

Scientific and Useful.

TO BRUSH VELVET—The art of removing lint, dust and light matters adhering to velvet consists in the proper mode of managing the brush. Take a hat-brush (not too soft, but having the bristles elastic, and returning at once to their original state after being pressed aside), hold it firmly under the palm of the hand, in the direction of the arm, and with the bristles downward, and pressing them first gently into the substance of the velvet, then twist around the arm, hand and brush all together, as on an axis, without moving them forward or backward. The foreign matters will thus be drawn up, and flitted out of the flock without injury to the substance of the velvet, and the brush must be lifted up and placed in a similar manner over every part required to be brushed.

MOLASSES FRUIT CAKE.—One and a half pound flour; one pound powdered sugar; one cup of molasses; one cup of sour cream; five eggs, beaten very light; one pound of raisins, seeded and cut into thirds; one teaspoonful of cinnamon and cloves; one-half grated nutmeg; one-half teaspoonful of ginger; three-fourths pound butter; one teaspoonful soda, dissolved in hot water; cream, butter, and sugar; warm the molasses slightly and beat into this with spices and cream, add the yolks of the eggs, stir in the flour and the whites alternately, the soda water, then the fruit, well dredged with flour; beat all together vigorously for at least three minutes before putting into well buttered tins to be baked.

OPIATES FOR CHILDREN.—If parents could only be given to understand that the active principle in all these infant cordials is opium, and that the effects of this dangerous drug are manifold and lasting, they would hesitate a very long time before administering a teaspoonful even when so directed by the physician. But for the eagerness of our most active temperance friends, who have for years concentrated public attention upon the physiological effects of alcohol, a much wider knowledge of those of opium would have been gained and the danger of jumping out of the alcoholic frying pan into the opiate fire would not threaten, as it does, now all civilized countries. Opium should never be administered even to adults, much less to children, except by medical direction, and then only under favourable conditions. Those who fancy that the drug in any form, whether as laudanum or in the more concentrated and active form of morphine, simply produces a quiescent state of the nerves favourable to slumber and then passes off, know nothing about it. There are few vital organs that are not affected by it, and one dose of it may upset the whole tone of the system. It is cumulative. The parent who begins to quiet a fretful child with one teaspoonful must soon administer two, and challenge a score of disorders in her infant in order to gain sleep for it and for herself. She may be laying the foundation for the opium habit in her little one, and may live to witness its agonies when it reaches maturity. The wailing of a fretful child is not only irritating, it is sometimes maddening to the parent, and the sleeping potion is as often administered to ensure sleep for the parent as to benefit the little one. But we are sure that very few mothers, when once made aware of the risk they run in administering opiates to children, would rather endure all the miseries they know of than take the chance of poisoning them immediately or indirectly with drugs.

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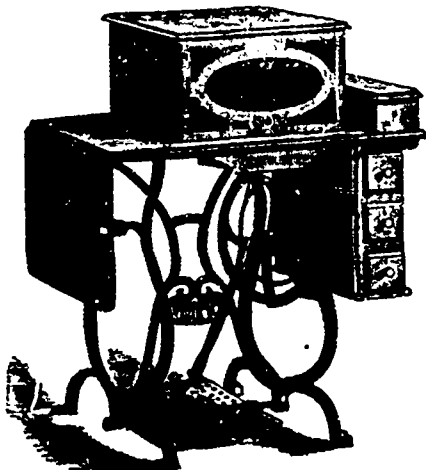
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