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THE CHERRY.

The cherry comes originally from Asia. After a victorious expedition into Pontus, the Roman general, Lucullus, brought the cherry from Cerasus, a town of that province, into Italy. Soldier though he was, he had an eye open to whatever was agreeable in the way of food, and it is not to be doubted that he regarded the cherry as one of the proudest of all his trophies. The cherry was then brought to Rome about 70 years before Christ. About 120 years later it it was introduced into Great Britain. From Italy it was brought also into all the other countries of Europe, in every one of which it is now a universal favorite with all classes of the people.

The Roman horticulturist soon produced other specimens of the cherry, and Pliny makes mention of eight different varieties which were extant in his day. It shows what great things can be accomplished by cultivation and art, and more than three hundred different varieties are now specially described in the official catalogues. The gum of the cherry is almost identical with gum arabic, and it has frequently been utilized for food.

The wood of the cherry is very beautiful and much used for furniture. Some people of good taste admire it as much as mahogany. It is hard, compact and tough, and it possesses the rare virtue of not warping. It takes on a high polish. Its beautiful reddish tint, instead of fading with time, grows deeper and deeper every year.

In Germany, the cherry tree is a great favorite, and is extensively used as an ornamental shade tree. Many road-sides are lined with cherry trees on both sides. You will frequently pass through an avenue of these beautiful shade trees for miles at a time. Loudon makes record of the fact in his work called "Arboretum" that in the year 1828 he traveled for several days through a continuous avenue of cherry trees from Strasbourg by a circuitous route to the city of Munich. Whether they were in fruit, or in blossom, or merely in leaf, the ride must have been a charming one.

"These avenues in Germany," says Loudon, "are planted at the desire of the respective governments, not only for shading the traveler, but in order that the poor pedestrian may obtain refreshment during his journey. All persons are allowed to partake of the cherries on condition of not injuring the trees; but the main crop, when ripe, is gathered by the respective proprietors of the land on which they grow. The celebrated kirchenwasser of the Germans is made of the wild cherry of the Black Forest. Stones and all are fermented with the pulp. The ratifia cordial of Grennoble are made of the cherry. So is maraschino, which is the most celebrated of all Italian liquors. The leaves, the kernels, as well as the pulp of the fruit, are fermented together. A quantity of honey is also added. From the result of all this maraschino is the product of distillation."

THE POTATO.

HOW IT CAME TO BE EATEN BY THE FRENCH ARISTOCRACY.

About the year 1530 the potato was carried from Peru into Spain, and from Spain into the gardens of Italy, Germany and Flanders. In 1588 an inhabitant of Arras first drew attention to its culinary value; but prejudice was so strongly against it that it did not come into use. In 1595 Gaspard Baulim succeeded in effecting its introduction into certain parts of the environs of Lyons and the mountains of the Vosges.

Philosophers, however, said it must be injurious, because it was sort of a night shade, and the populace got a notion that its use gave rise to scurvy. In this state of bare toleration the potato remained in France until the year 1783, when the naturalist, Parmentier, commenced a series of potato banquets to his friends. Potatoes, nothing but potatoes, on these occasions, appeared before the guests. All the genius, however, of French cookery was invoked to impart to them agreeable forms and savory tastes.

This was the naturalist's first step. His second was still more extraordinary. Having planted a considerable breadth of potatoes at Montreuil, near Paris, he gained an audience of the unfortunate Louis XVI., in the course of which he inspired his majesty with the ideas of the value of the potato.

"But how are we to make people eat what they are prejudiced against?" inquired the king.

"Sire, if your majesty will graciously afford me a little aid, that prejudice shall be removed," replied Parmentier.

"To overcome prejudice is a difficult matter; but how can I aid you, M. Parmentier?"

"If your majesty shall graciously order that a soldier shall mount guard on my potato field at Montreuil, potatoes will be all the fashion in less than six months."

The King laughed, and granted Parmentier's request. Thenceforward a military guard might be seen prominading with measured step the naturalist's potato field. How precious must that blue-flowered plant be! thought the lookers-on. No more fear of leprosy—no more dread of poisoning. The highest people in France were proud to eat potatoes. In 1785 the harvest failed, the corn crop scarcely amounting to one-half the usual yield. The popular indifference with respect to the potato culture completely disappeared, and the rapidity with which its propagation was conducted may be estimated by the fact that in the year 1793 five thousand acres of land were under potato culture in France. In 1815 there were about eight hundred and seventy-five thousand seven hundred and sixty acres thus devoted.

PEACH CHEESE.—Take a number of green peaches, rub them carefully in a cloth to remove all dust. Put them into a stewpan with a small quantity of water—about half a pint to a pound of fruit (for large quantities a smaller proportion of water might be used). When the peaches are perfectly soft rub them through a fine sieve with a wooden spoon laying aside some of the stones, which should be broken, and there kernels added to the peach pulp. Weigh the pulp, stir it over the fire until quite hot, add half its weight in sugar, some lemon juice and a little grated peel; stir the whole on the fire until thick; and then put into shapes. It should be quite hard when cold, and turn out easily. If the pulp be very watery boil for twenty minutes before adding the sugar. This preserve will keep for a long time if sufficiently cooked. This recipe was used with good success in South America, and no doubt would serve for peaches in all stages of ripeness, but only perfectly sound fruit should be used. It is not necessary to peal the peaches.

CORN AND MATHEMATICS.—There are some curious things about corn. You can find a four leaf clover, but I have never yet found an odd row on an ear of corn. It is always fourteen, or sixteen, or twenty, or some other even number, and I would like to understand what corn knows about mathematics, and what objection nature has to odd numbers. But nature is full of mystery. Right before me on the front piazza are two vines climbing a cane—one a maderia and the other a jassamine.—and they cross each other at every round climbing in opposite directions, and I have tried to make them reverse, but they won't. You may tie one with a string, but it will squirm and twist out and go according to its nature.

VOTE the whole Democratic ticket.

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ALSO, A LARGE AND ELEGANT STOCK OF

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TOOTH CANNOT SLIP.

Farmers can save the price of one of these Harrows in a very short time, in time and labor saved in going over the ground, as once going over prepares and mellows it up in such a condition to receive the seed as would not be obtained in going over three or four times with any of the ordinary Harrows. It is also the best seed-coverer in the world.

Ground prepared by this Harrow will yield a larger crop than by any other agricultural implement, because it pulverizes the ground thoroughly, cuts the soil from the bottom, shakes it up, and leaves it in a loose condition; in so doing it shakes out all grass, thistle and weeds, leaving them on the surface in the sun, where they die much quicker than if half covered up. For sale by

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EBENSBURG, PA., SEPT. 1, 1882.—4t.

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OFFICES in Luther & Green's large brick building, corner Main and Clinton sts., Johnstown and in Colonade Row, Ebensburg. [7-1, '81.]

$75 a week. $12a day at home easily made. Costly $12 Outfit free. Address True & Co., Augusta, Me.

WHY A KEROSENE LAMP EPXLODES.

Girls, as well as boys, need to understand about kerosene explosions. A great many fatal accidents happen from pouring kerosene oil on the fire to make it kindle better; also by pouring oil in a lamp while lighted. Most people suppose that it is the kerosene itself which explodes, and that if they are careful to keep the oil itself from the fire or light there will be no danger. But this is not so. If a can or lamp is left about half full of kerosene oil, the oil will dry up, or "evaporate," a little, and will form, by mingling in the air in the upper part a very explosive gas. You cannot see this gas any more than you can see the air. But if it is disturbed and driven out, and a blaze reaches it, a terrible explosion ensues, although the blaze did not touch the oil. There are several other liquids used in houses and workshops which will produce an explosive vapor in this way. Benzine is one; burning fluid is another, and naphtha, alcohol, ether, chloroform may do the same thing.

In a New York workshop lately, there was a can of benzine, or gasoline, standing on the floor. A boy lighted a cigarette, and threw the burning match on the floor, close to the can. He did not dream there was any danger, because the liquid was corked up in a can, but there was a terrible explosion, and he badly hurt. That seems very mysterious. The probability is that the can had been standing there a good while, a good deal of vapor had formed, some of which had leaked out around the stopper and was hanging in a sort of invisible cloud over and around the can: and this cloud, as the match struck it, exploded.

Suppose a girl tries to fill a kerosene lamp without blowing it out. Of course the lamp is empty or she would not care to fill it. This empty space is filled with a cloud of explosive vapor arising from the oil in the lamp. When she pushes the nozzle of the can into the lamp at the top, and begins to pour, the oil, running into the lamp, fills the empty space and pushes the cloud of vapor up: the vapor is obliged to pour out over the top, into the room outside. Of course it strikes the blazing wick the girl holds at one side. The blaze of the wick sett the invisible cloud of vapor on fire, and there is an explosion which ignites the oil and scatters it over her and over the furniture of the room. This is the way in which kerosene lamps burst. The same thing may happen when the girl pours the oil over the fire in the range or the stove, if there is a cloud of explosive vapor in the upper part of the can, or if the stove is hot enough to vaporize quickly some of the oil as it falls. Remember it is not the oil, but the invisible vapor that explodes. Taking care of the oil will not protect you. There is no safety but in this rule: Never pour oil on a lighted fire or in a lighted lamp. —*Christian Union.*

THE HEDGEHOG'S MODE OF DEFENSE.—The hedgehog is one of the best protected of living animals. "It marches securely under the guardianship of its thorny-spiked armor, it recks little of any foe, save man. The formidable array of bristling spines with which the back is more or less covered offers a *cheval-de-frise* of sharp spikes to any animal that may offer itself as an enemy. Another peculiarity is the power possessed by these creatures of rolling themselves into a round ball, by placing the head upon the breast, drawing up the legs, and curling the body firmly around the members. By this posture the hogs render themselves invulnerable to almost any animal that may try to attack them. When in this curious attitude, he cannot be unrolled by main force as long as life remains in the body, for there is an enormously developed muscle, with a very thick margin, which spreads over the back and round the sides, and which when contracted, holds the creature in so firm an embrace that it will be torn in pieces rather than yield its point."

The spines of this animal are about an inch long, and naturally lie flat on the back, directed towards the tail. But by a peculiar arrangement they are erected when the owner coils himself. In shape the spine is "not unlike a large pin, being sharply pointed at one extremity, and furnished at the other with a round, bead-like head and rather abruptly bent near the head. If the skin be removed moved from the hedgehog, the quills are seen to be pinned, as it were, through the skin, being retained by their round heads, which are acted upon by the peculiar muscle which has already been mentioned."

Protected by this defense the hedgehog is enabled to throw itself from considerable heights, to curl itself into a ball as it descends, and to reach the ground without being hurt by the fall. A hedgehog has been seen repeatedly to throw itself from a wall twelve or fourteen feet in height, and to fall upon the hard ground without appearing to be inconvenienced by the tumble. On reaching the ground it would unroll itself and trot off with perfect unconcern.—*Popular Science Monthly.*

THE DEATH-VALLEY OF JAVA.—A romantic tradition has been refuted, another thrilling illusion dispelled, by Dr. Otto Kuntze's discoveries that the lethal capacities of Pakamaran, the renowned Javanese Death Valley, is as utterly fabulous as the Norwegian Kraken or Richard of Gloucester's hump. It is no longer permitted to believe that the effects of the subtle poison given off by the "Deadly Upas Tree," have bestrewn that dismal vale with carcasses of savage beasts, birds, serpents, or that a certain death awaits any foolhardy traveller attempting to cross it; for the eminent German explorer has paid Pakamaran an exhaustive visit, and reports it to be as healthy as any other part of the island. In the way of corpses he did not see as much as a dead fly within its precincts. He describes it as a small circular depression in a gorge of Dieng Mountains, about seven square metres in size, and forlorn of vegetation. It is approached by two foot-paths, winding downwards from the hills by which it is surrounded. By one of these paths Dr. Kuntze entered the Death Valley, despite the entreaties of his guides and servants, one of whom repeatedly strove to hold him back by force, and having traversed Pakamaran in every direction quitted it by the other path. The natives had assured him that he would find the valley choked up by skeletons, as even the swiftest birds, flying above would drop down stone dead, slain by its poisonous exhalations. In vain, however, did he look about for a bone; nor could he detect the least unpleasant odor. Dr. Kuntze pronounced Pakamaran to be an imposture, the offspring of ignorance and superstition. Unable to dispute his sentence, we are bound, not altogether without regret, to relegate the death-dealing vale to the limbo of exploded myths.

A CHEAP WAY TO DISSOLVE BONES.—This can easily be done without the use of sulphuric acid. Strong lye, from hard-wood ashes, will do the work, and if you have a large iron pot, or boiler, you can have them ready for use in a short time. Throw in ashes and bone together for an hour or two. Set aside and let cool. The bone will now be found to be in a soft and brittle state, and may be crushed under slight pressure. The contents of the boiler—lye, ashes and bones—are all excellent material for the compost heap.

But perhaps, economical housekeepers will prefer to utilize the bones for soap-making, in the first place. It is a good idea, as the bones, waste lye, and other refuse, after the soap is made can be carried into the compost heap, as before. Never throw away a good bone, but put all away in a safe place until you have enough for a good boiling. I would stop by the roadside to pick up a bone even though ten miles from home. They contain some of the richest elements of plant food, and are therefore invaluable as fertilizers.

Back Ache

POSITIVELY CURED BY

Benson's Capcine Porous Plasters.

Reasons Why they are Preferred to All Other Porous Plasters or External Remedies:

First.

Because they possess all the merit of the strengthening porous plaster, and contain in addition thereto the newly discovered powerful and active vegetable combination which acts with increased rubefacient, stimulating, sedative and counter irritant effects.

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Because they are a genuine pharmaceutical preparation, and so recognized by the profession.

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Fourth.

Because they will positively cure diseases which other remedies will not even relieve.

Fifth.

Because over 5000 physicians and druggists have voluntarily testified that they are superior to all other plasters or medicines for external use.

Sixth.

Because the manufacturers have received the only medals ever given for porous plasters.

Benson's Capcine Porous Plaster!

SEABURY & JOHNSON,

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A SURE REMEDY AT LAST. Price 25cts. A MEAD'S Medicated CORN and BUNION PLASTER.

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A Superlative Health and Strength Restorer.

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