

## About the ...House

### DOMESTIC RECIPES.

**Cream Biscuit**—One sifter of flour; one teaspoonful of soda and one of baking powder mixed in the flour, with one teaspoonful of salt, wet up with equal parts of sour cream and sour milk. Bake in a quick oven. These are fine for short cake by using butter spread between layers.

**Cream Cookies**—One cup sugar; one cup sour cream; one egg; one tablespoonful of butter if cream is not too rich; one teaspoonful of soda and one teaspoonful of baking powder. Both soda and baking powder are to be sifted in the flour. Flavor with one-half teaspoonful lemon or vanilla.

**Sweet Cream Biscuit**—Two or three sifters of flour; use one-third sweet cream and two-thirds sweet milk mixed together to moisten the dough. Mix soft; do not mold them any more than absolutely necessary. Bake in a quick oven. When one gets used to baking with cream she has excellent luck.

**Hotter Cake**—Take 2 cups cooked oatmeal, 1 cup corn meal, 1 cup butter, 1 small cup sugar, 2 cups sour milk, 1 teaspoon each soda and salt, 3 eggs, whites and yolks beaten separately. Lastly add one cup chopped, seeded raisins. Bake in quick oven.

**Mexican Rabbit**—Put a piece of butter the size of an egg into the double boiler. When this is melted, add a can of tomato; let this become thoroughly heated. Season to taste with pepper and salt, and if desired, a large tablespoonful of Worcester sauce, and a little salt. Just before serving, slide in four unpeeled eggs and beat the whole quickly; then add two or three drops of onion extract. This is a chafing dish recipe, but it may also be made on the stove.

**Puffs**—One cup hot water, 1 cup butter. Put on the stove and stir in 1 cup dry flour. Let boil up, take from the stove, and stir smooth. When cold break three eggs in it, and stir five minutes. Drop in spoonfuls on tins, not very close together. Bake 25 minutes in a rather hot oven, not opening the door more than necessary. For the cream filling, take 1 cup milk, 1 cup sugar, 1 egg, 3 tablespoons flour. Flavor with vanilla. When both tins and the puffs are cool, open the puffs with a sharp knife and fill with the cream.

**Black Pepper Cake**—Take 5 cups flour, 1 heaping cup butter, 1 cup sugar, 1 cup black pepper, 2 teaspoons ground ginger, 2 cups Sultana raisins, 2 teaspoons baking soda, 3 cups buttermilk, 1 nutmeg (ground). Rub butter into the flour. Then put in the raisins, having soaked them previously in hot water to soften. Add the other dry ingredients, soda is stirred into the milk and poured over the four mixture. Mix well, place in buttered tins and bake in a slow oven as soon as possible, one hour should be long enough. This is a very fine cake to bake with tea, also economical—having no eggs—and whole some.

**Brown Meat Stock**—Cut the meat into small pieces about 1 inch thick. Fry brown in drippings. Do not dredge with flour first. Put in the soup kettle, salt, and cover with cold water. If there are any bones, break them into rather small pieces with a cleaver or clean hatchet, and put them in with the meat. Set on the back of the stove and let heat very slowly, being careful that it does not boil. Prepare early in the morning so it can be on the whole day. The last thing at night, strain through a colander. Skim off the fat before using. Beef is the most satisfactory meat for a standby, although any kind may be used. This stock is the foundation for a great variety of soups.

**Stewed Prunes**—Wash very carefully through several waters. Soak over night, or for several hours. Then place on the stove in a saucepan, or better still, a double boiler or steamer, and let cook slowly. Never boil them rapidly. The quality and size of the prunes of course determines the length of time they should be cooked, usually two hours is more or less. When done, stir in 1 cup sugar and 1 slightly rounded teaspoon cornstarch, previously stirred together—to each firm cup of prunes measured when dry. Cook gently for 10 minutes. The juice of half a lemon and the grated rind of a whole one is a great addition.

### HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

If the stove smokes give it a thorough cleaning out; but if it's the furnace, well, we give it up.

Keep a stout paper bag with your blacking rags to slip your hand into when rubbing the stove.

A crack in the stove may be mended by a cement made of ashes and salt mixed with water.

Marion Harland's advice to young cooks relative to their failures— is: "Never let a spoiled dish be seen, much less tasted. Get rid of it, even if you have to bury it."

Never cover warm food when you set it aside. The moist heat that remains makes mould swift and sure. Warm potatoes, if covered, soon get so soggy that they are not fit for use.

A half hour of soaking in the morning while you are at the wash will make the clothes wash far easier. A few minutes saved will win you a lot of many an hour's backache.

A frying basket is a convenience in families where fried cakes, fritters, croquettes, etc., are much esteemed. It is made of fine wire, to fit the frying kettle, and lifts out with all its contents when done.

Strain the fat after frying doughnuts, etc., using a cloth for the purpose. By the removal of extraneous matter the fat remains sweet longer

and does not get full of sediment which turns it dark colored.

**Lima Bean Soup**—Simmer a pint of beans gently in sufficient water to cover them until they are well cooked, then rub them through a colander. Season with salt and pepper, add a pint of rich milk and a little butter and flour rubbed together.

The Toilet Crockery should be kept scrupulously clean. It should be washed daily in cool soapy water and wiped dry on a clean towel kept for the purpose. If hot water be used the tendency is to crack the enamel, in which event foul odors will be retained.

The white of an egg, thoroughly beaten, slightly sweetened and flavored, is both food and medicine in cases of stomach and bowel diseases. It acts as a coating on the inflamed membranes, preventing irritation, and at the same time is a concentrated nourishment that can be retained on an extremely weak stomach.

Of all the dried bean family none is better than the Lima. To cook wash them thoroughly, soak over night in cold water, and simmer slowly for two or three hours until tender, but not broken. Season with salt, pepper, butter, then stew up in a little cream. What is left will make good soup by putting them through a sieve, adding a little hot milk and thickening slightly with flour rubbed with butter.

One of the most unbecoming signs of age in a woman is the "dewlap" that comes under the chin when the plumpness of youth is past. This loosening of the skin may be prevented, if taken in time, by a little daily friction of the throat to prevent fat from forming there and making the double chin, which later vacates and leaves the "harp strings" standing out. Besides the friction dash the throat night and morning with cold water, which keeps the flesh firm and also lessens the liability to sore throats and colds.

If you have a delicate cake to bake and fear the oven is too hot, place a piece of white kitchen paper on the shelf of the oven and close the door. If in ten minutes the paper is dark yellow, the oven is right for anything that takes time to bake. If the paper is only light yellow it is right for small cakes baked in fancy tins. For pies and rich cakes the temperature should be such as will color a sheet of white paper a light brown in the time named; when the paper turns dark brown the oven is right for almost anything that requires to be quickly baked. If the paper chars, the oven is too hot for anything.

### THE RED BRACELETS.

**Clever Device of an Indian Robber to Escape Punishment.**

In connection with the punishment of the 9th Lancers for the alleged complicity of some of its members in the murder of a native, the following story, communicated to us by an English officer in command of a large body of native Indian police, throws an interesting light on the ingenuity of the natives in fabricating evidence.

The Indian police are often notoriously indolent, and in order to save the trouble of investigating the charges brought against suspected thieves, they will frequently torture him with the object of making him declare where he has hidden the goods he is supposed to have stolen or of gaining any information that may lead to his conviction. Of course, I always set my face sternly against this mode of obtaining evidence, and some time ago made it known that the use of torture should be discontinued.

One day, when the police had long tried to convict, was arrested on suspicion of being concerned in an extensive robbery. He complained bitterly to me next day of the cruel torture he had been subjected to, showing me his wrists, each of which, he said, had been tightly bound with a cord (which had cut into the flesh) and when tied to a beam. I was very angry, for each of the man's wrists was marked with a bright circle of red, apparently from friction.

As I expected, the native police loudly protested their innocence; but I did not for a moment believe they were speaking the truth, and told them that the threatened punishment would be inflicted.

That evening as I was smoking my pipe and thinking over the matter again, it suddenly struck me that there was no mark of a knot on either wrist. "Now," I said to myself, "if each wrist had been tightly bound with a cord, instead of there being a circle of red entirely around the wrists, there would be the marks of the knot on each, whereas I distinctly remember that the red mark ran all round each in a bright red unbroken ring."

The following morning I made a few inquiries, and elicited the information that an old woman had visited the prisoner for a few minutes on the night of his arrest. I commanded her to be brought before me, and by dint of a few judicious threats succeeded in solving the mystery. It appears that there is a native plant, with a juice of a bright blue color, which, when applied to the skin, leaves a blue stain; when washed the blue color vanishes, leaving a vivid red mark, which remains for some hours. The old woman, who had heard of the order, had brought this juice with her and had concocted the scheme; and thus she and her relative were nearly successful in their revenge on the men who had captured the culprit. This juice does not give any pain when applied to the skin beyond irritating it slightly.—London Tit-Bits.

## CATTELMEN COMING OVER

FROM THE UNITED STATES IN LARGE NUMBERS.

**Angry Over Orders to Remove Fences and Say the States Will Be Sorry.**

The attitude of the Government upon the question of fencing ranges and the evident determination of the President to force the removal of all drift fences have started an exodus of cattlemen to Canada, and unless satisfactory assurances are given that Congress will take some action looking to the leasing of the lands now used for grazing the exodus promises to become of alarming proportions, says a Lincoln, Nebraska, letter.

The cattle raisers who have taken the lead in the matter so far are those from New Mexico and Texas, where the fences have already been forced down. They say that they will give the Government a chance to find out, what they have already discovered, that much of the grazing land is unfit for agricultural purposes, and they express the confident belief that the States that have permitted the cattlemen to be driven out will be sorry.

The Canadian Government is lending its efforts to promote the exodus and is offering land very cheap. The great Littlefield Cattle Company, which has vast herds in the Pecos Valley of New Mexico and the Panhandle of Texas, has leased a million acres in Assiniboine for twenty years at two cents an acre a year. Three hundred miles of barbed wire fence, at a cost of \$50 a mile, will be built, beginning next year, and

5,000 HEAD OF CATTLE, including a large sprinkling of graded short-horns and Herefords, will be moved.

Six or seven years are expected to be consumed in the herd removal, the process including the marketing and maturing of heaves and the securing of new grazing cows as possible for the new grazing country. The Littlefield herd consists of 50,000 head, with a branding this year of some 15,000 calves. The company also buys each year a number of yearling steers, thus providing an annual marketing of two-year-olds.

Last year the Littlefields refused a million cash for their holdings of land and cattle. They own three quarters of a million acres of land, fronting fourteen miles on the Pecos River, and also own a 1,400-acre hay farm near Rossville, N.M., which is stocked with high-grade cattle. In the last twenty years they have marketed cattle to the value of \$7,000,000.

The result of such an exodus will be to build up the Northwest Territory greatly, as a cattle country. Land for fencing is offered at a low figure and the range is free to all. To prevent trouble between the cattlemen and the sheep men, such as has made Wyoming the scene of many a murder in recent years, the Canadian Government has divided the range so that no sheep get on the cattlemen's land, and no cattle on that of the sheep men. The country is entirely new, and there are many thousands of acres upon which the grass has never been nipped.

**TWO OTHER GREAT HERDS,** those of Parramore and Merchant, of Abilene, Tex., will also be moved next spring. They have had agents in the Northwest looking up locations, and between them they will take 40,000 head to the Canada lands.

Cattlemen say that fully a million head altogether will be taken from the Western ranges next spring. Almost all of this number will come from Texas and New Mexico, with a few herds from Kansas, Nebraska and Wyoming. Cattlemen still hope for a leasing proposition from Congress. The dry weather of the last year has left the ranges in bad shape, especially in Wyoming, and the real reason why there is no great exodus from these regions is that most of the cattle that it would pay to take North have been sold off the range.

Agents of the Canadian Pacific, as well as Government representatives, have been doing some proselyting all over the West. They are offering as an additional bid the throwing off the tax on cattle, this to offset the import duty into the United States. They propose that upon the long grass up there many thousands of dollars can be made in the next decade. A thousand-pound cow is the average turn-out on the Canadian range, and this means big money for the raisers.

**ROSES AND 'NERVES.'**  
A New Cure Specially Recommended to Millionaires.

It is within very recent date that experimenting scientists, including the most reputable of physicians, have learned that perfumes are real medicines given in another form—through the nostrils, says the London Express. One might go further back and find that medicinal perfumes are only rediscovered now, for they were really discovered centuries ago, when incense and myrrh were used to cure ill as well as for worship.

Sweet-smelling balms were carried to the sick, and the doctors of that day healed the body and the spirit through heavy odors.

It is well known that the fakirs of India and the medicine men of the wild tribes of all countries work by means of perfumes and herbs.

Every woman knows that a bottle of ammonia held to the nostrils will help a headache. Our grandmothers used the camphor bottles, and this restorative is still used as the home medicine.

The vinaigrette and the little smelling-bottle of all kinds are filled with a salts or a powder of sweet smelling odor based upon medicinal

properties, and there is no doubt that a few whiffs will help a headache and sometimes completely cure it. And now roses are advocated for many of the aches and pains of life which frequently arise from overwrought or disordered nerves.

It has been discovered that the rose will cure a headache. Its perfume acts as a medicine upon the nerves. Its color—particularly if deep red—soothes the senses through the eyes, and its cleanliness and medicinal properties generally act upon the system not only as a curative, but as a tonic.

**THE SWEETER THE ROSE** the better, for the sweetness of this flower is of such peculiar delicacy that it neither cloy upon the nostrils nor palis upon the senses. Other flowers with heavy scent make one languid. But the rose is invigorating; and it is known that the concentrated rose—that is, the natural smell as obtained from roses in great quantities—will certainly act upon the person as though he or she had been fanned by a breeze.

The rose curist asserts that if the scent is inhaled directly from the very heart of the flower it is more beneficial to the patient than though it were inhaled at long distance through an essence or an extract. There are different ways of administering the rose medicine. The patient can make a pillow of roses; on this she should lay her head, taking care that half a dozen of the blooms are so arranged that they point toward the face. In this attitude her nose and mouth are buried in their sweetness. The idea is to go to sleep on a bed of roses; when you wake up your headache will be cured.

The best rose is the garden rose, as it retains its red rose scent without having lost anything by being cultivated.

One of the rose treatments is through the eyes, for the nervous man or woman—people who cannot endure the sight of blood, who cannot see suffering, whom an injured animal will unnerve for a day. Uncleanliness and disorder that strike upon the sight act upon them as though they had a fit of sickness. An unhappy combination of nerves and produce a headache. When people are as sensitive as this they can be cured by the color treatment, and this color cure is now actively in operation in many places.

When undergoing a severe nervous strain it is a good plan to take a bath and hold it to the nostrils; breathe deeply of the scent.

### MURDERING SAILORS.

**Cannibals in New Hebrides Attack Trading Vessels.**

Mallicolo is the second largest island in the New Hebrides group, which now belongs to France. Some missionaries a while ago chose this island as a promising field for their work, but thus far they are greatly disappointed with the results.

None of the missionaries has yet been harmed by the natives, their immunity being due perhaps to the liberal price they pay for all the food and other things they purchase; but the natives are doing nothing for their instruction and have recently attacked an English trading vessel which stopped at the island to land a number of native passengers.

Capt. Atkinson, his first mate and several others were killed. A few days later the Pearl, another trading ship, was also attacked, several of the crew being massacred.

There is no doubt that the English or French will call the Mallicolo natives to very severe account for their delinquency.

These natives have long been regarded as particularly interesting because they occupy a transitional zone between the Melanesian and Polynesian worlds and the natives consequently present a great variety of types, according to the extent of intermixture of the two races. The tribal groups in the island differ greatly in appearance, customs and language. When the islands were discovered the natives went naked or wore nothing beyond a strip of pounded bark, leaves or coconut fibre. At present most of the people use considerable European cotton cloth for all or part of their attire.

Cannibalism still survives among them, though it has disappeared from many other islands. The natives have a reputation for ferocity and wickedness, but there is no doubt that they are shamed against as well as shaming. Those who knew Melanesia best say that the whites have been far more treacherous and cruel than the natives.

Bishop Patteson, who was killed on the island of Nukapu in 1871, fell by the hand of a man whom the whites had just robbed of his children.

Mr. Markham has reported that many of the natives of these islands, such as those who murdered the missionary Williams, make use of firearms only against the whites, whom they regard as kidnappers. They would consider it disgraceful to employ the new weapons they have acquired in the local wars between kindred tribes.

**NEW FIRE-PUMP.**  
The chief of the fire department in Rouen, France, has invented a fire-pump which can be operated by tapping the current of any street-car or electric-light system. The pump is small enough to be drawn easily by one horse in a light, two-wheeled cart, but sufficiently powerful to throw a stream of water 100 feet high. In a trial the new pump developed its full energy in three minutes, while a steam-pump required fourteen minutes to get up the same pressure.

Which are the most contented birds? Ducks, because they never complain without cause.

## KING EDWARD'S LETTERS

HIS MAJESTY RECEIVES SIX HUNDRED A DAY.

**How They Are Delivered and Dealt With—An Army of Clerks.**

Though the King's daily movements are fully chronicled in the newspapers and the Court Circular, there are many things his Majesty does of which the public has little knowledge, says the London Express. "State business," upon which the King is employed every morning, covers a multitude of urgent matters, from the writing of an autograph letter to a neighbouring sovereign to the selection of a coronation design; and there are, of course, numbers of official despatches which require the royal signature.

It is not generally known, however, that his Majesty preserves a careful supervision over the answers which are sent to the hundreds of correspondents daily writing to the King. On an average, the King's daily letter bag contains 600 letters, and about half as many newspapers, books, circulars, etc. Needless to say, this gigantic delivery needs the assistance of a body of private clerks, over whom Sir Francis Knollys, the King's private secretary, exercises control.

**"PERSONAL TO HIS MAJESTY."** All letters and parcels, with the exception of those which are quickly recognized as being "personal to his Majesty"—i.e., which contain a distinctive private mark, mutually arranged on the envelope or cover—are opened by the secretaries and distributed in boxes, separately labelled, according to their nature and contents. These boxes are then carefully examined and checked by Sir Francis Knollys, and those letters of an urgent character requiring the consideration of his Majesty are retained by the private secretary and are laid before the King, who indicates in a few words his pleasure concerning them.

It is surprising—and has often astonished those in receipt of replies—how rapidly an answer is despatched from the royal residence. Many a time has a correspondent whose letter has been received by Sir Francis Knollys by the first morning delivery, obtained a reply the same night, intimating that the first missive has been "laid before the King." Many letters—those emanating from cranks, faddists, and notorious beggars, those making impossible requests, and those of a purely commercial character—are never submitted to his Majesty, but are either ignored or stereotyped replies are sent, according to the subject of the letter.

**SOME ADDRESSED IN PENCIL.** This much can be truthfully said: The greatest courtesy and delicacy have always characterized his Majesty's public correspondence, and many instances could be quoted where his secretary has gone out of his way to explain at length the King's objection to some application, or his Majesty's reluctance at being unable to comply with some request. Since the new reign began the typewriter has been introduced in the palace, and many replies, formal and otherwise, are now typed in violet ink. In the late reign the private secretaries were supposed to, and actually did, write every letter with their own pens, but when Edward VII. ascended the throne a modern change was quickly introduced, saving a large amount of time and labor.

All sorts and conditions of people write to the King. Many of the envelopes bear no stamps, as if Buckingham Palace were a government office, and some are boldly addressed in a pencil scrawl.

The East End postmark is a predominant feature; there are many poor people, who, alas! fondly believe the King can redress their grievances and mitigate their woes by a wave of his hand. It is no secret, however, that in several instances, after discreet enquiries have been made, suffering has been relieved in poor districts as the result of a letter to the King or Queen.

Usually the channel of relief is one of the philanthropic societies, of which his Majesty is either a patron or interested in, to whose office the deserving letter is privately forwarded.

**USE FOR TELEGRAPH LINES.**  
A man hopelessly lost in the bush in South Australia, after wandering about for four days, came upon a telegraph line between Adelaide and Port Darwin. He hadn't strength to go farther, but he managed to climb a pole and cut the wire. Then he made himself as comfortable as possible and waited. The telegraph repairers were sent along the line, and they came to the wanderer in time to save his life.

**BAD TEMPER AND DIVING.**  
A professional diver says that one of the strange effects of diving is the invariable bad temper felt while working at the bottom of the sea. As this usually passes away as soon as the surface is reached, it is probably due to the pressure of the air affecting the lungs, and through them the brain. The exhilaration and good temper of the mountain climber is a contrary feeling, from an opposite cause.

**IMMENSE PEAT AREAS.**  
There is, according to a contemporary, a great future for peat as fuel. The most productive area for it is the North of Germany and the adjoining parts of Denmark and Holland. In Friesland there are bogs 1,500 square miles in extent, and Germany has more fuel in peat than in coal. A square mile of bog 10 feet deep contains peat equal in heating power to over 300,000 tons of coal. Ireland has a million acres of large bogs from 10 feet to 30 feet deep.

## THE INDIAN STAFF CORPS

THE VICEROY OF INDIA INTENDS TO ABOLISH IT.

**Something About the Organization, Its Personnel, and Its Duties.**

The announcement made by the Viceroy of India at the coronation durbar, that the Indian Staff Corps will be abolished, indicates a very complete change in the organization of the British India Army, and is possibly the most important of the changes that Lord Curzon promised.

Many officers of the East India Company's forces were left out when after the mutiny, the British Army was reorganized, and various European regiments in the company's service amalgamated with it. To provide for these, a staff corps was created in each Presidency, which afterward became the Indian Staff Corps.

As the old company's officers died out, new blood was obtained, admittance to the corps being obtainable only on proof of ability to render good service; and at present, it numbers nearly 2,500 officers, ranking from full Generals to Second Lieutenants. Its officers fill all positions in the native regiments open to Europeans, as well as many in the supply departments; and many of them, not serving with troops, act as Commissioners, Residents and Superintendents in the military-civilian department of the Indian Government.

Appointments to the Indian Staff Corps have been hard to get. A certain number is offered to at the Military College at Sandhurst. After they have had their chance, appointments are allotted in the order of merit to cadets who compete for them. King's cadets are generally the sons of officers, who could not afford to pay the high fees charged at the military colleges. Promotion depends very largely on an officer's acquiring native languages, along with proving his efficiency as a commander of troops.

Once in the Indian Staff Corps, an officer must spend the rest of his active life in it. This rule is intended to maintain the established personnel and to preserve the traditions of the service. These will be disturbed by the Viceroy's announcement.

To compensate him for his enforced life in India, an officer who can out "I.S.C." after his name gets better pay, longer leaves and larger pension on retirement than those given to British officers. The pension is nearly double that of an officer of his rank in the Royal Army, and he receives higher pay when acting in a grade higher than his own.

The Indian Staff Corps consists of two elements, the military and the civil. The first includes all officers holding strictly military appointments, either with regiments or in the military departments of the Government; the second, as suggested above, includes all serving as Commissioners, deputies, Residents, police chiefs, and in some cases, as Magistrates.

Officers in the second division are practically civilians, for they never return to service with troops, though they have

**MILITARY RANK.**  
The corps, under its regulations, has during the last forty years provided for the Indian Government a body of men of military education who are familiar with the manners, customs and languages of oriental populations, and perform the important services of commanding the native troops and of conducting the relations with neighboring countries.

John Chinn, in Kipling's "Tomb of his Ancestors," belonged to the Indian Staff Corps; so probably did Strickland, who has appeared for an instant in several of Kipling's stories, as did "Stalky," and others of his heroes. Officers of the Indian Staff Corps have served out of India, though not further west than Malta.

Lieut.-Gen. Sir Arthur Gascolee, who commanded the Allies in the march to Peñin, was a Lieut.-Colonel on the corps at the time; many of the British leaders in South Africa were Lieut.-Colonels or Majors on its roster. Capt. Voughtsham, who did some good work as an explorer and fighter among the hill-men, is one of the corps.

**YOU MUST RELAX.**  
It is strange how few people really know how to relax, to let the bed hold them instead of vainly trying to hold up the bed. Give way, let the nerves and muscles rest. Do not anticipate your journey's end or waste nerve force by mentally going ahead and fussing because of delay. Do not mentally get out and push the train along because you do not reach your destination in a moment. Relax, drop the subject from your mind, and you will reach your objective point far less worn in mind and body than if you fussed and fumed. You can add years to your life by simply breathing. It is want of thought, want of time, want of knowledge that is at fault. Learn to breathe properly and you will always be self-possessed. Learn to relax and you will never be nervous and fussy and make others around you nervous. Do not catch the breath with a gasp, do not fuss with this or that little thing. Relax and gain that repose of manner that places you and those around you at ease. Few people can "let go." Yawning may not be polite, but it is healthful. Why? Because it gives full expression to stretches and vitalizes all the muscles of the body, and then relaxes them, quickening the blood supply, and then giving it free play.