

compares very favourably with the deficient one of 1893, and is nearly a bushel and a-half above the average of the past ten years. Similarly, the yield of 34½ bushels of barley is about as much above the ten years' average. The oat crop comes out best of all, with 41.64 bushels an acre, or 3.84 bushels above the ten years' average, and higher than the yield of any year since the official statistics were first collected, in 1884.

In the following table we compare the yield in Great Britain in 1894 with that of 1893 and with the ten years' average:—

			Excess in 1894	
1894	1893	Average	Over 1893	Over ten yrs.
Bush.	Bush.	Bush.	Bush.	Bush.
WHEAT.				
30.69	25.95	29.25	4.74	1.44
BARLEY.				
34.50	28.69	32.98	5.81	1.52
OATS.				
41.64	35.59	37.80	6.05	3.84

During the ten years preceding 1894 wheat has four times been more productive than it was last harvest, the yield having been 31.31 bushels per acre in 1885, 32.07 in 1887, 30.74 in 1890, and 31.26 in 1891. Barley exceeded the latest yield in 1885, when it was 35.11 bushels an acre; in 1890, when it was 35.02; and in 1892, when it was 34.61. Oats, as already stated, have beaten the record of the period of official statistics, the nearest approach to the latest yield being 41.40 bushels an acre, produced in 1890. But, although the yield of 1894 comes out so well, we fear that, if only marketable produce were reckoned, wheat and barley would show much less respectable averages.

### Household-Matters.

Now that the festive season is over, and only pleasant memories of it remain, it behoves us all to try our very best to make the year 1895 a successful one.

Seeing that it is undoubtedly the duty, as it ought to be the chief pleasure, of every woman to make the home, of which she is the sun and centre, as bright and happy as possible, any little worries and perplexities which may be looming in the future must be thought over and dealt with in secret, so that they may not in any way interfere with the cheerfulness and happiness of the home life. A housewife and mother who, in spite of the many demands upon her strength and patience, is still brave enough to carry about with her a cheerful smiling face is truly an unspeakable boon and comfort in a household, and never fails to spread an influence for good upon all those around her, from the tired, hard-working, and often disheartened husband and father to the youngest little prattler in the nursery. Let us all, therefore, aim at being such, and try our very utmost to make this year one of the brightest and best we have ever spent.

**Practical.**—Turning from the more sentimental phase of the past which is so full of its own especial charms, we must utilise the remainder of our space in considering some of the more mundane, practical features of this month. If snowy weather comes, as the majority of us are hoping it will, on account of its bracing, healthy effects, and mothers are troubled in conse-

quence with no end of drenched boots and shoes, soaking wet skates, leggings, &c., let me recommend the following remedies, which I have proved to be most effective. The boots and shoes, when thoroughly wet through, should never be placed near the fire, as is too often done, as then the leather dries so hard, and is very liable to crack; but first turn them up so as to rest on one edge of the sole, and set them in a corner of the kitchen until the wet has all dripped from them, then rub them thoroughly in every part with dubbin, which is one of the best things ever invented for keeping leather soft; then, when required for use, there will be no trouble about get-

point, as then the water naturally runs off at the tips instead of settling in the little circle where the wires are fastened; this latter being a most destructive business, invariably ending in the ribs of the umbrella becoming rotten and breaking loose from the top long before their time.

**Prevention better than cure.**—Prevention, to my mind, being decidedly better than cure, I want to give my readers two recipes, the real value of which I myself have tested many and many a time. One is a remedy for sore throat, or for a tiresome tickling kind of cough caused by a feeling of irri-

safety lies in a simple pad or shield made as follows:—Cut some soft fine flannel, arranged in a double layer, into the size and shape of an ordinary chest preserver, and between the folds spread a thin layer of dried and sifted mustard; then quilt the flannel together in small diamond shapes, after which we bind the pad round with soft silk binding, sew on strings to tie about the neck, and the little safeguard is all ready for use. It should be worn next the skin, and, if made of really good flannel, no feeling of soreness or irritation will ever be felt. In the case of one of my own boys, now grown up into quite a strong, stalwart fellow, this simple thing has proved of such marvellous good that I feel constrained, out of sheer gratitude, to tell it out to others in hopes that it may effect for them like happy results.—*Ag. Gazette*

MARIE.

**A Lady's Skirt.**—This skirt is of the very latest style brought out, and it takes quite a clever person to put on fashionable trimmings at the bottom of the it. Instead of being quite straight like the old skirt this one curves out a little starting a very little at first from the belt down, thus giving more fullness to the skirt, and looking much nicer, as it does not cling as closely to the figure as did. The Bell, And those who have had to do without a pocket for such a long time, can now once more avail themselves of that useful receptacle; there is no greater discomfort to my mind than a skirt without a pocket. The new trimming can be put on and varied in so many ways. In the illustration it is just a piece of striped goods cut on the cross, the other two patterns are more intricate and will prove quite a task for an amateur in dress making, but, with care, the result will be fashionable and pretty. An old dress that is worn out at the bottom might be lengthened out and look well if a band of some suitable colour is put on it; plaids are the best, but the pattern must not be too large or too bright in colour, the duller the better for an old dress. Cut out a paper pattern, it will save no end of trouble, and do not fail to baste the band well on the skirt before starting, then place your paper pattern on the skirt and run a thread to mark the lines of the top, cut away the goods and put on the braid being careful to turn in or cover the edge well.

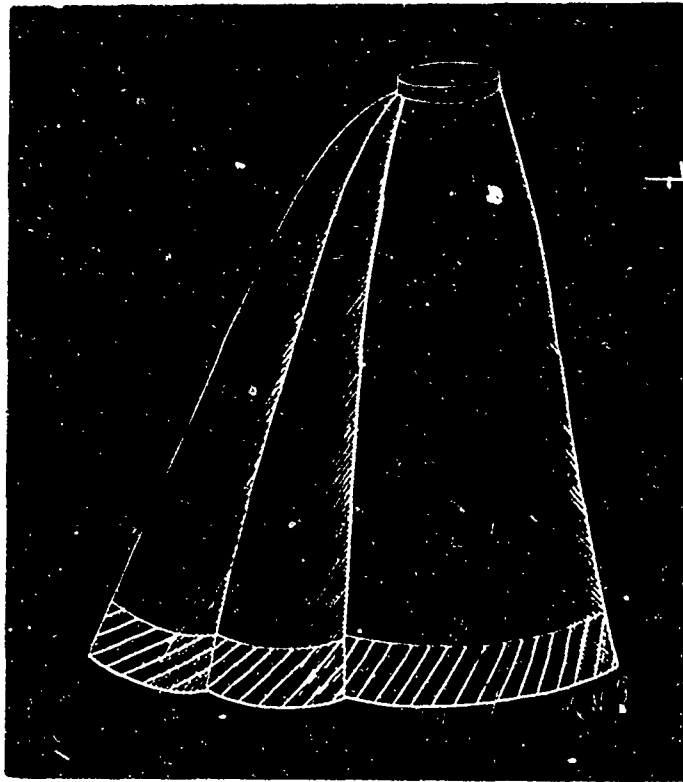
The front width of the skirt is cut just to reach the hip, then a gore, and one large or two smaller ones for the back so as to make a nice full skirt.

**Stewed Tongue and Tomatoes.**—Wash and prepare a large tongue, let it soak during the preparation of the gravy.

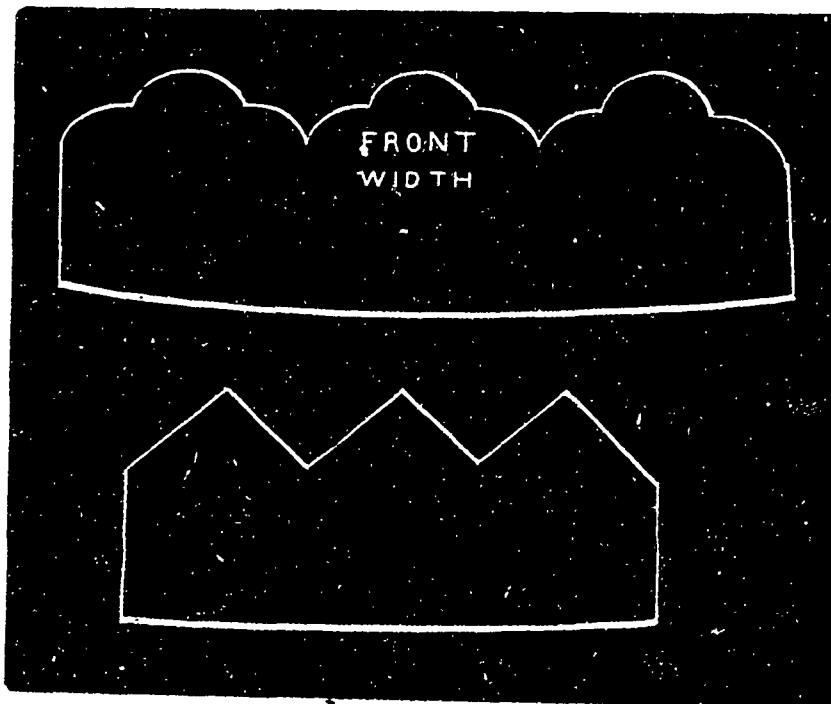
One large onion cut up and fried till quite brown without burning, now add enough water to this just covering the tongue, which has been put into a saucepan not too large, put the tongue in a curve, or you will have more gravy than you want, stew till quite tender, so much so that a fork will pass easily through it.

One can of tomatoes stewed down till quite thick, pepper and salt, and a very little spice if liked. Skin and keep the tongue hot while the gravy from it is added to the tomatoes, and well boiled down till quite thick, put the tongue on a very hot dish and pour the tomato sauce over it.

This dish can be varied by cutting up and stewing any vegetable liked with the onion and tongue.



A NEW WINTER SKIRT.



ting them on, and complaints about hurt corns will never be heard. Skates, and leggings too, should never be left lying in a wet condition, but should be rubbed dry at once with a soft clean cloth, and afterwards be well saturated with dubbin or pure saltless oil or fat of some sort, thus rendering equal to new.

**Care of umbrellas.**—Umbrellas, when they get thoroughly soaked, should be turned upside down and allowed to rest on the handle instead of on the

tation in the throat; and the other is a sort of shield or protection to a naturally weak, sensitive chest—a trouble which is only too common in this very variable climate of ours. For the former take equal quantities of pure glycerine and strained lemon juice, and, after mixing thoroughly, administer a teaspoonful at a time, when a very speedy sense of relief will be experienced.

For a week chest, subject to attacks of bronchitis or similar complaints, a splendid protection and means of