

A CHAT ABOUT COFFEE

SOME STEADY DRINKERS BECOME FOND OF THE ADULTERANT'S.

A Secret About Old Government Java—Very Small Quantity of It Brought to This Country—An Under-processed Coffee Is Pronounced Surely Unfit to Drink.

An old friend asked the other day what kind of coffee I used, and on being informed that it was the usual mixture of Arabian Mocha and Mandehling Java, half and half, at 40 cents a pound, offered this amazing information: "I am obliged to have a strong cup of coffee in the morning. Without it I am unable to attend to business. I try to buy the best in the market and for years have paid from 40 to 45 cents a pound for Mocha and Java. Not long ago I learned a secret. A great deal of the alleged Java we buy at great prices is Maracibo, which under its real name costs only 15 cents a pound."

A member of the Coffee exchange says: "I am not surprised to hear that Maracibo is often sold for Java. In England it has been the rule rather than the exception for a long time to substitute the Guatemala product for that of Java, and probably the consumers never know the difference. The production of Java is steadily falling off. Indeed, the government is gradually giving up the cultivation of coffee, finding the profits small in comparison with former years, and in the near future the crop will be entirely in the hands of private planters. Of late the business has been so unremunerative that many coffee estates have been turned into tea farms. We import about 800,000,000 pounds of coffee, and of this huge quantity only about a million and a quarter pounds are Java. In 1898 our supply of Java was near 6,500,000 pounds."

This broker continues: "The demand for Java has been sustained by its name. During the civil war a bag of 'Old Government' was worth its weight in gold. While the army was making coffee out of burnt potatoes the stay-at-homes were sipping small cups of this treasure, which was measured out as carefully as if it were the rarest wine. The name has lived in the memories of the old folk, and its potency has been the encouragement and excuse for much fraud. Even the cheapest store has pretended to keep on hand a supply of 'Old Government' for customers who would not think of drinking anything else, and I doubt if one of them ever had an ounce of the genuine article in stock. There are coffees quite as good as Java, and I am glad the people are beginning to wean themselves from 'Old Government.'"

"Because Maracibo is cheap in price you must not believe it a 'cheap' coffee, in the sense of inferiority. We import about 43,000,000 pounds annually. In 1899 it was invoiced to us at a fraction over 8 cents a pound. In 1900 the price was about 1 cent higher. Rio will always be our cheap coffee. I suppose, because there is more of it, and there will continue to be more of it. The Brazilian crop is over 1,100,000,000 pounds. Think of that. Why, it is 400,000,000 pounds more than the United States consumes. Most of the Rio used in public houses is mixed with chicory, which greatly improves the taste."

"Steady coffee drinkers who are not able to obtain a satisfactory brand of the bean become so fond of certain adulterants that they demand them. Take chicory: it has an injurious effect on the bowels if taken in too large quantities, but all cheap restaurants that make a specialty of coffee use it, and proprietors have told me in all seriousness that should the chicory be left out for a few days and only the pure coffee fusion be used their customers will complain and threaten to go elsewhere. The adulteration of ground coffee is a fine subject for congress investigation. Whew! if you could only know what you get when you buy it! The French use caramel or burnt sugar, a cast-off product of the refineries. And everybody brags about 'French coffee.' Among other adulterants are roasted wheat and beans, rye and potato flour, corns, ground date stones, etc. Coffee substitutes are flooding the market—cereals, essences, etc."

"It is a hard matter to adulterate the green bean, and nearly as difficult to adulterate the roasted bean; but ground coffee is dangerous. The people who roast their own coffee, a small quantity at a time, have the best infusion and save the most money. It is the rule among certain firms to under-roast the bean in order to escape the loss in weight, which is considerable. An under-roasted coffee is unfit to drink. Beans cooked to a reddish brown color lose 15 percent, when chestnut brown they lose about 20 percent, and when they become dark brown, the correct color, they lose about 25 percent by weight. In certain South American countries, Colombia, for instance, the bean is cooked until it becomes a coal. The beverage made from it is very black and strong and clear, but has a bitter taste that would not suit us. All coffee substitutes lack caffeine, and caffeine is what makes coffee coffee."

"Coffee is poison to some people. No question about it. Some folk find it astrigent; others laxative. Thousands of apparatus for making it have been invented. The patent office is packed with pots, etc., some of which cost \$25 apiece. Yet we have seen an old negro cook at a camp fire make the most delicious coffee in a tomato can. Some experts say boil the coffee; some say don't boil it. Some foreigners prefer to make it in a saucapan, and they have it as clear as crystal and as strong as alcohol. While I was in Sumatra, several years ago, I drank coffee made of the dried leaves of the coffee tree instead of the beans. At first I supposed they were brewing tea. But it was as fine coffee as I have ever tasted, and certainly contained a large proportion of caffeine. This ought to open new fields. My mother always parched her own coffee. She was one of the 'Old Government Java' friends, and regarded every grain as precious. The parching was done in an ordinary sheet-iron baking pan, and when the dark-brown color was attained she glazed the beans with the white of an egg. That was to keep in the strength. Then she crumbled the shell to make the coffee settle."

"I should like to own a large coffee plantation. It is nice business—a gentleman's business. Several years ago several friends of mine in Hamburg organized a company with a capital of \$500,000 and purchased a plantation at Quezaltenango, Guatemala. There were all told 16,500 acres, from 2200 to 5000 feet above sea level. Some 4000 acres were planted in coffee shrubs, over 1,500,000 being set out. Over 3000 Indians were employed as laborers. These men met with great success. The plants were some of the stock imported from Mocha by the Jesuits over a century and a half ago, and the quality of the bean produced is very superior. The finest grades are sent to London and Hamburg, where they fetch big prices. The sweepings and the unwashed are shipped to San Francisco. An annual profit was made on the investment. I look to see great quantities of fine coffee grown in Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Honduras, Salvador and Guatemala when the canal is built."—Victor Smith, in the New York Press.

AGRICULTURAL HINTS



To Feed Hogs Clover Hay.

A Massachusetts reader wants to know how to feed hogs on clover hay as the bulk of the food and at the same time keep them in growing condition?

Probably the best plan would be to cut the hay and feed it as a sloop in conjunction with ground grain. The hay should be steamed, but if you have not the facilities to do this pour boiling hot water on it and after stirring it add the grain and then stir it again thoroughly.

Corn, oats and clover hay in equal parts ought to make a good ration for the average hog, and they should be fed three times a day as much as they will eat up clean.—New York Weekly Witness.

Hens Better Than Cows.

It is usually said that it requires four acres of ground to accommodate one cow, and the average yearly profit about \$20, to say nothing of the long hours and hard work in milking and caring for the cow. This makes a profit of \$5 an acre; a poor showing, we think, when compared with the faithful old hen. An acre of ground will furnish the food for 50 hens, the profits from which will far exceed that of the cow. The secret of success with poultry lies in faithful application of common sense methods, and no man need say he cannot make poultry pay. Every day we see examples of what can be done; and though we also see failures, a cause can always be found. Home and Farm.

Comparison of Hay and Pasture.

Does it pay to use a pasture; that is, will a larger profit be derived from cows that are given exclusively the use of a pasture, or will the same land pay more if used for producing hay? The Michigan Experiment station found, after repeated tests, that about four times as much food could be obtained from a meadow by allowing it to produce hay than by pasturing it, which means that four cows can be kept on the land where only one can be kept by pasturing it. One of the drawbacks against using the land for hay, however, is that considerable labor is required in mowing, curing and storing the hay, while the cows on the pasture perform the labor. Also that cows given green food as pasturage produce more milk in the summer season than if kept on hay, and must be given green food in some manner to be profitable.

Sheltering Tools.

The farmer cannot afford to have good tools and machinery on his farm, unless he can afford to have buildings to protect them from the weather, and he cannot spend an hour or a day more profitably than in cleaning them up, overhauling them and making repairs on them before they are likely to be wanted again. The plows, harrows and more expensive machinery left out of doors this winter will deteriorate in value more than one-fifth. The loss would more than pay the interest on the cost of a good building to shelter them in, and in many cases exceed the taxes on the farm. If they were not properly cared for when last used, take one of these fine days and gather them up, clean them, oil all the iron work and paint all the wood work. Never mind getting a painter to do the job. Buy a can of ready mixed paint and a cheap brush. Use any color that you like, but use it freely, not as an ornament, but as a preservative of the wood as the oil is of the iron. We heard of two farmers who owned a herd in partnership, and thought it should be painted, but could not agree on the color. Finally they compromised, and one painted his half black, while the other used yellow ochre. We never learned which half wore out first. While overhauling, see that all bolts and nuts are in place and broken parts mended.—The Cultivator.

Winter Keep of Cabbage.

Cabbage may be kept by any method which nearly excludes the frost, preserves a cool temperature, and a slight degree of moisture. A pile resting on the earth would keep better than if resting on a floor, and would require less protection. It would be likely thus to receive a proper degree of moisture. A common way to keep cabbage by the quantity is to leave them out in the ground until near the end of November, and then pull and place them inverted on smooth ground, packed closely together in beds five or six feet wide, with six feet spaces between. They may be thus left till the ground is about to freeze, when the earth between the rows is dug and placed as covering on the inverted heads, about six inches thick, the tips of the roots projecting above. With less labor, the spaces may be plowed and harrowed until the earth is fine and mellow before it is placed on the cabbage, the plow throwing the earth nearest to them upon the heads. With this treatment, the work must be done earlier than by hand in order to have the soil in right condition and it is always best to cover them up as late as practicable. It is important that the ground has very thorough drainage. A great many regard it as of great importance to plow the earth many times, making it mellow two feet deep in forming a trench or hollow to place them in; then the mellow earth is thrown against the heads with the plow. The frost cannot penetrate the mellow earth. If the work is done before very cold weather sets in the central part of the row may be

left nearly uncovered, and when freezing commences, the whole covered with the mellow soil. For early winter use, cabbage may be stored in cold cellars packed in large boxes, of damp moss; or they may be set in their natural position in low boxes filled with earth, damp moss, damp sawdust, or placed in heaps out of doors, and covered with a foot of chaff, or with straw.—Charles Ashley in The Epitomist.

Triangles on the Head.

How many women you meet wear triangles on their heads? These are examples of the marquise chapeau, a type of headdress distinctly becoming to "la belle Americaine."

The marquise has various modifications, triangular brim and round flat crown, and triangular crowns with soft draped brims are both seen. The general line of the triangle is observed and the rest conforms to the milliner's desire to set off her customer's good looks.

A Smart Black Gown.

A notion that bears the impress of elegant motif is a soft black gown of cashmere l'inde, colienne crape or muslin cloth trimmed with coarse other colored lace, the lace carried in long lines from throat to feet and down the back of sleeves, slightly puffed at the wrists. Behind the lace is placed a lining of white taffeta. The best beloved lace in this deep tint is composed of a sort of drawn thread embroidery. There is a perfect rage for this on the continent, where entire gowns are created of it mounted over white taffeta slips. What supreme heights of daintiness cannot the needs attain nowadays! Truly it is a craft of most cunning capabilities, one that enables us to individualize, specialize and generally excel.

Common Sense Blouses.

A great many blouses are made in old-fashioned so-called "English" embroidery, the very open patterns for choice, mounted over pale colored taffeta. The sleeves are usually of plain lawn, very finely tucked and of the bishop tendency, gathered into a band of the embroidery. A sensible plan, and the one much adopted by ladies who play golf or tennis, is to have a detachable collar band of the embroidery; it is so very difficult to procure a perfect fitting collar attached to the bodice. Black velvet ribbon run into embroidery is very pretty for collars and wristbands. The embroidery should be about two inches wide, or two rows may be joined together. These washing blouses are charming in conjunction with a blue serge costume worn with a white straw Breton hat turned up all around and trimmed with soft blue and white satin and white wings resting under the brim against the hair.

More Women Going to College.

The increasing number of women who take a college course is seen in the fact that within a year the National Association of College Alumnae has added 1400 members to its roll, bringing its total membership up to 4000. Twenty-two colleges are represented in the association. There is no similar national organization of college men, but the women have found theirs a most useful body. One of the ways in which it has been most useful is in opening several foreign universities to American women by first creating and then maintaining foreign fellowships. One of the association's standing committees keeps a close watch on educational legislation. Another, of which the president of Bryn Mawr is the chairman, has just presented to the annual meeting at Buffalo the results of a study of 6000 cases of collegiate and non-collegiate women, designed to show the beneficial effects of health.

The Requirements of Health.

The requirements of health can be counted on one hand. They are: Good air, good food, suitable clothing, cleanliness and exercise and rest. The first two requirements affect the blood, and as the blood circulates all over the body, including the brain, every part is affected. Fresh air affects the purity of the blood. The freshest air is out of doors, and it is the duty of every one who wishes to be in good health to spend a certain amount of time in the open air. Good food is not necessarily expensive food. Exercise and rest should alternate and balance each other. It is quite possible to take too much exercise, and this side of the question must be guarded against as well as the other. Women, as a rule, do not rest sufficiently. Every woman should try during the day to get a few minutes' rest, even if it interferes with her regular work. It is impossible for her to attend to the health and welfare of her family if her own health suffers from overwork and lack of rest.—American Queen.

Orange Blossoms in Disfavor.

Orange blossoms would appear to be declining in favor with English brides. Formerly the flower was deemed an essential part of the bridal toilet, and none but widows went to the altar without wearing them. Even when a bride was married in her traveling costume she pinned a sprig of orange blossom in the bodice of her gown. Judging by the fashionable weddings of the past few months, however, a new order of things has been introduced. One distinguished bride went to the altar with a wreath of myrtle, another with white clematis, and yet another with lily of the valley. The reason given for putting aside orange blossoms is that as natural flowers were usually worn, the heavy perfume caused faintness to the ladies. As the artificial flowers so nearly resemble the genuine article, this can scarcely be said to account for the "slump" in the nuptial blossom. Love of change and a commendable wish



TALKS ABOUT WOMANKIND

Mothers Who "Show Off" Children.

Some very well-meaning mothers are so oblivious of the sensitiveness of a child that they speak of his faults in his presence, and ask advice about the best way to control him, in the same cool manner that they allude to his attacks of croup and discuss remedies. But any one who has the insight to read what is passing in the mind of a little one thus obliged to sit still under torment would be both pitiful and indignant at the situation.

Of all things let us avoid exploiting our children either in the way of exhibiting their perfections or their weaknesses. A certain loyalty is due the child from the parent. If the little one shows himself just as he is to the close confidant of all his moods it is a betrayal of his trust for the mother to repeat his confessions or describe to others what she has learned about him. Ah, that all mothers would cultivate in themselves the steady self-poise and firm will which would enable them to pursue the even tenor of their way with their families heedless of what other people say or want! A mother needs some of nature's grand indifference. Nothing does it matter to nature that people slander and defame her, murmur about her changeableness and decry her ways. They may find fault or praise, that which is right is done, and the day comes when the critic's cry is hushed.—Florence Hull Winterburn, in the Woman's Home Companion.

How Rosa Bonheur Died.

In Harper's Jules Claretie relates a pathetic incident attendant on the death of Rosa Bonheur, whose friend and critic he had been for many years: "It was while visiting Paris during a rainy spell, and after having rashly taken an open carriage from her house to the station, that the artist caught cold," says M. Claretie, "and on arriving at By, went to bed, never to rise up again. One might well have said that Rosa Bonheur was made for the country, for the peasantry, and for the animals, and that she should never have left them for even a day. At all events, she came back to die amongst them, and sweetly, without complaint, resigned and resolute, just as she had lived through so many years of hard work. It was my mournful consolation to give my beloved friend her last pleasure. I had written in the Journal apropos of the medal of honor which the Salon Jury wished to give her, only they knew she would have refused it. Into this article I put all my admiration for the artist, all my respect for the woman. I was ignorant of the fact that, having been imprudent enough to brave the cold at Paris, Rosa Bonheur had returned to By sick. What say I? Sick! Ah! she was lost, the victim of pulmonary congestion.

"She could no longer speak when the paper was brought to her. But the faithful servant, perceiving the name of Mademoiselle Rosa on the page, sat down by her pillow and read the article in a loud voice. The dying woman shook her head, and her lips parted in a last wan smile, which seemed to express her thanks. This was in the morning. Gradually her vision grew clouded. That evening she was dead.

"And now I dedicate, as a new crown or chaplet for the monument erected in honor of Rosa Bonheur these few pages of souvenirs—souvenirs of the affection with which she honored me, and of conversations far too short, alas! with one of the most noble and elevated of spirits, one of the artists most unrivalled, and certain to remain illustrious in the future, whom it has been my privilege to know, to admire, and to love."

"The newest veils are of mousseline de sole hemstitched, with large dots in white.

A handsome clasp for a fur or other variety of mantle is of pink enamel, ornamented with a spread eagle in gold.

In the new fabrics for evening wear a white satin of soft lustre, brocaded with violets in natural shades, is especially pretty.

Persian band trimming is still very popular. Stitched bands of silk or cloth are also much used in the embellishment of winter costumes.

The modish weaves for evening wear are delicately fuzzy, although making a bold showing of smoothness. Below the surface they look glossy.

For house wear suede boots have taken precedence of patent leather this season. Satin shoes and slippers are worn for evening and match the gown.

Jet is to be seen more and more in hatpins, combs for the hair, necklaces with pendants, and in dog collars with some special design set into the front and strings of jet carried around the rest of the collar.

Occasionally the coats for women are to be seen with belts, but almost without exception they are more stylish and attractive without them. The belt makes a break in the lines of velvet or fur that is not desirable.

Knots for the hair, which are sold ready made, are to be found of narrow black velvet ribbon combined with either narrow flower ribbon, gold or silver ribbon. The result is a simple little knot, but very pretty.

to bring a touch of originality into wedding attire, which is apt to become stereotyped, is probably at the root of the new fashion.

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