

Scientific and Useful.

**MOUNTAIN DEW PUDDING.**—Three crackers rolled fine, a pint of milk, yolks of two eggs, bake half an hour. Beat the whites of the eggs to a stiff froth, add one cup of sugar and a pinch of salt. Flavour with lemon, pour over the pudding, and set in the oven till delicately browned.

**CORN FOR SEED.**—Use only grains from the middle of the ear, rejecting the butts and tips. Experience shows that ears from the butts are short and thick, while those from the tips have fewer rows and thin stalks. The grains from the middle of the ear have larger germs and more substance to nourish the sprouts.

**RICE PUDDING WITHOUT EGGS.**—I have an excellent receipt for rice pudding without eggs, which I know to be good from experience. Look over and wash a common sized tea cup of rice. Put into a pudding dish with four quarts of milk, add one pound raisins, a little salt, lump butter, size of an egg, and season with cinnamon. Stir occasionally, until it boils. No pudding with eggs can exceed this, if attended to according to directions.

**KEEPING GRAPES.**—The "Southern California Horticulturist" recommends the following mode: Spread the carefully cut fruit thinly on shelves or tables for a few days, to dry up the stems a little. Then cut clean, dry rye-straw, in a straw cutter, about an inch long, and cover liberally the bottom of a suitable tightly jointed box, on which place a moderate layer of fruit; then cover with the cut straw liberally, and lay on fruit again, and thus proceed. Put them in a cool, dry place, and the grapes will keep sound for several months.

**A GARDENER'S SECRET.**—A Cleveland paper says: Peter Henderson, the veteran gardener, made a very significant statement during the course of his remarks here before the convention of nurserymen and florists. This statement embodies the remarkable fact that if garden seeds, when planted in the spring, are firmly pressed when under the earth, by the ball of the foot at the time when the gardeners are putting them into the ground, they will invariably grow, drought or no drought, and what is still more important, they will spring up earlier and grow faster and mature better than any of their kind which have not been subjected to this discipline. The same rule of pressure he says holds true in regard to transplanting trees, shrubs and plants. This is an item of great practical value to many of our people, and especially to those who live in the suburbs.

**HOW TO PRESERVE A PIANO.**—It is evident that if the piano is to remain in good order for many years good care must be taken of it. The instrument should be closed when not in use, in order to prevent the collection of dust, pins, etc., on the sounding board. However, it must not be left closed for a period of several months or longer, but be opened occasionally and daylight allowed to strike the keys, or else the ivory may turn yellow. Any hard substance, no matter how small, dropped inside the piano, will cause a rattling jarring noise. It is in every case desirable that an india-rubber or cloth cover should protect the instrument from bruises or scratches. The piano should not be placed in a damp room, or left open in a draft of air. Dampness is its most dangerous enemy, causing the strings and tuning pins to rust, the cloth used in the construction of the keys and action to swell, whereby the mechanism will move sluggishly or often stick altogether. This occurs chiefly in the rainy season; and the best pianos, made of the most thoroughly seasoned material, are necessarily affected by dampness, the absorption being rapid. Extreme heat is scarcely less injurious. The piano should not be placed near to an open fire or heated stove, nor over close to the hot-air furnaces now in general use. Moths are very destructive to the cloth and felt used in the pianos, and may be kept out of it by placing a lump of camphor, wrapped in soft paper, in the inside corner, care being taken to renew it from time to time. Many persons are unaware of the importance of having their pianos kept in order, and only tuned by a competent tuner. A new piano should be tuned at least once every two or three months the first year, and at longer intervals afterward. To preserve the polish, dust the piano daily with a brush of soft, uncut feathers. Do not use any "furniture polishes," but sooner employ the services of a professional piano case polisher, if your piano needs polishing, as the process requires great skill. The bluish haze which sometimes appears on a polished rosewood surface, and which is nothing but the mark left by moisture which has settled upon the piano, will disappear after polishing. The piano should always be kept covered when not in use.



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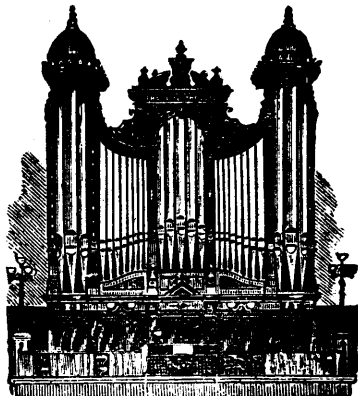
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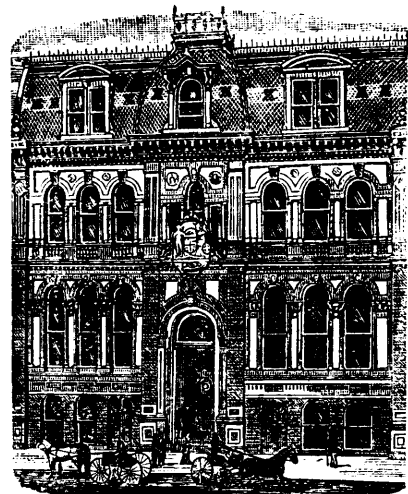
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