

"It takes longer to steam than to boil, but it is the nicest way of cooking many articles, such as dumplings, puddings, custards, and even some vegetables, especially squash and potatoes. In steaming food, the water must be kept boiling hard all the time.

"A wire stand to place in the dripping-pan, so as to raise the meat above the bottom of it, is a great advantage in cooking meat.

"No kitchen should be without scales and weights, to test the correctness of butcher's scales, also to measure the quantities of various receipts.

"A knife-board and bath-brick must certainly be found in every kitchen closet.

"For pastry, a marble slab is very useful, as good pastry depends very much upon the cool temperature."

Doing up Men's Wear.

A lady who found great trouble in washing and doing up men's and boys' wearing apparel, owing to their wrinkled appearance after ironing, says:

I learned by experience never to wash any kind of woolen goods, especially if they are colored, in a water where white clothes had been previously washed, on account of the lint, but to put up a suds made of clear hot water and soap, and then rinse in clear warm water, folding the garments carefully before putting them through the wringer; they would then dry out clear and look well; but the doing up was where the difficulty came in.

After a while, however, I was fortunate enough to receive instruction from an experienced laundress, which caused my troubles to vanish like dew before the sunshine. The lesson was so simple I was surprised at myself to think that I had not thought of it before.

It was merely this: After the garments that are to be ironed are thoroughly dried, spread them smoothly over the ironing board; then wring a cloth out of clear water, spread the cloth over the goods and iron with a hot flat iron until the cloth is dry; dip and wring the cloth again, spread it above the part already pressed, and proceed as before until the face of the goods has all been passed over.

When pants are to be done up the seams should all be pressed over a press-board, the same as when newly finished; then fold the same as tailors do, and go over them with a wet cloth and hot iron; after being treated to such a course, woolen wear goods will come out looking nearly as good as new, and no one need be ashamed to wear them "either to mill or to meeting."

It is a little difficult to do up coats and vests, because of the different material of which they are composed not all shrinking alike; yet they can be managed so that they will look nice if care is exercised in the management, that is, stretching the parts that have shrunk and pressing in place as they are being done up. If the linings are too loose, rip them up and lap over, or rip off.

Care of Looking-Glasses.

"Perhaps some readers have wondered why looking-glasses sometimes get so dull and dim that no washing or rubbing will make them clear. That dimness is caused by heat. A looking-glass or mirror, subjected to sunshine several hours every day, or to the hot air from a furnace, register or stove, or to the heat of a gas-light or kerosene lamp, will soon become ruined. At first some portion of the glass looks dim and misty, then more cloudy, and, finally, spotted or speckled with black, for the heat has caused the coating of quicksilver to expand and loosen its hold upon the back of the glass, till, after a time, particles fall entirely away, and the glass, once beautified by fair reflection, is rendered unsightly and unattractive forever. Oil-paintings are often seriously injured by the same cause. Much of the blame laid upon the careless mixing of the colors—especially those used by modern artists—rightly belongs to those who hang the pictures. Care is taken to place them in good light—still greater pains should be taken to secure them from heat. If, during some portion of the day, the sun shines directly toward them from stove or furnace, the canvas gradually takes on a dull appearance, and soon presents an array of cracks that fill us with dismay; if they are not speedily removed to a more favorable position, portions of the outer coat may peel off, and the ruin is complete."

A shopkeeper of great experience says that however talkative clerks may be during the day, they are always ready to shut up at night.

Moisten the Air.

It is important to remember at all times, when artificial warmth is needed, that heating the air has the peculiar and remarkable effect of causing it to take up and secrete a large amount of water. Air that at the freezing point is damp, when heated to 70°, or a comfortable condition, so hides away all the moisture that it is unpleasantly dry; it then absorbs the moisture from our bodies and from our lungs, and produces a feeling of uneasiness. It sucks out the moisture of the furniture, causing it to warp or crack, if not fall to pieces. When it comes in contact with the cold glass, and is reduced in temperature, it gives up the hidden vapor, and thus cold windows and walls tend to still further dry out the air. To make the atmosphere healthful, as well as agreeable, always keep upon the stoves or over the heating furnaces a full supply of water in wide, open-top or loosely covered vessels, to constantly evaporate moisture to saturate the air. This is equally important for all living organisms in a room, for plants as well as animals, and in churches and school-rooms as well as in private dwellings.

Quiet Girls.

The quiet girl is generally worth studying, and will frequently astonish those who pretend to understand her, by rising to heights, when she is summoned thither, which are unapproachable to her complacent and courted critics. Yet it may happen that quiet girls of the best type may lack the wit, the adaptability to that with which they have no sympathy, the glibness, and that unlimited faith in themselves which must be possessed by those who desire to attract the notice of the more shallow portion of society who believe in noisy girls. All quiet girls are not endowed with genius and the virtues, for some are simply fools who would be noisy enough if they could find anything to say. But we protest against the habit which prevails of slighting quiet girls and speaking ill of them before they have been fairly tried, and of paying sickening homage to the conceited chatterboxes of little moral sense and principle. While noisy damsels will often turn out to be gaudy impostors, many quiet ones will amply repay the time, trouble or love which any one may bestow on them.

Poor Girls.

The poorest girls in the world are those who have never been taught to work. There are thousands of them. Rich parents have petted them; they have been taught to despise labor and depend upon others for a living, and are perfectly helpless. If misfortune comes upon their friends, as it often does, their case is hopeless. The most forlorn and miserable women upon earth belong to this class. It belongs to parents to protect their daughters from this deplorable condition. They do them a great wrong if they neglect it. Every daughter should be taught to earn her own living. The rich, as well as the poor, require this training. The wheel of fortune rolls swiftly round—the rich are very likely to become poor, and the poor rich. Skill to labor is no disadvantage to the rich, and is indispensable to the poor. Well-to-do parents must educate their children to work. No reform is more imperative than this.

Capturing Ostriches.

The greatest feat of an Arab hunter is to capture an ostrich. Being very shy and cautious, and living on the sandy plains, where there is little chance to take it by surprise, it can be captured only by a well-planned and long-continued pursuit on the swiftest horse. The ostrich has two curious habits of running when alarmed. It always starts with outstretched wings against the wind, so that it can scent the approach of an enemy. Its sense of smell is so keen that it can detect a person a great distance, long before he can be seen. The other curious habit is that of running in a circle. Usually five or six ostriches are found in company. When discovered, part of the hunters, mounted on fleet horses, will pursue the birds, while the other hunters will gallop away at right angles to the course the ostriches have taken. When these hunters think they have gone far enough to cross the path they see the birds will take, they watch upon some rise of ground for their approach. If the hunters hit the right place and see the ostriches, they at once start in pursuit with fresh horses, and sometimes they overtake one or two of the birds; but often one or two of the fleet horses fall, completely tired out with so sharp a chase.

Grandpa's Story.

A story? a story? Ah, yes, my dear children—Come, gather you closely 'bout grandpa's knee; I'll tell you a story—a sweet little story—A story that happened to grandma and me.

I'm old now—I know it—my hair is all snowy, And I've touched the full cycle of threescore and ten;

The story I'll tell you—it happened, my darlings, When I had a grandpa, and I was "Wee Ben."

And grandma, dear grandma, who sits there a-knitting,

Was fair-haired and dimpled, a right pretty lass. We were playmates, my children, your grandma and I were,

We were lovers as children—ah! how the years pass!

"The story?" Holloa, there is mist on my glasses, It always will come when I think of that day; It will go in a minute—hand grandpa his kerchief, The story I'll tell when I've wiped it away.

You see, we were playing—your grandma and I were—

Were playing that we were the "Babes in the Wood;"

And we said we were lost in the depths of the forest,

And pretended to cry—as lost babies should.

And I saw grandma crying, and forgot she was playing,

And then I cried, too, hard as ever I could; Then grandma she laughed, and I smiled through my crying,

And so we stopped playing "the 'Babes in the Wood.'"

And all our lives through we've been working and playing,

And laughing and crying, as we did in the game; For when grandma has cried my eyes have grown misty,

And my smiles have all come when grandmam-ma's came!

—Wm. M. F. Round, in *Wide Awake*.

The Hum of Industry.

Two men and a boy were walking along John R. street recently, when one of them—the father of the boy—said:

"How pleasant to my ears is this hum of industry!"

"So it is to mine," replied the other, and when the boy got a chance he asked:

"Father, did you mean that pounding back there?"

"Yes, my son," was the answer.

That evening, as the father was seated in his evening chair, he heard an awful pounding in the kitchen, and rushed in to see his son belaboring a chair with a hammer.

"What on earth does this mean?" he shrieked at the lad.

"The hum of industry, father," was the pleasant reply.

The boy was hummed out of that so fast that it was over an hour before he could compose himself to softly enquire of his inner consciousness: "Was father lying to that man, or is night a bad time for the hum of industry?"

CARE OF THE TEETH.—In the first place, the teeth should be picked and washed after each meal, so as to remove particles of food from their cavities and interstices. All persons should learn the habit themselves, and teach it to their children, when quite young, of brushing the teeth vigorously, both inside and outside, at least once a day. It is better to do so both night and morning, but at all events before retiring. It is also very desirable to employ some soft cleansing substance, in addition to the mere rubbing. Such are soap and precipitated chalk. But, in all cases, care should be taken not to use any preparation that feels harsh or gritty to the teeth, as all such are injurious.

Tom: "Harry, what makes you look so down in the mouth? Has your savings bank busted?" Harry: "Oh, no, it isn't that; but I'm so confidently afraid that my girl will make up with me before Christmas that I don't know what to do."