

POOR POTATOES MADE PALATABLE.—Half the people who eat potatoes to-day will find them cutting like a piece of hard soap, and not much more agreeable to the taste. The fault, according to a lady writer in the *Household*, is not in the tubers, but in the cook. She says she never has any but dry, mealy potatoes on her table, and this is her *modus operandi* of preparation: If old, I pare them and let them remain in cold water several hours. When time to cook I put them in a kettle of boiling water "salt as brine. When they are boiled sufficiently, I turn off the water and set the kettle on fire till the steam has all dried out. Prepared this way, old potatoes are delicious and wholesome. New potatoes need not be pared, nor need they remain in cold water. Wash them thoroughly, and if there are any rough places cut them off. I place them in boiling salted water, and when done always pour the water off and place them over the fire

—Housewives who are in the habit of using only steaks and roasts make a great mistake. A capital dish may be made out of the "chuck," as the butchers call it, or the neck, when well prepared. Select a piece of meat as large as the demand of your table may require; wash it well to remove all the blood or soil from the outside; have your dinner-pot perfectly clean; salt and pepper the meat well; lay it in the bottom and cover it with water; boil it from two to three hours, or till it is thoroughly tender; add half an onion, a sprinkle of sage, thyme, or summer-savory. If the meat is fat, let the water all stew out a half hour before it is put on the table, and when your meat is browned well on the lower side in the gravy, turn it over and brown the other side. When ready, take it up, add a little flour thickening to the gravy, or if you have a dredge-box shake the flour into the hot gravy and brown it, then add boiling water, and you will have a dish equal and, to our mind, superior to the common roast beef upon boarding-house tables. Care must be used to turn it and equally necessary is good judgment in having it thoroughly well cooked.—*Olive Farmer.*

A FRENCH BROIL.--Select a spider or saucepan with a smooth, clean bottom, set it over the range or stove till really hot, then lay on a good tenderloin or sirloin steak; keep the spider very hot, and turn the steak as often as every two minutes--no longer; when half done sprinkle over salt and pepper to suit the taste of these who are to eat it; continue to turn the steak often, till sufficiently done, just as you are ready to take up and dish the steak; dust a little flour over it, spread on a tablespoonful of butter, or if a large steak, a little more; turn it over, dust on more flour, and spread on the butter as on the first side; turn again, set the saucepan back from the hot fire, take the steak on to the platter, and set in heater or oven to keep hot, but not to cook any more; shake more flour into the butter in the saucepan, set again over the fire and as soon as the butter bubbles up through the flour, rub it smooth with a spoon, and pour in a few spoonful of boiling water, stir it constantly, and as soon as thick pour over the steak and serve hot.

WASHING FOR ROOFS AND BUILDINGS.—Slack lime in a close box to prevent the escape of steam, and when slacked pass it through a sieve. To every six quarts of this lime add one quart of rock salt and one gallon of water. After this boil and skim clean.

To every five gallons of this, add, by slow degrees, three-quarters of a pound of potash and four quarts of fine sand. Coloring matter may be added if desired. Apply with a paint or whitewash brush. This wash looks as well as paint, and is almost as durable as slate. It will stop small leaks in a roof, prevent the moss from growing over it, and render it incombustible from sparks falling upon it. When applied to brickwork it renders the brick utterly impervious to rain; it endures as long as paint, and the expense is a mere trifle.

— *Boston Journal of Chemistry.*

PUMPKINS FOR INFLAMMATORY RHEUMATISM.—At a recent meeting of the New York Farmer's Club, a correspondent wrote of the virtues of pumpkin, giving the following instance of its value for inflammatory rheumatism: A woman's arm was swelled to an enormous size and painfully inflamed. A poultice was made of stewed pumpkins which was renewed every fifteen minutes, and in a short time produced a perfect cure. The lever drawn

out by the poultice made them extremely offensive as they were taken off. I know a man cured of inflammation of the bowels by the same kind of application.

A correspondent of the Stockton (Cal.) *Herald* gives the following as a cure for small-pox, and as that loathsome disease is performing its horrible work in our city, we give place to the article, which may be of benefit to sufferers:—

I herewith append a receipt which has been used to my knowledge in hundreds of cases. It will prevent or cure the small-pox, even though the pittings are filling. When Jenner discovered the cow-pox in England the world of science hurled an avalanche of fame on his head; but when the most scientific school of medicine in the world, that of Paris, published this receipt as a panacea for small-pox, it passed unheeded; it is as unfailing as fate, and conquers in every instance. It is harmless when taken by a well person. It will also cure scarlet fever. Here is the receipt as I have used it and cured many children of the scarlet fever; here it is as I have used it to cure the small-pox, when learned physicians said the patient must die:

"Sulphate of zinc, one grain; fox glove, (digitalis), one grain; half a tea-spoonful of sugar; mix with two table-spoonfuls of water."

When the above has been thoroughly mixed, add four ounces of water. Take a spoonful every hour. Either disease will disappear in twelve hours. For a child, smaller doses, according to age. If counties would compel physicians to use this, there would be no need of pest-houses. If you value advice and experience, use this for that terrible and dreaded scourge.

SHOEING HORSES.

It is almost impossible to get a horse shod without having the frogs cut away. All veterinary surgeons, all horsemen, all leading blacksmiths agree that the frogs should not be pared one particle—not even trimmed. No matter how soft and pliable the frog is, cut it away smooth on all sides, and in two days it will be dry and hard as a clip. You might as well cut off all the leaves of trees and expect them to flourish as to pare away the frog and have a healthy foot. The rough spongy part of the frog is to the foot what leaves are to the tree—the lungs. Never have a red-hot shoe put upon the foot to burn it level. Employ a blacksmith that is mechanic enough to level the foot without red-hot iron. The burning process deadens the hoof and tends to contract it. If you do not think so, try the red-hot poker on your finger nail, and see how it will affect the growth of that. There are many other important points in shoeing horses, but these two are of more importance than all the rest, level to the apprehension of men not skilled in horses, and the two most disregarded.

GALLED SHOULDERS ON HORSES.—Wash them well every night and morning with a strong solution of oak bark, made by boiling the bark in water; then rub them well with linseed oil. Anoint them every night and morning with a salve made of three parts of linseed oil and one part quicklime. To make horses' shoulders tough, wash the shoulders well twice a day for a week before working with oak bark solution.

TO TRAIN A HORSE TO STAND.—The *American Stock Journal* contains the following directions: "Take your horse on the barn floor and throw a strap over his back and fasten it to his fore foot; lead him along and say whoa; at the same time pull down the strap, which throws him on three feet and makes him stop suddenly. This is the best way to teach whoa, though you can put on the war rattle and say whoa, giving a sharp jerk that will stop him about as soon as the strap to his foot. Then put him in harness with a foot-strap, as directed under the head of 'training to harness,' and drive him up to the dog. The moment he undertakes to start take his foot up and say whoa. Get in your carriage and get out again, rattle the thills, make all the noise in and out you can and give him to understand by snatching his foot each time he moves, that he must stand until you tell him to go; and after a few times you can put the whole family in the carriage and he won't stir out of his tracks."

A CONVENIENT MILK RACK.—Place a piece of scantling perpendicularly in any convenient, airy place in your cellar, or milk room. Then commence a foot or two from the bottom of the post and nail on pieces of common lath, about two feet eight inches long, at right angles with the post, and exactly opposite each other, so that the ends will reach out far enough each way to receive a pan of milk. The strips may be five or six inches apart, on alternate sides of the posts, and carried up about six feet high. Forty gallons of milk in six quart pans may be placed on such a rack, and no pan in the way of any other pan.

MILKING IN SILENCE.—The London (Eng.) *Milk Journal* says: Cows that are fed at milking time require their usual meal, or they may become restless or dissatisfied, and put a stop to their bounty. Many of them will only allow some special favorite to milk them. In those parts of the country where women are solely employed to milk, we frequently find one or two tautel lassies singing at their work, and many cows become so pleased with the rustic harmony as to show evident signs of their approval of the loud sweet voice by giving their milk only by being sung to. Everything that distracts the attention of the cow and ruffles her placidity should be avoided when called upon to yield her milk. Her nervous system should not be excited by strange noises, unwelcome objects, or rough treatment, or the effect will be apparent in a diminished supply in the milk pail. It would no doubt be good advice on the whole to tell these who milk tall they should keep their tongues and keep their tempers. The Connecticut farmer appears to have sufficient reasons indeed to say that speech is silver, but silence is golden.

LADY FARMERS.

Agitation does good, as thunder-storms clear the air. One good from all this fuss about woman's rights is to show women that they can earn their bread in other ways than by the needle or by teaching school. Many have turned their attention to gardening and farming in a small way with excellent success. Many more have, I dare say, tried and failed, but usually from a want of resolution and perseverance in the face of difficulties. A lady in Hartford earned by a day's work enough to buy a half acre of land. On this she has set out and cultivates with her own hands, twenty apple trees, sixteen cherry trees, eleven pear trees, over a hundred grape vines, besides a variety of small fruit, as strawberries, currants, raspberries, &c. That this lady has lost nothing in refinement of feeling by her out-door work, we might judge from a note sent by her to an editor, accompanying a gift of beautiful fruit. She mentions the great enjoyment she has felt in her work, and says: "The fruits and flowers, like angel voices, have cheered me on. In their presence I have cultivated a love for the beautiful in all things, and have been happier in loftier, holier thoughts, with clearer views of the brighter world above. I would recommend to all ladies that they give time and attention to horticulture; it improves both mind and body." Who will say that such a life is not better than drudging over her needle for a bare pittance, wearing out soul and body both in the struggle to keep off famine! A young lady in Mississippi, who had just graduated, came home and hired a few colored people, and undertook the experiment of woman farming. The result at the end of the year was—eight banks (!) of potatoes, six hundred bushels of corn, and \$969 in cash, from the sale of cotton, after all expenses were paid.—*Country Gentleman.*

FARMING WELL.—The great difficulty in the way of good farming is too much land; farmers are so hurried in the getting in and in the harvesting of their crops, that they have really no time to devote to the improvement of the soil. Let any one visit some of the ten-acre farms in the neighborhood of Cincinnati, and the truth will soon become apparent, that more profit can be made from ten acres, properly tilled and manured, than can be realized from one hundred acres run over in the usual negligent manner. The occupants of these ten-acre farms are growing richer every year, while many who occupy large farms barely hold their own.—*Ohio Valley Farmer.*

When a slip has grown six or eight inches high, nip out the top down to the next set of leaves; it will then throw out branches on each side. Let these grow eight or ten inches, then nip out the top of each branch, when grown the same height as the others; then procure a stick the size of your finger, eighteen inches in length; take hoop-strict wire, twine back and forth alternate, through holes made in the stick equal distances apart; place this firmly in the pot back of the plant, tie branches to it, and you will have, when in flower, a beautiful and very graceful plant. Having one trained in that way last season, it was the admiration of all who saw it.—*Small Fruit Recorder.*

BRIEF.—Here is a brief synopsis of a constitution for a Farmers' Club. It contains all the points which are essential in such a document:

1. Name of Club.
2. The Club shall meet once a fortnight, at the house of member previously agreed upon.
3. A subject of discussion, and a speaker to open the debate, are appointed for each meeting.
4. The member at whose house the Club last met is presiding over the meeting.
5. Secretary, to serve for six months, is elected. He is expected to furnish the proceedings of the Club to the country newspaper.
6. Members may propose candidates for membership, who are elected by a majority of the votes cast.
7. All other matters are left to be managed at option of the Club "for the time being."

GRASSHOPPERS IN MAINE.—The *Maine Farmer*, in review of the past season, says:—"The year 1871 will be forever remembered by the farmers of Maine as the 'grasshopper year.' No such ravages by insects were ever before known in our state; no one insect was ever so numerous; none ever appeared in such vast numbers, or caused so much destruction to crops. The reports of their ravages are often almost incredible, and the crops in entire districts, towns and even counties were completely devoured. Generally throughout the state they caused more injury to grain, grass, corn, potatoes and garden vegetables than drought, frost, rot and all other adverse causes combined.

We have previously commended the sowing of Larkspur as a poison for grasshoppers. It may be well to have some of it about gardens and plots of land. Our turn may come next. We have suffered considerably from these depredations, and it is a question yet to be decided to what extent and what expense we should put ourselves for preventative measures.—ED.

A WOMAN FARMER.—The Royal Agricultural Society of England having placed £50 at the disposal of judges, to be awarded to the two most highly commended farms, they awarded £25 to Mr. Brewster, for the successful management of good land. Mrs. Elizabeth Stanley's farm was highly commended and awarded a prize of £25 in recognition of her profitable management. Here we see that a woman comes to us with the key to success in rural pursuits—profitable management.

GODERICH STAR.—We are pleased to see this deserving journal resume its presence. About three months since it passed through a fiery ordeal which destroyed all its working materials. In its present enlarged form and its new type, there can be no doubt of its being received with an appreciative support, not only in its immediate vicinity, but throughout the Dominion at large.

A CURIOUS PHENOMENON occurred on the Ottawa river between the city and Hull on Saturday evening. As some parties were crossing on the ice they were startled by a loud explosion, which shook the whole mass on which they were travelling. Upon looking for the cause they saw a shower of ice, water, sawdust and slabs falling over a space of open water about an acre in extent, from which the ice had been blown by submarine forces, thought to have been compressed air or gases.

A crowd of disorderly women, who were being tried before a Salt Lake City police court, recently, took it into their heads to demolish the witnesses and clean out the policemen, in all of which they were successful.