The name "Iris" is the origin of the conventional Fleurs-de-Lys, or de-

The name ("all hues") is derived from a fabulous deity and special attendant on Juno. She was entitled "the presented with variegated colors on her she guided the souls of the women to their spiritual resting-place (as Mercury those of men), they planted her emblematic flower round the tombs of their women. The Egyptians, Babylonians, and Assyrians held the Iris in much esteem; with it they crowned the brows of their kings; and the flower may be seen as the terminal ornament on the after, and on the monuments of the kings of Assyria and Babylon. The same idea of its regal character or its stately beauty caused the selection of this flower-crowned reed or flag, by the ancient Franks (the yellow Pseudacorus) as a sceptre, which they placed in the hand of a newly-proclaimed king, when they elevated him upon a shield, and bore him in state upon their

shoulders. This beautiful flower has been immortalised by poets, from the time when Virgil sang of the goddess of whom it was the chosen emblem, down to that of Longfellow-some of my readers recognising the quotation-"O! flower de luce, bloom on, and let

the river Linger to kiss thy feet! O flower of song, bloom on, and make

The world more fair and sweet."

\* \* \* AMARYLLIS JOHNSONII GRANDIFLORA.

A writer in "The Household" says I have now in bloom four large pots of these beautiful amaryllis, each pot has four blooming bulbs planted in it, the flower stalks of each almost three feet high crowned with seven and sometimes eight glowing, crimson lilies the long, dark green leaves contrasting well with the regal lilies. For soil I use well rotted manure and rich, fibrous leaf mold with coarse sand, using a pint of broken charcoal for drainage to each pot. I have the soil well mixed, fill the pot half tull, then put in the amaryllis, straighten out the roots and cover the bulbs well with sand and chargoal then fill up with the mixed soil almost to the top of the pot; water and tie up securely to stakes. I generally use three stakes to each pot and am careful not to bruise or break the

I grow them all summer in a sunny place giving water as they need it, always trying to have a vigorous leaf growth, as much depends on this; if we expect to have large, strong lily scapes we must have strong, healthy

bulbs, well grown. In the fall I bring in early and set on the top of the flower stand giving just up beside the bulb, each bulb giving two stalks. As soon as the buds come peeping up I move the pots to a sunny window as close to the glass as I can, and then give weak manure water until the lilies are fully developed and such a teast of glowing lilies as I have! As soon as the flowering season is over I treat them just as I would any other plant, re-potting always in June.

For decoration of conservatories, churches or windows, they cannot be surpassed by any plant, always giving a grand effect when used with pots of cypress and palms or with the graceful acacia. I grow other amaryllis but do not think that any of them are more desirable than the Johnsonii grandiflora. They should always be grown in large pots and given good culture as they will not give good results unless they are well grown, and have a season of rest. I find the vallotta very easy grown and most satisfactory as it is sure to bloom in August, giving one its beautiful crimson lilies, and I have had them a top dressing of rich soil and they thrive well.

GLADIOLI.

Bulbs of these beautiful summer and autumn flowering plants should be placed in the ground now, covering them three or four inches deep. If a mass of spikes is required, the bulbs may be disposed about eight inches apart, but if isolated clumps are preferred, three bulbs may be planted together in a triangle, inserting a stick in the centre of them, to which the three stems can be tied to prevent their being broken by the wind. The scarlet variety known as brenchleyensis is one of the cheapest and most effective; but varieties are sold in a mixture of colors at low rates by seedsmen and dealers. Gladioli grow two or three feet inheight, but they do not spread, and not much more beauty can be had from a small space than is produced by these flowers: they are, therefore, adapted to small gardens, and grow well near or even in towns, where the soil is good. A few bulbs may also be inserted between other plants in window-boxes, and the sooner they are placed in the soil the better after the beginning of May. Many have been planted some time, but they grow and flower very well if put in now.

Do not cut the lawn too frequently when the weather is dry.

A handsome variegated thing is fiscus, elastica variegata. The marking is extremely handsome, shading from pale yellow to green, and the general habit is as robust as in the plain green var-

Earthworms in pots make the soil close and tenacious, and often injure the roots of the plants. They are not desirable under these circumstances, and the pots should be rid of them by plunging them for a time in lime water a half-hour, or long enough for the water to thoroughly saturate all of the soil-and then withdrawing them, and allowing the water to drain off .- Vick's

## FARM NOTES.

A CHICKEN'S GROWTH .- The mysterious development of animal life from the egg, as revealed day by day during the process of incubation, is a most interesting study. Usually on the third day after heat is applied to a fertile Goddes of the Rainbow," and was re- egg the "germ" is visible. The eye and brain first assume form. Veins wings, and as the Greeks supposed that radiate from this speck. By the fourth day these vessels are marked distinctly, appearing to emanate from the eye. The head is given shape on the fifth; the body on the sixth; the heart, liver and other internal organs developing rapidly from this time. On the ninth and tenth days the bones of the chick and of the sphinx, and adorned the sceptres the legs with small scales upon them, are discoverable. Life appears on the twelfth day. Heat is evolved from the atom off a creature. The circulation of the blood is noticeable. Thereafter the egg throws off a certain amount of heat and the incubator needs less artificial warmth to maintain the required 102 degrees. Up to the fifteenth day the chick's eyes have been the most prominent feature, but from that time on the growth is seemingly proportionate. To the nineteenth day it enlarges in its several parts, with legs, incipient feathers and beak. The following day that beak is used to batter down the lime wall that confines the bird; and during the six or twelve hours of imprisonment the little fellow's system absorbs the yolk of the egg, which furnishes the sustenance during the first day of adventure in a heartless and conspiring

DISPOSING OF CROPS .- It is an old proverb, "More stock more manure; more manure more crops; more crops more stock." There is, of course, a limit to be reached somewhere in the increase, but the farmer who engages in stock-raising is sure to reach a point where his stock cannot dispose of the productions of the soil by producing meat and milk, and his expenses are then reduced by reason of his abundance and independence of the necessity of buying elsewhere, which increases the profits from sales and gives the farm a greater value, due to its capacity of production, and in that respect he may be storing up the profit of each year to reap it at a future time in the shape of the surplus crops sold over and above the amount required for stock. The farmer whose farm is abundantly stocked with all the animals he can accommodate, and who sells his hay, is not atways as unwise as is sometimes charged, as the hay is simply a portion of the surplus which has been added to the farm in the manure, and which now becomes profit.

HOW SEEDS SPREAD,-It is related that some years ago a citizen of Cali- dency to make us more habitually fornia imported from the East the seed | cheerful. Melancholy persons disposed of the old-fashioned dandelion. He to brood morbidly over imaginary or early home. Like the man who im-ported the English sparrow, he did The best preventative of dyspepsia is a water enough to keep them from wilt- worse than he knew. The sparrow is habit of cheerful and kindly intercourse ing. Soon the leaves will turn yellow, everywhere; so is the dandelion. The at our meals, and the habit of self-conthese I carefully remove, then in a seed dritts in the wind, like that of the trol, which all politeness demands when short time new leaves will make their thistle; the down is built into the nests we meet together, is invaluable, as earance, and with the new leaves of birds, and every seed which gets a every physician can tell us, not only in will come the buds pushing their way lodgment on a lawn or grass-plot will, keeping us morally healthful, but also Now, the solitary dandelion is very at- ful and sane. tractive in bloom, and hardly less so when after the blossom the gauze globe the civilized man the marked and sigappears, and a few days afterward goes | nificant difference is in the order and sailing off before the wind like a small regularity of the latter-the regular balloon. But the citizen who is forced hours, the orderly meals, the daily into dig up his lawn because a million tercourse. And the small details of a dandelions have strangled the grass, will happy home life have an influence utter no benediction over the rich gold- greater than we know. The spotless en blossom.

keepers know what loss absconding its share in the impression of peace and swarms make and often what trouble it kindness. is to save them, says a Western apparist, To prevent this difficulty put a queen more we would be more willing to take that is not very valuable in a queen the trouble of our many "breakfasts, cage and tie it to some convenient dinners and teas."-Home and Farm. place, like a low limb on a tree. The swarm will be sure to settle on the cage where they can be hived without any box of gelatine in one pint of hot milk trouble. It is the scent of the queen in a double kettle. When thoroughly that causes them to alight. He adds dissolved add the yolks of three eggs that what called his attention to this and five tablespoonfuls of sugar, stir was the fact that so many swarms set- constantly and when it begins to thickthese bloom again in winter. I do not tled in the same place near the apiary. en a little, stir in the well beaten whites repot my vallotas every year but give He grasped the idea that it was the of three eggs, and one and one-half teascent of the queen that caused them spoonfuls of vanilla. Remove from the to do so, and after tying a queen cage with a queen in it to the limb of a tree mold or dish which has been previously

> among bees let your movements be de- until the next day. Serve with cream liberate, and do not appear to fear them says G. M. Doolittle, an expert apiarist dessert for Sunday. Cake can be served and authority. Quick, nervous movements the bees resent. If a bee is troublesome and you wish to retreat, put up your hands quietly and shield your face, as you quietly retreat. If you throw up your hands wildly and run, you may be sure you will lose the race, and the bees will leave you in a peculiar state of mind; not a calm, and peaceful frame, but, perhaps, one which will enable you to heed these instructions better than such a state of mind would.

A HINT TO APPLE GROWERS, -An Illinois fruit grower is said to have forwarded the apple production of a young orchard very much by planting only sixteen feet apart, requiring four times the usual number of trees. The redundant ones are girdled when large enough to bear; this both checks their growth and hastens fruitfulness, and they give a good return of extra fine specimens before it becomes necessary to remove them out of the way of the large permanent trees, then only beginning their yield.

STRAWHERRY beds that have not been kept clean since the berries were off will be quickly overrun with grass and weeds. If the weeds are in possession of the bed they may be mowed down. Grass will be more difficult to remove, and the best that can be done is to clean between the rows thoroughly in order to allow room for the new runners to root and grow.

TO SECURE flowers successively the bushes and vines must be kept in flowering condition by not allowing the flow- onions in butter. When cooked, withers to remain and go to seed. When a plant produces seed it has accomplished its object, and every seed pod formed lessens the number of flowers. All flowers the number of flowers. All flowers the number of flowers. be gifful polish to steel. lessens the number of nowers. All now begin the usual way, and insert this in the to fade or change color.

## HOUSEHOLD

EVERY-DAY MEALS .- "Breakfasts, dinners and suppers, day after day," exclaims some weary one. "How much simpler and better life would be if we never had to eat. What a waste of did." time there is in all this working and eating and washing of dishes over and Cornwallis crossing the Hudson." over all our life long." This is a mispart of our social and moral economy, because, fortunately, we are never al- then. I'll try and remember thatlowed to try the experiment of going much obliged." without them. Only imagine a world where each one simply ate when he was hungry, food that needed no care and preparation, and hurried off to his work or pleasure without paying any atten- tuner." tion to the movements of any one else, and see what the consequences would the gentleman next door sent me here, be. And remember in the first place that it is the trouble that it is necessary to take, the time and work that cooking requires, that necessitates our eating together at the same time, and changes the merely animal act of feeding into an hour of household companionship. Have you ever thought of what one day would be like without our break-

ing faces, and the influences of morning prayers still lingering about us to make every act of service more real? We begin the day at a well-ordered and cheerful breakfast table with love and kindly jest and interchange of plans for the day's work or recreation, and all day long the work and the recreation will be so much the better and truer for Then comes the dinner later in the day with the rest and talk-each meal in its turn a halt in the journey-a resting place for the mind as well as the body when often the tired business man has his best, it not his only opportunity of acquaintance with his children in the busy round of our modern life. I know a case of exhaustion, mental and physical, followed by months of wearing illness, all of which might have been avoided had the man, a conscientious but unwise worker, taken the rest of a dinner daily at home with cheerful intercourse, instead of a few cold mouthfuls unwillingly taken in an interval of work, alone, and no doubt even that sometimes forgotten. Was would this an economy of time? Months of legs." enforced idleness and suffering answer-

fast with the children's shining morn-

ed that question for him. The politeness and courtesy of a table among well bred people have their civilizing influence, especially on young people, whose characters and manners are being made. It is well for us to wait until some one else is served to learn to think of the small needs of others, to remember each other's small

preferences. Our meals taken socially have a tenwanted something to remind him of his real troubles, find nothing worse for in due time, produce a million more. in helping to keep us physically beauti-

Between the life of the savage and linen, the clear glass, the dainty china, the wholesome and well served dishes, To SAVE SWARMING BEES .- Al bee- the flowers beside the plate-each has

If we would think of these things

SPANISH CREAM .- Dissolve one-half a few times it proved the theory correct. dipped in cold water. This cream can be made in less than half an hour and BE QUIET AMONG BEES .- When should be left to stand in a cool place whipped or plain. This is a very nice with it.

LEMON JELLY .-- One box of gelatine dissolved in one pint of cold water for about an hour. Then add three pints of boiling water, the juice and grated rind of four lemons and sweeten to taste. Strain through a flannel bag and pour in jelly molds. It must be made the day before using and should

stand on ice. STEAMED CUSTARDS. - Boil one quart of sweet milk in a double kettle, dd four eggs well beaten, and twothirds of a cup of white sugar. Let it come to a boil, then remove from the stove and when cool flavor with one teaspoonful of vanilla and pour into custard cups. Have your steamer ready over boiling water and put your cups into it, steaming them until they thicken like custard pie. Try them with a handle of a teaspoon. When cold grate nutmeg over the top. Serve in the cups for dessert or tea.

BAKED AND STUFFED TOMATOES. Select firm, ripe tomatoes and with a sharp knife cut off a thin slice from the stem end. Now remove the green core and fill the orifice with an onion chopped very fine, a small piece of the best butter, a little pepper, a little salt and a teaspoonful of cracker dust or bread crumbs. Arrange them in a baking pan, add a little water and bake in a moderate oven.

TOMATO OMELET FOR SUPPER. Take equal parts of sliced onions and tomatoes, peeled and freed from pips, chop them both coarsely. Fry

MADE IT PLAIN .- "Say!" he began as he halted a pedestrian, "I'm stuck on a point in history. Why did Washington cross the Delaware?"

"He never did." Didn't he? Why, history says he

"No, it don't. It speaks of Lord "Ah! So it does - so it does. I was take. Our meals form an important all mixed up. That makes it plain to me now. Curious how a man will get and we don't realize their importance a little off on these things now and

> A NEIGHBOR SENT HIM.-He-'I'm the piano tuner, mum." She-"I haven't sent for any piano

"Yes, mum, I know, mum; it were

A GREAT TRAVELER .- Mr. Plaintalk-"Have you traveled much, Miss

Miss Elderly - "Indeed, I have. Every summer since my sixteenth year dear papa has taken me off for a trip

"Is that so? Well, I don't suppose that there is any country that you have every day." not visited."

just removed to a ten-story flat-"I wish, John, that you'd go down and see if the front door is locked." Mr. J .- "I will, if you'll promise not to wake me up at dead of night saying

FORCE OF HABIT .- Mrs. J., who has

there's a man in the cellar!" NOBODY THERE .- Dudy, insinuating himself into a railroad seat along-

side of a pretty Miss-"Nobody occupying the seat with you, Miss?" Miss, looking at him disdainfully-"Nobody yet!"

PEDESTRIANISM. -Hotel clerk-"Do you wish to walk to the railroad station, or shall I call a hack? It is only a block distant."

Fat man-"Get me a carriage. If Providence had intended me to walk I would have been provided with more

Malicious.—Mrs. Youngwife—"I am so happy. My dear husband never goes out. He always stays at home with me in the evenings."
Female friend—"Yes, I have heard that he never cared for pleasure of any

A DIFFERENCE .- Miss A .- "What

do you think Miss Elderly says?" Miss B .- "I have no idea." "She says she is approaching her thir-

tieth year." "Approaching it? Why, she has been getting away from it for the last

A lucky man is one who saves what

Save That Sweet Girl! Bave That Sweet Girl:

Don't let that beautiful girl fade and drop into invalidism or sink into an early grave for want of timely care at the most critical stage of her life. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription will aid in regulating her health and establishing it on a firm basis and may save her years of chronic suffering and consequent unhappiness.

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categoricall, a few plain questions?"
Witness—"Certainly, sir."
"Now, Mr. Costello, is there a female at present living with you who is known in the neighborhood as Mrs. Costello?

"There is." "Is she under your protection?" "She is." "Now, on your oath, do you maintain

her?" "I do." "Have you been married to her?"

"I have not." (Here several severe jurors scowled gloomily at Mr. Costello.) "That is all, Mr. Costello; you may

go down." Opposing Counsel—"Stop one mo-ment, Mr. Costello. Is the female in question your grandmother?" "Yes, she is."

How to SEE SERPENTS .- Hardy Mariner -- "I've lived on the water all my life and I've not seed no sea sarpints yet."

Dissipated tramp-"No wonder you didn't see 'em if you lived on water; you live on beer and whisky a few years like me, and you'll see lots of 'em 'most

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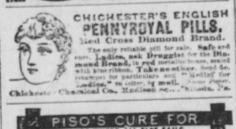
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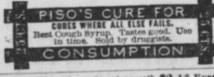


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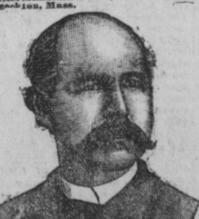
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