

Scientific and Useful.

SPONGE CAKE.—Six eggs; three cups powdered sugar; four cups sifted flour; one teaspoonful soda; two of cream tartar; one cup cold water; a pinch of salt.

BAKING POWDER.—Eight ounces of flour, eight ounces of English bicarbonate of soda, seven ounces of tartaric acid; mix thoroughly by passing several times through the sieve.

BREAKFAST CAKE.—Two eggs, two cups sugar, two dessert-spoons of butter, beat well; add one cup of sweet milk, four teaspoonfuls cream tartar and two teaspoonfuls soda mixed with five cups of flour.

Do not throw away your ribbons because they are soiled. Wash them in suds made of fine toilet soap and cold water, squeezing them quickly through. Then iron them between two cloths with an iron not too hot.

An immediate and effective remedy for lice on cows and other cattle, also for ticks on pigs, is to wash the affected parts with potato water, or water in which potatoes have been boiled. One application is generally sufficient.

FOR CHOLERA INFANTUM.—The whites of two eggs well beaten; then mix with pure water (or melted ice); add one teaspoonful of orange flower water and a little sugar (as much is apt to make the bowels worse); give a tablespoonful every hour. It will ease the worst cases of cholera infantum, the egg coating the bowels and healing them.

A Dutch exchange states the flavour of coffee may be greatly improved, and its delicate aroma increased by adding a little bicarbonate of soda to the water with which it is made. It is for this reason that the coffee obtained at Vichy, Carlsruhe, and some other towns, is of such superior excellence, a certain percentage of bi-carbonate of soda being naturally contained in the water of those places.

How true is it that if we observe and remember, we can learn something of every one we meet! A few days ago I learned from the poorest housekeeper I know, something new to me; that salt added to the flour before the water on stirring paste for starch or gravy, would prevent the flour from forming in lumps. Of course I used to salt both gravy and starch, but I never observed the good results of adding the salt first.

FOAMING OF CREAM.—The foaming of the cream when attempting to churn may be caused by its being too cold, or because it has been standing too long in a warm room. Use a thermometer in testing the temperature of the cream before attempting to churn again, for it is difficult to get it just right without one of these instruments. Plunge the thermometer into the cream, and when it shows a temperature of about sixty-five degrees it is ready for churning. If your milk is kept in a moderately warm room and the churning done two or three times a week, you should have no trouble in making good butter.

TO CATCH RATS.—A novel method of catching rats and mice which takes into account the social characteristics of the pestiferous rodents, was recently described in the Germantown "Telegraph." The correspondent says: "I do not think it is generally known that rats and mice will go into a trap much more readily if a piece of looking-glass is put in any part of the trap where they can see themselves. They are social little creatures, and where they can see any of their tribe, there they will go. I am quite sure of the effect of the looking-glass, as I properly baited my trap for a whole week without being able to coax one of my depredators in; but the first night after putting in the looking-glass, I caught two—one very large and one small rat; and every night since this device has made one or more prisoners." The "American Agriculturist" recommends mixing plaster of Paris with meal. The rats eat it and the plaster sets in their stomach and kills them, so it says.

SMILAX is an exceedingly graceful vine, with glossy, green-ribbed leaves, and is now more extensively used than any other plant for decorating parlours, the hair, and for trimming dresses. With little a care, it can be grown successfully as a house-plant. The vine does not require the full sun, but will grow well in a partially shaded situation. It

can be trained on a small thread across the window or around the pictures. Grown from both seed and bulbs. Pot the bulbs as soon as received, watering but little till you see signs of growth. They grow very rapidly, and should always have strings to twine on. Give plenty of fresh air, but be careful and not let a direct draft of cold air blow upon the vines, as they are very tender when young. Give them a warm place, and they will amply repay all care. When growth is complete, the foliage will turn yellow; then gradually withhold water, and allow the bulbs to dry. They can be put away in some dry, cool place. After they have been in this dormant state six or eight weeks, they will begin to show signs of life, and are then ready for another season's growth.

MAN'S AGE.—Few men die of old age. Almost all die of disappointment, passion or bodily toil, or accident. The common expression, "choked with passion," has little exaggeration in it, for even though not suddenly fatal, strong passions shorten life. Strong bodied men often die young; weak men often live longer than the strong, for the strong use their strength, and the weak have none to use. The latter take care of themselves, the former do not. As it is with the body, so it is with the mind and temper. The strong are apt to break, or like a candle, to run; the weak to run out. The inferior animals that live temperate lives have generally their prescribed number of years. The horse lives twenty-five; the ox fifteen or twenty; the dog ten or twelve; the rabbit eight; the guinea pig six or seven years. These numbers all bear a similar proportion to the time the animal takes to grow to its full size. But man, of all the animals, is one that seldom lives this average. He ought to live a hundred years, according to physical law, for five times twenty is a hundred; but instead of that he scarcely reaches on an average four times his growing period; the cat six times, and the rabbit even eight times the standard of measurement. The reason is obvious—man is not only the most irregular and intemperate, but the most laborious and hard worked of all animals. He is also the most irritable and there is reason to believe, though we cannot tell what an animal secretly feels, that more than any other animal, man cherishes wrath to keep it warm, and consumes himself with the fire of his own secret reflections.—*Exchange.*

DRAINING THE SOIL.—In England the value of underdraining has long been acknowledged, and there is probably no country where it is so systematically practised. They understand that its beneficial action is twofold: it drains the superfluous water from the soil under excessive rains, and during drouths conserves moisture, through the admission of air into the tile, to be condensed, but more particularly into the pores of the earth when dry. The air is constantly robbed of its moisture, and is as constantly replaced, and thus the conversation goes on indefinitely. On the continent of Europe, especially in Germany, draining is now being systematically carried on and without reference in many cases to the relative wetness or dryness of the soil, and it is said, with beneficial results. The Hollanders have long been persistent drainers of that country, principally from the fact that much of it was so wet as to preclude cultivation until drained. Hence they have invented many curious means of freeing the land of surface water. They are specially noted when emigrating to the West in selecting lands usually regarded as of little value, for want of drainage. In Michigan, Illinois, Iowa and in other States where they have settled, they have rendered such lands among the most valuable in their States. It is the result of a well digested system of drainage and thorough cultivation, and the lessons thus taught have been appreciated by their neighbours. It is to be hoped that the impetus given to drainage of late years will not be allowed to flag, if some dry reasons should intervene. The next best time to drain, except when crops are suffering from water, is when the soil is dry.

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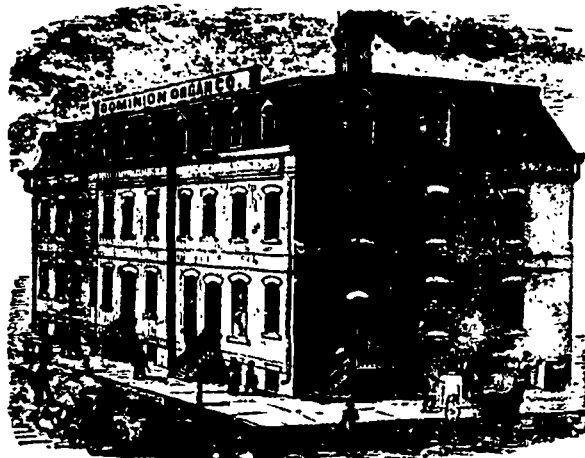
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COPY

Of Official Report of Award to DOMINION ORGAN COMPANY, Bowmanville, for Organs exhibited at the Centennial Exhibition, Philadelphia, 1876.

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION. (No. 215)
PHILADELPHIA, 1876.

The United States Centennial Commission has examined the report of the Judges, and accepted the following reasons, and decreed an award in conformity therewith.

PHILADELPHIA, December 5th, 1876.

REPORT ON AWARDS.

Product, REED ORGANS. Name and address of Exhibitor, DOMINION ORGAN CO., Bowmanville, Canada.

The undersigned, having examined the product herein described, respectfully recommends the same to the United States Centennial Commission for Award, for the following reasons, viz:—

"Because they have produced in their instruments a pure and satisfying tone, by their method of voicing, and have a simple and efficient stop-action, with satisfying musical combinations, an elastic touch, and good general workmanship."

H. K. OLIVER, Signature of the Judge.

APPROVAL OF GROUP JUDGES.

J. SCHIEDMAYER, WILLIAM THOMPSON, E. IRVANSBUR, JAMES C. WATSON, ED. FAVER PERRET, JOSEPH HENRY, GEO. F. BRISTOW, J. E. HILGARD, P. F. KILG, F. A. P. BARNARD

A true copy of the Record. FRANCIS A. WALKER, Chief of the Bureau of Awards.

Given by authority of the United States Centennial Commission.

A. T. GOSWORTHY, Director-General.

J. L. CAMPBELL, Secretary. J. R. HAWLEY, President.

The Company were awarded a Medal and Diploma, at the Sydney Exhibition, Australia, 1877. Gold Medal at the Provincial Exhibition, Toronto, 1878 the highest award ever given for Reed Organs. Large reduction made to Ministers and Churches. Send for a price list to Henry O'Hara, Special Agent Dominion Organ Co., Bowmanville. Also, General Agent for the Bradbury Piano, of New York. Noted for finish, sweet tones, and singing qualities. Selected for the Executive Mansion, Washington, by both Mrs. Grant and Mrs. Hayes, who with others bear the highest testimony, to their superiority. Send for illustrated price list to HENRY O'HARA, General Agent, Bowmanville.