

The Home.

STEAMING PLANTS.

A woman famous among her friends for thrifty house plants ascribes her success to her practice of steaming them. "Whenever they begin to droop and look as if they needed 'toning up' they get a treatment," she said recently. She has a row of hooks arranged on the bathroom wall over the tub and from these she suspends the pots by strings to within two feet of the water, the plants having previously had a thorough watering. The door and window are closed with the exception of a narrow crack left at the top of one of the latter, and the tub is filled with water hot enough to allow a gentle steam to rise and pervade the atmosphere. In this position the plants are left for an hour, and the operation is repeated until they are restored to health. This, of course, can only be done in a room with painted walls, as the constant steaming will loosen paper.

If the cause of blight is a worm at the root, the steaming will not avail, and, according to this successful gardener, an investigation is a simple matter. A plant of average size can be removed from the pot by turning it upside down, holding the base of the plant firmly, and letting the ball of earth fall into the hand. A gentle tapping on the side of the pot will facilitate this. Usually the worm will be found near side of the pot.

If, however, it cannot be seen, another test can be made. A round stick with rough edges—or, better yet, a round file—pushed into the soil close to one side of the pot, and gently turned so as to produce a soft grinding sound, will after several minutes drive the worm to the surface. The experiment is one sure to entertain children. "There! Tell me a worm doesn't think!" said a woman the other day as a long slender angle-worm wriggled out of the pot to the floor. This method is not unknown to boy fishermen, who employ it in the soil to call forth the bait.

Few people meet with success in the care of fern balls, and this is probably due to two causes; either cheap ones are bought, or they are not kept wet enough. Once the roots suffer from lack of water the fate of the plant is sealed. Like all plants which are surrounded on all sides by the air, they should have a large quantity of water. A good plan is to arrange a hook over the shelf in the butler's pantry or some similar place, and every morning fill the sink with tepid water, plunge the plant in it and soak it for ten or fifteen minutes, and a longer time will not hurt it. Then hang it on the hook over the sink and let it drain thoroughly before returning it to the window. The fern ball wants plenty of light, but no direct sun. It should never, even in the summer, be hung out of doors, because it does not take kindly to draughts.

TESTED RECIPES.

Creamed Cod.—To one pint of hot mashed potatoes add one beaten egg, a gill of milk, and salt and pepper to taste; beat with a fork until very light. Tear one pound of boneless cod in pieces and scald it, put over a slow fire putting it on in cold water; when it comes to a boil, drain and repeat the process; drain again and press until dry. Make a sauce with a tablespoon of butter and two level spoonfuls of flour; add one pint of hot milk, and when it thickens season with pepper and add the fish. Butter a pudding dish, and line the bottom and sides an inch thick with the mashed potatoes; fill with the cod and white sauce; cover with a nice brown.

Potato Puffs.—Boil and mash the potatoes, and while hot make into balls the size of a large egg. Butter a tin sheet, brush over the balls with yolk of an egg and brown them quickly in a hot oven, which will take from five to ten minutes. Slip them from the tin with a knife to a hot platter and serve at once.

Watermelon Cake.—This cake consists of two parts, the white and the red. For the white part take two cups of sugar and one of butter; beat them to a cream, add a scant cup of sweet milk, the whites of six eggs, two teaspoons of cream of tartar, one of soda, or three level teaspoons of baking powder, and three and a half cups of flour. For the red part take one cup of red sugar, which may be obtained at a confectioner's or a drug store, and half a cup of butter, a third of a cup of milk, two cups of flour, the whites of four eggs, a teaspoonful of cream of tartar, half a teaspoon of soda, two level teaspoons of baking powder, and one teacup full of stoned raisins. Take an oval pan, or if you have none a round pan will do, line it carefully with buttered paper, and pour in a little over an inch in thickness of the white cake. Line the sides with the remainder, making the thickness of the white cake uniform everywhere with the bottom. Pour the red cake in the centre. It is better to have two persons at work in filling the cake mould, as there is some difficulty in keeping the red and white layers apart at the sides. Baked in a melon mould and iced thickly with icings colored



CANADIANS IN WEST AFRICA

Major W. C. Heneker and the Officers of the Third West African Force Enjoying a Meal After a Hard Day's Work.

The West African expedition now progressing towards Benin City is of especial interest to Canadians, because its commanding officer, Major Heneker, is a Canadian son of Mr. R. W. Heneker, of Sherbrooke, Que., and the transport officer is Lieut. W. F. W. Carstairs, formerly a captain in the 50th Prescott Battalion Canadian militia. The expedition started from Old Calabar for Benin City early in February, and had, up to recent advices, a very hard time of it. Lieut. Carstairs, under date of Immertermiga, March 25, said: "For the past two weeks it has been fight, fight, fight, every day, but we have wiped the enemy out or nearly so. I was wounded on the 20th inst. in the right forearm and left leg, but am happy to say, that I am fast recovering." In

another letter from Ekiaga, on February 14, Captain Carstairs, said: "We have just captured this town of about 30,000 or 40,000, without a single casualty. We expect to add at least 4,000,000 people to the empire in this expedition."

The scene of the above illustration is laid in the Ubium country to the north of Opobo, in Southern Nigeria. A truculent tribe had closed the mail route, and threatened to kill any white men and soldiers who appeared. Major Heneker was ordered to take two companies, one seven-pounder, one Maxim, and one rocket tube, and to proceed to the place, and there bring the tribe to its proper state of submission. This was achieved with twenty casualties only, after twelve towns had been attacked and destroyed.

While not as exciting in the way of sensational incidents as Sir Frederick Hodgson's journey to the coast from the Ashanti capital, this expedition, in which Canadians have figured so prominently, has been of great value to the Empire, and proves once more how capable the Sons of the Maple are to do any work that they may be called upon to do in behalf of the flag and the extension of the Empire.

with spinach green, or white icings, in which half a cup of finely chopped pistachio nuts have been stirred, this cake is very ornamental.

Soft ginger cakes are made as follows: One cupful of molasses, one cupful of sugar, one cupful of butter, one cupful of sour cream, four eggs, one teaspoonful of soda, one tablespoonful of ginger, and flour to make a stiff batter. Bake in small pans.

IT HAS BEEN NOTICED.
That some cooks beat eggs on a soup plate, using a fork instead of a whisk.
That in making fish balls, croquettes, etc., an agreeable flavor is imparted by putting a whole clove in the article to be fried and removing it before serving, as it would be unpleasant to bite into the clove. Extract of clove may be used instead, but it does not impart quite so fine a flavor.
That butter or cream may be substituted for olive oil in almost any recipe if the taste of the oil is disagreeable.
That eggs can be beaten more quickly and will stand up better if a pinch of salt be added.
That a croquette mixture may be dropped into hot fat in small quantities from the end of a spoon and will be found nearly as nice as when moulded into shapes, which requires so much time and care.
In using gelatine great care should be taken that it is thoroughly dissolved. It is a good plan to strain it through cheesecloth.
Less gelatine is required, if it is to stand over night before using than if needed as quickly as possible.
If it is desired to cool gelatine jelly very quickly the dish which contains it may be placed in a pan of cold water, to which some rock salt has been added.
In separating eggs be careful not to let any of the yolk become mixed with the whites, as they cannot be beaten as well.
Moulds should always be dipped in cold water before the jelly is poured in.

A CURIOUS MILLIONAIRE.

WHOLE NEIGHBORHOOD TRANSFORMED AT HIS WHIM.

Employed 200 Workmen in Turning a Wilderness into a Magnificent Place of Residence—Relations With His Favorite Keeper.

Probably no more interesting personality has been brought before the public for many years than that of the late Sir William Cunliffe Brooks, against whose estate of some £3,000,000 claims are being made to the extent of £800,000 says the London Express. As will be remembered, the case is now being tried in Edinburgh, by which the claimants are endeavouring to prove that his chief residence was Glen Tana, near Aberdeen.

When Sir William first rented the property from Lord Huntley the house was merely a small fishing box. So he immediately set to work and practically rebuilt it, pulling down a great deal of small property to make room for the new manor. From that time to the date of his death 200 workmen were constantly employed in turning the one-time wilderness into a magnificent place of residence. According to Sir William's own estimate, he spent regularly £20,000 a year upon the property; and this exclusive of the £150,000 which is stated as having been the initial price of the purchase.

In place of the cottages which he destroyed, others, replete with every modern convenience, had to be erected; the course of the river was deflected to form miniature lakes and cascades were planted, and in one case £10,000 was paid by the eccentric millionaire for the "wood" of a forest, so that by their becoming his property the trustees would be unable to sell them to timber merchants to be cut down.

In short, the whole of the neighboring countryside has undergone a complete transformation at his hands.

EVEN A DEER FOREST

has not escaped "improvement." Within quite a short time of his occupation Sir William encircled its vast limits with a wire fence, seven feet in height, which was constructed in such a way as to allow deer to enter but not to leave it.

He was never so happy as when stalking in the deer forests, accompanied by his favorite keeper, Donald Macintosh. And of these two men several amusing anecdotes are told. One of them relates how Macintosh found a big rock in the Tana waters, and said to Sir William that he would very much like to have it placed upon his grave when he died. As the same idea had already occurred to Sir William he announced that "masters should come first and servants afterwards." The keeper, with the customary license of old retainers, promptly disputed the point, and after a lengthy argument induced his master to agree that the first one to die should have the stone. Poor "Mac" died first, and the rock now forms the headstone of his grave. As further illustrating the rela-

tions which existed between these two the story is recorded of an incident which happened while they were travelling in the Far East. Upon the quay where they had landed Sir William suddenly stopped short and asked Donald whether he had any money in his pockets. "Lor-r-d, yes," replied the unsuspecting gillie, pulling out a handful of gold and silver, from his pocket. "Here's as muckle as'll dee for a day or twa." Whereupon Sir William, without a word of warning, flung out his hand and scattered the coins over the quayside, to the evident consternation of his canny companion. Nor did he lose the opportunity of reading him a long lesson on the foolishness of thus wantonly exposing one's wealth, to the gaze of possibly criminal eyes.

Sundays seem to have been the customary days for Sir William Brooks' tours of inspection around the property. He would give lavish orders for the building of houses and cottages—after his own designs principally—and would refuse to look at them until they were fully completed. He would then go round, and either praise the result or, should he not like it, order it to be at once

RAZED TO THE GROUND.

Another eccentricity lay in his love of inscriptions. If you pleased him you were promptly presented with a card containing some queer quotation written in red and blue chalk. These colours, by the way, soon became regarded as distinctive of the man. The lintels of the cottages he built, the doors of his rooms, and the ceiling of his dining-room at Glen Tana were all covered with strangely illuminated mottoes.

Although an Englishman by birth his heart and soul seem to have been centred on the banks of Tana water. He dressed his dependants in a tartan of his own invention, and gloried in the "pipes" that called him in the morning and played to him after dinner at night.

For Mr. Ian Cecil, his heir, he had a great affection and is said to have induced him against drink, and to have induced him to sign the pledge. Not that Sir William was an abstainer himself, for this he was not. In fact, so proud was he of his port, of which he had a renowned cellar, that he frequently referred to his bottles as his "babies."

Visitors to the estates were generally surprised to find curious cairns bearing equally curious inscriptions, dotted about in out-of-the-way places. These find explanation in the fact that wherever a deer was shot Sir William ordered a monument, bearing full particulars as to weight and date, to be erected.

In addition to deer-stalking, however, Sir William took a keen interest in salmon fishing; and as the Tana is only a trout stream he rented a portion of the Dec.

Apart from these sports, his ideas of exercise seem to have been somewhat primitive. It is related that, like the man who chartered two cabs and walked between them, our eccentric millionaire used to make the coachman drive his trap while he himself ran behind it.

JAPANESE SHIPYARDS.

One in Tokio Which Covers Nearly Sixty Acres.

The determination of Japan to become in every sense a modern nation is in no line of development made more plain than in the matter of ship-yards. The Tokio shipyard, covering fully 60 acres, is reported as employing 3,000 men, who have all the latest machinery, including pneumatic riveters, and six steamers of 130,000 tons are on the stocks, two of them for the Nippon Yusen Kaisha. The fact that the works are equipped with electricity is a further indication of the progressive spirit now ruling.

The ship-building yard at Nagasaki is also going ahead, but special interest attaches to the new Government steel works. Some 5,000,000 yens have already been spent, but 15,000,000 have been voted. The works are on the eastern shores of Kiushiu, the most southern of the large islands, forming the empire, and it is, therefore, contiguous to China. The establishment, which covers 230 acres, is close by the coal fields connected with the railway, and a seaport having over 20 feet of water, will be convenient for the shipping of the finished products to the northern islands, and also to China which ultimately must become a large customer. The works are thoroughly equipped. In addition to blast furnaces there are coke ovens and in the steel department open hearth Bessemer furnaces, with a full set of rolling mills for ploughing, three bar mills as well as rail, sheet and plate rolls. There are steel and iron foundries, boiler shops, laboratories, testing and other departments. The work will soon be put in operation, construction being far advanced.

EPIGRAPH AND PUN.

One evening at a small party which included the two friends, Douglas Jerrold and Charles Knight, the author-publisher, the talk turned on epitaphs. As they were walking home together, Knight, half lightly and half in earnest, asked the wit to write his epitaph for him. Jerrold made no answer, but when they came to the parting of their ways, he suddenly said: "I've got your epitaph. Well, what is it? Good Knight!"

IT IS NOT HEREDITARY.

DRUNKENNESS NOT TRANSMITTED FROM PARENT TO CHILD.

Evil of Environment a Strong Factor in the Spread of Drunkenness—Important Report on the Subject of Inebriety.

It is now eighteen months since the Society for the Study of Inebriety appointed a special committee to consider the relation of heredity to inebriety, says a London letter. The committee was composed of five physicians, two surgeons, a professor of bacteriology, an army surgeon, and five general medical practitioners. Eighteen months have been spent in investigation. The report of this committee has just been published and it is signed by nine of the fourteen members, some of whom have made comments, while one has sent in an independent report. The reference to the committee was in these terms: to investigate the conditions under which the tendency of drunkenness is capable of transmission to offspring. It does not appear to be contended that inebriety is in itself hereditary, but that a capacity or tendency to it is heritable.

The report declares that the inebriety of an individual depends upon three conditions—the first being an inborn capacity for enjoying the sensations which alcohol produces, and the second and third being acquired—personal experiences of the pleasures of alcohol and the increased delight which continued indulgence confers in the case of the inebriate. That one drunken generation often succeeds another suggests a hereditary taint. The committee adds that there is no evidence that acquired characters of any kind are heritable. This appears to have been a much debated question.

Popular opinion has taken for granted that the acquired characteristics of parents are likely to be inherited, and, of course, "temperate reformers," well-meaning, but often ignorant and misguided, have not been slow to urge upon the public that each man's drinking is pretty sure to produce for him a generation of children who will become drunkards. If this be not true the temperance reformer, who is generally in favor of entire abstinence rather than of temperance, must bear a heavy responsibility for the vast amount of mental torture which he has inflicted on the moderate drinking citizen.

INFLUENCE OF HEREDITY.

The last word of science, however, as declared by teachers of physiology, biology and botany, is a very definite assertion that no instance of the hereditary transmission of an acquired characteristic has ever been demonstrated either in the animal or the vegetable kingdom. If this be a fact a man can only transmit to his son the hereditary taint with which he was born, and if a man having no inborn tendency to excess yet acquires drunken habits his progeny are in no more danger than are those of his neighbor, leaving out of consideration the effect of environment on youth. It is not denied that drunken parents who become thus mentally and physically weak are liable to have children who are degenerate—weak in body and feeble in mind; such persons, in fact, as under propitious circumstances tend to become paupers, criminals, epileptics and drunkards. The point which is denied is that the drunkard's child has the specialized tendency to become inebriate rather than vicious in some other direction.

It seems probable that the question of environment is of more importance after all than that of heredity, and a man of strong will is just as likely to exercise it in the gratification of his desire as in the contrary direction. If a man of powerful will finds that alcohol gives him pleasure he will take good care to repeat the experience. The habitual drinker is one to whom alcohol brings enjoyment, either as positive pleasure or cessation of pain, whereas the voluntary abstainer is one, who from constitutional peculiarity, finds little pleasure in alcoholic exhilaration. Alcohol weeds out from every race individuals who most enjoy and indulge in it. The races of Southern Europe, who have had the longest experience of alcoholic drinks are now more temperate than the British, the Scandinavians and the Russians.

The committee is of opinion that the continued abuse of alcohol tends to render a race less innately prone to inebriety than it would otherwise have been, this result being brought about by the elimination of the drunken unfit and the survival of those with a weak tendency to alcoholism.

A VENTILATOR.

To make a ventilator in a hay mow prepare a square box about five or six feet long and 16 or 18 inches square, of thin boards, and place it where a flue is to be made in a mow, and draw it up as the mow is built. The top of the ventilator should be left open. The tube may be kept from dropping into the flue by nailing a piece of board near the bottom when mow is done. Then pile hay around the tube until it will stand alone. By this means an efficient ventilator will be formed.

By thus letting cool air into the middle of a mow, or stack, hay that would otherwise "mow-burn" will be kept cool and save well. A barrel is sometimes employed for making a ventilating flue. The barrel must be drawn up a few inches at a time as the hay is stored around it.