

"ASTRA'S" TALKS WITH GIRLS.

[Correspondents seeking information in this department should address their queries to "Astra," Progress, St. John.]

Since I lifted up my voice and gave my small testimony with regard to the excellence of our "Seasonable Receipts," I have had so much "corroborative evidence" from the girls that I only wonder none of them thought of telling me what they thought of those appetizing recipes before. However, better late than never, and I fancy the editor of that column will be spurred on to such extra efforts now that we shall almost fancy we are eating ambrosia if we adhere strictly to his method. By the way, I wonder if that same editor of "Seasonable Receipts" ever made a fresh strawberry pie, and if he did not, whether he has the least idea how good it is? It is very much like strawberry short-cake, only much better. I do not want to poach upon his preserves, but still I think I will tell the girls how to make it, and let them try for themselves. You make puff paste and cut it quite thick, nearly half an inch, bake in a well buttered pie plate, and when it is done it should be nearly an inch high. Split it while hot, brush up enough fresh ripe strawberries to fill the pie, putting plenty of sugar with them, spread a thick layer of the berries and sugar on the under crust, lay the top crust carefully in place again and serve. I can assure you from personal and frequent experience that it is a pie fit for the queen herself, if her gracious majesty was not so devoted to tapioca pudding that she seldom touches paste. This is a sort of digestion I will return to the narrow path and answer my correspondents.

GRINNON BARRETT, St. Andrews.—I suppose you will think me very spiteful if I say I am glad it is raining, and you are lonely, but still I really think you deserve it! You remember, don't you, how you grumbled at housecleaning time about women and their ways, especially their ways of cleaning houses? Well now, you are all alone, the very baby you complained about is gone, and still you are not happy; you can saw wood in the parlor, keep your boots on the mantel piece and boil your tea over the lamp if you are so minded and yet you complain. I am really afraid you are a chronic grumbler, why don't you learn to deserv your name and really grin and bar et? After that I need never make fun of your poetry again, need I? Well I was glad to hear from you again your whimsical letters are a real pleasure to me. I don't think your flirtations with the muses are always at such long range there is a great deal of poetry in your prose, the touch about "Lenore" and the shadowy faces of the past, haunting you in the big old house was much better than the poem you sent me. I hope the tea was good, and not overdone, generally a man's one idea of good tea is to boil it well.

SCHOOL BOY, Nova Scotia.—Yes you are rather a stranger, but I suppose you were to hard at work at your examinations and closing exercises, as everybody else is just now, to have time for writing. Of course you are always welcome, I told you so long ago. (1) Jeffrey. (2) No. I really do not see the least harm in it, not nearly so much as in driving out Sunday, because that prevents the horse from having a day of rest, and if you never do any more harm than that, you will do very well indeed, I think. (3) Yes, I am sure I should, and I think almost any man would do the same, unless he felt too disgusted by their forwardness to take any notice of them at all. (4) Tap-pee, it means carpet, *sur le tapis*, on the carpet. I believe the expression "on the carpet" really originated from the fact that meetings of boards and corporations to discuss important matters, usually took place around a table which was generally covered with green baize, the next subject for consideration was spoken of as "laid on the table," and finally the table being covered with baize or carpet "on the carpet," and by some strong adaptation of terms it became "on the tapis." This, at least, is the explanation I have read of the origin of the expression. So you see we should really say "on the table," instead of "on the carpet," or the floor. Yes, I really think I have quite a number of boy friends, and I am glad to have them, at least some of them. No, I should not mind about the name in the least, it is very awkward that people should know so much, is it not? I do know a little about it I confess but that does not make any difference at all it is just the same as it was before. You never asked me too many questions at all, and I like your letters very much.

SABIAN, Halifax.—When a letter is as utterly without sense or meaning of any kind, as yours, I never waste my time in answering it, I think the moon must have been at the full when you wrote it and that perhaps when it changes you will be more rational.

NOVEL, St. John.—(1) About the size you said in writing to me, or a little larger is the favorite size with publishers. (2) Pack it just as you would a novel, you were sending to some friend, mark it "Printers Copy," or "MS. only" and be sure you see that you pay full postage on it. (3) If it is as bulky as that I think you had better string the pages together at the upper left hand corner, in order to avoid their getting scattered. (4) I really cannot tell you. It would depend entirely upon the publication you sent them to, and even then prices vary. I am always most happy to afford any information in my power to my correspondents, and I often wish for their sakes that I knew twice as much as I do. Yes, a good many of my "girls" are boys, especially lately.

WOB-BE-GONE, St. John.—I am glad you were pleased with your last answer. Do you know I have always heard that one should go abroad in order to hear home news, but I never realized the truth of the saying fully until I read your letter. You knew so much more about my affairs than I did myself, that you absolutely took away my breath. In the first place I have no friend, nor even the most distant acquaintance who is spending the summer

at Lennoxville. The only thing I happen to know about Lennoxville is that it was the seat of a very well known and excellent school, which was burned down a year or two ago. As for "the friend I spent the night with" until I received your letter I was under the impression that I spent the night in the modest seclusion of my own room at my boarding house, but doubtless you know me. I thank you for the many kind things you say about me. I am glad to say that I have too much sense to be "shocked" at hearing that you are a very good cook, I only wish there were more like you; and I am also glad to hear that you agree with me as to the excellence of the recipes in my neighbor's column. I am afraid I should not be very successful at reading either one's character or disposition from their letters. I daresay I should enjoy meeting you very much indeed, but I am afraid you would be very much disappointed. I am always glad to hear from you.

A WOULD-BE-ACTOR.—As you say in the postscript of your letter that it is from one who has serious intentions of going on the stage, I think I can best answer if by beginning at the very end and saying simply, "don't!" Unless you have some very marked talent for acting and frankly speaking, I don't think from your letter that you have; it is just about as hard a trade as you could well learn, lots of hard work, and very little play. For those who succeed and win a foremost place in their profession, the reward is great, but you must remember that such fortunate ones are the exception, not the rule while the great majority toil on all their lives with small pay, less fame, and only one thing in plenty, and that is—hard work. You would soon tire of it, I think, and wish yourself in some less arduous profession. The stage is regarded very differently now from the estimation in which it was held formerly, and only very narrow minded people would see any harm either in going to a play, or adopting the stage as a profession. I think the company lately in St. John exceptionally good, they give one the impression not only of being artists but also, ladies, and gentlemen. I think there are others in the company much better artists than the one you mention. Not being a member of the profession I am not in the secrets of the "make up" and cannot possibly describe how it is done. I have not the honor of an acquaintance of the gentleman and therefore cannot give him good compliments, nor should I do so if I knew him ever so well, I fancy he is too well accustomed to receiving messages from young ladies to take much interest in such things. I saw *Two Nights in Rome* and enjoyed it very much, but cannot agree with you as to the modest British youth. I thought it exceedingly poor, make up and all. It is very hard to be an actor I can assure you, even an amateur one, and doubly difficult to be even a second rate professional, so I should strongly recommend you to give up the idea. I think that is the best advice I can give you.

LUCILLE, Nova Scotia.—I am always glad to recognize your writing, it is a real pleasure to me, and you cannot write too often. Nothing that you said sounded in the least "pushing," you have much to quiet and composed a manner to be accused of such a thing, and I thank you very sincerely for all that you say, for I feel certain you do really mean every word of it. What a lovely birthday gift, did it come from the hub, the railway hub, I mean? Are you going to continue the good work, you know what work I mean? How could I send the youth a message when I have never seen him? But you have really made my heart flutter. You surprise me greatly! I have nothing to do with the column you speak of, and you have aroused my curiosity to an immense extent, who can it be. I had always imagined I had a style of my own, however humble, and I am anxious to see who my twin is; I seldom see the paper you speak of. So you, too, find the receipts good? I am glad to find another kindred spirit. Yes, I am a member, but I don't play.

Why Her Hat is Removed.

A young lawyer of Boston was asked the other day, says the *Post*, why in the English courts a woman must remove her hat. He could not answer the question, but an old lawyer, to whom the matter was referred, recalled the opinion of Sir Edward Coke on the matter. It was a murder trial where the prisoner was a woman and appeared before the court with her head covered. Sir Edward Coke ordered the woman to remove her hat and said: "A woman may be covered in church, but not when arraigned in a court of justice." The accused tartly replied: "It seems singular that I may wear my hat in the presence of God, but not in the presence of man." "It isn't strange at all," replied the judge, "for the reason that man, with his weak intellect, cannot discover the secrets which are known to God and, therefore, in investigating the truth, where human life is in peril and one is charged with taking life, the court should see all obstacles removed. Besides, the countenance is often the index to the mind, and accordingly it is fitting that the hat should be removed and therewith the shadow that it casts upon your face."

Wedding Decorations Out West.

At the farewell reception to a Western bridegroom elect, recently, an original scheme of decoration was carried out by his friends which caused much ransacking of old closets and attics. The frieze about the room and a series of festoons below it were made up entirely of old shoes. The mantel was banked with worn-out slippers, the panels between the windows wreathed with them, and the gas jets hung with bouquets of them. Each pair of shoes had a true-lovers knot of white ribbons, and flowers were crowded into the ripe and holes of the discarded foot gear. The menu consisted of rice croquettes and cakes, rice wine, soup, dumplings, and pudding, and the cigarettes were rolled in rice paper.

SEASONABLE RECIPES.

Specially Prepared from Practical Tests for the Lady Readers of "Progress."

[Correspondents seeking information in this department should address their queries to "Editor Seasonable Receipts," Progress, St. John.]

W. T. Carden, Ontario, asks for recipe for making lime water. I found the following in the Household Cook Book, and having made it myself from this recipe and found it to be equal to that sold at the drugstore at from 10 to 15 cents for a small bottle. I consider it a valuable piece of information for any Pater familias, especially at this season of the year.

Lime water is one of the most useful agents of household economy if rightly understood. Its mode of preparation is as follows: Put a stone of fresh unslacked lime about the size of a half-pick measure into a large stone jar or unpainted pail or tub, and pour over it slowly and carefully, so as not to unslack it too rapidly, four gallons of hot water, and stir thoroughly; let it settle, and then stir again two or three times in twenty-four hours. Then bottle carefully all that can be dipped off with a cup in a clear and limpid state.

Some of its Uses.

As a remedy for children's summer complaints one to two teaspoonfuls in a cup of milk is a dose, and when diarrhoea is caused by acidity of the stomach, it is an excellent remedy. When put into milk it gives no unpleasant taste, but rather improves the flavor.

When put into milk that might curdle when heated, it will prevent its so doing, and it can then be used for puddings and pies. A little stirred into cream or milk after a hot day or night, will prevent its turning sour, and it is a good office. It is unequalled in cleaning bottles or small milk vessels, or babies' nursing bottles, as it sweetens and purifies without leaving an unpleasant odour or flavour.

A cupful, or even more, mixed in the sponge of bread or cakes will prevent it from souring. A good remedy for sour stomach for people of all ages.

To Make Strawberry Sarabande.

Put a gill of cream and a teaspoonful of rosewater in a basin; beat it till it is like snow. Then add half an ounce of isinglass dissolved in a gill of boiling water. Crush some strawberries and mix them with the cream. When the isinglass is quite dissolved and cold mix all together, with castor sugar to taste. Then put it into a well-soaked mould, place it on ice till it is set, then turn it out carefully into a glass dish.

Wanted in St. John.

A correspondent thus expounds a novel "reform":

"The idea of a co-operative cooking club occurred to me, some time ago, as a very economical and convenient arrangement for the large population of slender means who inhabit 'unfurnished apartments' and small 'flats,' or small households. There are many domestic duties to be attended to, and little or none, or, especially in the cookery department, which is one of the foundations of 'good health.' These many who are too much exhausted to prepare a proper meal after attending to a thousand other things, much less enjoy it; and many who could employ the time more profitably, and most of all who can ill afford the present waste of separate fuel, &c. There is nothing more absurd than to look around and see row upon row of little households, each with its own waste and discomforts, and reflect that combination is only wanting to change dyspepsia into joy and discomfort into leisure. There need not be a penny more spent, but rather, instead of from experience, there would be a perceptible saving in the present rate of expenditure."

Gingerbread and Snaps.

Hard gingerbread, soft gingerbread, drop cakes and gingersnaps can be made with perfect success from eggs. Gingerbread may be considered costly in time, as it is a labor requiring patience to roll them out until they are of paper thinness, as they should be, and then to cut and bake with due care. But the actual expense is very small, and the jar of crisp gingersnaps is something to be surveyed with no small satisfaction. Almost everybody likes them, and they will keep indefinitely if the supply is large enough.

Gingersnaps.

One cupful of sugar; one cupful of treacle, one cupful of butter (lard will answer, mixed lard and suet from the frying-kettle is better), one teaspoonful of ginger, one teaspoonful of soda dissolved in two teaspoonfuls of hot water. I take a stiff dough with flour, and knead thoroughly. Roll as thin as possible, cut in small rounds, and bake in a moderate oven.

Hard Gingerbread.

Add another cupful of treacle and a cupful of sour cream to the same mixture, make stiff enough to knead it well, and roll into cards (thin flat loaves), and you have an excellent hard gingerbread. Some prefer these cards glazed with a little brown sugar dissolved in milk.

Soft Gingerbread.

For a very nice, melting, soft gingerbread, made without eggs, butter, or milk, use half a cupful of fat from the frying kettle, a large cupful of dark treacle, a teaspoonful of ginger, one of soda, half a cupful of hot water, and only difficulty is in getting the batter stiff enough, yet not too stiff, and in good baking. The oven must be hot, but not so hot as to scorch. All cakes made without eggs require to be somewhat stiffer than when eggs are used. It is difficult to give exact quantity, as both treacle and flour vary somewhat in this respect. Good ginger cookies are made after the same receipt. Of course they must be made stiff enough to roll out without sticking.

For drop cakes substitute cloves and cinnamon for the ginger, and make soft enough to drop from the spoon and hold shape without running together in the pan.

A Thing Greatly Abused.

HARDLY anything receives less thanks and more abuse than a shoe. It is never thanked for the protection it renders against the cold of winter, the heat of summer, against thorns, tacks, glass, dust, sticks and stones. It is kicked about, scoffed at, trampled under foot, knocked around and thrown violently here, there or anywhere. Its eyes are blinded, its tongue torn out, and its very "sole" ground to powder in its constant, uncomplaining servitude.

The shoe, like sails to a ship, or wings to a bird, permits man always and with tireless motion, to push on towards the far objects of his measureless ambition. Let the ship thank its sails, the bird thank its wings, and man thank his shoes, and when they are worn out get them replaced at WATERBURY & RISING'S, where you can find an assortment of Russia Leather—Tan—Canvas and Kid Boots and Shoes suitable for this season.

WATERBURY & RISING, 34 King and 212 Union Sts.

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THEY WONT SCARE THE CROWS.

A man was fooled the other day, Who tried to scare the crows. By setting up a dummy made Out of a suit of clothes; He hid behind a distant fence To note the crows' surprise, But what he saw confounded him And made him doubt his eyes. The crows in pairs and clusters came From field and woodland shade, But not a crow of all the flock Seemed in the least afraid; In fact the dummy seemed to have For each a sudden charm,

THEY WONT SCARE THE CROWS.

You can make scare crows out of clothing that many people sell, but our clothing never gets old and ugly enough for that purpose.

OUR SUITS LOOK WELL until the last thread is gone. There is a PECULIAR STYLE AND SET about them that makes them attractive even to crows. OUR SUMMER STOCK is full of nobby surprises that you ought to see. Suits ranging from \$5.65 to \$16.00. Plain figures used and one price

R. W. LEETCH, NEW ROYAL CLOTHING STORE,

47 King Street, St. John, N. B.

Bake in a quick oven. Three or four raisins or currants stuck in the top of each will please the children, for whom these are all good, wholesome cakes.

The Queens Dinner.

Some of my readers may like to know how the Queen of England dines on ordinary occasions. The following menu of her majesty's dinner of Sunday, May 8th, 1892, was sent me by an English correspondent:

A la pure d'asperges—A thick asparagus Soup. Aux Rix Clair—A Clear Rice Soup.

POISSONS.

Les Tranches de Saumon, Sauce Tartare—Broiled Salmon Steak.

Les Paupiettes de Filets de Soles Parisienne, Filets de Soles.

ENTREE.

La Moque de Volaille—Cucumbers—A Light Entree of fowl with a garnish of Cucumbers.

RELICHES.

Roast Beef. Plum Pudding.

ROF.

L'Oison—Green Goose.

ENTREMETS.

Les Artichauts en Quarters—Quartered Artichokes.

Le Souffle a la fraise—An Omelette Souffle.

Les Petits Biscuits Glaces aux Fraises—Something Like Strawberry Shortcake.

SIDE TABLE.

Hot and Cold Fowl, Tongue, Cold Beef.

A Marked Man.

The police of Paris announce that Francis Paucry has escaped from the penal colony of New Caledonia with three other captives. The description of Paucry says that he is tattooed and describes his tattoo marks as follows: He has on the shoulders epaulettes of a vice admiral, two busts of females, a torero in action, an anchor, a pansy, a flower on the right hand, two busts of musketeers, a bust of a warrior with a cane, two yagatans crossing each other on the left arm, two pigeons, a turban, two flaming hearts, a crown; on the chest there is seen a horseman, a cross and a dagger; on the heart a star, a heart and a head; on the right knee two pugilists, and a cask on the stomach.—*Chicago Times*.

In Hot Weather.

In hot weather more infants die than in all the rest of the year. Why is this? Principally because they are fed on unsuitable food. Nestlé's Food is known as the safest diet and best preventive of Cholera Infantum and all summer complaints. Consult your doctor about this important fact.

THOS. LEEHMAN & CO., Montreal.

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Nestlé's Food.

Long Waists Coming in Again.

Long waists are to be worn again this fall, and the girl that hasn't one will do well to cultivate it during the summer months by avoiding the baneful luxury of the rocking chair, and by sitting very erect and with all the muscles drawn up from the waist to support the chest, which must be held high and in advance of the abdomen, even in sitting. That is the secret of adding the desired inches to the waist line, according to the Delsarte theory.

"WORTH A GUINEA A BOX."

BEECHAM'S PILLS

COVERED WITH A TASTELESS AND SOLUBLE COATING.

For SICK HEADACHE, Dizziness, or Swimming in the Head, Wind, Pain, and Spasms at the Stomach, Pains in the Back, Gravel, and Stiffening Pains in the Body, Rheumatism, &c.

Take four, five or even six of Beecham's Pills, and in nine cases out of ten, they will give relief instantly; for the pills will go direct to and remove the cause, the cause being no more nor less than wind, together with poisonous and noxious vapours, and sometimes uric acid.

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The Best

is the cheapest, whether it is to eat, drink or wear. Why? Because the cheapest of its kind is pretty certain to be the poorest.

In manufacturing beverages this is more than certain, and in such lines the poorest is also certain to be hurtful. Avert the danger by buying only what is reliable. This is eminently the case with the

WILMOT SPA BEVERAGES.

For they have the recommendation of our best physicians, either as the pure mineral water or any of the flavored drinks. They are WARRANTED not only free from injurious ingredients but remedial in disease.

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Agents will be allowed a cash-in-advance commission of 35 cents on every subscription obtained. Over and above the cash commission a NEW RAYMOND SINGER SEWING MACHINE, worth \$15, furnished by Messrs. Miller Bros., of Halifax, will be given to the agent sending the largest number of subscriptions before April 1st, 1893.

A MEMBER'S INTERNATIONAL DICTIONARY, worth \$10, will be given to the agent sending the second largest number of subscriptions. A prize worth \$1.50 will be given to the Agent sending the largest number of subscriptions each month.

"Canada" will be sent FREE, during the competition, to all who signify their intention to compete, and who remit 25c. in stamps for outfit. No post cards. MATTHEW R. KNIGHT, Hampton, N. B.

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