water. It burns with a bright light, and gives off no smoke or vapor, while the fact that it is a residual product of the Bakuj distillation of petroleum makes it cost less than kerosene.

## Indian Warriors.

The Indians with Iron Horse came directly to headquarters and asked for a council. As many as could get into the General's room entered. There was time while they were preparing, to send for the ladies, and a few of us were tucked away on the lounge with instructions not to move or whisper, for my husband treated these Indians with as much consideration as if they had been crowned heads. The Indians turned a surprised, rather scornful glance into the "ladies gallery," for their women are always kept in the background. In return for this we did not hesitate to criticize their toilets. They were gorgeous in full dress. Iron Horse wore an elaborately beaded and painted buckskin shirt, with masses of solid embroidery of porcupine quills. The sleeves and shoulders were ornamented with a fringe of scalp locks. Some of the hair we saw with a shudder was light and wavy. I could not but picture the little head "running over with curls" from which it had been taken, for all the Indian locks I have ever seen were straight and black.

The chief wore on his shoulders a sort of cape, trimmed with a fringe of snowy ermine. His leggings were a mass of bead work. He wore a cap of otter without a crown, though, for it is their custom to leave the top of the head uncovered. Three eagle feathers that denote the number of warriors killed, were so fastened in that they stood erect. There were several perforations in each ear from which depended bead ear-rings. He had armlets of burnished brass; thrown round him was a beaded blanket. The red clay pipe had the wooden stem inlaid with silver, and was embellished with the broad feathers of brilliantly plumaged birds. The tobacco bag, about two feet long, had not an inch that was not decorated. The costume was simply superb.

## The Key of India.

The state of Herat as a fortress is abominable. There is more dirt and decay in and about it, just because it is bigger than the other places, like Kusan or Penjeh. But in the opinion of the few Englishmen who have visited Herat in the course of the present century, it might be made capable of offering the most stubborn resistance even to European besiegers. It has never yet been besieged by a European army, though European officers have assisted in its defence and its assault. Russian officers were pitted against an Englishman—the brave Eldred Pottinger—in 1837. They accompanied the Persian army of 35,000 men, which besieged Herat at that period, and which, after ten months, was forced to give up the attempt. The Persians pounded the town with fifty pieces of artillery. The success of the resistance was entirely owing to the genius and the personal influence of the young British soldier. If ever there is another siege of Herat, the assailants will be much more formidable than the raw levies of the "King of Kings," Mahomed Shah, were in 1837. Pottinger found the fortifications of Herat in a ruinous condition, and little or nothing had been done since his day to repair them.

Herat is fortified by "outworks and wall round the town." The outworks, however, are very few. The main line of fortifications may be described as a wall about 25 feet high, built on huge earthworks, and surrounded by a ditch about 40 feet wide and sixteen deep. The whole enclosure is in the form of a square, or rather oblong—about 1,600 yards long by 1,500 yards wide. The ditch is, or may be, flooded from the Heri Rud River, which flows westwards to Kusan, and thence northwards past Sarakhs, and onwards to the Turcoman desert. But though strongly built, the quadrangle earthworks with their superincumbent wall, are, in a military sense, extremely weak. Each side of the quadrangle is straight—in other words there are no outrunning angles for flank firing purposes. There are no outworks at the corners of the quadrangle. The northern side, however, is more strongly defended than the eastern, southern, or western. An enemy in possession of the surrounding country would soon starve out the garrison, and, by intercepting the Heri Rud, render the vast ditches useless. In the centre of the town there are vast cisterns, in which it has been alleged water may be stored up in sufficient quantity to supply the civil population and the garrison, for twelve months. But it appears, too, that the water stores might be destroyed with the greatest ease by cannonade from the elevated ground on the northern side of the city.

## Two Boot-Blacks.

A few days ago, during a lull in business, two little boot blacks, one white and the other black, were standing at a street corner doing nothing, when the white boot black agreed to black the black boot black's boots. The black boot black was of course willing to have his boots blacked by his fellow boot black, and the boot black who had agreed to black the black boot black's boots went to work. When the boot black had blacked one of the black boot-black's boots till it shone in a manner that would make any boot-black proud, this boot-black who had agreed to black the black boot-black's boots, refused to black the other boot of the black boot black until the black boot black who had consented to have the white boot-black black his boots should add twopence to the amount the white boot-black had made blacking other person's boots. This the boot-black whose boot had been blacked refused to do, saying it was good enough for a black boot-black to have one boot blacked, and he did not care whether the boot that the boot-black had not blacked was blacked or not. This made the boot-black who had blacked the black boot black's boot as angry as a boot-black often gets; and he vented his black wrath by spitting upon the black boot of the black

boot-black. This roused the latent passions of the black boot-black, and he proceeded to boot the white boot-black with the boot which the white boot-black had blacked. A fight ensued, in which the white boot black who had refused to black the unblack boot of the black boot-black, blacked the black boot black's visionary organ, and in which the black boot black wore the blacking off his boot in booting the white boot black.

## Pronunciation of Afghan Words.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* supplies the following information: Of the Afghan proper the following are the most important tribes: The Durrani (pronounced dorahny), who occupy the whole of the south and southwest of the Afghan plateau; the Ghizis, a brave and strong people, who at one time held sway in Persia and who are now located in a high plateau north of Candahar; the Yusufzais, whose home lies north of Peshawar and the Kakars, holding the region to the southwest, bordering on Beloochistan.

The Pathans are a people of doubtful origin, who inhabit the spurs of the Suliman mountains. The Kuzilbashes are a Persian tribe, speaking pure Persian, and who when not soldiers, are scattered throughout the towns and villages as doctors, scribes, etc., forming the better-educated portion of the population.

The language of the country is Pushtu, belonging to the Aryan or Indo-European stock; but the educated Afghans all speak Persian. All tribes are alike in their characteristics—brave, independent but of a turbulent, vindictive character; they are only happy when fighting. Since they have been known in history they have lived in a state of chronic warfare.

Revenge is a virtue among them; as with the Corsican vendetta, retribution passes from father to son, and murder becomes a solemn duty. An Afghan is either a soldier, a farmer on a small scale or a shepherd; never a trader; trade is left for the Hindus or other aliens.

These mountaineers have certainly redeeming traits; they are of a cheerful, lively disposition, hospitable and generous; a stranger is always welcomed, and even a deadly enemy is safe under an Afghan's roof.

Cabul is pronounced Kawble, Murr is pronounced Mahriv; Herat is pronounced Hereht, Kurrachee is pronounced K'rahchy; Peshawar is pronounced Peshower.

The accent on Afghanistan is on the second syllable. In such words as Bolan, Robart, etc., the accent is on the second syllable, and the "a" is pronounced broad, like "ah."

## A Clergyman's Ghost Story.

Here is a tolerably good ghost story. There is a certain well known country house in a certain English county which has the advantage, or the disadvantage of being haunted. Lately the house was rather full, and a visitor, a London clergyman, was put into this famous haunted room. His host did not tell him of the fact that the room was haunted, thinking, no doubt, that his religious character would be a sufficient guarantee against any disturbance of his slumbers through visits from the spirit-world. At the same time he felt a little anxious, and was greatly relieved the next morning to find the reverend gentleman at breakfast with as cheery an air of successful slumber as possible. The next morning, and the next, he came down with that same light-hearted aspect which only those who have enjoyed peaceful dreams can wear. At last the host thought he might safely mention to his clerical visitor that he had been sleeping in a haunted room, and congratulated him on having seen nothing out of the common. "Seen nothing?" replied the visitor, "Oh, stop a bit, though; I did see something. There was a grave silence round the breakfast table; all clatter was hushed, and every eye was turned upon the speaker. "Yes, yes, of course," the clergyman resumed; "on the very first night which I passed here I was awakened in the middle of the night by what seemed like a touch upon my shoulder, and, on looking up, I saw the figure of a man in the room." Here, to the intense horror of the whole company, the clergyman gave a very correct description of the particular apparition which always honored this room with its wanderings. "How could you bear it? What did you do?" were questions which immediately succeeded upon the awe-struck silence. "Do?" replied the clergyman. "Why, I asked him for a subscription to my next Sunday school picnic, and the spectre vanished immediately."

## Diamonds Found in a Dream.

A. Dessau, the diamond importer, has just received from south Africa two stones which he says are the largest diamonds in the world. They weigh in the rough 27½ and 17¼ carats respectively. The first is somewhat faulty and will lose half its weight in cutting, but it is expected to turn out 135 carats. Its value can only be determined after it has been cut. The second is relied upon to turn out at least ninety carats. Mr Dessau is the importer of the "Cleveland gem," which weighs 42½ carats. He tells a strange story of the loss and recovery of two packages of diamonds about two months ago. They were in charge of Mr. Kennedy, his agent, and weighed in all about 100 carats, and were worth about \$2,000. Mr. Kennedy was taking them to the New Orleans exposition. When he reached New Orleans he found that his diamonds were missing. Pinkerton's detectives were sent out to hunt them up, but their efforts were unavailing. About ten days ago Mr. Kennedy says he had a dream in which he thought he had lost the gems in the car and they were swept out by the porter. The next morning he hunted up the porter and gave him \$10 to show him the dirt heap where he usually dumped the contents of his dust-pans. After a prolonged search in the dirt the diamonds were found intact.