



Christmas in the Kitchen.

HELPFUL HINTS FROM VARIOUS SOURCES.

STEPPING FOR DUCKS.—One cup of onions boiled and chopped, one cup of bread crumbs, one teaspoonful of salt, one salt-spoonful of pepper, and eight sage leaves dried and powdered, mix well, and stuff the duck as usual.

FRENCH STEPPING FOR DUCKS. Scald and wring a cup of dried crumbs out of stock, or broth, or milk. Chop a little fat bacon, mix it with equal quantities of parsley, chives, shallots, half a clove of garlic, pepper and salt, and a dozen stoned olives. Fill the ducks as with any other stuffing, and sew them up.

HOMINY.—Put one cupful of fine hominy in the double-boiler with one cupful of cold water. Let it remain on the back of the stove until the water is absorbed. Then add one pint of milk and half a teaspoonful of salt, and boil half an hour. Stir in one tablespoonful of butter and turn out on a hot platter.

FRINGED CELERY.—Chill and clean the celery, cut into pieces three inches long, and slit each end down about three-quarters of an inch into fine threads less than an eighth of an inch thick. Keep in ice-water until curly, drain and arrange carefully in a low glass dish.

CRANBERRY SAUCE. Take one quart of cranberries and one pound of sugar. Pick over the berries carefully, wash and drain them and put them into a granite preserving kettle with cold water, just enough to show among the berries when they are pressed down. When they boil up all over, add a quarter of the sugar. Sprinkle it over the berries without stirring. Let it boil again a few minutes, add another quarter, etc., till all the sugar is in. Boil slowly, and do not stir the berries, but press them down under the syrup with a perforated cake spoon. After the last boiling, turn them out and set away to cool. This makes a sauce, not a jelly, and is preferred by many to serve with a turkey dinner.

CREAM TOAST.—One quart milk, 1 teaspoon salt, 6 shredded wheat biscuit, 4 tablespoons entire wheat flour, 1 tablespoon butter, salt to taste. Put the milk to scald, covered. When scalded, add the flour, blended with a little of the cold milk, stir it slowly, cooking till smooth and thick, then add butter and set back from the fire, but keep hot. Split the biscuit lengthwise, toast a light brown. Turn

the cream sauce into a deep dish and send it to the table with toasted biscuit to be prepared there.

OYSTER PATTIES.—One quart oysters, 8 shredded wheat biscuit, 1 pint milk, 4 level tablespoons entire wheat flour, 4 tablespoons butter, 1 teaspoon scraped onion, 1 cup oyster liquor, salt and white pepper. With sharp pointed knife cut an oblong cavity in top of biscuit, 1 inch from the sides and ends. Remove top carefully, then all inside shreds, forming a shell. Sprinkle with salt, dust with pepper, and put a small piece of butter in bottom. Pick over the oysters and fill the shells, season with salt, pepper, and put in buttered pan. Dip the oblong tops lightly in the oyster liquor, cover the oysters, put bits of butter on top, cover the pan and bake in quick oven twenty-five minutes. Serve with white sauce made from the milk, oyster liquor, flour, butter, 1 teaspoon salt and 1 teaspoon scraped onion.

The Hygiene of Sweeping.

CLEANLINESS is next to godliness; but what is cleanliness? Harmful dirt is not always that which is most evident to the eye. T. M. Johnson, writing in *Science and Industry*, reminds us of this fact, and thus discourses on the difference between real and false cleanliness:

"A certain woman, weary, worn and sad, spends most of her time stirring up dust in her house, thus keeping the atmosphere of her home almost constantly charged with flocculent solid matter, to which germs may or may not be clinging. This part of her appointed task is known as sweeping and dusting, or 'cleaning house.' She takes a broom and works it vigorously over the carpet, displacing dust and dirt in three ways. Part of it works down through the interstices of the carpet and remains there until the carpet is lifted, or, indeed, if the carpet is closely woven on the under side, the upper soft fabric will become so thoroughly clogged with dust, that nothing but a good beating or washing will remove it. Another part of the dirt, the larger particles, is swished with measured strokes to the point where the accumulation is gathered up or swept out after it has been separated from the finer particles. Most women take a delight in removing this part of the household dirt in a dust-pan, for it is visible, and, if allowed to remain long, would soon discolor the carpet. Many of them pick up a surprisingly large quantity, too, for they have the knack of throwing it forward and thus pushing the least possible amount

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into the carpet. But some women, and I think it safe to say all men, have the unhappy faculty of sweeping a dirty carpet without taking a spoonful of dirt from it; on the contrary, they rub it in. Men are particularly noted for 'rubbing it in.' The third part of the dirt disturbed by the house-cleaner's broom is wafted upward in air-currents produced by the motion of the broom. This is the fine flocculent dust that is almost invisible in a dingy room, but is very noticeable in a well-lighted apartment."

The writer tells us that if the housewife is desirous of effectively removing dust and dirt from carpeted floors, the carpets must be taken up and shaken outdoors. Mats or rugs are the best floor-covering, because they are not tacked down and can be lifted easily. The floor should have close joints and an oil finish. Open joints in the floors are receptacles for dirt, and they cannot be cleaned out. The dust on the closely-jointed oiled surface can easily be removed with a damp mop, and no dust will rise to vitiate the air or settle on the furnishings. The damp mop is also of service in cleaning an impervious floor, such as oilcloth, linoleum, oiled wood, rubber, flagstones, marble, tile, etc. Linoleum he considers a thoroughly hygienic floor-covering, and especially desirable for kitchens, pantries, dining-rooms, bath-rooms, and halls and passages, particularly if there are children around. The best thing with which to sweep a carpet is a modern carpet-sweeper of approved make. This picks up most of the dirt, throws it into a receiving-chamber inside the sweeper, and reduces the amount of floating dust to a minimum. Especially objectionable is the "despicable feather-duster," which simply scatters the dust to other places of lodgment instead of removing it.

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