

How to Make Coffee. Much has been written on the making of coffee, and patent coffee-pots and other apparatus, of more or less intricate construction, have been devised for the preparation of the popular beverage; and yet it must be confessed that a really good cup of coffee is rather the exception than the rule. The problem is not so simple as it seems at first thought. The virtue of the coffee berry consists in its volatile aroma and its fixed extractive matter. To prevent the former from escaping into the air and the latter from remaining in the grounds is the desideratum, but the ordinary methods of doing the one interfere with doing the other. By the French plan of filtering boiling water through the ground coffee, the aroma is readily extracted, but the fixed matter is mostly left behind. On the other hand, by the common Yankee plan of boiling the grounds for a long time in water, the extractive matter is utilized, but the aroma flies off with the steam. Prof. C. A. Seeley has contrived a very simple process of killing both birds with one stone, which he thus describes: I take rather more than the usual amount of coffee, and pour on it hot water when it is ready to be used; in other words, I make French coffee. The grounds from this operation I leave to soak in the pot till the next day, when I begin to make my coffee by pouring hot water on these grounds, which hot water I use according to the French plan in making coffee from fresh ground coffee. The process is now in full operation, and every time coffee is wanted, the manipulations of the second morning are repeated. I thus extract all the soluble and useful matter of roasted coffee, and waste nothing. To put the art in the most practical form, I have found it necessary to modify the coffee-pot. Perhaps the simplest apparatus is the most ordinary pot provided with two strainers. The strainers are of cup form, and fit into each other and into the top of the pot. For use I set a strainer on top of the pot, and in the strainer I use fresh ground coffee; over this I use the second strainer, containing the grounds of the last operation. Now hot water is poured into the upper strainer, and percolates down into the pot, carrying with it all the goodness remaining in the grounds, and the aroma and much of the extractive of the fresh ground coffee. When the water has passed down, I throw away the now useless contents of the upper strainer, and repeat the contents of the lower strainer into the pot.

Preventing Water Pipes from Bursting. The following plan for the prevention of the bursting of water pipes during frosty weather has been invented in England. It is well known that when water freezes it expands, and that the force exerted is so enormous that no pipe can resist it. This invention is intended to give the water a chance to expand without bursting the pipe. It attempts this by securing in the inside of the metal pipe a space equal to the difference of volume between water and ice, so that when the water freezes it occupies the space reserved for it, instead of exerting its force on the pipe and bursting it. This is practically carried out by passing through the water pipe a small India rubber tube, especially made for the purpose, and of such diameter that the space inside it is a little more than equal to the increase in volume of the ice. The India rubber tube is always kept full of air, so that when the water freezes it finds the necessary space for expansion, for by compressing the air tube it displaces the air and takes its place. When the ice melts the tube again expands, becomes filled with air, and is ready for another frost, and so on for a number of times without requiring attention.

Warm Food and Tepid Water.—J. Wilkinson writes to the German Telegraph as follows:—I have made numerous careful experiments with feeding cows, when dry, with warm food by taking the milk from their water, and have always found it very profitable and gainful. I formerly advocated steaming stalks, straw, and coarse hay for cows, but my late experiments with boiling a thin slop with proper proportions of corn meal, or cake meal and bran, using steam cooking it, and applying the hot slop to this chopped forage and allowing it to steep for five hours before feeding, have satisfied me that it is much less expensive and more profitable. I have also learned that it is better to supply the cow with milk at all times and to put none in the food nor the morning. I have known an excessive quantity of milk in the food, which is very liable to occur, to cause such excessive thirst that the cow would herself with cold water to that degree that she did not recover to a normal condition for several weeks.

How to Mass Hens Laid.—An experience mentions a very successful producer of poultry and eggs whose hens lay regularly the year round. The hens are of various breeds, and their profit is credited to the manner of feeding, as follows:—No one particle of meat or scraps is given, and but the veriest trifle of vegetable food is fed in the shape of well-boiled potatoes, about once a week. abundance of grain is allowed, of various sorts, ground or unground or but never cooked, and plenty of unburnt oyster shell pounded, are at all times accessible. They have a plentiful skimmed milk every day, so that they can help themselves to all they want, no other drink being provided.

Hard-Milking Cows.—A dairymen says the milking, easy or hard of cows is transmitted from mother to offspring, and even through the bull to beifers of his stock; for they will be easy or hard milkers as the dam was, unless counteracted by the cow he mates with; in short, this is hereditary, just the same as good milking qualities or in respect and to quantity and quality of milk.

Stuffed Carrots.—Take a large fish calbag and cut out the heart, fill the calbag with a stuffing made of cooked chicken or veal, chopped very fine and highly seasoned, and roll into balls with yolk of egg. Then tie the calbags firmly together and boil in a covered kettle for two hours. This makes a delicious dish, and is useful for raising small pieces of cold meat.

Our School System. The schools of Pennsylvania may be readily divided into two classes—Colleges and Academies, Normal Schools and Common Schools. The former are independent of the State, and are under the control of the State, and are supported by the State; the latter are under the control of the State, and are supported by the State.

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