

## HOUSEHOLD.

### KITCHEN WISDOM.

Stand your mould in ice water for an hour before using.

A deep sea of cottonseed oil is a fine thing to fry in.

Onions are the best green vegetable, save spinach.

No one will be the wiser if you eat boiled onions with cream sauce, provided in boiling them you keep them below the boiling point. Onion juice figures in all sauces.

It is not what we eat, but how we cook it.

Do not buy celery seed mixed with other seasoning.

A tough merengue means too little sugar.

The dusting of pulverized sugar just as it goes in the oven to brown prevents it from shrinking. The sugar melts and forms a crust.

If all the sugar is passed through a sieve it is less work to beat it.

Insist upon conveniences. It is criminal to stoop over a table. Since you can't shrink, insist that the table be made higher.

Those who consider everything too much trouble have been known, it seems, to turn out a can of tomatoes and simply eat them with vinegar.

If we ate properly the physician would lose his occupation. And we can eat for what we want—to get fat, to get lean, to be nervous, or phlegmatic, or to stop to encourage the ravages of disease. An "open door" awaits them all. Is it too much to hope that the twentieth century will see a law compelling cooks to take a medical course?

### LOOSE CORSET COVERS.

One of the evidences of spring is a loose corset cover, made from web embroidery, which is neither muslin nor lace, but an imitation of both in entredeux fashion; a length of one and of the other.

The fabric is not expensive, and the result really is pretty, if one is not insistent upon real lace or something which you could readily mistake for it.

The new corset covers depart from the model of what is merely useful and reject the present feminine demand for what is slightly, even though unseen.

But one is not certain that the new lace, by courtesy, stay protection will not be seen through a waist lightly. They are made no longer than the belt line, and, while not sagging in the back, are allowed to sit loosely by means of a ribbon running around the waist line and tying in front.

In front, too, the covers blouse quite as much as the new shirt waists, which blouse is noticeable, though not pronounced. Certain of these engaging little garments are without shoulder straps from muslin or embroidery, depending wholly on their support upon half-inch ribbons tied on the shoulders.

### SERVING CANNED VEGETABLES.

**Creamed Peas.**—Drain and rinse a can of peas with cold water; stew fifteen minutes in a little hot water. Heat two tablespoonfuls of butter in a frying pan, thicken with one tablespoonful of flour, add one half cupful of corn and stir constantly until it thickens. Now add the peas and one teaspoonful of granulated sugar.

**Cream of Peas Soup.**—Cover two cupfuls of peas with cold water, cook until tender. Rub half the peas through a sieve. Scald one half pint of milk. Rub one tablespoonful of butter and one of flour together. Add the floured butter and milk to the strained peas. When the soup thickens add a cupful of cream, the remainder of the peas, pepper and salt.

**Stew of Lamb with Peas.**—The neck of a lamb may be used for this dish. The meat should be cut into pieces and sufficient water added to cover it, cook until tender, skimming. Drain the liquid from the peas, add a little water and when tender a little cream and also a little piece of floured butter, season with pepper, add to the lamb. Simmer a moment, serve immediately. For a dainty breakfast dish, shape slices of bread with a biscuit cutter, toast, spread with butter, place a poached or baked egg on each and pour the stewed and well-seasoned peas around. Peas are often used to garnish chicken cutlets, and are also served with lamb chops, lamb fritters, etc. Peas are delicious used with a plain breakfast omelet as recommended above for tomatoes.

**Salad of String Beans.**—Recook the beans. After draining place on ice. When thoroughly cold serve with mayonnaise.

**Lima Beans.**—Cover lima beans with boiling water. Cook them until tender. After draining add a large tablespoonful of butter, and a cupful of white stock. Use a seasoning of pepper salt and celery salt. An unusual and appetizing dish is made of cold lima beans and stewed tomatoes, scalloped. The tomatoes are drained; the vegetables arranged in layers; a few fine buttered breadcrumbs scattered on top, a seasoning of pepper and salt.

**Salad of Lima Beans.**—Boil in salted water two cupfuls of beans. Thinly slice three boiled potatoes. Sprinkle generously chopped celery over the potatoes and beans. Serve cold with a French dressing.

**Stewed Mushrooms.**—To every can of mushrooms add half a cupful of cold

water and salt and pepper to taste, simmer five minutes. Rub one tablespoonful of butter and one half a tablespoonful of flour together; rub smooth and then with a little of the mushroom liquid, stir into the mushrooms and continue stirring until it is smooth. Remove from the stove, add one teaspoonful of lemon juice, or three tablespoonfuls of rich cream and serve. Stewed mushrooms are excellent on toast.

**Baked Mushrooms.**—Butter a baking dish; season one can of mushrooms with one teaspoonful of lemon juice, and one tablespoonful of chopped parsley, pour into the dish and bake fifteen minutes, basting twice with melted butter. Serve in a warm dish, season with salt and pepper, and pour the butter in the pan over the mushrooms. Mushrooms are also delicious scalloped. Cover until sufficiently cooked, then remove the cover and brown.

The old-fashioned method of making pumpkin pie is varied by using a merengue or by making tartlets.

### LAYING A FIRE.

In laying a fire much paper and wood are often wasted. Most housewives cram a piece of paper tightly down, place a heavy layer of wood on top of it and cover this thickly with lumps of coal. Then they are surprised because the fire will not burn.

The wood for the morning fire ought to be placed on the rack the night before. The bundles become thoroughly dry and ignite quicker. To light a fire the paper should be loosely arranged and the sticks of wood placed leaning against it. Everything burns quicker when placed in an upright position. Small pieces of coal from yesterday's fire should be placed lightly about the wood and space between allowed for the air to circulate.

A fire thus made will use less paper and wood and burn much quicker than if kindled by the method mostly practiced. If ash-trays were more generally placed below the gate the labor of cleaning the latter would be considerably reduced and the dust caused by sweeping up the ashes would be reduced to a minimum.

### HOW TO BREW TEA.

Lovers of tea will tell you, with a wise shake of the head that tea should never be allowed to steep for any length of time and should never be used a second time. The latter rule is particularly insisted upon, yet the Chinese, who must certainly be looked upon as good authorities on the tea question, say to the contrary. The Chinese put tea into their little tea bowls, let it steep a very short time, pour off the liquid and drink it, and then add more water to the leaves. The tea from this second brewing is the better, they say. It has not the roughness of taste of the first brew. Good tea, taken in moderation and properly prepared, is pronounced by doctors to be a stimulant to the nervous system.

### ROLLERS FOR LINEN.

When spread out in a box or in drawer, ornamental linen centrepieces and doilies easily become wrinkled. To prevent this make some rollers from a curtain pole two inches in diameter. Saw this into convenient lengths and roll one or two pieces around it.

Rollers of the same sort are excellent for handsome tablecloths. Iron the cloths perfectly dry, fold twice lengthwise, and roll careully.

A real convenience for the home dressmaker can also be made by padding a piece of the same sized curtain pole about two feet long with Canton flannel and pressing bodice seams over it.

### YOUNG FOLKS' PRETTY FROCKS.

Dress for little children is rather simple this season, but the styles are so pretty and the colors so becoming that the effect is harmonious and striking. White, red, tan and brown are the colors of the season, and all white is still in favor for infants of either sex.

Red is a fashionable color for small girls, or a combination of red and white is also affected. A red hat and coat looks well with a white frock and black boots and stockings, but tan hose and boots are generally worn with red toilettes. Very chic for a child of five or six is a red coat and skirt, red stockings, black shoes, and a big black hat, or equally so is a long tan coat with big white buttons, and triple capes, of which the lower one is quite full, and the others flat. A big brown hat with natural plumes, and tan boots and hosiery complete this toilette.

Fawn, beaver, tan, and the lighter brown shades are very popular, both for boys and girls. A delightful example for a tiny girl is a long cloak of palest fawn cloth, with cape bordered with dark brown fur, and brown horn buttons, brown shoes and stockings, and a big felt hat in a pale color, trimmed with brown, and in front a couple of pompons of turquoise silk. A stylish brown costume for a boy of six or seven consists of brown boots and gaiters, tan-colored covert coat, and baggy knickerbockers, and a hat in brown felt, with light pompons.

### AWFUL EXPERIENCE.

Hungry Higgins—Whatever you do, don't never let no old jay coax you into getting a hard-rod jag.

Wary Watkins—Such a headache? Headache? You get plumb bug-house. Time I got roped in on the game, I sawed a half a cord of wood before I knowed what I was doin'.

## HE FOUND THAT IT PAID.

"Wait a minute Will."

"What for?"

"I want to get that bunch of blue-bells."

Ned laid down his fishing-tackle and sprang over a fence, presently to return with a handful of flowers, with their dainty coloring thrown out by a background of two or three ferns.

"You're a great fellow for flowers."

"Oh, they're not for myself; but mother's always crazy over wild flowers."

And all through the walk home, notwithstanding he was already well-laden with rod and fishing-basket, Ned gave good heed to his flowers, once stopping to wet his handkerchief to wrap about the stems, that they might not suffer from the warmth of his hand.

"There she is!" While still at a distance Ned spied his mother, and made a dash toward her across the large yard. Will, following more slowly saw him drop his rod, and take off his hat as he offered the flowers with a bow and a smile. A little stir of pain was in Will's heart, as he saw them received with a kiss and some words, evidently loving ones, which he could not hear.

"Come round to the barn with your traps, and then you can stay to supper; mother says so," said Ned, rejoining his friend.

"You're different from most boys," said Will; and Ned colored a little, for he was inwardly a trifle afraid of his mother's display of fondness provoking ridicule from the boys.

"How?" he asked, although knowing well what was meant.

"Oh—that," said Will, with an indefinite backward nod over his shoulder. "But I like it—no, really."

"I like it," said Ned, his deepening color now due to feeling. "Don't know how I'd get along if my mother wasn't just that way. And, as she is just that way, too? Of course it comes natural that I should be."

Ned's mother, if she had heard this, might have smiled in remembrance of the many lessons it had taken to inculcate the grace of politeness, which was now, indeed, if not natural, rapidly becoming second nature to the boy.

"If I had a mother, I'd like to be so," said Will.

"Well, it isn't only just mothers, you know. That is, of course, nobody else can be like your mother; but I mean you can be it to other folks—in a way; to anybody in our home. They all like it."

Will burst into a laugh.

"All, hey I wish you knew my Aunt Susan. But you will, for now we're getting settled, you must come over. You'll laugh at the idea of such doings for her. Why, if I should bring her a flower or take off my hat to her, she wouldn't know what to make of it. She'd think I was crazy."

"I don't believe it," said Ned. "That is, if she's a good woman. And of course," he added, in quick politeness, "your aunt must be."

"Good! I guess she is! She's so good herself she thinks there's no good in such a thing as a boy. I believe she thinks boys were only made to be a torment to such as she."

"Some boys are, I suppose."

Will colored a little as he inwardly realized that Aunt Susan might be somewhat justified in holding such an opinion.

"Well," continued Ned, "I thought all ladies liked flowers, and liked to be nicely treated, too. And," he added stoutly, "I think so still."

"I don't believe Aunt Susan would take the trouble to notice either flowers or nice behavior," replied Will.

"Have you ever tried?"

Boys are not much in the habit of reading moral lectures to one another, so it is not likely Ned would have enlarged on the subject, even if they had not just then been ready to carry in their string of fish, to be duly admired by Ned's mother.

But Ned's lightly spoken, and quickly by him forgotten question, returned to Will's mind, as, later, he walked alone in the direction of his own home.

"Have you ever tried?"

"Well, I haven't, that's a fact. But," he gave a little laugh, "the idea of bringing flowers to Aunt Susan! Fancy her stare! She would not know what to make of it."

But the remembrance of Ned's graceful thought of his mother, and the sweetness of the caressing tenderness between mother and son, had touched the conscience as well as the heart of the motherless boy.

"If it wasn't flowers, I suppose it might be something else. She's as stiff and proper as a poker, and I suppose a boy might smile, and bow, and be polite all his life, and she'd never know but that he was cutting up some new kind of pranks. But, then, perhaps it's no wonder. She doesn't know much about any boy but me. I guess she thinks all they're good for is to carry mud in on their shoes, and slam doors, and leave the flyscreens open, and be late to meals. But, I say—I've a great mind to try Ned's way; that is, partly—just for the fun of seeing how she'll take it." With which determination Will walked around the house, to find his aunt approaching the side door with a huge parcel in her arms. At any other time he would not have troubled him-

self about this, but now he stepped up and opened the door for her. She took little notice of him except to ask:

"Do you know where Hiram is?"

"No, I don't."

"I've been looking for him. I want to send this bundle down to Mrs. Brown's."

She passed on through the hall as if speaking more to herself than to any one else. Will was rushing up to his room two steps at a time, when he suddenly paused—

"I'll take it to her, Aunt Susan."

She stopped and looked at him unsmilingly, concluding at once in her own mind that he had some business of his own that way, yet still surprised that he should be willing to include in it a service for her self.

"Well, if it won't bother you," she said.

More intercourse with Ned awakened in Will a more honest resolution to make the best of himself in the matter of grace of manner and behavior. It is a pity that every boy should not reflect how largely his conduct influences those among whom he is thrown. Will increased his efforts to avoid small annoyances to his aunt, and began showing her small attentions, which sometimes won for him an approving smile.

He began to feel touched and conscience-smitten at perceiving that what he had begun in an unworthy spirit of fun should be making the impression on Aunt Susan which should belong with honest effort. It was pleasant to the boy whose home-life was so lonely to find himself looking for Aunt Susan's smile, and for the softened voice in which she answered his good-morning. And one day he ran up to his room, and laughed by himself till he was out of breath.

"I took off my hat to her as I met her on the corner, and she actually turned red with astonishment."

"More shame for me that it should take her off her feet so," came with a sober reflection. "If I've done it in her before, I'll do it in earnest now. I think it pays for a boy to be decent in his ways, whether anybody notices it or not. It pays just in the feeling he has himself."

Which was as wise a conclusion as a boy often arrives at.

### HIGH COLLARS SPOIL BEAUTY.

Artists assert that the high collars now worn by young women have destroyed the pose of the head and the lines of the neck. An artist who has studied the originals of the old masters for years says the human form has not only suffered by the use of unnatural collars, but that many of the most beautiful lines have been lost through their influence.

Wearing a stiff, high neckband will change the pose of the head to a marked degree, and this habit, continued through many years, causes important changes in the muscles of the neck, which soon become permanent. From an artistic standpoint there has been a considerable change in the ideal of feminine beauty during recent years, and a comparison of paintings of women by old masters and by modern artists show a surprising difference, so far as the neck is concerned.

In old paintings the pose of the head is perfectly natural and graceful, and the lines of the neck are round and in graceful curves. In modern studies of woman's figure the curves of the neck and shoulders have almost disappeared.

The effect of the high collar is frequently hurtful from the health point of view. A very high band about the neck tends to strain the muscles, and, incidentally, the cords of the neck and shoulders. If the collar be very high in front it will impede the circulation, and in time result in headaches and nervous strain. It is also thought that high and stiff neck bands are responsible, by impeding circulation, for much of the bad sight of the present day.

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### FRUIT TREES ALONG HIGHWAYS.

The cultivation of fruit trees along the high roads of France is being extended year by year. Following the example of the Government, the communes in certain departments adopted the practice as a sort of revenue, and now it has become an important branch of national industry. In Germany, Belgium and the Duchy of Luxembourg also the system is being rapidly developed. Last year the fruit harvest from the roads of Wurtemberg amounted to more than \$600,000 as compared with \$200,000 in 1878; for the last 13 years Saxony has gained a revenue of about \$340,000, from the same source; and Belgium's three-quarters of a million fruit trees, planted along the roads in 1894, now furnish \$200,000.

### FASHION AND FABRIC.

The new jet and cut steel embroideries are quaint and elaborate in design, and the work on net, velvet or satin is very beautifully executed.

The new weaves of lustrous corded silks that are in such high vogue this season share with satin the honor of making special gowns of ceremony.

More and more svelt and clinging, if this be possible, grow the dress skirts, tunics, princess robes and long plumed and tablier effects on the front and sides of the gown.

Very handsome ball dresses are this season made of chenille dotted net over satin, trimmed with very fluffed ruffles of chiffon bordered with tiny lines of chenille the color of the dot in the net.

All sorts of quaintly flounced polonaises, redingotes, newmarkets, camisols and princess shaped cloak dresses, with loose, curved fronts and bishop sleeves, prevail among the unusual variety of winter wraps.

Among the gray furs zibelline, Persian lamb and chinchilla are the most fashionable used this winter. Chinchilla is one of the most expensive and certainly it is the least durable and less becoming than the other pelts.

Many of the new French demidress gowns are made with three or five overlapping flounces arranged upon a very closely fitting foundation skirt which expands very much on the lower portion. The round waist is joined, or else cut in one with the upper flounce.

Very novel and pretty effects are employed in decorating the tops of new winter sleeves that are as close fitting as they can comfortably be worn. Crescent shaped puffs of fur or velvet, vandykes covered with special pieces in passementerie, stitched straps and Queen Bess puffs slashed and laced across all are used.

Italian red, much like the tint of the heart of a Jack rose, is a marked favorite in the brilliant winter list of colors, and cloth gowns of this becoming shade, with sable, mink, otter or fox band collar and revers by way of trimming, are considered among the smartest of the winter styles for youthful wearers.

### ORCHARD AND GARDEN.

Wire is better than wood for any kind of grape trellis.

The older a tree gets the less adapted it is to transplanting.

Give the orchard good care. It will pay better than any other labor.

Too much manure before the tree comes into bearing often induces an excessive growth of wood at the expense of fruit.

In lifting trees for transplanting secure all the roots possible—not so much the stout roots as the fine, threadlike or fibrous ones.

Mulching continually is a dangerous practice, as it draws the roots too near the surface, so that they lose their hold upon the soil.

House plants will need watering usually once or twice a week. One thorough watering a week will give better results than a daily sprinkling.

Drainage is necessary for success in the growing of plants in window boxes as well as every place else. See that it is provided when the dirt is put into the boxes.

In raising trees or plants from cuttings the important point is to have the callus formed as soon as possible, so that the emission of roots will be a little ahead of the unfolding of the leaves.—St. Louis Republic.

### THE COOKBOOK.

Raisins are most easily seeded by pouring boiling water over them, letting it stand a few minutes and pouring it off. Then the seeds can be removed without much trouble.

It is said that cake that is stale and dry may be freshened so as to seem newly baked by putting it in a tin, covering the tin with another pan and leaving the whole in a warm oven for 20 minutes.

The secret of good cranberry sauce is the use of a very little water and quick cooking. Eight or ten minutes is long enough, as otherwise the bitter taste of the seeds is developed. A small cup of water to a quart of cranberries is sufficient. The sugar is added just as the sauce is taken from the stove.

A common fault with the usual way of cooking scrambled eggs is that they are cooked so hard as to be indigestible. This may be obviated by allowing a tablespoonful of milk or water to each egg, cooking the mixture only until it is creamy and stirring meanwhile with a fork. Strained tomato may be substituted for the water or cream, and the mixture served on hot buttered toast.

### TOWN TOPICS.

Truth is stranger than the estimated population of Chicago.—Adams Freeman.

Kansas City gives an excuse for her footpads that the streets are slippery and the police are unable to hold up the pedestrians.

The person who wrote "The Beautiful Snow" never saw a snowfall in Kansas City after it had been let alone for about a week by the street cleaning department.—Kansas City Star.

Captain Sigbee's presentation of a Bible to the St. Paul Commercial club appears to be a hint to that body that there are some standard works it doesn't read enough.

### Go Well Together.

"Why do you say he's a good match for that grass widow?"

"Because he's a rake."—Philadelphia Bulletin.

### His Reason.

"Why do you always ride in the smoking car? You don't smoke?"

"I ride in the smoking car," replied the man to whom the question was addressed, "to escape from the effusive gratitude of the young women to whom I always have to give up my seat when I ride in any of the other cars."

But there was a hard, metallic, ironical sort of ring in his voice.—Chicago Tribune.