

evening is to be much preferred to the morning of a sunshiny day. In this way the newly set plants get a few hours of a genial and moist atmosphere, during which the soil settles around them and enables them to make a slight start before they are subjected to the sunlight.

Straight rows can be more easily cultivated than crooked ones.

Hogs give the quickest return for the smallest amount of capital.

Let the children have a spot in which to sow and plant of their own accord.

Cheap goods are very often literally cheap in every sense except in economy to the purchaser.

While grass is an excellent food a little supplemental grain now and then may save a deal in the fall.

The smaller the field the more fence required and the more land taken from cultivation. The more oblong the field the more fence required to inclose a given area; conversely, the nearer a square is the field the less fence required.—*American Agriculturist.*

OUR COSY CORNER.

TEA-MAKING.—Women that have ever had the care of a house, and very many who have not, all have a way of their own in making tea, and, though to any one else it may not appear as the best way, yet they have become so accustomed to it that when a better way is suggested they seldom approve of it.

The kind of tea depends on the taste of the family, which is, of course, known to the housewife; consequently, no distinct kind can be recommended. The quantity used varies according to taste, but, usually, one teaspoonful of tea for each cup is what is allowed, and if this should be too strong, it can easily be weakened to taste. Always use a pot made of some kind of earthenware, and never, on any account, use a tin one. If tin must be used for this purpose never let the tea stand in it only long enough to steep. Tea, when left standing in anything is not a drink to be recommended, but if left in a tin pot it becomes actually poisonous, and ought never to be drunk.

When making tea always be sure that the water used is boiling. It is not enough that it has been boiling and is still very hot, but it must be boiling when poured on the tea. It is best when convenient to always use the water when it first boils, for if the water has been taken off, set back, and has to be reboiled for the tea it is not as good. Scald out the teapot before using, then place in it the quantity of tea used. Put the teapot with the dry tea in it on the back of the range, and let remain a minute or two. Then add enough boiling water to just cover the tea, put the teapot back on the stove, let remain about three minutes, then add the quantity of water necessary. Serve immediately, and there is no doubt but that it will be good.

When weakening tea always do so with boiling water when possible, but if not boiling at the time, very hot water that has been boiled is the next best thing. Never for this purpose use any water before it has been boiled, no matter how hot it may be, for it will ruin the flavor of the tea, also putting on the top of a cup of tea a scum that is anything but inviting to look at, aside from drinking it. Never boil tea, but if by accident it boils, throw it away and make fresh, for although this may appear wasteful, it is an excusable waste that ought to be commended.

Always empty the teapot after each meal, and put away until wanted, but never let it stand on the stove, as some do, from one meal to another. Many housewives have a habit, when making tea, of putting a pinch of the dry tea in their mouths and chewing it. It is not that it has a pleasant taste, or that they like it, but only a habit formed as many others are, thoughtlessly. This should be discontinued as quickly as possible, as the juice of the dry tea extracted in this way has a very injurious effect on the system.

LITTLE HELPS.—If the cover is removed from soap-dishes the soap will not get soft.

When flatirons become rusty, black them with stove polish and rub well with a dry brush.

Use charcoal to broil with. The flames close the pores quickly and make the meat very tender.

Silver can be kept bright for months by being placed in an air-tight case with a good-sized piece of camphor.

Use squares of dull-colored felt, pinked at the edges, under statuary or any heavy ornaments that are liable to mar a polished surface.

Do not keep ironed-clothes on bars in the kitchen any longer than is necessary for thoroughly drying. They gather unpleasant odors.

Equal parts of white shellac and alcohol is a permanent fixative for crayon and charcoal sketches. Spray it on evenly with an artist's atomizer.

A tablespoonful of brandy put into each bottle of tomato catsup before sealing will not only preserve it, but will add to the flavor when wanted for use.

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