

The Bloomfield Times.

HOUSE, FARM AND GARDEN.

We invite communications from all persons who are interested in matters properly belonging to this department.

To Make Butter Hard.

An English butter maker of large experience, who is now on a visit to this country for the purpose of looking over our cheese and butter dairies, gives the following information concerning a method in practice among the best butter makers of England for hardening or rendering butter firm and solid during hot weather; Carbonate of soda and alum are used for the purpose, made into a powder. For twenty pounds of butter, one teaspoonful of carbonate of soda and one teaspoonful of carbonate of alum are mingled together at the time of churning and put into the cream. The effect of this powder is to make the butter come firm and solid, and to give it a clean, sweet flavor. It does not enter into the butter, but its action is upon the cream, and it passes off with the buttermilk. The ingredients of the powder should not be mingled together until required to be used, or at the time the cream is in the churn ready for churning.—Cincinnati Grocer.

Coffee as a Disinfectant.

Roasted coffee, says the Homoeopathic World, is one of the most powerful means, not only of rendering animal and vegetable matter innocuous but of destroying them. In proof of this statement is made that a room, in which meat in an advanced degree of decomposition has been kept for some time, was instantly deprived of all smell on an open coffee roaster being carried through the room, containing a pound of newly roasted coffee; and in another room, the effluvia occasioned by the cleaning out of a cess pool, so that sulphureted hydrogen and ammonia could be clearly detected, was entirely removed on the employment of three ounces of freshly burnt coffee. Refrigerators sometimes get musty from flesh, fowl, or fish, kept in them too long. No remedy for purifying such receptacles, so simple as burnt coffee, can be employed.

Introduction of the Potato.

Sir Walter Raleigh proved to be one of the greatest benefactors to his country, and eventually to the United States, by the introduction of the potato, in the year 1584. The root was first planted on Raleigh's estate at Younghall, which was afterwards sold to the Earl of Cork, and the person who had the management of the estate, mistook the flower or fruit, as he called it, for the valuable part, and on tasting the potato ball pronounced it a pernicious exotic. Some time afterwards, on turning up the earth, it was discovered that the root had spread largely and in considerable quantities; and from this source Great Britain's potato supply commenced and then gradually the cultivation was extended through North America. The potato is supposed to have been a native of Mexico.

Changing Seed.

Much has been written on this subject, and much of it is true. A single fact has been brought to my notice this year, which illustrates the good effects of such change. Not having seed corn enough for the field, a dozen ears were bought—all there was of a choice sample of Dutton corn, a variety long grown in this neighborhood and well liked. This sample was planted in one corner of the field and marked. In its growth nothing was particularly noticed. When we came to cut it up, the ears were better than on other portions. We selected 24 strings of two dozen ears each, a very choice sample, for seed. The remainder was also nice. From no other part of the field of the same extent can one-half as much selected seed be picked. The land is no better, and in only one way can I account for such extra growth—a change of seed.

How to Select Flour.

In selecting flour first look to the color. If it is white, with a yellowish straw color tint, buy it. If it is white with a bluish cast, or with whitespecks in it, refuse it. Next, examine its adhesiveness—wet and knead a little of it between your fingers; if it works soft and sticky, it is poor. Then, throw a little lump of dried flour against a smooth surface; if it falls like powder it is bad. Lastly squeeze some of the flour tightly in your hand; if it retains the shape given by the pressure, that, too, is a good sign. It is safe to buy flour that will stand all these tests. These modes are given by all old flour dealers, and they pertain to a matter that concerns everybody.

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