

Scientific and Useful.

IN packing beef, lay that which is intended for dried meat on top of barrel, let it remain ten or twelve days, take out, string, and hang to dry near the kitchen fire, placing the pieces so that they will not overlap each other.

HARD SUGAR CAKE.—One and a half cups sugar, one half cup butter, one half cup sweet milk, one teaspoon soda, dissolved in the milk, two of cream of tartar sifted in the flour, two well-beaten eggs and spice to taste. Make it as soft as possible to roll conveniently.

HARD SOAP.—Take three pounds Babbitts' (or any other good, hard soap), shave it fine, dissolve it in ten quarts boiling soft water, add one ounce of salts of tartar, three ounces borax, take the mixture from the fire and set it away to cool. When cool enough to bear your hand in, add one ounce liquid ammonia. Stir each article as you put it in.

POTATO CAKES.—Take potatoes, mashed ones are best, but boiled ones can be mashed, immediately after dinner; before getting too cold, add about an equal amount of flour, and a small piece of butter or lard; rub thoroughly together, roll out and cut as for biscuit—not too thick—and bake in a rather quick oven. When done to a light brown, cut open, butter and eat warm.

THE DINING-ROOM.—One of the new ideas in house-building is to give the dining-room stained glass windows. The designs are adapted to the size of the panes, and the change illuminated glass makes in the appearance of the room can scarcely be imagined. Proper subjects for the window are flowers, fruit, and such figures as "The Departure for the Chase," "The Seasons," with borders and ground of brilliant colours. Such windows light up a quiet-looking paper, and some graceful drapery gives an air of luxuriance to the room, even if the furniture be of the most simple kind.

STOCK.—For every quart of stock wanted allow one pound meat and bone. Cut the meat small and break the bone, lay in the kettle as for gravy soup, with one teaspoonful salt and one quart cold water to every pound of beef. Bring slowly to a boil, remove the scum, then add one half pound each of turnip and carrot, one onion weighing about two ounces stuck with ten cloves, and a bouquet of herbs composed of two sprigs each of parsley, thyme and marjoram, one bay leaf. Boil very gently for two hours, then remove scum, strain into an earthen jar and keep for use.

REMOVING BAD SMELLS.—Smoke will remove a bad smell more effectually and with less labour than anything else. If the hands smell of anything disagreeable, remove the stove lid and hold them over the smoke a minute, and it will all be gone. Fill an empty barrel half full of straw and set it on fire; it will clean the barrel, and a little care will keep it from scorching. If any of the young folks should go rabbit-hunting and make a mistake in the game they tree, they can lose the unpleasant remembrance of it by setting a bunch of straw on fire and standing a while in the smoke. I have removed the taste and smell of turpentine and coal oil from bottles by washing them with a little vinegar.

THE EEL FAMILY.—It has long been a question among naturalists how and where eels reproduce themselves. Their astonishing fecundity has been well-known to fishermen, with whose vocation they interfere in various ways, and to manufacturers whose water machinery is sometimes clogged by their immense numbers. Nearly a year ago, Prof. Baird announced to the Piscicultural Association that he had found several female eels ready, as is periodically the case with other fish, to deposit their eggs. The announcement made quite a little excitement among students of aqueous life, who, ever since naturalists began to observe carefully, have puzzled their heads over this problem. Since Prof. Baird's announcement it has been ascertained that what is commonly known among fishermen and dealers as "eel-fat" is in reality the roe of the eel. It is the first time that the answer to puzzling questions has been right before the eyes as it were of those who were trying to solve it. The discovery, however, is not satisfactory in all its aspects, for by an accurate estimate it is demonstrated that a single female eel can in one season produce no less than nine million young. The accuracy of this estimate is disputed, but it seems to have been tolerably well established, at least in the case of the individual eel subjected to examination. It is to be hoped, for the sake of the more valued species of fish, that female eels are comparatively rare. Otherwise the spawn beds would stand a small chance of escaping the ravages of these omnipresent scavengers.

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