

Farm, Garden and Household.

Treatment of the Night's Milk.

What effect has removing the cream from the night's milk, upon the quantity and quality of the cheese made? This was the question asked by the (New York) Farmers' Club, eliciting the facts that one pound of butter can be made from the cream of 100 pounds of milk set over night, that after making the butter from the cream taken from the night's milk, it required nine and one-quarter of milk to make one pound of cheese; that if the cream once separates from the milk, it passes through chemical changes that render its absorption by the cheese, excepting through cohesion, impossible; that in the majority of cases where the cream is returned to the milk, it became melted in cooking, and passed off with the whey in oil; if the milk is kept in motion by an agitator, or means to prevent the cream from separating from the milk, there is danger of churning, and thus losing all the oil. Where cheese is made from milk thus treated, viz.: the cream from the night's proportion made into butter, it should not be cooked as high, and should remain in the whey longer. If properly made, there is no perceptible difference between this cheese and that in which the cream has been returned. Query: If the oil is retained by the cheese by cohesion, is it not liable to become rancid and cause the cheese to be of offensive flavor?

Persistence of Orchard-Grass.

A writer in the Philadelphia Press says: We have a field of it on a strong sandy loam, which has been in existence for thirty years. It has been cut for soiling; it has been cut for hay; it has been pastured; it was first sown with red clover and timothy, which it long ago run out, and although the white clover and blue grass venture their presence to a limited extent among it, the orchard grass maintains its supremacy, and, breast-high at maturity, lords it over its diminutive trespassers in a boundless good, while its humbler attendants, good in their place, modestly fill up a great nutritious undergrowth at the bottom. No grass which we have ever grown has yielded so heavy a swath as this, nor one from which so much cattle food to the acre can be grown, aside from lucerne, which our American climate will not, consecutively, year after year, produce.

PEA SOUP.—To every quart of unshelled peas allow two quarts of water, in which boil the empty pods half an hour; remove, strain, add one pint cold water, place over the fire, and in two pounds of beef cut in small pieces, boil slowly one hour, and if not enough water, add some boiling hot; put in the peas, and if the meat is not desired in the soup, remove it; boil half an hour and ten minutes before serving; add two tablespoonfuls of the flour stirred smoothly in half a teacup of new milk; stir frequently to prevent the flour from scorching.

PUTTING SCREWS IN PLASTER WALLS.—It often becomes desirable to insert screws in plaster walls, without attaching them to any woodwork; but when we turn them in the plaster gives way, and the screws are pulled out. A screw may be inserted in plaster, so as to hold, light pictures, etc., very firmly. The best plan is to enlarge the hole to about twice the diameter of the screw, fill it with plaster of Paris, such as is used for fastening the tops of lamps, etc., and bed the screw in the soft plaster. When the plaster has set, the screw will hold very strongly.

CURRENT JELLY.—Take ripe, fresh gathered currants, and fill up a gallon jar with them, and set it in boiling water for an hour; then turn out the juice carefully, not letting the berries fall into it. To each pint of juice take three quarters of a pound of best lump sugar; boil all together for twenty minutes; strain through a jelly strainer into cups or glasses which have been dipped into cold water. When perfectly stiff, dip a thin paper the size of the glass into the white of an egg, and lay over the jelly; then pour over the glass a piece of stiff brown paper, and write the kind of jelly and the date upon it.

Anything for a Sensation.

Thursday night, says the Troy Whig, a report that an elopement in high life had occurred in the city gained credence among a few persons. It originated in the following manner: A lady well and favorably known (whose name, for obvious reasons, we will suppress), becoming tired of the "monotonous" life, thought to change the current of it by what she supposed to be a "funny trick." The lady, after carefully searching her jewels and elegant clothing, hid in an out-of-the-way place in her father's house, where she remained many tedious hours, waiting for the search which she knew would be made for her when her absence was discovered. Night came, and as the maiden had not made her appearance, inquiries concerning her were made of her friends, who, of course, knew nothing about her. Her apartments were then searched by her terrified parents, who became frantic when it was discovered that her jewels and clothing were missing. A letter found in a jewel-box coolly informed her parents that she had eloped because she was tired of the "monotonous" life, and would return on the following day. The young lady was a Copperbottom. He took her from the mother of the lady brought her quickly from her hiding-place. And thus joyfully ended the affair, which at the beginning seemed, to the alarmed parents, one of the bitterest incidents of their life.

A Harmless Hair Dye.

In the list of hair-dyes one agent has long been overlooked which is found in the humblest households. It is too common and too easily obtained to excite confidence at first; but it is said that the water in which potatoes have been boiled with the skins on forms a speedy and harmless dye for the hair and eyebrows. The parings of potatoes before cooking may be boiled by themselves, and the water strained off for use. To apply it, the shoulders should be covered with cloths to protect the dress, a fine comb dipped in the water and drawn through the hair, wetting it at each stroke, till the head is thoroughly soaked. Let the hair dry thoroughly before putting it on. If the result is not satisfactory after the first time, repeat the wetting with a sponge, taking care not to discolour the skin of the brow and neck. Exposing the hair to the sun out-of-doors will hasten the darkening, and set this dye. No hesitation need be felt about trying this, for potato water is a safe article used in the household pharmacopoeia in a variety of ways. It relieves chilblains if the feet are soaked in it while the water is hot, and it is said to ease rheumatic gout.

Excitement in the Oil Regions.

A correspondent writing to a Boston paper from Petroleum Centre, Penn., says that the recent grand strikes in the oil regions have caused intense excitement. At the oil towns of Pleasantville, Oil City, Reno, Franklin, Pithole, etc., elsewhere, new wells are being started daily, which produce largely, and the oil is of excellent quality. Most all these "strikes" have been made on territory which has been considered unproductive by old oil operators. Not only have these important strikes caused consternation, but the "flowing" of the "dry holes," made by disgraced prospectors in the days of the great oil fevers of 1864 and 1865, is a nine days' wonder. These "dry holes," which are located in all parts of the region, the larger proportion, however, being made at Reno and Franklin, are made productive by the use of nitroglycerine torpedoes, which, being thrown into the openings, produce sufficient concussion to open the interstices in the rock the petroleum is secreted. A great number of these wells yield as high as 200 barrels of "crude" per day. Speculators from Philadelphia, New York, Boston, and the Western cities, and other places are "prospecting," and there is every probability of there being as much excitement all through the season as there was in the palmiest days of the oil fever. The hotels are filled with excited crowds of oil producers, brokers, prospectors, and speculators, and every train brings in more people interested—or anxious to be interested—in the oil trade. As is not generally known, the oil business is a cultural or horticultural line will grow in the oil regions, and the birds never come here. This is attributable to the fact that the ground and atmosphere are so thoroughly impregnated with the oil vapors as there was in the palmiest days of the oil fever. There is nothing but a dark cloud overshadowing the whole region, and the particles of black dirt which are continuously flying about penetrate everything. The wives and daughters of the "oil" producers and "kings" never attire themselves in light clothes, but the apparel generally consists of sombre shades. Many places are always in an Erebus-like state, which is only heightened by the aid of lamps. The streets are lighted with a natural gas supplied from the wells, which comes from the pipes in one solid, hissing flame, which burns constantly day and night. The people have a begrimed appearance, looking as though they had been smeared with "crude" petroleum, and are dressed in black dirt. But through this darkness will be seen sparkling on the shirt-bosoms of an "oil prince" a \$10,000 or \$50,000 diamond.

Danbury News Notions.

Everybody is on a strike now, as is usual in fly time.

What some country newspapers ought to do is to turn their backs on Latin and keep their rollers clean.

A factious Massachusetts grocer announces on a placard at the door—"A fresh invoice of choice lickers," when he receives a new lot of smoked tongue.

A Danbury man who is rather unfortunately married, being requested by his wife to have the ice man stop there, said it was soiled enough now at the house to suit him, and then dodged.

Nineteen of every twenty persons who write a family letter, after closing with the injunction to "write again as soon as you can," tilt back and devoutly exclaim, "Thank heaven, that job is done!"

A Danbury farmer who saw a drunken individual carried to the lock-up, the next evening asked his class how Sunday where people learned to drink the evil stuff, and was assured by a freckled boy with a pimple on his nose, that it was in hay fields.

When there is not a breath of air stirring, and you are in danger of stifling, attempt to light a cigar out doors, and you will be surprised at the breeze that will start up. We have seen a man try this experiment in a dead calm, and by the time he had scratched thirteen matches it was really so windy as to be uncomfortable.

The little girls are keeping house now and inviting the other little girls to take tea with them. The tea consists mostly of warm water served in miniature wooden dishes, and a slice of green apple with a worm in it. The little girls drink the tea and chew the apple with proper solemnity. Then they say, "I shant!" "You're just as mean as you can be!" "I shall go right home, now!" and kick each other on the legs, and disperse.

A Danbury young man who left on a far western expedition, was bidding his friends good-by at the depot, when a young girl cried out, "Bring me the scalp of a Modoc, won't you?" The young man feeling a little hurt at her audacity, was about to encounter, sadly replied, "No, Emma, you should not look for more hair until you have paid for that you now wear." The remark appeared to subdue her.

Winning Without a Driver.

There was a rather unusual incident at the Steubenville race grounds, says a Pittsburgh paper. It was in the pacing race for a purse of \$300, free to all. There were five starters. The leading horse was Copperbottom. He took the first heat, and in the second heat the sulky of Copperbottom came into collision with another, and was instantly overturned. The driver of Copperbottom was of course thrown out, and it was thought that Copperbottom would run away. Contrary to expectation, however, the horse never broke once, and came in amid the wildest of cheers ahead, in as good style as if his driver had been behind him. The enthusiasm of the crowd was immense. They cheered and cheered the self-possessed horse which had declined to get frightened, like most of its kind, when released from a driver's care. The judges were at first going to give the heat to the horse which came in second, because Copperbottom came in second, but a second look at the gallant Copperbottom, gathered around the stand, while from every hand went up cries of "Copperbottom! Copperbottom!" The judges saw they should give the race to the driverless horse, and the crowd were just in the mood to pull the stand down about their ears. They then retired, and after consultation, ruled the heat a dead heat. They would have been obliged to give the heat to Copperbottom, as he never broke once, had it not been for the claim of foul play in the second heat, which was made by the driver of the sulky which with Copperbottom collided. As it was, it is one of the rare events of the turf where a horse has lost its driver, but yet has kept its place in the race as if nothing had happened.

A Troutling Scene.

Presently we got to a broader stretch of water, as clear as ever, interspersed with huge patches of weed—between which, every now and then, we watched some goodly fish come up, and quietly suck down a midge. So bright was the water, that even twenty yards away we could make out a noble trout, sailing around in the sunshine, and quietly feeding as he went. This quiet feeding was a good sign, and in spite of the glassy water I determined to begin at once, and to hook that very fish. It took a long time to reach him, and as luck would have it the sun came out brighter and clearer than ever; but I worked steadily on, and gradually lengthened my throw till I had touched the water within a yard of the trout. He came closely up to it, and even broke the water close to it—but that was all. After repeating this manoeuvre half a dozen times, he sailed back to the bank of weeds, and refused to stir.

"It's no go," said Sylvester; "he's too clever an old fellow to be pulled in to rising in such glaring sunshine."

Still I fished on; dropping my fly again and again within a foot of the water. Suddenly, when I had given up all hope, the fish began feeding again; in another moment he had swallowed the quill bait, and was rushing out into deep water, in the middle of the lake. I gave him his fling for a few yards, and then worked him steadily back to the shallow, where I could plainly see him; shortening my line as he came nearer, and now giving him the full force of the butt. He got right up to the air, and dashed toward his old lair in the weeds—but for this trick I was prepared; and in five minutes time I had him within a foot of the grassy bank, though apparently as strong as ever.

"Get below him," said I to Sylvester; "quietly drop the net underneath and lift him out."

In a trice he was on the grass; a well-made, prime fish, white in the belly, and of a steely gray along the sides and back, spotted with black all over, and there a sprinkling of brilliant crimson. He weighed just a pound and a quarter. By this time the morning clouds had got well up into the sky, a light breeze rippled the water in all directions, and before we had time to get down the lake I had killed two other trout, nearly as large as the first: one of golden yellow spotted with crimson, and the second of steely gray. As the breeze freshened, the sport grew more and more exciting; I rose fish on all sides of the boat, hooked and lost four or five, and at last landed one half-pounder, which (according to the squire's rule) was at once put into the lake again, where he darted off unhurt, to tell his friends of his strange adventures on land.—*Tinsley's Magazine.*

Portraits on Postage Stamps.

The portrait of Benjamin Franklin on the one-cent stamp, in imperial ultramarine blue, is after a profile bust by Baurhert. The head of Andrew Jackson on the two-cent stamp, in violet brown, is from a bust by Hiram Powers. The Washington head on the green three-cent stamp is after Houdon's celebrated bust. The Lincoln profile, in red, on the six-cent stamp, is after a bust by Volk. The seven-cent stamp, in vermilion, gives the head of Stanton after a photograph. The head of Jefferson on the ten-cent stamp, in chocolate, is drawn from a life-size statue by Hiram Powers. The portrait of Henry Clay, in neutral purple, on the twelve-cent stamp, is after a bust by Hart. The head of Webster, on the fifteen-cent stamp, in orange, is after the Cleveland bust. The portrait of Gen. Scott, on the twenty-four-cent stamp, in purple, is after a bust by Coffey. The head of Hamilton, on the thirty-cent stamp, in black, is after the French bust, and the portrait of Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, in carmine, is after Wolcott's statue.

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The Log House of Norway.

A correspondent, who has been having a week of uninterrupted sunshine near the North Cape, gives the following description of Norwegian houses which may interest our readers: You may suppose that log houses were born on Plymouth Rock, but I find the most convincing evidence that they existed in Norway centuries, perhaps, before Plymouth Rock was known. A yet more interesting fact—at least to me—is that the fashion has not changed. Improvements there have been in many ways, but the log house of Norway is the most fashionable, perhaps because the most comfortable house. In regions far removed from timber, and where stone and lime and clay abound, even there the log house obtains universal preference. During my trip up and down this long line of Norwegian coast, I have had many opportunities to examine the old as well as the new constructions. Let me tell you first of the old.

The logs are squared and nicely dovetailed at the corners. Grooves are then cut, with the broad axe, on both the under and the upper surface. When the log is finally laid in its place, the double groove is filled with moss, and moss is afterward cranked into the log seams. The partitions are built with the quill and are in the same rough manner as the outside walls. The houses are never more than two stories high, and the roofs are steep and heavily timbered. A covering of slabs is fitted, round side down, to the roof timbers; and over these slabs comes one or two layers of birch bark. Then comes a heavy timber coping along the eaves and up the roof at either end. On this is laid sods of rich earth well packed to a thickness of about six inches, and these, in this moist climate, furnish an abundant and warm covering. The principal differences between the old and the new Norwegian styles of house building are in the substitution of red tiles, and occasionally of slate, for the roof, and the casing of the timber, which forms the body of the house, with thin boards.

Within a year the town of Namsos, about one hundred miles north of Tromsø, was almost totally destroyed by fire; and it is now in course of rebuilding. Here, notably, the work of building is going on upon a considerable scale, and the new houses, by the way, a few finished buildings there are, which would hold high rank among the best of our American country homes in architecture; while in comfortable exclusion of cold, we have not a country house, of whatever material, that would bear a right comparison with the best of them. Double glazing of window sashes—outside and in—the packing of every window and door frame with moss, and a careful papering of every room, are some of the means taken to prevent the cold from getting in. For winter comfort, combined with the most facility for every conceivable ornamentation, commend to me the Norwegian log house.

Brown's Wooden Wedding.

Brown, a young insurance friend of ours, says the Boston Traveler, who lives in Cambridge, had the fifth anniversary of his wedding celebrated last week ago, and his friends determined to celebrate his wooden wedding by a surprise party. Brown came in yesterday and told us how they succeeded. They commenced by sending a servant round with a team to take Brown and his wife out to ride at his wedding. Then they began to come with presents and materials for supper. There was a little party of five came first, all laden—hands full. They all got nicely inside the garden gate, which shuts with a spring, when Brown's big musty, who is always in the house, came out, and he and his wife came round the corner and surprised them. One woman stepped on her dress, and in her fall so demoralized a fragile black-walnut book-case she carried that it was afterwards found in a bundle and presented as kindling-wood. The other women, who were in the yard, all but part of his pants, while old Smithers, who weighs 250 pounds, plunged wildly, with the eight-gallon pail of ice-cream he carried, through Brown's glass hot-house in the corner of the yard, and surprised some thirty guests who were sitting at the table. The party then went to the house, and as it was about time for Brown's return they commenced laying the supper-table. They got down a tea set of rare china that a friend of Brown's in trade had loaned him a week before, and took two pieces, so that Brown has since been obliged to mortgage his hen-house and buy the set; and the comments of Mrs. Brown when she saw the condition of the carpet were sarcastic to the extreme. Finally, as a crowning touch, they tried to hang over the Chinese lanterns in the hall, and when they succeeded in hanging two lanterns, and when they had saved the house from the fiery fiend there wasn't enough porch left to pay for the trouble of trying to hang out any more. Then they commenced setting the table for Brown and his wife to come home. We draw the veil over the scene that followed their return. Some scenes are too joyous to be described in cold, cold words.

Fortune Telling.

A pleasant parlour amusement is afforded by a knowledge of palmistry, and young people may find food for mirth in the examination of the hand for signs of character. It is absurd to judge any one by these signs, but the process is pleasing. Some of the rules are as follows: If the palm is long and the fingers well proportioned, not soft, but rather hard, it denotes the person to be ingenious, changeable, and given to theft and vice. If the hands are hollow, solid, and well knitted in the joints, it predicts long life. Observe the finger Mercury, which is the little finger; if the end exceeds the joint of the third finger, such a man will rule his house, and his wife will be pleasured and obedient to him; but if it be short, and does not reach to the joint, he will have a shrew for a partner, and she will rule her husband. Broad nails denote the person to be inclined to mischief and to do injury to his neighbors. Long nails show a person to be good-natured, but distrustful, and loving reconciliation rather than differences. If the palm is long and the fingers well proportioned, not soft, but rather hard, it denotes the person to be ingenious, changeable, and given to theft and vice. If the hands are hollow, solid, and well knitted in the joints, it predicts long life. Observe the finger Mercury, which is the little finger; if the end exceeds the joint of the third finger, such a man will rule his house, and his wife will be pleasured and obedient to him; but if it be short, and does not reach to the joint, he will have a shrew for a partner, and she will rule her husband. Broad nails denote the person to be inclined to mischief and to do injury to his neighbors. Long nails show a person to be good-natured, but distrustful, and loving reconciliation rather than differences. 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