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ON HEALTH.

PLAIN LIVING.—Hall's Journal of Health says: "We believe a man to be happy after a plain dinner as after a luxurious one; certain are we, that he sleeps sounder that night, and feels better for it all next day; all the advantage to the luxurious is the transient passage down the throat. While beans whole or split peas, hominy, oat meal, corn meal, sump, hulled corn, crushed wheat and rice, are among the cheapest, most wholesome and most nutritious articles of food, and all alike recommended to those who want to be healthy. If fruits were largely used with the above diet, either baked, if green, or stewed, when dried, both the digestion and the health would be greatly improved, to say nothing of the agreeableness of the addition. Fasting.—Fasting has been frequently recommended and practiced, as a means of removing incipient disease and of restoring the body to its customary healthy condition. Howard, the celebrated philanthropist, used to fast one day in the week. Franklin for a period did the same. Napoleon, when he felt his system unstrung, suspended his worst of repast, and took exercise on horseback. The list of distinguished names might, if necessary, be increased—why adduce any more?—in favor of a practice, which the instinct of the brute creation leads them to adopt, whenever they are sick. Happily for them they have no meddling prompters in the shape of well-meaning friends, to force a stomach, already enfeebled and loathing its customary food, to digest that ordinary soup, jelly, custard, chocolate, and the like. It would be a singular fashion and yet to the full as rational as the one just mentioned, if on eyes weakened by long exercise in a common light, we were to direct a stream of blue, or violet, or red, or even green light, through a prism, in place of keeping them carefully shaded and at rest."

WAKING FLANNEL.—Put it on at once; winter or summer; nothing better can be worn next the skin than a loose, red, woolen flannel shirt; "klose" for it has room to move on the skin, thus causing a titillation which draws the blood to the surface and keeps it there, whereas that which is too close one can take a cold; "red" for white flannel fills up, matts together, and becomes tight, stiff, heavy, and impervious. Cotton wool merely absorbs the moisture from the surface; while woolen flannel conveys it from the skin and deposits it in drops on the outside of the shirt, from which the ordinary cotton shirt absorbs it; and by its near exposure to the exterior air, it is soon dried without injury to the body. Having these properties, red woolen flannel is worn by sailors even in the mid-summer of the hottest countries. Wear a thinner material in summer.—Hall's Journal of Health.

The above is good advice; but most persons, we suppose, would prefer to wear white in preference to red flannel, were it possible to prevent it falling up. Red flannel discharges its color by perspiration; this is an evil which does not belong to white flannel. Red flannel soon loses its bright appearance and becomes a dull, dirty-looking garment; this is also caused by the perspiration. White flannel, when washed, always looks clean. Old red flannel cannot be made to look clean by all the waters of Lake Huron: white flannel, therefore, has much to recommend it over red, and for under-shirts nothing else should be worn. It can also be prevented from falling up, as well as red flannel. What property does the latter flannel possess, over the former that prevents from falling up by frequent washing? It is made of the same materials, consequently the cause cannot be in any difference in the quality of the wool. Red flannel, however, undergoes boiling for about an hour in the act of coloring, and this alone, conceivably, is the cause why it does not fall up so readily as the white. Let white flannel be boiled in clean soft water for an hour, then dried before it is made up into shirts, and it will be found no more liable to fall (thicken) than red flannel.—Scientific American.

HOW TO PREVENT COLDS.—Dr. William A. Alcott, the author of "House Life," and well known as a lecturer on the laws of health, has in press a work on Hygiene, which will probably be of great practical value. From a chapter on colds we take the following advice, which is quite reasonable: "Those who would avoid colds must not neglect themselves, especially their faces and throats, every day, and keep them warm. I do not say that none of the vast number already diseased should be allowed to break the force of a stream of air lowered in temperature to zero, or fifteen or twenty degrees below it, either by a respirator or a muffler. I am writing for those who are yet deemed themselves healthy."

After brisk walking, or other exercise during which we have worn more than a needful amount of clothing, we must beware of throwing off a part of it; and sitting down in a temperature which is very low, or in air which is damp, especially if we have been in a free perspiration. Better keep on our clothing till we see how matters are going with us. It would be safer to add clothing in such circumstances than to diminish it. Those who would be perfect in this matter should avoid sitting with wet feet after exercise, or sleeping in damp clothing. While a person is exercising in the open air, if not over-heated or over-fatigued, it may be safe for him to have wet feet. Indeed some will go with their feet wet all the forenoon without injury, if they keep in motion; but the philosopher, Locke, who recommended that children should have holes in their shoes, would hardly have justified the practice of sitting with wet feet.

Those who are accustomed to warm clothing should not exchange it for that which is extremely thin, when they are about to go walking in the cold air, unless they are to walk. Thousands of young people, especially females, must trace the consumption, neuritis, or fever, which destroyed them to some set of ridiculous, like that which is implied by the foregoing.

In general, we are quite too much afraid of the sun and rain to enjoy the hardihood which is indispensable in a climate as much exposed to colds and consumption as that of the United States. The late Gen. Dearborn of Massachusetts, would have no such thing as an umbrella in his family, if he could help it. He thought it safer, on the whole, to be occasionally killed, than to exclude ourselves from every drop of rain—nineteen times in twenty, with the almost entire certainty of being some time caught without one, and of suffering severely as the consequence.

SLEEP.—There is no fact more clearly established in the physiology of man than this, that the brain expands its energies and itself during the hours of wakefulness, and that these are reaped during sleep; if the recuperation does not equal the expenditure, the brain withers—this is insanity. Thus it is that, in early English, persons who were condemned to death by being pressed from sleeping always died insane; thus it is, also, that those who are started to death become insane; the brain is not nourished, and they cannot sleep. The practical inferences are these:—First. Those who think most, who do most brain-work, require most sleep. Second. That time saved from necessary sleep is infinitely destructive to mind, body, and estate. Third. Give yourself, your children, your servants all that are under your the fullest amount of sleep they will take, by compelling them to go to bed at some regular early hour, and to rise in the morning the moment they awake; and, within a fortnight, nature, with almost the regularity of the rising sun, will unloose the bonds of sleep the moment enough repose has been secured for the wants of the system. This is the only safe and sufficient rule—and as to the question how much sleep any one requires, each must be a rule for himself—great nature will need full to write it out to the observer under the regulations just given.—Dr. Spicer.

LYING IN BED.—No piece of indolence hurts the health more than the modern custom of lying about too long in the morning. This is the general practice in great towns. The inhabitants of cities seldom rise before eight or nine o'clock, but the morning is undoubtedly the best time for exercise, while the stomach is empty and the body refreshed from sleep. Besides, the morning air braces and strengthens the nerves, and in some measure answers the purpose of a cold bath. Let any one, who has been accustomed to lie in bed till eight or nine o'clock, rise by six or seven o'clock, and for an hour or two, walking, riding, or any active diversion without doors, and he will find his spirits cheerful and serene throughout the day, his appetite keen and his body braced and strengthened. Custom soon renders early rising agreeable, and nothing contributes more to the preservation of health. The inactive are continually complaining of pains, etc.—These complaints, which pave the way to many others, are not to be removed by medicines; they can only be cured by a vigorous course of exercise, to which indeed they seldom fail to yield. It consists with observation, that the old men have been early risers. This is the only circumstance attending longevity which we never knew an exception.

WALL PAPER POISONING.—Dr. Hinds, of Birmingham, has lately called attention to a method of accidental arsenical poisoning, which should be generally known, and from which we was ourselves the sufferer. He has noticed, for the adornment of his study, a particularly bright tinted, wall paper, the pattern of which was confined to two shades of green. About two days after it had been applied, he used the room in the evening, sitting there reading by a gas-light. While so engaged, he was seized with severe depression, nausea, abdominal pain, and prostration. The same chain of symptoms ensued on every subsequent evening when he occupied the room. This led to an enquiry into the cause. He scraped off a little of the bright coloring matter from his pretty paper, and by sublimation produced an ash which was greenish and acid. The paper was colored with arsenite of copper (Scheele's green). The use of this pigment to color wall-papers has already proved injurious in previous cases. In one, a child smoked some strips of paper thus colored, and narrowly escaped with life. Dr. Hinds remarks that the presence of the arsenical pigment may be recognized by its brilliant and beautiful hue, and by a little running of the color at the edges of the patterns, as though it did not take freely to the paper.—The Lancet.

AGRICULTURE.

THE FARMER'S TRUE AMBROSIA.—N. F. White, of the Home Journal, says: "The star of the farmer is on the rise. To be a distinguished man now-a-days, there is no safer or more substantial way than to be an eminent 'agriculturalist,' or 'successful horticulturalist,' or the like—a Longworth, a Wilder, a Grant, a Johnson. There is no way for a man to be looked up to, for the next half century, like being an enterprising and successful farmer, and there is certainly no way to pass life so pleasantly and no vacation which is so sure to keep him company till he dies."

AS SMALL FARM WELL TILLED.—Elihu Burritt gives an account in the Home-Steak of a visit to the farm of Wm. Birnie, of Springfield, Mass., a "small farmer," with only 30 acres of land, who yet keeps more stock and raises more grain and grass than many hundred acre farmers. Mr. B. says, "he keeps 32 head of cattle, three horses and several dogs, all fed from the produce. The past year he raised 4,000 bushels of roots—rutabagas, mangel wurtzel, and yellow turnips. Besides corn, oats, rye, and potatoes, he also grew \$400 worth of tobacco. That's all," adds Mr. Burritt. "No good reason to doubt, if the number of farms in Connecticut were doubled by making two of each, and concentrating the labor and manure now spread over 100 acres upon 50 acres, the production of the half would exceed that of the whole on the old system of agriculture." Mr. Birnie cultivaes an island in the water for his stock, and thinks he thus effects a saving of 33 per cent in the cost of wintering his stock.

WILLOW HEDGES.—The yellow willow makes the quickest and best hedge that we have seen in any part of New England. Instead of waiting for years to nurse the thorn, we have a hedge-row of willows in four years, strong enough to turn any cattle where a slight ditch is made in mid-winter. The willow is propagated at one-tenth of the cost required for a thorn hedge. For you have no roots to be buried, no digging holes, and expensive cultivation to make the plants survive the rupture of the roots. All we have to do is to spread the yellow willows to an indefinite length, is to cut off limbs from grown trees, and stick them into the

earth one foot in length—into a hole made by an iron bar. The stick to be inserted into this hole should not rise much above the surface of the soil. Then branches will shoot four feet apart. At this distance a man will set a mile in length in one day, and warrant the growth of seven-eighths of the cuttings. A willow hedge, if kept in trim, will be without cost, since the wood cut off once in five years will pay all cost of trimming. A growing fence is a consolation to all farmers who have been in the practice of relying on common posts and rails, which must be often reset.

WOOL-GROWING ON LIMESTONE SOILS.—A countryman in the city, "signing himself 'Stoneman,'" gives in the Rural New Yorker, some notes of a visit to a great wool-house in Rochester, where he was 300,000 pounds of American wool in store, most, if not all of it, grown in Western New York. That purchased in different markets was put up in different piles, and its classification was made by the color of the fleece. It was covered more than twenty years since, viz: "that sheep grown on limestone soils will produce more and better wool than on any other soils." He says:

"I am fully satisfied that you may take 200 sheep of full stock, equal in all respects to grade sheep, and put them on limestone soil, and leave half in Monroe, and take the other half to the beach and maple lands of Cattaraugus, giving each flock the same chance as to quantity offered; and the Monroe flock will out-shear the Cattaraugus one by three-fourths of a pound to the sheep, while a like improvement will be visible in the fibre and felting properties of the wool."

RIPENING TOMATOES IN WINTER.—At a meeting of the Rockford (Ill.) Horticultural Society, last winter, Mr. Ordway brought a specimen of Tomatoes, red and yellow, small and large, but all perfect, which had been ripened in his cellar, according to the following method:—If any one wishes to grow tomatoes in winter, and good all winter, read the following recipe: "Plant late in the season, and pull up the vines in the fall, before they are injured by the frost; fasten a bag about the stock, two inches above the root; then hang them up in the cellar by a cord, tied round the vine above the bag, and sit in a bag with moist dirt. When the bag is tied to the root, leave a small hole at the top for the admission of water, which should be used occasionally to prevent the roots becoming dry. The more light in the cellar the better. They should be hung up clear from the wall on every side, and where the sun will strike them from a window, if possible, so as to bring the vines up with the root uppermost."

ERADICATION OF BRUSHES.—Speaking of the improvement of hill pastures, the Boston Cultivator gives the following directions, in the above subject: "That larger bushes, which grow in stools, like the barberry, had better be twined out. With a 'root-claw,' such as is sold at the agricultural warehouse, and a strong yoke of oxen, under the direction of a suitable man, the brush can be removed. Smaller bushes may be subdued by mowing. After the growth of the present year is finished—as may be known by the buds for the next being formed—the scythe may be laid as near as possible to the root, with good advantage. They will seldom start much in the second year, but the cutting being usually the latter part of August—and if the sprouts which make their appearance the following Spring can be got at by sheep, they will prevent their making much headway. Cattle also will crop the sprouts some, which, with the increased growth of grass, will weaken them."

STEPS FOR WHEAT AND OTHER SEEDS.—Among the various steps recommended and employed by the British farmers are the following: 1. A solution of sulphate of soda (Glanberg's salts), one pound to a bushel of seed. 2. A solution of nitrate of soda in the same proportion. Where nitrate of soda is not easily obtainable, nitrate of potash (saltpetre) may be substituted. We have used a steep of saltpetre, an ounce to a quart of water, for sweet corn, carrot seeds, and other garden seeds, with very obvious advantage. Seeds which have been steeped in the foregoing, or other solutions may be dusted with lime, plaster, guano, hen manure, or any other dry fertilizing powder, with a certain expectation that the vigor of the young plants will be thereby increased.

A correspondent of the Country Gentleman writes: "The writer purchased a farm of 60 acres ten years ago. He immediately sold 30 acres of the less valuable portion, and with a part of the receipts from this sale, underdrained and subsoiled 12 acres of that which he retained. The soil is a gravelly loam and dry; but he drained it, and says, made it wet, and succeeded. The whole of the manure from the barn-yard went to enrich these 12 acres, and now the land is really good. The second year after he came in possession, his crops from these 12 acres were more than double the produce taken by his predecessor from an average of at least 30 acres annually devoted by him to cultivation, while the quality of his products was 25 per cent, better than they ever had been. The 12 acres and a third he took four tons and three-quarters of clover hay, and the rest of the year he raised 100 bushels of corn, 100 bushels of wheat, 100 bushels of oats, and 100 bushels of barley. The increase of the curculion. Apple, pear, cherries and all other fruit do well for the same reason, and they are also provided with a plentiful amount of liquid manure from the drainage of the barn yard."

USEFUL INFORMATION.
CODDLED APPLES.—Take full apples, wash them, and put half a peck into a preserving kettle; add half a cup of water, sweetened with a large cup of sugar, or half a cup of molasses. Cover them, and boil gently until tender.

TO STEW CARROTS.—Half-boil the carrots; then scrape them nicely, and cut them into thick slices. Put them into a stew-pan with as much milk as will barely cover them, a very little salt and pepper, and a sprig or two of chopped parsley. Simmer until they are perfectly tender, but not broken. When nearly done, add a piece of fresh butter rolled in flour. Send them to the table hot. Carrots require long cooking.

TO MAKE OYSTERS BROTH OF CODFISH.—Pick into small bits a piece of codfish—the thick part is best. To a teaspoonful of the fish, add three pints of boiling water, a piece of butter the size of an egg, and a teaspoonful of sweet cream. Grumb in a few

crackers, add a little pepper, and serve up hot with crackers. It is almost equal to oysters and more harmless. When not seasoned too highly, sick people like it.

FRUIT CAKE WITHOUT EGGS.—One cup of molasses, one cup of brown sugar, one cup of butter—heat together sufficiently to melt the butter—two cups of flour, one cup of cinnamon, one of nutmeg, one coffee-cup of raisins, (with or without currants), citron; then add one teaspoonful of soda dissolved in hot water; one cup of sour milk or buttermilk, and one quart of flour; bake an hour.

QUININES, baked like apples and eaten with sugar and cream, is said to yield new and exquisite sensations to the lovers of aquinines.
STUFFED CABBAGE.—Take a large fresh cabbage and cut out the heart. Fill the place with a stuffing made of cooked chicken or veal, chopped very fine and highly seasoned with salt, pepper, and nutmeg, and rolled into balls with the fingers. Put in a covered kettle for two hours. It makes a very delicious dish, and is often useful for using small pieces of cold meat.

PICKLING SWEET APPLES.—To one-half peck of sweet apples, make a syrup of two pounds of sugar and one pint of vinegar. Boil the apples in this syrup until tender, then remove them, and make a new syrup of two and a half pounds of sugar and one pint of vinegar. Add one tea-spoonful of cloves, and one of cinnamon, tied in a bag. Let the syrup boil fifteen or twenty minutes, then pour it while hot over the fruit. The first syrup is good for other uses.

To remove the disagreeable smell of onions from the breath after eating them, chew a garlic. It is an infallible remedy.

FLOUR—HOW TO SELECT GOOD.—The editor of the Maine Farmer gives the following advice to house-keepers how to select good flour: "The best flour is not snowy white, but has a yellowish tint when a handful is squeezed together and then broken open. Lay a little in the palm of your hand and smooth it with a knife or your finger, and see that it is free from specks and of even fineness, but not an impalpable powder. To prove this, throw a little lump of butter, a perpendicular bar or smooth wall, upon which the moist of it, if good, should stick. Good flour squeezed in the hand will retain its shape. If you wet a little in your hand, see that it does not work soft and sticky; or you may get spring wheat instead of winter wheat flour. Flour that will hold in an iron vessel, the same as you would have for whitewashing; let it boil as thick as for whitewashing, and when cold have your hands laid with the skin down upon planks, then take a brush, (the same as for whitewashing), and lay a good coat upon the part unprotected by the skin; let this dry, hang up your meat, and you have sweet hands in five minutes. If it will not be needed, pound the saltpetre and cochineal, then put all these ingredients together; and rub the hands thoroughly with the pickle, turning them every day. Let them remain in sweet pickle two weeks, then take them out, smoke them a week or more, to suit the fancy.—Tauton Farmer."

TO PREVENT SKIPPERS IN HAMS.—In communicating to the Cotton Planter, Mr. W. McWillie says: "There is, according to my experience, nothing easier than to avoid the skipper and all worms and bugs that usually infest and destroy bacon. It is simply to keep your smoke house dark, and the moth that deposits the egg will never enter it. For the past twenty five years I have attended to this, and if I have had my bacon troubled with any insect, I have hung hanging in my smoke house hams one, two, and three years old, and the oldest are as free from insects as when first hung up. I am not aware of other causes for the exception of my bacon from insects, but simply the fact that my smoke-house is always dark. In communicating to the Cotton Planter, Mr. W. McWillie says: "There is, according to my experience, nothing easier than to avoid the skipper and all worms and bugs that usually infest and destroy bacon. 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