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PROPRIETORS OF

STEAM COFFEE & SPICE MILLS,

ON THE RIVER CHESAPEAKE.

AGRICULTURE.

LEARN TO COOK WELL.

The health of the family depends upon it. We know that there are those who associate luxury, effeminate, and their dependent life, with every attempt of the kind recommended; but we do not believe that health is promoted by eating raw carrots or doughy bread; in fact, to secure long life, it is necessary to turn cannibal. Nor were men made to graze as cattle do, or eat food like dogs.

Nor is it necessary, in order to shun the errors of which we speak, to rush into the opposite extreme. Good cooking does not consist in producing the highest seasoned dishes, nor such as foster a morbid appetite, but in preparing every dish well, however simple or common it may be. Therefore for instance, families who never eat any good bread from one century to another, and have no idea of what it consists. Nor are meats cooked any better within their precincts. Those simple and healthy delicacies which the good housekeeper knows intuitively how to produce, are never seen here. Even a dish of potatoes cannot get themselves cooked right. A person might as well go among the Hottentots, as far as any proper cooking is concerned.

These things ought not to be, nor is there any need of their existence, if the wife has not just notions of her obligation to herself or those about her.

The science of bread-making, meat-broiling, stewing, roasting and boiling; of vegetable-cooking, and of preparing the many small dishes of various sorts, which go to make pleasant the table and those about, are hers—her to understand and practice.—Ex.

A HARMLESS REPTILE.—Not only are toads harmless, but they are absolutely and directly useful to us, parabolating our fields and gardens at night and devouring vast quantities of insects which would never be destroyed by the hand of man. The mode in which a toad takes its prey is very curious. The singularly beautiful eye of the toad is as quick as it is bright, and if within reach it gazes intently at the insect. Its mouth being gradually brought nearer and nearer, something pink then flashes from its mouth, and the insect vanishes as if by magic.

The pink flash is the tongue of the toad, which is formed in a rather curious way. The base of the tongue is fixed close to the front of the lower jaw, and is long and tapering, the tip pointing down the throat when it is at rest. When, however, it is used for catching prey, it is thrown out with a sort of "sick" and the tip, which is covered with a glutinous secretion, adheres to the insect, and conveys it down the toad's throat before the prey has had time to make an effort for escape. When the toad swallows its prey, it does it with a mighty effort, during which the eyes almost disappear, the size of the insect having little to do with the vehemence of the demonstration. Sometimes when a large beetle is swallowed it does struggle, but too late, and for some time its struggles may be seen through the thin and ribless sides of the capture; the toad sitting the while, in perfect composure, not in the least affected by the scratching and kickings that are going on in its interior.

Indeed, the stomach of the toad seems as devoid of feeling as if it were of iron. Moreover, the toad not only cares nothing for the cordwainings and bladders of a large beetle, but is equally indifferent to the stings of wasps, bees and insects similarly armed with venomous weapons, and will eat them with marvellous appetite, as if the sting acted as a sort of gentle aid to digestion, like eycenne pepper with cucumber.—*Cassell's Magazine*.

NEW VARIETIES OF POTATOES IN GERMANY.—German agriculturists speak quite favorably of some of the new varieties of potatoes recently brought to their notice. Dr. Ranch says of the early rose potato that, among a thousand varieties, none can be found like it. It is the earliest, as well as the most prolific, of all early potatoes, ripening within six weeks, and keeping well until the following spring, and even improving in taste by being thus kept. It is pronounced excellent for table use, very valuable for stock-feeding, and the richest in starch for manufacturing purposes. The bovinia, or stock-feeding potato, is of gigantic size and astonishing in its yield. Its quality is also quite satisfactory to the housekeeper. The new ash-leaved kidney potato—ash-leaved fluke, is a very fine table variety, early, keeps well, and has very few and shallow eyes. It is highly recommended as a garden vegetable.

A BEE STORY.—Another bee story is told, this one by a correspondent in Scotland. He says: "While walking near Falkirk, we observed two bees issuing from one of the hives, bearing the defunct body, of a comrade, with which they flew from a distance of twelve yards. We followed them closely and noted the care with which they selected a spot to hold the side of the grave, while the other two, which they committed the body, hand downwards to the earth, and the solitude with which they afterwards pushed two little stones, doubtless in memory of the task being ended, when they passed over the mound, perhaps to drop over the grave of their friend a sympathizing tear, and then they fled away to their hives."

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