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About the House.

SOUPS.

Potato Soup.—Possibly this is the least expensive and the most quickly prepared. Pare and slice three or four potatoes and cook in a very little water. Put a quart of milk in a double boiler, or in a basin over an asbestos mat, that it may not scorch, and add a tablespoonful of chopped onion. Skin out the potatoes when soft, mash and rub through a colander; blend half a tablespoonful of cornstarch with a little melted butter, cook two minutes, then stir it into the scalding milk, add the potato and cook five minutes. Serve hot with croutons, small squares of bread browned in a hot oven.

Canned Tomatoes.—Make a delicious soup. Put a quart of canned or freshly-stewed tomatoes into a porcelain or granite saucepan; add a tablespoonful of boiling water, a teaspoonful of salt, a tablespoonful of granulated sugar, and a slight dusting of white pepper. In a basin or small saucepan, heat a tablespoonful of butter very hot, do not brown it; add a few slices of onion; cook gently five minutes then add a tablespoonful of cornstarch or flour mixed smoothly with a little cold water; stir and immediately pour in a teaspoonful of boiling milk, and simmer two or three minutes. Strain and serve with croutons crisped in a hot oven.

Mock Bisque Soup.—Strain a pint of canned or freshly-stewed tomatoes; heat to boiling a quart of milk, as directed for potato soup. Melt a tablespoonful of butter; pour in two spoonfuls of cornstarch blended with half a teaspoonful of thick cream, stirring rapidly as you pour, and cook a few minutes. Season with a scant teaspoonful of salt, a pinch of white pepper, and bits of butter, as if a rich soup is desired. To be served with croutons or crackers.

Onion Soup.—Melt a piece of butter the size of an egg; slice into it a medium-sized onion, and fry a delicate brown; add three gills of milk and one of cream; season to taste with pepper and celery salt. Split three or four Boston crackers put in a tureen, and over them strain the hot milk.

Green Corn Soup.—Into a saucepan put half a can of corn, crush the kernels as much as may be; add a pint of milk and half a pint of cream, and cook ten minutes; meantime fry two slices of onion in a little butter. Add this to the milk; thicken with flour made into a smooth paste with a little cold milk; season with salt and pepper; cook three minutes and strain.

Soup from Lima Beans.—Heat a pint of fresh-cooked or canned beans, press through a colander and add a quarter of milk and a teaspoonful of cream, season with a tablespoonful of butter and the usual condiments, and simmer fifteen minutes. Serve in soup plates, and at each cover place a saucer of very small crackers.

Cream of Asparagus.—Cut young tender stalks into inch lengths, boil until tender in water to cover, and rub through a sieve. Into a quart of hot milk put a heaping tablespoonful of butter, add the asparagus pulp, two tablespoonfuls of thick cream, and pour over very thin slices of hard-boiled eggs.

Cut finely a large bunch of celery, cook soft in only water enough to cover and rub through a coarse colander. Scald a pint of half milk and half cream and add to the celery, also the water in which it was boiled. Season with white pepper and salt, and slightly thicken with a little flour, blended with melted butter. Serve with wide finger lengths of delicately toasted bread.

Never use butter that is in the least off flavor. White pepper makes a more delicate soup. If soups maigre are too thick, they are not relished and they lack body if too thin. Soups should be served very hot. The tureen should first be heated; this may be done by placing it on the stove, or over a fire which nearly all stoves are now supplied, or it may be filled with boiling water a few minutes. When wanted, drain quickly and fill.

THE BIRTHDAY FLOWER.
For a child's birthday party let the table be decorated with the flower of the month in which the child was born, as: January, snowdrop; February, the primrose; March, violet; April, daisy; May, hawthorn; June, wild rose; July, lily; August, poppy; September, convolvulus; October, hops; November, chrysanthemum; December, holly. Each has an appropriate sentiment attached to it. The snowdrop means consolation; the primrose, youthful sunshine; the violet, modesty; the daisy, innocence; the hawthorn, hope; the wild rose, simplicity; the lily, purity; the poppy, the comfort of sleep; the convolvulus, contentment; hops, aspiration; the chrysanthemum, cheerfulness; holly, foresight and protection.

THINGS MOTHERS SHOULDN'T DO.
She should not forget that if she treats her boy as a gentleman, she will do much toward making him a gentleman.

She should not treat her boy to perpetual frowns, scoldings, and fault-finding. "Sugar attracts more flies than vinegar." Love wins her boy to a noble manhood.

She should never be so busy or hard pressed for time that she cannot listen to him. If he lives to be a man he will all too soon leave her. She should make the most of him, while she has him.

She should encourage outdoor exercise and sports, and she should not forget to train him with proper regard for his personal appearance.

She should never allow him to form such habits as coming to the table in

his shirt sleeves, neglecting his nails or teeth, or carrying soiled handkerchiefs about with him.

She should never nag him, or forget that it is a creature of reason, not an animal that requires to be driven.

She should not try to break her boy's will, but be thankful that he is mainly enough to have a mind of his own.

LET THE CHILDREN LAUGH.

Chavasse, an eminent surgeon, says: "Encourage your children to be merry and to laugh aloud. A good, hearty laugh expands the chest and makes the blood bound merrily along. Commend me to a good laugh, not to a little, sniggering laugh, but to one that will sound right through the house. It will not only do your child good, but will be a benefit to all who hear and be an important means of driving the blues away from a dwelling. Merriment is very catching and spreads in a remarkable manner, few being able to resist the contagion. A hearty laugh is delightful harmony. Indeed it is the best of all music."

CHILDREN'S FOOD.

While mothers should keep their children clothed as well as means and time permit, they must not forget that, while any old thing may do for a child to wear without serious discomfort, too much care cannot be taken in regard to food. This is especially true of the growing children in school. An eminent physician says that "school experiences are particularly apt to encourage irritation and waste of nerve and muscle tissue. Hence the need during school-time of special care with respect to diet."

VALUE OF EGGS.

Eggs can be used as a substitute for paste or mucilage to seal a letter or a jar of jelly.

The white of an egg will allay the smart of a burn if bound upon it immediately, excluding the air.

Half a dozen eggs given immediately after an emetic will render corrosive sublimate harmless.

The white of an egg beaten and swallowed will dislodge a fish bone from the throat.

When a mustard plaster is mixed with the white of an egg, instead of water, no blister will follow its application.

In testing eggs remember that a very egg will sink, and a bad egg will swim; if it is difficult to remember which is which, just stop to think that a fresh egg sinks because of the water in its own composition.

Another test of a thoroughly fresh egg is the distinctness with which yolk may be seen when the egg is held up to the light.

ABOUT IRONING.

To get the best results the starching should be solid, stiff enough to stand wear, and flexible enough to give to your movements.

A high polish should not be aimed at, but instead a fine even finish. Neckbands of shirts should be ironed in their original shape, and set up at right angles with the shirt to allow the neck free play.

Another test of a thoroughly fresh egg is the distinctness with which yolk may be seen when the egg is held up to the light.

SORE MOUTH.

Children frequently have sores on their tongues, caused from a deranged stomach, more commonly known as story blisters. Sulphur is the very best remedy known. It stands far ahead of the mouth washes composed of sage, borax, alum, etc., and is not so painful. If the child is too small to hold the sulphur in its mouth dry, mix it with butter. If it swallows it so much the better.

SACREDNESS OF APPOINTMENTS.

There is one thing that is almost as sacred as the marriage relation—that is, an appointment. A man who fails to meet his appointment, unless he has a good reason, is practically a liar, and the world treats him as such. "I give it as my deliberate and solemn conviction," said Dr. Fitch, "that the individual who is tardy in meeting an appointment will never be respected or successful in life."

"If a man has no regard for the time of other men," said Horace Greeley, "why should we have for his money? What is the difference between taking a man's hour and taking his five dollars? There are many men to whom each hour of the business day is worth more than five dollars."

"It is not necessary for me to live," said Pompey, "but it is necessary that I be at a certain point at a certain hour."

Franklin said to a servant who was always late, but always ready with an excuse: "I have generally found that the man who is good with an excuse is good for nothing else."

On the eve of Nelson's departure on a famous cruise, his coachman said that the carriage would be at the door punctually at six o'clock. "A quarter before," said the admiral. "I have always been a quarter of an hour before my time, and it has made a man of me."

Napoleon once invited his marshals to dine with him, but as they did not arrive at the moment appointed, he began to eat without them. They came in just as he was rising from the table. "Gentlemen," said he, "it is now past dinner, and we will immediately proceed to business."

HE WAS REMINDED.

He, admiring a vase of flowers—Are they not beautiful? Do you know, the gentleman, said he, "it is now past dinner, and we will immediately proceed to business."

CURE FOR INFLUENZA.

A Manchester doctor, after five years' observation and experience of influenza, states that cinnamon is the best drug to cure the disease. It may be taken as a decoction, or in the form of tablets.

DAMMING THE NILE.

The Wonders of the Great Reservoir Just started at Assuan.

Since the building of the pyramids Egypt has seen few such gigantic undertakings as the construction of the great reservoir dam at Assuan, the foundation stone of which was laid a few days ago by the Duke of Connaught, says the London Mail.

This dam will be a mile and a quarter in length; the height of the coping-stone, will be 300 feet above the bed of the lower river, and for 140 miles Father Nile will feel the influence of this great impounding of waters.

English engineers and English surveyors have planned this great enterprise, English money is at the back of it, and English bondholders will, next perhaps to the cultivators of the soil on the Nile banks, derive the greatest benefit.

Five thousand dusky natives are already at work; one order for 3,000,000 barrels of European cement has been or is about to be delivered; thousands of tons of granite ashlar are being quarried from the Assuan side of the river. Never has the ancient river on whose bosom Moses was cradled seen such industry. John Bull has very much arrived.

The dam will be built of material taken from the quarries at Assuan, whence came the granite used for the construction of the Thames embankment.

On its completion the reservoir will hold 250,000,000 gallons of water, and across this huge artificial lake a bridge will stretch, and camel trains and pedestrians will pass over, and all will be life and bustle and hurry. Never had the descendants of Pharaoh such a shaking up.

And what is the object of it all? "Egypt is the Nile, and the Nile is Egypt." In that ancient saying the whole business may be summed up. The dam will be up the rich Nile waters.

MILLIONS OF ACRES OF LAND will be irrigated; 2,500 square miles will be reclaimed from the desert; in short, the dam will increase the country's productive capacity by 25 per cent. Egypt's output of raw sugar will in a year or two be doubled perhaps.

Here is a chance for the "depressed" British farmer. Let him go to Egypt. The soil there, when it can get Nile water, is more kind than that at home. Cotton and sugar command high prices, and one acre will produce from four to five hundredweight of long-staple cotton. When the great dam is completed vast tracts of land will be capable of producing two, if not three, crops in the year.

The work will be completed in a little over five years from now. This is the first time a river approaching the size of the Nile has had a dam built in it. Another novel thing about this scheme is that it will be both a dam and a waterway.

Now, as to the cost. When one considers the stupendous character of the scheme, the many difficulties that will have to be overcome, and the incalculable benefits that will accrue, the price does not appear exorbitant. The contractors are to receive, in round figures, £160,000 a year for thirty years, making in all about £4,800,000.

The period over which this payment is to extend must carry conviction to the minds of other nations who have set long eyes on the valley of the Nile that Great Britain means to hold onto it, for some time, at any rate.

A curious obstacle was at the outset placed in the way of realizing the scheme. The original plans for the construction of the dam would have involved the disappearance of the famous ruins of Philae.

Miles of petitions were drawn up and submitted to the authorities, and scores of alternative plans suggested some of them worthy the imaginative minds that had conceived them. One was to remove Philae, stone by stone, to Cairo, thus bringing it still easier within the reach of tourists.

Finally the engineers modified their plans, and the dam will be one-third lower than was at first proposed. Still, when the reservoir is finished, Philae will never be itself again; for the waters will wash the feet of the temples that for ages have stood like sentinels guarding the boundary of Nubia and Egypt.

SIBERIA'S WHEAT.

Thousands of Tons Were Available For Export Last Year.

A few years ago some of the best writers on the Russian Empire, including Prince Krapotkin, believed that the wheat producing capabilities of Siberia had been much overrated, and that the country would never be able to produce more of the cereal than it needs for its own consumption.

But as the Siberian railroad has pushed through new regions, and thousands of Russian families have followed its advance and made new homes, it begins to look as though the writers who held pessimistic views concerning Siberian agriculture were mistaken.

In the Altai mining district, last year over 300,000 tons of surplus wheat were produced and only 5 per cent. of the available agricultural lands have yet been brought into cultivation.

The fertile steppe country opened up by the western section of the railroad, 61,500 tons of wheat were raised for export where until recently it was necessary to import wheat every year for local consumption.

AN EMPRESS' PRIVILEGE.

The Empress of Japan has the privilege accorded to none of her predecessors. She is allowed to eat at the same table with the Emperor, and he consults her in regard to political matters. The Empress is fond of horse-back riding, and also exercises every day in her private gymnasium.

Newspaper Laws.

We call the special attention of Postmaster and subscribers to the following synopsis of the new 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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Are Fixed Upon South American Nervine.

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WHEN EVERY OTHER HELPER HAS FAILED IT CURES

A Discovery, Based on Scientific Principles, that Renders Failure Impossible.



In the matter of good health temporarily, while possibly successful for the moment, can never be lasting. Those in poor health soon know whether the remedy they are using is simply passing incident in their experience, bracing them up for the day, or something that is getting at the seat of the disease and is surely and permanently restoring.

The eyes of the world are literally fixed on South American Nervine. They are not viewing it as a nine-days' wonder, 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 gainsaid.

The great discoverer of this medicine 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 scientists and medical men of the world occupying exactly the same premises. Indeed, the ordinary layman recognized the principle long ago. Everyone knows that disease or injury affect this part of the human system and death is almost certain. Injure the spinal cord, which is the medium of these nerve centres, and paralysis is sure to follow. Here is the first principle. The trouble is at the base of the brain.

Thousands of men have not been cured of South American Nervine. It is a medical marvel, that it does exactly what it claims to do. It stands alone as the one great certain cure of the nineteenth century. Who should anyone suffer distress and pain while this remedy is practically at their hands?

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