

HOUSEHOLD.

Suggestions For the Christmas Dinner.

Here are a few suggestions for the Christmas dinner.

A nice soup to begin with is celery cream soup. It is made as follows:—Boil a small cup of rice in three pints of milk until it will pass through a sieve. Grate the white portion of two or three heads of celery on a bread-grater; add this to the rice milk after it has been strained; put to it a quart of strong white stock; let boil until celery is perfectly tender; season with salt and cayenne and serve. If wanted rich, substitute one pint of cream for the same quantity of milk.

Your tomatoes to go with the roast turkey or beef may be prepared by putting in a buttered baking dish a layer of bread or cracker crumbs seasoned with bits of butter, then a layer of tomatoes (canned ones just as good as fresh), seasoned with pepper, salt, and sugar if desired, then another layer of crumbs, and so on, finishing with crumbs. Bake one hour. This dish may be prepared early in the day, thus making it easier for the busy housewife.

A chicken salad may be made the day before. One recipe runs as follows:—One chicken weighing three pounds, one large cupful of chopped celery, four hard-boiled eggs, one cupful of chicken jelly, one cupful of dressing, one teaspoonful of salt, one-half teaspoonful of pepper, one cupful of vinegar. Boil chicken until tender, pick into bits, chop eggs fine and add to other ingredients and mix.

For dessert we will suppose that you want a simple plum pudding, with lemon sauce, and cream pie. The following recipes are vouched for by an American lady:

Plum Pudding—This pudding, as well as the sauce, may be made the week before wanted, as sliced, and sauce strained, it is as good as when first made. It sounds simple and is—but it is delicious. One heaping cupful of bread crumbs, two cupfuls of flour, one of chopped and seeded raisins, one cupful of suet made fine, one cupful of molasses, one of sweet milk, one teaspoonful of salt, cloves and cinnamon, one tablespoonful of soda. Boil two and a half hours in a tin pail placed in a kettle of boiling water.

Lemon Sauce—One cupful of sugar, juice and rind of one lemon, one tablespoonful of cornstarch, one dessertspoonful of butter, one-half pint of boiling water, the yolk of one egg. Stir up, but do not boil. Just before serving, add the beaten white of the egg.

Cream Pie—One-half pint of milk, one-half cupful of sugar, yolk of one egg, one tablespoonful of cornstarch, pinch of salt,

flavor with lemon; boil up. The crust should be first baked, then the mixture added. Frost with white of one or two eggs and brown slightly.

These few weeks before Christmas are always busy ones for the mother. There is the mince-meat to see after, the Christmas puddings must be made, the little ones must have some new dresses for the Christmas festivities, the clothes for the poor must be looked after, preparations must be made for all the season's gifts at home and abroad. And to do all this the poor, anxious mother slaves all day and far into the night, with what result? The puddings and pies, the dresses and presents are finished, it is true, but she herself is worn out and exhausted, and when Christmas comes, and the children are all home from school, and father has his few days' holiday, they cannot understand why the poor, harassed mother is so cross and nervous, so easily upset, so irritable. And they eat their pudding and wear their pretty frocks, but the joy is gone from it all, and too often there is a shadow on the joyful season and nobody quite understands why. The weary mother wonders to find so little sympathy; the others all wonder that she should be so 'cross' at Christmas time. There is so much sadness in such a scene as this! There is so much heart disappointment underneath! A little forethought could prevent it, and there would be rejoicing all round. Mothers, believe me, much as the little ones look for their Christmas gifts and Christmas fare, it is mother's smile and sympathy that sweetens these for them. Give them the smile, rejoice with them, even though the dresses are left unmade, and the house is not clean from top to bottom!—'The Presbyterian.'

Doll Competition.

The editors of the 'Messenger' and the Boys' Page wish to thank very heartily the girls who have so generously contributed to the proposed Christmas surprise. These girls have done splendidly.

It is true there were prizes offered for this competition, but the care with which the dolls have been made to look just as fresh and pretty as possible and the very sweet notes that came with many of them, saying nothing about the prizes, but expressing the hope of the one by whom the little treasure was sent that some little girl would enjoy the dolly as much as she had enjoyed dressing it for her—all show that there has been a great deal of loving work put into making wardrobes for these little ladies.

The prizes did not call for many pretty little finishing touches such as lace, embroidery, insertion and knitted woollen vests—all made by the girls themselves—and although these cannot count in awarding the prizes, yet they are all appreciated by those

who have the judging of the dolls in hand. The judges have all been very much interested to see what the girls could do and what they would do, and they are well satisfied with the result as far as it has been possible to examine the dolls.

But as about fifty dolls have come in it will not be possible to examine all before this notice goes to press, and we shall have to wait till next week to let the competitors know the welfare of the treasures which they have sent off with so much care.

Northern Messenger.

The following letter from one of our subscribers contains a good Christmas suggestion:—

'Dear Sir,—I have taken the 'Northern Messenger' for a long time, and think it a valuable paper, especially for the young. I am very much pleased with the change you have made, so much so that I have decided to take it for my two grandsons as well as renew my own subscription.'

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