

HOUSEHOLD

ABOUT KEROSENE.

Kerosene might well be called the housekeeper's friend, for if it is used intelligently it is a great labor saver, and may be used to good advantage in the house, kitchen or laundry. It is better than soap, ammonia, alcohol for washing mirrors and window glass. Add a few drops to a pint of scalding hot water and wash the glass without using soap. Then wipe with one dry cloth and polish with another, and the glass will be clear and bright. Kerosene is excellent for cleaning iron sinks, or zinc lined bath tubs. First dip a cloth in the oil, rub thoroughly over the surface, then scrub with hot suds. It is also good for cleaning oil cloth; dip a cloth in the oil and use the same as if using water. By this method of cleaning, the oil cloth will last longer and the colors are preserved.

But where it helps most of all is in the laundry, as it whitens the clothes and saves rubbing if used in the right way. The best results are obtained when the clothes are put to soak over night. It lessens the amount of rubbing that must be done the next day if the clothes are put to soak over night in luke warm water to which has been added a small quantity of household ammonia or of some trustworthy washing powder.

Clothes washed in the following manner are beautifully white and clean, and there is not the slightest odor of kerosene about them, as it soon evaporates in the open air. If the clothes have been put to soak over night the next morning put on a boiler of rain water and for every painful used add one tablespoonful of kerosene and one of some soap powder. Stir well so the ingredients will be thoroughly mixed, and let the water boil before using the suds. Put the nice white clothes in the boiler without rubbing, and let boil 15 minutes, then take out, rinse in clear water, then in blueing water and they are ready to be starched. Rub the most soiled spots from table linen and clothing before putting in the boiler, using some of the hot suds for washing. The suds is excellent for washing the most soiled colored garments, but nice colored garments should always have clean suds prepared especially for them, and it is best to wash them separately from the regular weekly washing.

GREEN PEAS.

Ramekins of Green Peas: Cook the peas till tender, and season. Place a layer of rolled cracker into each ramekin, bits of butter and a teaspoon of the peas liquor, then add a layer of the cooked peas and bits of butter, continuing till they are full, and ending with the cracker crumbs. Garnish by placing upon the top of each dish three stuffed olives, just before serving. Serve hot.

Creamed Green Peas: First cook the peas and season to taste. Into a frying pan put 1 teaspoon butter, and when hot add 1 teaspoon flour. Mix till perfectly smooth. Be careful it does not brown. Add 1 cup cream gradually, let it come to a boil, then add the peas, cover and heat thoroughly, serve hot.

Green Peas Salad with Pickled Butter Beans: Cook the beans till tender, and pickle, adding a little sugar to the vinegar. Cut into small pieces, and mix with well-seasoned cooked peas. A pint of beans to a pint of peas makes a good dish. Blend thoroughly with the following dressing: Beat 2 eggs well, add 1 teaspoon sugar, 1/2 teaspoon salt, the same of mustard, and 3 teaspoons vinegar and 1 tablespoon butter (melted). Stir constantly while on fire. Cook till creamy. If too thick, add cream to thin to desired consistency. Garnish with whole butter beans placed in points around the edge of salad dish.

Escalloped Green Peas with Egg Garnish: Prepare a cream dressing thus: One tablespoonful flour, 6 of melted butter, 1 cup milk, salt and pepper to taste. First mix the flour with a little cold milk, till smooth. Then add remainder of milk. Let come to a boil. While warm, stir into this dressing 1 qt. cooked peas, adding butter the size of hen's egg. Place all into baking dish and bake 20 minutes in oven. Boil six eggs hard. When cold, cut into rings and place on top of escalloped peas before serving.

Cream of Peas Puree: Cook the peas with celery till both are tender. Remove celery and peas from the water and add a cream dressing as given for escalloped peas. Put the peas through strainer and add to the same. Serve very hot, with wafers.

WASHING SUMMER GOWNS.

So many pretty light flannels and thin woolen fabrics are now offered for sale in stores that all women possess one or more gowns of these and mothers find them very useful throughout the summer for children's wear. The only objection to them is the difficulty in getting them washed without drawing up and fading, which is the fate of such articles entrusted to the ordinary laundress. These garments may be easily washed in the home laundry under the direction of an intelligent housekeeper; hence it is well to understand how the work should be done. Flannels should be washed in warm suds to which a little powdered borax is added. Soap should

never be rubbed on them, nor should they be rubbed on the washboard, nor between the hands, and dipped up and down until they are clean. The suds should be squeezed out, and each piece immediately rinsed in water of the same temperature as the first; then wring again and hang in the shade. They should be removed when partly dry and ironed while damp, on the wrong side. If both colored and white flannels are to be washed, separate waters should be used, as that in which the white are washed will lint the colored. If much soiled, the flannel garments should be well shaken and brushed before being washed.

SUGGESTIONS FOR CHERRY DESSERTS.

Cherry Puffs: Two eggs, 1 cup milk, 1/2 cup butter, 2 cups flour, 2 teaspoons baking powder, 1 cup sugar, 1 1/2 cups stoned cherries. Mix the butter, sugar and flour well together. Put the baking powder into the milk and add to butter, sugar and flour. Then add the eggs well-beaten, last the cherries, having first rubbed them with flour. Mix all well together. Steam one-half hour in jelly tumblers. Serve with sugar and butter sauce.

Cherry and Currant Dumplings: Stone one pint of cherries and stem the same amount of currants. For the crust use 1 pt flour, 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder, 2 tablespoons sugar, 1/2 tablespoon salt, 1 tablespoon each butter and lard, 1 pt sweet milk mixed with one egg well beaten. Wet the flour with this and mix to a soft dough. Rub the cherries and currants well with the flour, then divide the dough for the dumplings, and fold the fruit in, sugaring well. Butter well the tin, and bake in moderate oven. Serve with sauce same as for puffs.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

An attractive dish for a luncheon table may be made of lemon and any cardinal colored jellies cut into blocks and piled rock-work fashion on a flat plate, the amber and pink blocks alternating in the mound. This may be garnished with asparagus fern studded with carnations. Potato is the vegetable to serve with fish; also cucumber, celery or lettuce.

Cheese sticks to serve with a salad or with a meat jelly may be made quickly from bread. Trim off the crust and cut into finger lengths pieces an inch and a half thick. Toast over the fire and sprinkle with Parmesan cheese.

Salted almonds, olives, pickles, &c., are placed in little niches about the table and remain through the meal.

HOW THE RAINFALL IS MEASURED

Great Number of Persons in Great Britain Who Make It a Study.

It is not generally known that scattered over the United Kingdom there are no fewer than 3,700 persons who studiously study and record the fall of rain. Indeed, it would seem to be quite a fascinating pastime, for the British Rainfall Association receive so many enquiries that they issue printed pamphlets giving many valuable hints for the guidance of those who wish to make a study of the subject.

But to become an expert rain-measurer many things have to be observed. Quite a number of instruments are employed which have to be carefully watched while rain is falling. At Camden Square, the headquarters of the British Rainfall Association, there is a most wonderful collection of rain-measuring instruments. The self-registering gauge is one of the most interesting. The rain is caught in a metal funnel at the top, and passes through into a cup which works on a see-saw principle. This cup is divided into two, and when one side is filled the water causes it to tilt and empty itself into a receptacle below. This action works on an index needle, which makes a mark on a printed form.

WOUND ROUND A CYLINDER.

Another interesting contrivance is the snow-gauge. The snow is caught in a wide, open receptacle at the top, melted by means of hot water being poured into a chamber all around it, and passes into a vessel below. It is afterward measured by an interesting process. Then there is a tank for measuring surface evaporation. But the most remarkable instrument used in connection with the measuring of the rainfall is the "Brontometer." It is the only one of its kind in existence, and is the property of the Royal Society. It is a most elaborate contrivance, and took years to perfect.

At the top of this unique instrument there is a long cylinder covered with a sheet of paper, along which are a number of index-needles. The first registers hail, with the assistance of an operator. Directly the storm begins the operator presses his finger on a button which sets the hail-needle in motion. Another needle registers thunder, another lightning, wind, rain, and time.

The 3,000 odd persons who are engaged in recording the rainfall receive blank forms on the 31st of December, which they fill up and return to the association at headquarters. These reports are embodied in a yearly blue-book, called "British Rainfall." From this work it is possible to know the character of the rainfall in any part of the United Kingdom during any week, month, and during the whole of the year.

PRISONS WITHOUT WALLS.

ODD EXPERIMENTS AND PRACTICES IN CONVICT HOTELS.

Possible to Keep Convicts Without Bars and Bolts—Strangest Prison in the World—Prison for First-Class Misdemeanants Only.

When a convict bolted from one of the old-fashioned convict settlements in Australia or Tasmania, all he could do was to take to the bush, where he probably starved, or died a lingering death of thirst. But the convict who manages to escape from an English prison, like Soar and King the other day from Borstal, may get to London, and possibly

NEVER BE CAUGHT AGAIN.

So strong walls and locked doors seem, at first sight, to be absolutely necessary to keep prisoners safe in jails, and not an escape was attempted. For all that, it has been found perfectly feasible to keep convicts in mere sheds and huts, sometimes even without bars and bolts, and to treat them very much like an ordinary gang of navvies.

When Borstal Prison was built, all the work was done by convict labour. Parties of convicts were sent from Chatham, a distance of four miles, in open vans. They were under escort, of course, but were unchained. Temporary huts were put up, and it was sixteen weeks before the buildings of the new prison were far enough advanced to accommodate the workers. Every bit of the work—from making the bricks to digging the foundations—was done by convicts, and not as escape was attempted.

The prison at Chattenden, near Upnor, on the Medway, was built in similar fashion, and a number of large ammunition magazines built by the same gangs, who were at the work for about ten years. Although the tramway on which these men travelled up and down from Chatham passed through thick woods,

WITH HEAVY UNDERGROWTH,

there were no attempts at escape.

Since these works have been finished, the convicts lodged in Borstal have been employed upon a fort at Luton, a mile from the prison, and the workers have been taken up and down a little narrow-gauge railway. The signals which have been put up to warn the wardens of attempted escape are actually worked by good-conduct prisoners, who are entrusted with field-glasses.

One of the strangest prisons in the world is the Australian convict-prison at Fremantle; it has walls, the biggest perhaps of any prison in the world. They are granite, and seven feet through. But they are no longer needed for guarding the few tottering remnants of the once immense convict population which inhabited the place. When the Duke of Edinburgh visited Fremantle, the wardens who went down to the wharf to meet him did not trouble to lock the gates behind them, and a few of the old convicts walked down after them, and then returned "home." There have been no new inmates of the Fremantle Gaol for many years and the old ones are all "lifers," who have been there so long that they know no other home. They potter about, and

CULTIVATE THEIR GARDENS.

and have altogether a much easier time than the average workhouse inmate.

Italy lately tried the experiment of settling about a thousand Anarchists and other undesirables upon the Island of Tremet, in the Mediterranean. The attempt was a ghastly failure. Quarrels began, and throwing all their beautiful theories of humanity to the winds, the whole number entered upon a savage battle, which ended in the death of four, and serious injury to a large number of others.

Extreme experiments in prison reform are to be found in France. At a place called Jommeliere a kind of prison colony was started some years ago. The convicts lived in nice little houses. Each had his or her own garden. They kept poultry and pigeons, sold eggs, and anyone visiting the place could hardly be distinguished from any other village. And yet it was found that abuses crept in. Liquor was sold on the sly. An official inquiry was held, and one fine day up drove a dozen prison-vans, and the whole colony returned to a securer prison; oak tables, surmounted with mirrors, and piled with papers and magazines, a conversation-room, a bath-room, a beautiful garden planted with shrubs—all these sound like

A HANDSOME CLUBHOUSE.

rather than anything else. They, and other luxuries, are, however, to be found, in the new Parisian Sante Prison, in the Pont Royal boulevard. The Government is even going to supply a band during the summer months. The Sante Prison is a sort of glorified Holloway, and, needless to say, is only for first-class misdemeanants.

The inmates of the Finnish prison at Helsingfors are provided with what is practically a cheap and pleasant boarding-house. They may furnish their rooms as they like, buy what they like, go out when they like. The only restriction on their liberty is that they must sleep in prison,

and that when they do move abroad they must be accompanied by a warder. The latter, however, dresses always in plain clothes, so the prisoners' social status does not suffer.

Games, besides work, are provided by the authorities of the Rauh-haus Juvenile Prison, at Hamburg. Music, mathematics languages, and gymnastics are taught. The warders are practically schoolmasters, who live with the young convicts, and share their sports and work. There are twenty-five houses, standing in the middle of a beautifully-cultivated farm of a couple of hundred acres. No prisoner ever runs away from this

LUXURIOUS CONVICT HOME.

But it is, after all, to the United States that he who wishes to see how far prison reform can be carried should go. In Sing-Sing, the Dartmoor of America, cakes, sweets, and fruit may be sent in from outside; also newspapers. There is an excellent prison library provided, with electric light. Carpets may be brought for the cells. And, though letters are read by the authorities, there is no limit to correspondence on the part of the prisoners.

But the world's record for luxury belongs to the Reformatory Prison at Concord, in the State of New Hampshire, where the prisoners have been allowed by the authorities to form a club. Admission to this is by ballot, and members can be expelled by a general meeting. The club gives evening-parties, which the prison authorities attend only by invitation. The prisoners wear correct evening-dress, white ties, and flowers in their buttonholes. There is a capital piano, and songs and music continue till eleven o'clock.

PERSONAL POINTERS

Notes of Interest About Some of the World's Great People.

The biggest living man is said to be Mr. Lewis Wilkins, who is now arousing great interest in the scientific circles of Europe. Wilkins was born on a farm near St. Paul, Minn., in 1874. When but ten years old he measured 6 ft. in height, and now has grown to the tremendous height of 107 1/2 in.—just three-quarters of an inch less than 9 ft.—and weighs 364 lbs.

Queen Margherita of Italy is a great lover of flowers, and is a most successful amateur gardener—her favorites being carnations, violets, and lilies of the valley. She has many interests, besides being, perhaps, the best educated Queen in Europe. She knows English, French, German, and Spanish thoroughly, and is a good Greek scholar. She is a very great admirer of Shakespeare, and has written a most interesting little book on his heroines.

It is, perhaps, rather a curious thing, that though the King is such an excellent judge of horse-flesh, and so fond of the noble animal, it is years since he has driven himself. Neither he nor the Duke of Cornwall has ever shown any leaning towards this pursuit, and it is not likely that the King will be seen driving his own equipage about London. On the other hand, the Queen is very fond of driving her ponies in the country, and all her daughters drive; the Duchess of Fife especially excels as a whip. The Queen, however, has never driven in London. She prefers to ride in a victoria.

Dr. Joseph Parker is by no means a nervous or easily disconcerted man but recently, when he was preaching in a leading provincial town, he was much annoyed by a dandy sitting under him, who, proud of a new gold watch, was continually pulling it out to see what time it was. Eternity was the preacher's theme, and on and on he went, and out and out came the watch, till the poor divine could stand it no longer. In the very climax of his sermon he suddenly stopped, looking full at the offender, and quietly said, "Put up your watch, young man; we are speaking of eternity, not of time."

Sir Edward Blount, who has just completed his ninety-second year, is the oldest Knight of the Order of the Bath. The greater part of his life has been spent in France, where he was the chairman of the Western Railway Company, the major portion of whose movements for the comfort of travellers was due to his initiative and energetic perseverance. Nevertheless, Sir Edward remained always English throughout, and one of his French interlocutors and familiars was once pertinently reminded of the fact. "Sir Edward," he said, "if you were not an Englishman, what would you like to be?" "Monsieur," was the answer, "if I were not an Englishman, I should like to be one."

The new Italian ambassador to London, Signor Alberto Panza, who has just taken up his duties, is a diplomatist by profession—he has never been anything else. He is possessed of a very intimate knowledge of European statecraft, and goes to England with the friendliest feelings and warmest admiration both for its sovereign and people. Born in Turin fifty-seven years ago, Signor Panza, having graduated as a Doctor of Laws, passed at once into the diplomatic service, and filled successively junior appointments at the Embassies of Athens, Bucharest, Berlin, Belgrade, and Constantinople. He distinguished himself by his conduct of affairs during the Armenian outbreak, his counsel being greatly valued by the other Ambassadors during that trying time.

DON'T WAIT TOO LONG.

When You Get Hold of a Good Idea Push It Along.

Don't be too careful Thousands of fortunes are forfeited every year through excessive caution. "Nothing venture, nothing have" is the law of life. The man who waits too long gets left.

When in the autumn of 1899, the Boer commandoes swarmed into Natal and Cape Colony, they might have "swept the English into the sea." The few thousand British soldiers then in South Africa could not possibly have withstood their overwhelming numbers.

But the Boer is a cautious man. He waited to weigh his chances. Whilst he weighed they went. Buller, Roberts, and thousands of British soldiers poured into the defenceless country, and brother Boer had to make strategical movements Pretoriawards. His overcautiousness restrained him from dealing that early blow which might have changed the whole conduct of the war.

Contrast Lord Roberts' action after the convoy disaster at Sanna's Post when he found himself suddenly stranded with only a few biscuits per man. Heat, hunger and active enemy lay ahead of him, but a comparatively safe line of retreat was open in his rear.

Nine commanders out of ten would have flunked it and retreated. "Bobs" thought otherwise. To have retreated would have worked demoralization throughout his ranks, and imperilled the Army of Natal. He took the risk, fearful though it was, and triumphed.

The battle of life is continually repeating these lessons on a smaller scale with each one of us. Despite copy book maxims to the contrary, it is not the careful man who scores best. The prizes go to the dashing,

GO-AHEAD FELLOW

who flings old-fashioned conventionalities to the winds; who acts upon his ideas as soon as they mature, and before they get stale and out of date.

Do not confuse this with slapdash. It is better to be overcareful than a "slasher." The first man can generally make a competency, although he will never set the world on fire. The "slasher" usually ends in the workhouse or the lunatic asylum.

The great thing is to get right away from the notion that "tomorrow will do." That is a national Spanish proverb, and it is eminently descriptive of the characteristics which have placed proud Spain where she lies to-day. Learn to recognise your chance on sight; and, having recognised it, lose no time.

Do not "sleep upon it." That may have been a good plan for the early Victorians, but it won't do now. To-day the telegraph and telephone can forestall your idea in a few seconds. Therefore, having got your idea, start right away, and push it along.

"Ah! But suppose it is a mistaken idea, and I lose money over it," says the careful man. That sir, is where your carefulness must come in. Learn to be careful quickly. Treat your business puzzles not as mathematical problems to be pondered over for days, but as real things. With a little practice you will be surprised at the rapidity with which it is possible to weigh the pros and cons of all but the very deepest questions.

Of course you will have to take risks. Every man has to do. One of the most successful men of his generation, the late Prince Bismarck, held the most pronounced views on this matter. No one ever taxed the Iron Chancellor with rashness, yet he summed the whole philosophy of his life in these words:

"With dutiful trust in God, dig in the spurs and let Life like a wild horse, take you flying over hedge and ditch, resolved to break your neck, and yet fearless, inasmuch as you must at some time part from all that is dear to you on earth—though not forever."

KEEPING BUTTER.

The delicious aroma of the well-made, new butter is not a lasting property. We contend, therefore, that too much credit is given for this volatile property that to-day you have and to-morrow is gone, while comparatively too little is laid on those conditions which caused the product to stand right up to its merit through the time needed to reach the consumer. Keeping quality is certainly a high merit in butter, and we know of no good reason why it should not receive credit in scoring.



MAJOR-GEN. O'GRADY HALP
General Officer Commanding the
Canadian Forces.