

dishes are washed before they can get a chance to begin their study or reading. I have oftener seen some members trying to read or write, while others keep up a continuous, trifling conversation, and have not been surprised when the disgusted boy would go to his unwarmed room to study in peace if not in comfort.

The cosy, warmed, well-lighted, comfortably furnished study, where those members of the family who desire to do so may retire and read, write or meditate, undisturbed by foreign sounds, is a room not found in the majority of farm houses. Why?

I should think, especially where there are school children, it would be a much greater comfort than the spare room or the parlor. Some careful housekeepers consider books and papers should never be anywhere but on their proper shelves. To these a library would be a delight, for then the other rooms would always be in order. I enjoy a room in which something readable is always within reach.

There are few homes in the present day in which some books and papers do not appear. There are many, where the number is fewer than twenty and the papers are none but the local weekly. This state of affairs is oftenest found in the handsomest houses. I was amused recently by hearing a man who has plenty of lands and money at interest, saying, "What is the latest war news? I don't know what is going on now, our paper run out a couple of months ago, and I always forget to call and have them send it on again." I feel sure no one who reads this has been depending on the local weekly as sole literature. As well might a preacher of the present day attempt to benefit his audience, without some study of his trade papers as for a farmer to expect to keep progressing without reading farm journals, as many of them as he can afford. I suppose it is not likely that preachers will read this, so I can say that a good farmer is of much more importance than even the good preacher and he requires and deserves as good a library as any person of any other profession. Is he not working harder to-day and doing

more for his fellow-men than any one, except perhaps his wife? He needs and is entitled to books and papers other than those bearing directly on his profession; he cannot afford to let any part of his brain lie idle and undeveloped any more than he can afford to keep his best land occupied with stumps and dead roots or his best stock running idle and unproductive. He should cultivate breadth and depth of thought, and in order to do this he must come in touch with other thinkers, and owing to his isolated life this can be accomplished best by reading, not farm journals only, though some of the most useful thinkers of the present day are to be met with there; he must also read the newspapers, not simply the newsy gossip, about the neighbors, which is the least useful class of literature. He should read the important news of the world, thus learning of the changes that are taking place, the political events, etc., etc.

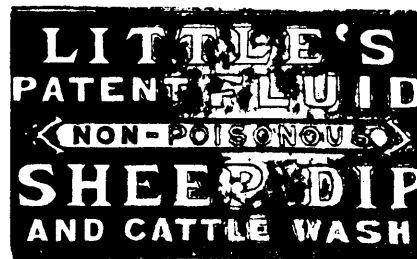
In the many magazines, we get the doings of the literary world, the musical and the artistic worlds, and much interesting matter that is presented in a convenient form, and novels should not be considered unimportant, for when reading them we can secure the mental rest which is so conducive to bodily rest. We get too, striking ideas, expressions and graceful, pleasing language, a knowledge of people and places, customs and manners and a breadth of thought that we, as a class, sadly need.

Mustard Pickle.

One quart each of small whole cucumbers, large cucumbers sliced, green tomatoes sliced, and small button onions, one large cauliflower divided into flowerets, and four green peppers cut fine. Make a brine of four quarts of water and one pint of salt, pour it over the mixture of vegetables, and let it soak twenty four hours. Heat just enough to scald it, and turn into a colander to drain. Mix one cup of flour, six tablespoonfuls of ground mustard, and one tablespoonful of turmeric with enough cold vinegar to make a smooth paste, then add one cup of sugar and sufficient vinegar to make two quarts in all. Boil this mixture until it thickens and is smooth, stirring all the time, then add the vegetables, and cook until well heated through.—*American Kitchen Magazine.*

Oyster Soup.

Pick over one quart of oysters, parboil them until they begin to separate and shrivel on the edges. Drain them and when cool lay aside the soft part to be used later. Chop the hard part fine, and put it with the liquor on to boil. Add one cup of chopped celery, a small slice of onion, a bit of mace and bay leaf. Let them simmer fifteen



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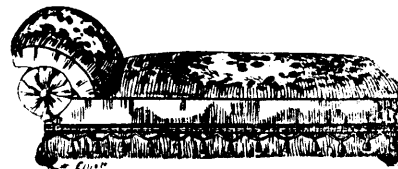
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