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HOUSEHOLD.

QUEEN VICTORIA AS A HOUSEKEEPER.

Queen Victoria is a first rate housekeeper. She is the mistress of palaces, castles, and country-houses, and, although the actual daily housekeeping is, of course, done by deputy, the Royal head of the establishment remains ever in a very real sense the mistress. She perceives immediately anything amiss, and perceives also the remedy.

She is a kind but also an exacting mistress, and she pays well, and never fails to consider a reasonable excuse, quite properly, demands good service and tolerates no trifling. A recent little volume upon her private life relates several entertaining household anecdotes of the Royal lady's ways.

She has, it seems, a dislike to cold meat, which she never eats. But etiquette demands that at luncheon a side table shall stand ready provided with cold fowl and a cold joint, no matter what varieties of hot food the dining-table may offer. These things being never called for, the cook grew careless and one day the Queen's quick-eye observed that the side-table presented only a very mean and meagre half of a small and unattractive-looking fowl.

Promptly giving a hint to her nearest neighbors, the Princess Beatrice, and Lady Ely, her Majesty requested a slice of cold chicken, the other two ladies desired the same. The poor little fragment was brought into sudden prominence, to the consternation and confusion of the cook, who never so far forgot himself as to slight that side-table again.

Like every good housekeeper, the Queen knows and remembers her valuable household possessions, and is fully aware of their individual merits and the places where they ought to be kept. She does not know them all, for they number thousands. But hundreds of them she does know; and elaborate catalogues are kept of the robes, furniture, bric-a-brac, china, glass, silver, draperies and other furnishings—by her order, and in large leather-bound books provided in accordance with her ideas.

Only a small proportion of her many hundred articles for table service are actually in ordinary use; and she is in the habit of using but three or her many services of plate and china at Windsor Castle.

But once after a talk with the German ambassador, who was visiting her, the members of the Queen's household were surprised on coming to the table to behold strange china set before them, each plate adorned with landscape paintings.

It soon appeared, that the Ambassador, having mentioned in the morning that his birthplace was Furstenberg, the Queen had recalled to mind a service of china, never used, and for nine years put away and forgotten by everyone but herself, which had been manufactured there, and was decorated with painted scenes of the town and its vicinity.

She knew exactly where it was, and how it looked, and by her order it had been produced and used at dinner—surely a very pretty attention from a Royal hostess, as well as something of a feat of memory in a Royal housekeeper.

TO CLEAN LINOLEUM.

Linoleum should never be touched with either soap or a scrubbing brush. Have it well wiped over with a soft flannel cloth and warm water, drying it carefully with another clean cloth. Skim milk is also a very good thing to wash it with, as it gives it the gloss you wish for. The great rule is to wash linoleum as seldom as possible, unless you use skim or sour milk for the purpose, and every now and then polish it with linseed oil or occasional turpentine polish. Kept in this way it will both look nicer and wear infinitely better, for scrubbing wears it out and too much water rots it.

SPONGE AND ANGEL CAKES.

A rich sponge cake is made by the following rule: Six large eggs, three gills of sugar, three gills of flour and one lemon. Wipe the lemon very clean and grate a little of the rind into a deep saucer, squeeze the juice into a separate; add the sugar to the yolks, and beat until light; add the lemon-juice and rind, and beat a little longer; put the flour and the whites of the eggs into the flavored sugar and yolks, adding only a little at a time and doing the work lightly and gently, so as not to break down the frothy egg-pour the mixture into paper-lined pans and bake in a moderate oven. The time of baking will depend upon the thickness of the loaf. If it be three inches deep when put into the pan it will take one hour to bake. The slow oven will cause the sponge to rise evenly, making the cake tender, rich and moist.

Angel cake comes under the head of sponge cakes; it is one of the most delicate cakes that is made, and is as nearly "next to nothing" as it is possible to be. This cake should be baked in a round tin with a funnel in the center, and the tin should not be greased. If you are going to form the angel cake habit and make it frequently I would advise that you keep a pan "sacred" to the baking of this special cake. It will be more likely to be always in condition. The success of angel cake depends upon the baking and the proper beating of the eggs. For this cake you will use the whites of five eggs, one scant gill of pastry-flour, measured after sifting, one and one-half gills of powdered sugar, one-

MODERN FIELD ARTILLERY.

Gun Nowadays Capable of Firing Eighteen and Twenty Shots a Minute.

Field artillery has passed through a complete evolution during the last few years. Increase in rapidity of firing has become an essential condition of the existence of the modern field-piece. All military authorities agree upon the necessity of being able to produce at a given moment a great effect in the shortest possible time. The difficulty in the problem consisted in avoiding a waste of munitions.

Upon this subject Lieut. Poncet has published in the Revue d'Artillerie an interesting article which has been partially inspired by the work of Gen. Langlois upon field artillery. Up to the end of the sixteenth century little attention had been paid to rapid firing. The artillery, moreover, was heavy and clumsy. At the battle of Granson, in 1476, according to Meyer in his "Technologie of Firearms," the pieces of Charles the Bold were charged and pointed against the Swiss at the beginning of the combat. The firing began in volleys, but the aim was too high, and this caused the loss of the battle because there was no time to recharge the pieces. At that period the average artillery fire was about:

THIRTY SHOTS A DAY.
The heating of the pieces also proved to be an obstacle. Attempts at increasing the rapidity of artillery fire go back as far as the seventeenth century, when the Germans employed the first breech-loading cannon. More serious results were obtained in the time of Frederick II, when the field artillery was made very much lighter. Up to the end of the eighteenth century, with the return of the heavy pieces of artillery of Graebauer, as well as in the wars of the revolution and of the empire, the maximum rapidity of the fire in battle was from one to two shots a minute for each piece.

Moreover, in the time of smooth-bore guns, the cannade which preceded the battle was never intended to crush the enemy. It covered the deploying of the troops and presented a chance to gain time without serious loss to the enemy. During the greater portion of the action the artillery fire was almost continuous, but always extremely slow. At the decisive moment, marked by the employment of shrapnel or grape-shot, the artillery discharges were carried out with extraordinary violence, and reached a rapidity of 2 to 4 and even 5 shots a minute for each piece, as for instance, at Wagram and Friedland, when the batteries opened the breach for the infantry by their grape and canister fire.

With rifled cannon the action was rarely decisive at long range. At an ordinary distance the effect produced was unsatisfactory, but it was never crushing. For example, at Sadowa two lines of artillery fought for five hours without either being knocked out. During the Franco-German war the rapidity of fire of the French guns reached one shot a minute with the breech-loading pieces and two shots a minute with the 8 and 4 pound pieces, and the same for shrapnel fire. The rapidity of the German breech-loading guns was very little superior to that of the French.

Since 1781 the progress of field artillery has been considerably increased. In the first advance **THE RANGE WAS INCREASED.** In the second the destructive power of the projectile was developed by a methodical fragmentation, and in the third and last step this same power has been augmented still more by the general use of the time fuzee, which extends by 500 to 3000 metres, and even more, the crushing effects of the old shrapnel fire.

It is undeniable that to crush an enemy it is only necessary to increase the offensive power of the artillery fire, and to do that the maximum of rapidity is required. "Artillery," says Gen. Langlois, "by its fire ought to be just like an old-time charge of cavalry with this difference, that it is a charge that nothing stops and which smashes down everything before it." The means employed to that end consist in diminishing the recoil, in accelerating the return of the piece in battery, and in facilitating the pointing, the charging, and the firing of the gun. Thanks to the combination of these different advantages, the guns recently made show an increase in rapidity of firing.

The field-piece of 1896 adopted by the German Government is made to fire regularly five shots a minute but that is a limited speed to avoid waste. In reality, the piece is capable of firing double and even treble that number of shots in a minute.

Consequently the average rapidity of rapid-fire field artillery is ten or twelve shots a minute, supposing that the pointing of the piece can be done with the desired accuracy. If only an approximate aim is taken, a rapidity of from eighteen to twenty shots a minute can be easily reached. But it is a good thing to avoid this extreme rapidity; for, as Scharnhorst said at the beginning of the century, "One angle shot well aimed is worth several fire shots not aimed at all, for if the gun is not pointed what is the use of firing?"

ROYAL HEADGEAR.

The coronet of a Duke consists of alternate crosses and leaves, the leaves being a representation of the leaves of the parsley plant. The Princess of the royal blood also wear a similar crown. The duke's headgear of a Marquis consists of a diadem surrounded by flowers and pearls placed alternately. An Earl, however, has neither flowers nor leaves surmounting with a pearl on the top. A Viscount has neither flowers nor pearls, but only the plain circlet adorned with pearls, which, regardless of number, are placed on the crown itself.

Baron has only six pearls on the golden border, not used to distinguish him from an Earl, and the number of pearls renders the diadem distinct from that of a Viscount.

HOW TO CLEAN GLOVES.
Here is a glove "wrinkle" used by a well-known society lady, and which is vouched for by her as infallible in its effects: She procures a tin box, or a jar with a tight, close fitting cover, and puts into the bottom a lot of lump ammonia. Then she suspends the gloves in the box or jar, closes it tightly, and allows it to remain this way four or five days. At the end of this time she removes the gloves, and every spot will be found to have vanished.

EVER-READY GLUE.

To prepare glue for use at any time it is only necessary to put the quantity desired into a bottle and cover it up with whiskey. Cork tightly and set it away for a few days, when it will be fit for use. Glue thus prepared will keep for years.

CAPTURING A PYTHON.

Remarkable Exhibition of Strength in a Snake.
Pythons are numerous in the Philippines. We often heard of very large ones, says Mr. Dean C. Worcester in his interesting account of these much-talked-of-islands, but the nearer we got to them the smaller they grew. Finally, however, we got a fine specimen. Some men had found him coiled up under a fallen tree. Arranging rattan slip-nooses so that he could not escape them, they had then poked him till he crawled into their snares, when they jerked the knots tight, and made the lines fast to trees and rocks.

When we reached the python I nearly stepped on him, for he was stretched out on the ground and looked for all the world like a log. A venomous hiss warned me of my mistake, and caused me to beat so sudden a retreat as to afford great delight to the assembled crowd of Tagbanuas.

The reptile had about three feet of play for his head, and I thought it wise to treat him with respect. Drenching a handful of absorbent cotton with chloroform, I presented it to him on the end of a piece of bamboo.

AN INVITED TASTE.

I suppose, she said, you are a piece of student of literature. I am a student of literature. I like dialect stories.

What a lawyer doesn't think he knows isn't worth lying about.

NEWSPAPER LAWS.

We call the special attention of Postmasters and subscribers to the following synopsis of the newspaper laws:

1. If any person orders his paper discontinued, he must pay all arrears, or the publisher may continue to send it until payment is made, and collect the whole amount, whether it be taken from the office or not. There can be no legal discontinuance until payment is made.

2. Any person who takes a paper from the post office, whether directed to his name or another, or whether he has subscribed or not is responsible for the pay.

3. If a subscriber orders his paper to be stopped at a certain time, and the published continues to send, the subscriber is bound to pay for it if he takes it out of the post office. This proceeds upon the ground that a man must pay for what he uses.

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SOUTH AMERICAN NERVINE

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The eyes of the world are literally fixed on South American Nervine. They der, but critical and experienced men have been studying this medicine for years, with the one result—they have found that its claim of perfect curative qualities cannot be gained.

The great discovery of this medicine was possessed of the knowledge that the seat of all disease is the nerve centres, situated at the base of the brain. In this belief he had the best scientific and medical men of the world occupying exactly the same premises. Indeed, the ordinary layman recognized this principle long ago. Everyone knows that the human system and brain are united in the one great centre, the brain. Injure the spinal cord, and the nervous system is sure to follow. Here is the seat of the principle. The trouble is at their hands.