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**The Evening Chit-Chat**

By RUTH CAMERON



"The unexpected guest robbed of all terrors," should have been the title of a little lecture and demonstration by a wise young housewife gave me the other day. I had expressed my wonder that she seemed so thoroughly tranquil when her husband brought home four unexpected guests for supper one Sunday evening and she explained thusly: "Why should I mind? I have plenty of preparation for twice as many on my emergency shelf. What's that? You mean to say you don't have one in your home? Well, come right out in the kitchen and see mine!" We went. The emergency shelf was a high out-of-the-way corner of one of her pantry shelves. Upon it were several cans of condensed milk, boxes of crackers of all kinds, cans of soup and all kinds of canned vegetables, two or three cans of shrimps, some cheese, some marmalade, two or three bottles of grape juice, a couple of combs of honey, two or three bottles of olives, and several cans of sardines. "There," pointed the wise young housewife, "there's the bulwark that stands between me and any unexpected guest."

"With the soup and vegetables I can make out almost any dinner into decent proportions, no matter how simple it started to be. "With the other things and a chafing dish I can always produce a passable lunch or be ready for any unexpected jamboree like this Sunday night supper. To-night I'm going to open a can of shrimps and cream them, make a few cheese and olive sandwiches and make some chocolate with the aid of my condensed milk. "Must have cost quite a little to start it? Oh, no, my dear, I didn't do it all at once, just gradually. I add to it from time to time. Often I buy things when I can get them to especially good advantage. Those six packages of crackers were six cents the day I bought them and usually they are ten cents a package. I always watch the sales for that shelf. "Another thing I do—and it's the only way unless you want to find a break in your bulwark some day when you need it most—and that is when I take anything off the shelf I always put a memorandum right down on my order slips to replace it the next day." Not a bad idea, is it? Sort of a twentieth century grandchild of the old fashioned preserve closet which always served as an emergency chest to be resorted to whenever company came, although I doubt if grandmother would have recognized it by that name. Maybe this is no new suggestion to you. And then again, maybe it is, and you will adopt it as we already have.

*Ruth Cameron*

**Silence!**

The instinct of modesty natural to every woman is often a great hindrance to the cure of womanly diseases. Women shrink from the personal questions of the local physician which seem indelicate. The thought of examination is abhorrent to them, and so they endure in silence a condition of disease which surely progresses from bad to worse.

It has been Dr. Pierce's privilege to cure a great many women who have found a refuge for modesty in his offer of FREE consultation by letter. All correspondence is held as sacredly confidential. Address Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

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**It Makes Weak Women Strong, Sick Women Well.**

You can't afford to accept a secret treatment as a substitute for this non-alcoholic medicine of KNOWN COMPOSITION.



**Whisky Made From Sawdust.**

The President of the International Congress of Chemists at the World's Fair, Chicago, remarked that the next greatest discovery in chemistry would be the manufacture of alcohol from lumber refuse. Probably not one of the chemists assembled at that congress imagined for one moment that the discovery would be made within twenty years from that date; for chemists have been experimenting for the greater art of a century trying to discover a method of making pure alcohol from wood waste.

To-day, however, the discovery is an accomplished fact, and is the result of experiments which have been carried on for five years by two Chicago chemists, who claim to have discovered a process by which pure ethyl alcohol can be made from sawdust or wood waste of any kind. That the discovery has actually been made is evident from the fact that the United States Department of Agriculture after making the fullest investigations of the process patented by the inventors, has made a highly laudatory report about it. The department describes it as "a revolutionary discovery," in view of the numerous uses of alcohol.

Alcohol as Light and Fuel. For lighting purposes it is admitted to be brighter, safer, cleaner, and more desirable in every way than kerosene; as a fuel it competes successfully with gasoline, coal, wood, or any present known heat-maker. It has made its place in the kitchen cooking stove and in the locomotive tender; it lights drawing-rooms and drives automobiles. And, in addition to this, it is an important ingredient in the manufacture of scores of articles, of which gunpowder is one. Germany has made experiments with alcohol as a fuel on its battleships, and its use instead of coal has been declared not only feasible, but desirable.

All manner of engines, from the delicate affair in the aeroplane to the giant that pulls a train, may use alcohol as a fuel. Alcohol steamships, locomotives, airships, motor-cars, and power plants thus become probabilities of the future.

Oil wells may go dry, coal mines will be used up, but alcohol, found in every form of plant life, will be available so long as Nature makes trees grow on the earth's surface.

How the Sawdust is Treated. The process of manufacturing alcohol from sawdust is simple and economical to a degree. In appearance the plant combines certain features both of a pulp factory and a distillery. First in the process the sawdust is poured into a "digester," similar in operation to the "digesters" of pulp plants. Here it is treated under high steam pressure for a short time in the presence of a small quantity of acid. A portion of the wood is thus converted into glucose.

The glucose is then fermented and distilled into alcohol by distilling apparatus similar to that found in a regular corn-distilling plant. In brief the sawdust goes into the plant one end and comes out at the other in the form of pure alcohol—not wood alcohol, but pure alcohol—purer than that which comes from corn and barley, there being in it not a trace of fusel oil.

It is estimated that there is enough wood waste thrown away every year to more than supply the country's demand for alcohol. With this waste utilized under the new process, corn will cease to be a necessity to the alcohol distiller, as will barley. These two crops will thus be freed of this source of drain, and their entire millions of bushels may be used solely for food. The effect of this upon the economic conditions of the world is, inestimable.

Special Evening Telegram. MONTREAL, March 14. A cablegram says the Bahamas have definitely declared for annexation to the Dominion of Canada.

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**Household Notes.**

A savory breakfast dish may be made as follows: One large cup of calves' liver and bacon minced, half of a sweet green pepper cut fine, all browned well in a pan liberally greased with butter and then four eggs stirred in until the eggs are set.

To clean silk and woolen clothes of grease spots, they may be gently rubbed with a cake of magnesia, laid away for several days, and then shaken out. It will not hurt to press the magnesia in with a hot iron, first covering the fabric with brown paper.

To make a good sweet potato pie, take a cup of mashed sweet potato, a teaspoonful of salt, same of nutmeg and ginger, half a cup of sugar, a cup of milk and one well beaten egg. Bake for half an hour in a slow oven.

When it is desired to carry a candle into a drafty cellar or attic where here is danger of it blowing out or setting the clothes on fire, a short candle should be placed in a tumbler, being fastened there by its own wax. It will then burn steadily and safely.

The white of an egg, slightly beaten and the crushed shell of the egg is enough to clarify a quart of strained soup. Stir the soup constantly after adding the egg and shell, let it boil hard for a few minutes, set it on the rack of the range to settle, and then strain.

Bananas are rarely found in this country ripe enough to be digestible although they may be perfectly yellow. To properly ripen them so that they will be excellent food, buy a bunch and hang it up in a dry place with the stem in water. In a few days they will be much improved.

Before winter clothes are put away he skirts should be most carefully brushed and cleaned, for if dust and unsightly spots are allowed to remain on them for several months they will seriously injure the fabric. It is much more difficult to clean garments after they have been stored than before.

A piquant salad dressing may be made of sour milk or cream. Take the yolk of a hard-boiled egg and rub it until it is quite smooth. Then add half a cupful of sour cream and a tablespoonful of vinegar with sufficient salt, pepper and sugar to overcome any unpleasant taste of the cream.

To make beeswax, place the honeycomb in a coarse muslin bag, and put in a small stone to weight the contents. Put into a kettle, cover with water and boil. The wax comes to the top of the water and the sediment remains at the bottom of the kettle. When the water is allowed to cool, the wax forms a solid cake.

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