

Scientific and Useful.

GOLD CAKE.—Yolks of four eggs, one cup sugar, one-half cup butter, one-half cup milk, two cups flour, one-half teaspoon soda, one teaspoon cream-tartar, citron and currants.

SILVER CAKE.—Whites of four eggs, one cup of sugar, one-half cup butter, one-half cup milk, two cups flour, one-half teaspoon soda, one teaspoon cream-tartar. Flavour with almond.

CRACKED WHEAT.—This excellent dish is often spoiled by very good cooks, who think they must stir it all the time to keep it from burning. Too much stirring makes it like paste; putting in more water when nearly done has the same effect. One-third of wheat by measure, to two-thirds water—soft if you have it—will make it about right. The water should be cold when the wheat is put in; it should be cooked slowly and be covered closely. In this way scarcely any stirring will be necessary. There is a deliciousness in this dish, when cooked as above, which is never found if stirred while cooking. The same may be said about oatmeal, only the latter should be quickly stirred into boiling water; cover it closely and let it cook about twenty minutes. Wheat may be about the same length of time, although it bears cooking longer.

SHARPENING LAWN MOWERS.—Don't experiment with the grindstone, which (except by a miracle) will assuredly result in spoiling the machine. In sharpening, the edges of all the cutters should be kept concentric with the shaft, an end attained only by lathe-turning, and grinding in position with emery and oil. The latter is the plan to try instead of running the risk of putting the knives out of truth by grindstone or file. The plan is simply this: Mix some rather fine emery powder—say the next coarser than that termed "flour"—with sufficient olive-oil to give it the consistency of treacle; place some of this in the bottom knife, renewing it as it wastes away, and by a handle or some other contrivance, turn the cutters in the opposite direction to that taken when mowing. Half, or three-quarters of an hour, at most, suffices to put on a good edge, after which all traces of emery should be cleaned away.

WASH FOR FRUIT TREES.—The present is probably the best time to scrape and wash pear and apple trees, in order to dislodge the numerous insects that are concealed under the bark and in crevices of the wood, as well as to remove the fungus clinging to the trunks and large limbs. A preparation of whale-oil soap, in the proportion of one pound of soap to four or five gallons of water, has been found to be a remedy for these pests of fruit trees. Some, however, apply a preparation of carbolic acid, sulphur and lime, freely diluted with water, as equally effective and as being also a protection against the blight and generally adding to the health of the trees. Perhaps the latter may prove the most efficacious. It is easy to give them a trial, and we have no hesitation to say that the result will be highly satisfactory. We have often used the whale-oil soap in the manner suggested, with the best effects.—*Germantown Telegraph.*

CIDER VINEGAR.—This is almost a necessity in housekeeping, and is easily prepared. After cider is fermented draw it off into a keg, and take strips of straw paper, dipped into West India molasses or maple syrup, put them into a keg of cider and set in a warm place, near a stove or chimney where it will not freeze, and in a few weeks you will have a sharp, pure vinegar. If one needs it to use in a shorter time, they can fill a jug with cider and turn into each gallon of cider, a pint of molasses and a cupful of lively yeast. Have a jug full of the liquid, let it stand uncorked, back of the cook stove, where it will keep warm. It will commence fermenting in twenty-four hours, and will not take over a week to make splendid sharp vinegar. It must be drawn off into another jug, leaving the dregs, and kept in a tightly corked jug or bottle, where it will not freeze. If one has good cider, there need be no trouble about vinegar, as it can be made into sharp vinegar in a short time by using a little labour and taking care of it. Straw paper, saturated with molasses, acts upon cider like mother, and in a few weeks has every appearance of that article, only a little firmer in consistency, and rather thicker in texture.—*Country Gentleman.*

1880.

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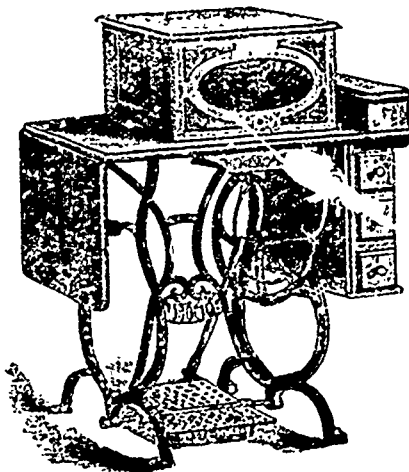
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