

The Bloomfield Times.

HOUSE, FARM AND GARDEN.

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

Stewing.

Stewing differs from boiling only in this, that the heat is never raised to the boiling point, but only to a very gentle simmering, with a very small quantity of water. It requires a much longer time to cook in this manner; but in stewing, the texture of the meat is rendered more tender, gelatinous parts are more completely dissolved, and instead of a considerable part going into the water, as in boiling, the whole of the juices are preserved in the stew, which is, therefore, very nutritious. Stewing is, therefore, one of the best modes of cooking; and it is also one of the most economical, for a very small quantity of fuel, properly applied, is sufficient to keep up the required simmering for a great length of time. The constant practice of stewing is one of the secrets of the perfection of French cookery. The enameled or porcelain-lined stew-pans are much superior to the old-fashioned metal ones for most purposes. They should always be filled with water immediately after being used, and will then merely require to be well washed and rinsed with more boiling water; but when they have been neglected, strong soda and water should be boiled in them for a few minutes.

To Prevent Dampness from North Walls.

North walls are frequently damp from the absence of the drying effect of the sun. This defect may, however, be remedied by allowing ivy to grow over them. It acts both by preventing the access of rain, and by the rootlets absorbing moisture from the wall. In very exposed situations, the rain is frequently driven with such violence against the walls as to penetrate through them, although the brick-work is of considerable thickness. This evil may be obviated by dissolving three-quarters of a pound of mottled soap in a gallon of boiling water, and spreading the hot solution steadily with a large flat brush over the outer surface of the brick-work, taking care that it does not lather. This is to be allowed to dry for twenty-four hours, when a solution formed of a quarter of a pound of alum dissolved in two gallons of water is to be applied in a similar manner over the coating of soap. The soap and alum mutually decompose each other, and form an insoluble varnish which the rain is unable to penetrate. The operation should be performed in dry, settled weather.

Water Proof Boots.

A correspondent of the Indiana Farmer says: "I stood in mud and water two or three inches deep for ten hours a day for a week without feeling any dampness or having any difficulty in getting my boots on or off. If you would be equally successful, before wearing the boots, give the bottoms a good coating of tallow and coal tar and dry it in; then oil the uppers with castor oil, about one tablespoonful to each boot; then oil them twice a week with castor oil when one teaspoonful will be sufficient. If the weather should be rainy, or you are compelled to work in water during the day, wash your boots clean at night, hold them by the fire, and you will have no trouble about your boots getting hard and shrinking up so that you cannot get them on. If the leather should become red, give a coat of ordinary shoe blacking before oiling. The effect of castor oil is to soften the leather, while it fills the pores and prevents the water from entering.

Get a scrap book; and when you find an article in any of your papers which you deem valuable, a recipe for something you may need or any other matter to which you may wish to refer hereafter, cut it out and put in your scrap book. Keep it classified as best you can, so as to render it easy of reference, keeping all the recipes at one place. You cannot conceive, if you have not tried it, how valuable and practically useful such a book will become in a few years. The book does not cost much and the time taken in cutting out and pasting in will pay largely. Try it.

The latest estimates show that Oregon will have about six million bushels of wheat for export this year. For the past nine years the increase of production has been very rapid. The state has some of the finest wheat-growing districts in the world, lying within easy reach of a navigable river which furnishes an outlet to the markets of Europe. Those who saw the exhibit made at the Centennial Exhibition will not need to be reminded that Oregon wheat had no superior and no equal there.

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