

disguise would not be sufficient. Somebody would be sure to start guessing. And yet there is a great deal in what you say. In gardening letters, etc., the information is of very little value if we do not know just where the writer is. If Canada were a little two by four country it would not matter. How would it do to put the part of the province in which the writer lives: such as southern Alberta, northern Manitoba, etc.? That would be definite enough for geographical purposes and yet too general for recognition. If no one enters any objection to that plan in the next month we will give it a trial.

Will some member give information about the wild tomato.—D. D.)

#### DEFINITE INFORMATION ON AN IMPORTANT SUBJECT

Dear Dame Durden:—I wish to pass on information that has come into my life for great good, and will ask your help. You have touched on the subject of personal purity in the Ingle Nook, and it seems to me that the greatest help to purity is knowledge, given in a true, pure way. This is withheld from most young people, and parents also. Two books that came to me, written by Alice B. Stockham, have proved a great inspiration, showing the true use of creative power, not its abuse or repression. They clear the mind of slighting, doubtful and debasing thoughts, and are so pure and ennobling that I wish all young people who have no wise instructor at home might read them. Personally, I no longer look forward with dread to the time when my children will need such instruction.

I have found that kindergarten materials amuse the children and develop their minds more than the usual Christmas gifts of toys. My little folks of a year and a half and three and a half enjoy and learn much from a tar paper blackboard framed with lath. Here they learn to handle crayon, and enjoy my crude pictures, learning much of plant and animal life. Writing and picture books are made of wrapping paper. I am anxious to get a pantagraph to transfer and enlarge designs for these home-made amusements. Can you help me?

With thanks for your helpfulness to me, and also the inspiring thoughts given by Hope each week, I wish you God speed.

JUST ONE. (It is very kind of you to tell us of those books. I will keep the names and address and forward them to anyone that enquires. Those who want more information I will refer to you in accordance with your kindly offer.)

The pantagraph can be obtained at various prices, \$1.00, \$2.00, or \$2.25. The dollar one is not quite so easily adjusted as the others, and is not marked off in quite such small divisions.—D.D.)

#### A FEW REMARKS ABOUT DRESS

It is the tendency of most women to overdress. By this, I do not mean dressing gaudily or choosing too expensive clothes, or even wearing too elaborate and handsome things when only simple ones are required. I mean the very much exaggerated look which so many women give their clothes. When large hats are the style a great many people want theirs just a little bit larger than other people's, thinking they will thus be more in style.

Nine out of ten women wear hats too big for their heads, and excessively overtrimmed. We often see a very top-heavy ornament, utterly out of proportion to the head, and indeed, to the entire figure, trimmed with lace, flowers, ribbons, feathers and wings. What a lack of knowledge of what is becoming and suitable!

I am sure that many of us have seen the woman who will wear a very elaborately-trimmed and badly made skirt of cheap silk, with a cotton shirt waist and a fancy lace and chiffon collar which she mistakenly thinks is going to make the shirt waist look dressed up. A costume of the same material is in very much better taste, and it can be made of the most inexpensive goods from a thirty-five cent challis upwards. To dress in good taste is in no sense a question of expense.

Perhaps you have heard the story about the two young lads who were playing on the sidewalk when a woman passed, rustling with the rustle that proclaimed loudly the presence of hidden tucks and frills, and leaving in her wake an "amber scent of odorous perfume" as strong as a 40 H.P. motor.

What is that noise? asked one lad of the other.

"Sh, Sh," was the response, "she has money. Don't you know that rich folks always rattle and smell good?"

Most women will confess to a weakness for the faint unmistakable frou-frou of silken garments. It gives one a feeling of being well dressed when one possesses audible evidence of being so.

#### MENDING RUBBERS

Dear Dame Durden:—I am coming once more for help. Can any of the readers inform me how rubber boots may be mended? They are so very expensive, it seems such a waste to have to throw them away because the sole is done, whilst the uppers are good. I should be very thankful.

#### RUBBERS.

Rubbers do have a provoking way of wearing out, don't they? And usually only one of a pair gives out which is just a little more provoking than if they both went. Yet they are such necessary evils that one simply must wear them in damp weather.

School children, especially, should be supplied with sound rubbers for the bad weather. When I taught school in the country it made me shiver to see the poor youngsters—often from homes where there was no lack of money—coming in with soaking wet feet, stockings that came barely to their knees and underwear that was too short. Woollen drawers, ankle length and boots of some sort that will keep out all dampness should be part of the garb of every school child. There, I've wandered somewhat from the topic, but your question brought it to my mind.

The Scientific American gives the following directions for repairing holes in rubber boots: (1) Caoutchouc (india rubber) 10 parts; chloroform, 280 parts. Dissolve the caoutchouc in the chloroform. (2) Caoutchouc, 10 parts; resin, 4 parts; gum turpentine, 40 parts.

For this second solution the caoutchouc is shaved into small pieces and melted up with the resin, the turpentine is then added and left to dissolve. Then mix together solutions (1) and (2). First wash the hole over with it, then a piece of linen dipped in the solution is placed over the hole, and as soon as the linen adheres to the hole the cement is then applied as thickly as required.

In using this recipe remember that it must be prepared in daylight and away from the fire. Dissolve the ingredients by placing in a dish in a pan of boiling water. Have plenty of fresh air when using the chloroform.

Sometimes the prepared cements which are used for bicycle tire punctures can be used for repairing rubbers. The patch must be of leather and trimmed very, very thinly at the edges, and then fastened on with the cement.

## SELECTED RECIPES

Egg and Ham Pies.—These are very good, being delicious hot, and excellent to finish up cold, should there be any left over. Required: One breakfast-cupful of white sauce, one heaped tablespoonful of chopped ham, two hard boiled eggs cut into dice, one teaspoonful of chopped parsley, a little French mustard, some thick slices of bread. Method—Make the cases from slices of bread. Scoop out the center and then fry in deep fat and drain on paper before the fire. For the filling mix all the ingredients with the white sauce, nicely warming all before the fire. Fill the cases, dust some chopped capers over and serve as a little entree. If, however, you desire to serve them cold, fill the cases, when they and the mixture are cold, and then garnish with a few shreds of lettuce.

Bread Savory.—A delicate breakfast or tea dish. For five persons have ready two tablespoons of butter, half an onion, a cup of dry bread cut in dice, five fresh eggs and salt and pepper to taste. Melt the butter in a skillet, slice the onion extremely thin and brown lightly on the butter. Add the diced bread, shake until a light brown, then cover and allow bread, onion and butter to simmer together fifteen minutes. Beat the eggs, yolks and whites together, stir lightly into the mixture in the pan, toss with a fork, add pepper and salt, and when the eggs are set serve at once, hot. If you prefer the diced bread crisp instead of soft do not simmer, but fry to a golden-brown and add the eggs at once.

Prune Pudding.—Wash and soak one pound of good California prunes overnight. In the morning stew them

until tender in the water in which they soaked, which should be clear if the prunes were properly washed. When tender drain off the water, stone and chop the prunes. Beat the whites of four eggs stiff, add gradually one cup of sugar, beating all the while, and finally the chopped prunes. Pour at once into a deep baking dish, bake twenty minutes and serve cold with whipped cream.

Orange Sponge.—One-third box of gelatin, one-third cup of cold water, one-third cup of boiling water, one cup of sugar, one tablespoon strained lemon juice, one cup strained orange juice, whites of three eggs, one cup of whipped cream. Soak the gelatin over night in the cold water. In the morning dissolve in the boiling water and add the sugar, lemon and orange juices. Set the mixture in a bowl immersed in cold water or in cracked ice to chill. Before it begins to set add the beaten whites of the egg and the whipped cream. Have a mold lined with lady fingers or sponge cake and pour the gelatin cream in the center.

Banana Croquettes.—Peel large, not too ripe bananas, roll them in lemon juice and set aside closely covered for an hour. Season a cupful of soft bread-crumbs with a saltspoonful of salt, dusting of paprika and a pinch of dried (powdered) mint. Beat an egg with a tablespoonful of cold water. Cut the bananas in halves crosswise, dip each piece in the egg, roll in crumbs and fry in a deep hot fat to crisp brown. Serve as a vegetable with game or with lamb chops.

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