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## WANTS TO BE A KING.

An old gypsy named Rafael has asked the Emperor of Austria to invest him with the dignity of king of the Gypsies, because he can prove his direct descent from Pharaoh.

## THE HOME

YUCCA. A thick, sharp nest of dagger-pointed leaves, Black-tipped from the gray mesa rises green. And from its heart there springs amidst the sheen, As a white-pinioned bird the sunshine cleaves; As Hope, that life's sharp bitterness relieves— A blossom-spire that greets the sky serene, In calm dominion o'er the desert scene. Thick hung with creamy bells that chime strange breves, O Yucca gloriosa! Spirit soft, And full of strange, mysterious subtle scent, Slow swing thy fair white blossom bells aloft. In the calm mesa's wide environment, Ringing the dirge of that old race which oft Heard music in thy bells and smiled content.

## A GOOD CUP OF TEA.

Almost everybody likes a good cup of tea, but not one person in a hundred who makes tea makes it good, says a writer. It is necessary to have a good tea to start with. Nobody can make a good cup of tea from poor tea. Good tea, however, is sensitive to its treatment. A very poor cup of tea can be made from very good tea. One of the hardest of all lessons to teach the average cook is to make a good cup of tea. No wonder; comparatively few mistresses themselves know how to do it. Those who appreciate good tea well made have to attend to the making themselves, and the custom of drawing the tea on the table, where it is to be served, becomes more and more popular. To make good tea it is necessary to use water that has just come to a boil and is boiling when it is poured upon the tea. Water that has boiled before, or which is brought to the boiling point and then allowed to cool off before it is used, spoils tea. Next it is necessary to use a porcelain pot. It must be clean. It must be rinsed with boiling water just before the tea is put in. Tea should not boil. It should not stand in the water more than three minutes. Unless one is going to serve only one cup apiece or wishes to brew fresh tea for the second cup around it is better to use imported teapots which have a colander-like top into which the tea is put and through which the water is poured. By pouring in a half cup of water, waiting a minute and pouring on the balance of the amount which is to be used the proper amount of tea strength is extracted, and the tea thus drawn in the pot can be kept hot under a cozy till the second cup is poured without losing its aroma or becoming bitter, as it always does when the tea-leaves stand in the water more than the first three minutes, or two, needed to brew the tea. Some tea requires longer to draw than others. But in very many experiments with many teas I have never failed to make good tea from good tea, and to have the second cup as good as the first by using the teapot with the strainer, pouring the water through in two or three instalments, with not more than half a minute's time between them. These teapots can be had as low as a quarter in price, by going to the Japanese tea and fancy stores. Of all the teas in use probably none gives the immediate stimulating and soothing effect of a high-grade Japan tea. Mixed teas are not to be mentioned in the same day, and many of the highly advertised teas of the day fall far below the Japan tea in purity strength and flavor. Appreciative tea drinkers value the flavor of tea as much as connoisseurs in wine enjoy fine wines. High class tea cannot be bought for a quarter a pound, but there are Japan teas to be had at all prices, and none of their grades are excelled by any teas at the price, and few are comparable for the qualities tea lovers value.

## TO COOK CHICKEN.

Pressed Chicken.—Take a large chicken, boil in very little water. When done take the meat from the bones, remove the skin, chop and season. Press into a large bowl, add the liquor and put on a weight. When cold cut in slices and eat with sliced lemon or cucumber pickle.

Pressed Chicken in Pig's Feet Liquor.—For one large fowl boil four pig's feet until they almost fall to pieces; take them out, and prepare for eating. Cut up your chicken, and drop it into the liquor from the boiled pig's feet; add a sliced onion or two, and some parsley; boil down until the liquor barely covers the chicken; boil until the meat drops from the bones, when lifted out, and remove all bones. Chop very fine, and drop in the remaining liquor; put in a dish that will serve as a mould; cover with a dish suited to help press it hard. When cold cut in thin slices; lay on slices of lemon for decoration, or some hard boiled egg sliced. The jelly of pig's feet is better to mould meat with than gelatine.

A chicken to be served whole may be cooked as follows: Wash the chicken and fill it with a bread stuffing and tie it into shape as for roasting. Sprinkle the chicken with salt and pep-

per. This can be easily detected in the bulb as it is then not hard and shows signs of premature ripening off at the crown. These delicate and fragrant flowers are in demand as early as Thanksgiving-time, and the bulbs should be planted as soon as they can be obtained. Mignonette is desirable in winter, especially as it is never seen to so good advantage as when well cultivated in a house with a suitable temperature. Our summers are much too hot to favor the growth of good spikes, and it is well to sow some seeds of an approved strain now to have it when flowers are most scarce, just when chrysanthemums are past. Mignonette likes a cool temperature, say a maximum of fifty degrees, and a deep soil. A word may be said for browallia speciosa major, which has proved desirable for pot culture in winter. A packet of seeds sown now will make nice plants for winter use and will flower along until late spring.

## CLEAN POTS FOR THIRSTY PLANTS.

Myra V. Norys writes that the more thirsty a plant is, the more, perhaps, does it need a clean pot, partly because it will have to be watered so frequently, and is thus likely to become clogged. For the same reason, plants of this character like a pot not too close in grain, though it must be said that there are some cheap pots made that are too coarse and porous for any plant that will endure sunshine. For a plant in shade possibly no pot can be too porous.

## PEARLS OF TRUTH.

Ungratefulness is the very poison of manhood.—Sir P. Sidney. One may smile and smile and be a villain still.—Shakespeare. Hundreds would never have known what if they had not first known waste.—Spurgeon. The most terrible of lies is not that which is uttered, but that which is lived.—W. G. Clarke. He who increases the endearments of love increases at the same time the terrors of death.—Young. Life is a short day; but it is a working day. Activity may lead to evil but inactivity cannot be too good.—Hannah More. What an absurd thing it is to pass over all the valuable parts of a man and fix our attention on his infirmities.—Addison. It is not wisdom but ignorance that teaches men presumption. Genius may sometimes be arrogant, but nothing is so diffident as knowledge.—Bulwer. Indolence, methinks, is an intermediate state between pleasure and pain, and very much unbecoming any part of our life after we are out of the nurse's arms.—Steele. Shun the inquisitive for you will be sure to find him leaky. Open ears do not keep conscientiously what has been entrusted to them, and a word once spoken flies never to be recalled.—Horace. No man or woman of the humblest sort can really be strong, gentle and pure and good, without the world being better for it, without somebody being helped and comforted by the very existence of that goodness.—Phillips Brooks.

## CARING FOR HOUSE PLANTS.

In order to have the best success in growing house plants for the windows in winter, the first thing is good, healthy plants, free from insects, people often fail to revive a sickly plant. The aim should be to get good soil from the florist or from a pasture. It matters not whether it be a geranium or a palm, the best care is necessary for success. Nothing is more beautiful than a window filled with fine flowering plants in midwinter, but to have a lot of plants three feet high, not a leaf on them, is not inviting, and they require as much care as the healthy plants. The practice of most plant buyers is to get them of the florist in the spring, plant them in the garden, and let them grow all summer. When the first frost comes they will lift the large plants, full of bud and bloom, out of the ground and pot them. In a few days the plants begin to lose their foliage and wilt. The best way to do is to cut away about two-thirds of the plant and make them start new roots and new growth, though it puts off flowering for some time. The best way to have good house plants is to buy what are wanted in May, put in good-sized pots, and plunge the pots in the earth. See that good drainage is obtained, put a small board on the bottom, to keep out the worms, and about every two weeks turn around to keep the roots from going through the bottom of pot. Keep well watered through the summer and by fall you will have fine plants that will produce more flowers than half a dozen poor ones. The best plants for flowering in winter are geraniums, Chinese primrose, calla, cyclamens, cineraria, carnations, Easter lilies, lilyum, freesias, begonias, and many others. Insects should never be seen on plants. Regular use of tobacco smoke at least twice each week will drive them away. The red spider often does much mischief before he is discovered. A dry, hot atmosphere favors his production. To prevent him, keep the plants moist and syringe them. Bulbs, ferns, palms, etc., make good plants for home culture. Most house plants do well in an average temperature of not more than 50 degrees at night, with 20 or 25 degrees higher in the day time. Plants are often put in the cellar for the winter. They will live, but not make as good a plant as a cutting rooted in March. We have to watch them closely in the greenhouses. If men in the florist business could raise plants by putting them under a bench in the winter they would get rich in a few years. Flowering plants need the best sunlight, while foliage plants will thrive without the bright sun. Plants should not be put up too high in a room, for the air is too hot and dry there.

## BULBS AND ANIMALS.

All bulbous plants that have been at rest during the early summer should now be looked over, as it is time to pot most of them. It requires early potting and good culture to get freesias in bloom by Christmas. It is almost impossible to have the soil too rich for these bulbs, and to have really good flowers liberal supplies of liquid food is necessary after they have begun to grow. To have Roman hyacinths early we must plant early; in fact, as soon as it is possible to obtain the bulbs. The largest bulbs do not always produce the most flowers, but, preferably, those that are hard and well matured. It is the custom with some growers to rush the crop of bulbs on the market to secure early sales at the risk of mar-

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