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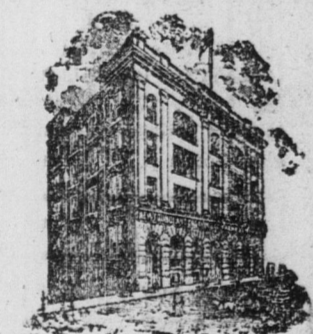
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WONDER IF I AM.

By RUTH CAMERON.



A friend of mine who is very much addicted to procrastination was being criticised for the fault. She defended herself with considerable heat and quite a little logic. Indeed she spoke so convincingly that her critic was silent, and I, the third party was quite convinced. And then, having so successfully justified herself, she started up by remarking thoughtfully, "I wonder if I am a terrible procrastinator?" That remark was to me a key to the girl's character, which is one of unusual strength and sweetness. It made it evident that one of the reasons for her development was that she did not entirely reject all criticism in the facile way of the average person. Criticism,—something to defend yourself against as cleverly as possible and then forget. That is the definition of nine people out of ten. Probably they wouldn't admit it if you taxed them with it (any more than they would admit any criticism) but they prove that they hold that definition by living according to it.

Of course part of the primal instinct of self-preservation is the instinct of self-defense, and that applies to criticism as well as to any other kind of an attack.

Just as instinctively as a man lifts up his arm to ward off a blow on his body, so, automatically and without stopping to think, the average person rears up a defense of explanation and self-justification against any blow of criticism aimed at his conduct.

But the thing that measures a man is what he does after he has defended himself. Does he immediately forget the criticism, or does he open the door of his mind to conviction, and even wonder if there may not be something in the criticism after all.

We need more of this "I wonder if I am" spirit. It is the foundation on which progress and growth are built. It is the anti-drifting spirit.

And we need something more than the query made in a desultory "can't-be-so-fashion with our mind already convinced of the opposite.

We need an honest, vigorous "I wonder if I am." We need to be able to call an unprejudiced jury to consider the matter and to present before it arguments for both sides as nearly unprejudiced as it is possible for weak human beings to make them.

Ruth Cameron

We unhesitatingly recommend Magic Baking Powder as being the best, purest and most healthful baking powder that it is possible to produce. CONTAINS NO ALUM. All ingredients are plainly printed on the label.

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Household Notes.

It is best not to put the eggs of the dower egg beater in water.

Coffee stains should be treated with boiling water when fresh.

When fish are fresh the flesh is firm, the eyes and gills are bright.

To remove chocolate stains, soak in kerosene and wash in cold water. Fried food should never be allowed to become cold before serving.

Fish should never be put into the ice-box with other food unless closely covered.

It is a wise precaution to pour boiling soda water down the sink every morning.

Pure glycerine is a very good remedy for cleansing a cut and causing it to heal.

Twice the quantity of coffee should be used when making after-dinner coffee.

Coffee should be bought for family use in small quantities, freshly roasted and ground.

A cupful of liquid is all the cup will hold. A tea or table spoonful is all the spoon will hold.

Long white gloves that are worn out can be cut up into convenient pieces for the nail buffer.

The curtain and portiere poles will allow the hangings to slip easily if rubbed with hard soap.

When sauces are set away, put a few bits of butter on the top to prevent a crust from forming.

For making good pastry, pastry flour and the best shortening, thoroughly chilled, should be used.

Hard-boiled eggs will open more smoothly if before cutting them open you dip the knife in cold water.

Cut flowers will revive if plunged into boiling water and allowed to remain there until the water is cold.

Finger marks can easily be removed from furniture with a cloth which has been dipped in sweet oil.

When measuring butter or lard, or

any solid fat, pack solidly into the cup or spoon, leveling with a knife.

If you are so unfortunate as to scorch linen, try an application of peroxide, lightly dabbing the stain.

Jelly bags, padding, cloths and strainer cloths should be put into clear, warm water immediately after using.

When brown sugar has become hard and lumpy, put it in a pan and stir it over a vessel of boiling water.

Tortoise-shell objects that have become dull will regain their beauty if cleaned with a little olive oil or vase line.

A little soap added to the starch water will prevent the irons from sticking. The soap will also make the things glossy.

Paste for pies should be one-fourth of an inch thick and rolled a little larger than the plate, to allow for shrinking.

The gloss on the table cloth is the result of ironing the article while it is thoroughly damp and not allowing it to become dry.

Irons should never be allowed to become red hot, as this makes them rough, and they never retain the heat throughout afterward.

A glass jar filled with water and placed in the bottom of the piano if said to keep the piano in tune and prevent the wood from warping.

Cool when red hot has parted with most of its heat. If the dampers are kept open too long, most of the heat will escape up the chimney.

Brick floors can be cleaned with little trouble if you sprinkle the floor with washing soda, then pour boiling water over it and scrub with a stiff broom.

Conservation of Canadian Lobster Fishery

The wonderful productiveness of the Canadian sea-shores is such that the lobster industry is still carried on on a vast scale, and the total monetary value of the lobster fishery is greater than ever, but the annual returns are really misleading, because while the supply of lobsters is declining, the price has so materially advanced that the total value is greater to-day than at any previous period. Thus, in 1880, lobster brought \$5 a case, whereas last year the price realized was nearly four times that amount.

In the case of the oyster, though the number of barrels annually produced on the Canadian beds is only half what it was ten years ago, the price per barrel has increased about the same ratio as the price of lobsters, and is now four of five times what it was in 1880.

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Cabbage!

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SOPER & MOORE

The following points are worthy of attention in considering the present condition of the lobster industry:

1. The size of lobsters has materially declined, great catches being of very much smaller average size than in former years, while the fishing operations are carried on over a very much larger area, and with greatly increased number of traps, and in deeper water, and, in most districts, with the assistance of motor boats.

2. The traps used are more effective and destructive than formerly, and the parlour and other forms of trap have replaced the lobster pot used in past years.

3. There is a tendency in some localities to increase the small catches and, in such canneries, to either pack the fishermen's catches on share or to pack them for the fisherman, charging a rate agreed upon for the cost of cans and the labor.

4. While the size limit has been ignored, and was practically a dead letter when various size limits were a force in the different lobster districts, the fishermen realize that the taking of small lobsters has been detrimental. In such localities as the shores of Grand Manan Island, a large size limit seems to have been observed. It is a widespread opinion that, by returning small lobsters to the water and marketing only the large lobsters, the value of the catch has been increased. But, in general, fishermen do not favor a size limit and some canneries would, for a time, be closed, were the eight or nine-inch limit enforced generally. All, however, are convinced that the berried lobster—the female lobster carrying eggs—must be protected.—Rod and Gun, for March.

CANES.

By GEORGE FITCH.

Author of "At Good Old Siwash." The cane is a necessity of old age and a luxury of youth.

Old men and a great many young men find it impossible to walk without a cane. But not for the same reason.

It is the duty of the cane to support an old man. But it is the duty of a stylish young man to support a cane.

If a feeble old man were to go forth without a cane, he would fall down and injure himself grievously. In the other hand, if a proper young man were to leave his home and abandon his cane, he would feel as guilty as if he had left a helpless child to its fate.

Old men grasp the cane firmly by the handle and rest the other end upon the walk. But if a young man were to do this he would make himself the subject of a great deal of comment. Except when propping himself up while standing in conversation, the young man does not abuse his cane by jamming it into the hard, concrete walk. He handles it tenderly and guards the ferrule from injury.

And on the end of a young man's cane is as disgraceful as mud on his collar.

The green and awkward young man is greatly afflicted by his cane. He ticks it into cracks in the walk, forgets it in public places and has to hold it between his legs when he puts on his gloves. It takes several years to learn to wear a youth's size cane properly. And the worst of it is the fact that when a man really needs a cane he has to unlearn all that he has learned about it in his gay and carefree youth.

The cane is very useful to the old man. But it also serves a purpose for the young man. While a young man is managing a cane, he has no chance to carry his hands in his pockets. If the cane could only be improved so that it would keep its wearer's hands out of other pockets, too, it would be made a compulsory decoration by a grateful nation.

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The Seventh Dream, by "Rita."
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