...RDEN AND HOUSEHOLD.

Health Hints.

CONDIMENTS.—The most important condiments are salt, pepper and mustard; of these salt alone is a necessary of life; a sufficient quantity does not exist in our food to supply the wants of the body. The young should avoid all high seasoning; their digestion is good and they do not need stimulants.

ONIONS IN SICKNESS.—Onions are useful in sickness. Cover two quarts of white onions with soft water; stew them to a jelly, strain through a cloth or fine sieve; weigh the liquid and add an equal weight of dark brown sugar—the commoner the better—simmer all together until it is of the consistency of treacle. Dose, a tablespoonful three times a day. If it causes no pain, more should be taken.

THE FINGER NAILS.—To whiten the finger nails take two drams of dilute sulphuric acid, one dram of tincture of myrrh, four ounces of spring water, and mix them in a bottle. After washing the hands, dip the fingers in a little of the mixture, and it will give a delicate appearance to the hand. Rings with pearls in them, and such as have stones set with foils to color them should always be removed from the fingers when the hands are washed.

ANTI-CROUP CONTRIVANCE.—To mothers whose children have the croup: First get a piece of chamois skin, make it like a little bib, cut the neck and sew on tapes to tie it on; then melt together some tallow and pine tar; rub some of this in the chamois, and let the child wear it all the time. My baby had the croup whenever she took cold, and sihce I put on tha chamois I have had no more trouble. Renew with the tar occasionally.

TO SWEETEN THE BREATH AND CLEANSE THE TEETH.—Always clean the teeth at night, just before retiring. Scrub the teeth with a hard brush, using little, if any, soap; sprinkle on a very little pulverized borax; until the gums are hardened and become accustomed to the use of borax, rinse the mouth often with borax water; it prevents it from becoming sore or tender. If artificial teeth are worn, cleanse them thoroughly with borax, and when convenient, let them remain in borax water all night; it will purify them and help to sweeten the breath.

New Stock for Pears.

Having a group of pyrus japonica seedlings which I noticed to be unusually fruitful, some five or six years ago, I have kept the stock since that time for the purpose of raising seedlings for hedge plants. The habit and vigor of growth of these plants suggested the idea of using them as stocks for budding with the pear. I reasoned as follows: This pyrus japonica is quite as nearly allied to the common pear as is the quince; indeed, it is rather classed as pyrus than cydonia. It is a more hardy variety than the quince, being never injured in root or branch by the winter. It is vigorous and adapts itself to a great variety of soil, and is in this respect quite in contrast with the quince stock. Lastly, it will be likely to dwarf the pear, and induce fruitfulness quite as much as does the quince. Reasoning thus, I made trial upon a few stocks during the last summer, which were planted with no reference to this purpose. The result was that the buds "took" with great readiness, and we now have young pears with luxuriant growth upon this stock. My partner and I are so well pleased with the appearance and promise of this stock that we have planted out our whole crop of last year's seedlings—about 15,000—for the purpose of budding this year. We find the habit of growth of the seedlings to be clean and upright, quite in contrast with the plants usually propagated by root cuttings. The average height of the plants in the seed-bed the first season was a foot and a half, although many attained to a height of nearly three feet, and would have taken a bud the first year from seed. Possibly this particular variety and its descendants may be more vigorous than the common type. However this may be, it is clear that such seedlings will "work" well. To my mind the prospect is decidedly encouraging that a new and valuable stock for dwarfing the pear is here promised. But I am fully aware that the experiment is not yet tested to a conclusion. Yet it can be but a question of comparatively short time before definite results will be obtained.

Recipes.

BAKED SOUR APPLES.—Place them in a pan; pour in a teacupful of water and one of sugar; bake them slowly till done. Eat them with cream and the juice which cooks from them.

BAKED SWEET APPLES.—Place them in a pan with a very little water, that the skins may not burn, if they are to be cooked in a brick oven; then put the apples in a jar, cover them close and bake them five or six hours. Sweet apples should be baked long after they are tender.

VEGETABLE SOUP.—One and a half pounds beef to three quarts and a pint of water, one-half cup rice or barley, season with salt and pepper; put in a pot and boil steadily for two hours; then add parsley, one onion, two potatoes, one carrot and tomato, if you have it; if the water boils down you can add more hot water.

TO FRY STEAK.—First pound your steak thoroughly, heat your frying pan hot, put in a small piece of butter, and when nicely warm put in your steak; sprinkle over salt and pepper. Now be sure and have a good fire and hot frying pan; when nicely brown dish up on a warm platter, spread over a little butter and set in the oven a minute or two. It is next to broiled steak.

BUTTER CRACKERS.—Rub three tablespoonfuls of butter into one quart of flour, add one saltspoonful of salt, two cups of sweet milk, and one-half teaspoonful of soda, dissolved in hot water; knead well for half an hour, then roll out to an even sheet, a quarter of an inch thick or less; cut with a wineglass, prick with a fork, and bake hard in a moderate oven; hang them up in a muslin bag in the kitchen two or three days to dry.

We gain nothing by being with such as ourselves. We encourage one another in mediocrity. I am always longing to see a man more excellent than myself.

FOR THE FAIR SEX.

Tiny Feet of Chinese Ladies.

Just imagine the foot of a full-grown lady but five inches in length! Yet even this is large, and in highly aristocratic families four inches is the standard.

This queer custom of compressing the feet of Chinese girls is of very ancient date, and in our day is almost universal—only nuns, slaves, boat-women, and others who are obliged to perform outdoor drudgery, being exempt. As to the origin of the custom, the Chinese themselves are not agreed. Many suppose it is a fashion intended to draw a line between the higher and lower classes. Others say that its object was to keep ladies within doors, where they would not be subjected, like common market or boat-women, to the gaze of the other sex; and some boldly declare that to cripple them was known to be the only way by which women could be kept at home, and rendered of use working for their husbands or fathers, instead of spending their time in gadding and gossip. Some of the most reliable native historians state that the custom began during the reign of Take, somewhere about the year 1123, with a whim of the last empress of the Shang dynasty.

The time for putting on the first bandages varies in different families. In some, the process is commenced when the baby is only a few weeks old, others defer the ceremony for a year or two; but all begin before the little one has reached the age of four years.

No iron or wooden shoe is used, as some travelers have stated; but a strip of cotton cloth, some three inches wide, and about six feet long, is wound around the toes, over the instep, and then behind the heel, after which it is brought back again over the foot and drawn so tightly around the toes as to press them into a point—all except the first and second having been previously doubled under the sole.

These bandages are never removed, except for purposes of cleanliness, perhaps once a month; and they are replaced as quickly as possible, each time being drawn tighter, until the instep bends into a bow and the ball of the foot is forced against the heel.

The stockings are made of white cotton or silk. The dainty little shoes are of silk, richly embroidered and often beautifully adorned with tiny pearls or rubies. The soles are of white satin, quilted, and stiffened with lining of pasteboard. The heels are very high and pointed, and the white satin that entirely covers them, as well as the upturned toes, presents a pretty contrast to the blue or crimson silk uppers.

White satin seems to us an odd material for shoe soles; but they are intended only for carpeted floors.

When one of these tiny satin-soled slippers is cast off as "worn out," it has probably never for a single time come in contact with *terra firma*; and probably the wearer, when robed in the white slippers for her last sleep, has not from her infancy had one gleeful romp out-doors.

This compression produces, during all the years of childhood, the most excruciating pain, followed at length by a sort of numbness. I never saw one of these compressed feet entirely without covering, but I saw enough when the outer bandages had been removed to excite both pity and disgust; and a lady who had seen the bare foot of one of their greatest belles, told me that she had never even conceived of a spectacle so shockingly revolting as this tiny foot when divested of all that could hide its deformity. Although the young lady was full grown, the sole of her foot was but three and three-quarter inches in length. The great toe formed a point that was bent upward and backward, while the heel, of natural size, seemed by contrast disproportionately large.

Chinese ladies of rank are seldom seen abroad unless in closely-curtained Sedan-chairs; but we used occasionally to meet those of the middle class making short excursions in the immediate vicinity of their homes. Their attempts at walking were pitiable in the extreme, as they hobbled along, leaning on an umbrella, or the shoulder of a servant, for support, or with hands outstretched against the houses as they passed, endeavoring to keep their balance.—*Wide Awake.*

Fashion Notes.

Square and round trains divide the popular favor.

Silver lynx is the leading fur of the coming winter.

The latest sleeve is the "Jane Shore," with its Edward IV. cuff.

The bonnet shapes of this season are very like those of last year.

Plain and flat trimmings are to be worn most on winter dresses.

The poufs and paniers on imported costumes are scarcely discernible.

Some of the new linen cuffs and collars are hair-stripe like the new hosiery.

The long twelve or six-button kid glove, with the opening at the side seam, grows in favor.

Persian brocades and old English and mediæval French brocade stuffs are revived for parts of costumes.

Ribbons with graduated stripes of another color are among the latest importations in millinery goods.

One of the new shades in the fancy plushes to be used this winter for hats and bonnets is called "Gramoise."

Evening bonnets composed entirely of ostrich feathers on a transparent frame are among the novelties in millinery.

A new freak of fashion shows the dolman with a double skirt. It is not nearly as pretty as the graceful single-skirted dolman.

Bronze, olive and neutral colors appear in dress-goods, with all shades of dark red, including ruby, currant and crimson. For millinery and trimming purposes the fashionable colors are ruby, garnet, amethyst, emerald, sapphire, turquoise, topaz and old and bright gold.

Statistics show that for the present year the value of gold and silver produced in California is $21,000,000, while the agriculture produce of the same State exceeds $91,500,000. As compared with mining, agriculture stands nearly five to one in values produced.

The City of Dublin.

Mr. C. C. Fulton gives us a glimpse of Ireland's chief city in the following extract from a letter to the Baltimore *American:* Irishmen may well be proud of the city of Dublin. It has improved wonderfully during the past twenty years. For twenty miles around the city there are bright little towns and smiling villages, and as we approach it, pleasant country seats, good roads and handsome houses make the landscape most beautiful. In the city itself the change and improvement are no less marked. There are no longer any of the thatched cabins, with the pig and the baby wallowing in the mud at the doorsill in the suburbs, nor are there any more beggars on the streets, as in days of yore, except some superannuated old women, whose age and decrepitude appeal to the sympathy of the passer-by stronger than their words, though they shower the most profuse blessings on these who heed their appeals, and rumor says they are equally fluent in their curses on those who fail to respond with a penny. Dublin has but few furnaces or manufactories about it, and, consequently, the heavens are not blurred or the sun a stranger, as in Glasgow, Birmingham, Manchester and London. Dublin is subject to sudden attacks of gloomy weather, but when the heavens are at all favorable, few places look handsomer, brighter or livelier. There are a number of fine views, any one of which will bring satisfaction to the stranger's eye. The sweep from the northern end of Sackville street right down through Westmoreland street seems a grand avenue of huge masts. The buildings are severally and conjointly admirable, reared up in the real stateliness of stone and marble, free from what is considered here as the gaudy vulgarity of staring clay—handsome, massive, majestic. From Carlisle bridge the view, look which way you will, at early morn, when the sun gilds every lofty capital; or at noon, when throngs of busy men and rosy-cheeked women hurry by; or at night, when the moon tips with silver the quivering water, and the gloomy walls and fading ships—in all these hours Dublin appears at its best, and leaves a lasting impress of quiet, without loneliness; of a throng, without a multitude; of night, without gloom. Whether you look up or down the river, and take in the line of quays, which stretch away on one hand with the dome of the courts, and on the other with the custom house; or, looking north, catch the lofty monument of Nelson, the stately grandeur of the postoffice, and the pretty squares in the distance, with Trinity college, the bank, the memorials to Burke and Goldsmith, and the trees of College park looming up in the distance, the unbiased stranger will concede that Dublin has claims to beauty which it were unjust to challenge and untruthful to deny. Still it has its dark sides, as the river Liffy is almost as odorous as our Basin; and on a rainy day the black mud appears to rise up from the paving stones and spread itself over the whole thoroughfare. The river Liffy passes through the center of the city, and is spanned by eight very fine stone bridges, which add considerably to the beauty of the place. The city is located only a mile from the entrance of the river into the bay of Dublin, giving it commercial advantages which, as the surrounding country improves, continues to add to its wealth and importance and population, the latter being now over 400,000.

Natural History in Chunks—The Elephant.

"What is this?"

"This is an elephant! He is the largest animal on legs. He is not as long as the whale, but he can eat twice as much hay."

"How much does an elephant weigh?"

"As much as eight or ten loads of hay, and he is all meat. When you come to unload him you don't find any cord-wood hidden away."

"What large ears he has!"

"Yes; this is the only animal now living having feet as big as the average St. Louis foot, and ears larger than those seen on the streets of Milwaukee. As long as the elephant lives those two cities will have to brag in whispers and be careful how they put up money on wagers."

"Are elephants fond of music?"

"They are very fond of some kinds. They like to hear a horse fiddle or a brass band, but they don't go much on the sad strains of a guitar or the melting notes of a hand-organ."

"Are they an obedient animal?"

"About some things. When a bale of hay or a bushel of oats is placed before them, and they are commanded to eat, they obey with the greatest cheerfulness."

"What is their principal food?"

"An elephant loves grass, hay, beans, corn, peanuts, gingerbread, small boys, mud, trees, camels and other vegetables."

"What is the price of an elephant?"

"Dan Rice used to buy 'em for about $6,000 apiece in the spring and sell 'em for twenty-five dollars in the fall. By dividing the first sum by the last and subtracting Dan Rice from the result you will get a fair average."

"Is an elephant very brave?"

"No, not very. If you catch one nosing around the yard don't be afraid to tackle him."

"Why are elephants so large and bulky?"

"In order to take the conceit out of grasshoppers. Until the elephant began to march in circus processions this insect imagined he was the biggest thing on fodder in the world."

"What is the need of an elephant's ears being so large?"

"No one knows. Any one can see at a glance that it would improve his looks if he had more tail and less ears."

"Is there any danger of hurting an elephant by hitting him with a 'shinny club?'"

"Not much, but no good boy who wants to grow up will ever think of rushing in and clubbing a poor elephant. That's all, bub, and next week we'll make a howling among other animals."—*Detroit Free Press.*

Agricultural fairs are making sad havoc among pop corn and red lemonade.

HATCHING ALLIGATORS.

Studies in Zoology—Getting Live Alligators from Eggs—Some Curious Instances of What May be Evolution.

Among the curious things to be seen at present at the aquarium (says a New York paper), is a tank with thirty-six young alligators hatched from eggs brought from the South. They are about ten inches long, with dark green bodies, large heads, and long tails somewhat out of what would be considered proportion in a full-grown alligator. The baby alligators are extremely lively, wander around the tank and struggle with each other very much as young kittens do before they get their eyes open. When they are lifted out of the water and tightly squeezed a low guttural sound can be heard. The eggs from which they came, thirty-eight hours ago, are still at the side of the tank and are about one-half larger than a hen's egg and of the same color. The snout of the young alligator has a sort of horn with which they break the shell, in the same way that chickens do. In a cellar beneath the aquarium are half a dozen more eggs hatching in a barrel of straw. No artificial heat is used, and the only care taken is to sprinkle the eggs with water every day. About three months is the time necessary for incubation. When another batch of eggs is received, an attempt will be made to illustrate the different stages of incubation.

Dr. Dorner, the gentleman who has had such success with the alligators, is also greatly interested in some queer freaks of nature to be seen in the tank, where are kept some axolotls, a species of crawling batrachians resembling salamanders with gills. Some years ago five of these axolotls were sent from Mexico to Prof. Dumesnil in Paris. They had been well-known by naturalists, and in the adult state the gills had always been observed. To the surprise of Prof. Dumesnil two of his axolotls lost their gills, changed color and became, to all appearances, salamanders. Another instance of this transformation was observed in Germany, and then it was observed that the animal seemed to have a special power of adapting itself to its surroundings. When taken from deep water it lost its gills and became to a certain extent a land animal. Changes in batrachians are not rare, but they occur exclusively in the young, and are merely stages of growth. They never occur in adults. Such a change has taken place in one of the tanks at the aquarium, and is the first instance of the kind which has been observed in this city. Prof. Marsh, of Yale College, had the same good fortune in 1868 with some axolotls from Wyoming. Dr. Dorner looks upon his tank of axolotls undergoing transformation into salamanders as a strong argument for the Darwinian theories.

Another singular observation which he has also recently made concerns the electric eel. Hitherto it has been supposed that the breathing apparatus of this eel was similar to that of fishes. It has been observed, however, that this electric eel never opens its gills or its mouth while under water, and that it ascends to the surface every few minutes, apparently for air, as the seal does.

A Rabbit Plague.

A plague of rabbits is upon some portions of the Australian colonies. Farmers shoot, trap and poison them, and legislatures have tried in vain to rid the country of the evil. Poison is the most convenient and expeditious agent yet employed, but it can be used only in winter, when green food is scarce. A man on horseback then takes a quantity of oats that have been treated with strychnine, and scatters them through the fields and in the woods. In a single night hundreds of rabbits have thus been destroyed. An ordinary trap is used in summer, great numbers being set every night, and a man is employed to watch them, and to reset one whenever a rabbit is caught. The animal's skins are all removed and packed into bales for transport to England, where they sell for two-pence or three-pence per pound. Experiments, it is said, have shown that the flesh of rabbits destroyed by strychnine is not injured by the poison, and it is freely eaten in Australia by the farmers. The supply, however, is so great that many dead rabbits are left to lie on the ground, where the crows and wild cats find and make way with them in great numbers.

The Costliest Monument in America.

By far the most expensive monument or crypt in this country is the new one now in course of construction at the expense of Mrs. A. T. Stewart in memory of her husband. It is to cost over $80,000, and will be very elaborate and imposing. A few days since some ninety tons of fine marble, cut by skilled workmen, were sent to Garden City, Long Island, to be placed in position under the chancel of the Cathedral of the Incarnation, also being built at the expense of Mrs. Stewart, and in the center will rest Mr. Stewart's body. The crypt in form is a polygon with sixteen sides, twenty-two feet in diameter and twenty feet in length. Each angle is ornamented by clustered pillars of different-colored marble imported from Italy, and so placed as to render harmony and to allow of the light giving the proper tone through the sixteen windows of stained glass. There will be sixteen clusters, each having three different-colored marbles. Between the pillars the space will be paneled and carved in pure white American marble, the ceiling being of the same material. The flooring will be of white and black Italian marble set in pretty design. There will be two approaches to the crypt, leading from handsome vestibules which connect with the cathedral above. Mrs. Stewart takes great interest in the progress of the work. The building of the cathedral is progressing rapidiy, and when finished it will be one of the finest pieces of work to be found, no expense being spared in the design or materials employed.

OLD FASHIONED BAKED INDIAN PUDDING.—(Made, as it should be without eggs,)—Take a large cup of meal and a tea-cupful of molasses and beat them well together; then add to them a quart of boiling milk, some salt and a small piece of butter; let it stand awhile in the dish you are going to bake it in until it thickens, and when you put it into the oven pour over it from half to a pint of milk, but do not stir it in, as this makes a jelly. Bake two or three hours.
