

About the House

Useful Hints and General Information for the Busy Housewife

Try Variety at Meal Time.

No one problem is daily more vexatious than "What shall we have to eat?" Not only once, but three times a day does the same plaint arise. Most families are in a peculiar rut as to their eating and manner of cooking. For instance, in one family there is too frequent appearance of pot roast, mashed potatoes and brown gravy. Another family will not tolerate anything but broiled meat and runs up expensive bills for chops and steaks. A third family never has soup, and still another has every dessert a pudding.

Is it not possible, and easy also, to more greatly vary our menus? Is not this just the time of year to install some new methods of cooking the old, familiar dishes? Why must rice always be used as a cereal or as a basis of tasteless rice pudding? Other countries use it with meat, with a spiced gravy, and make it the basis of a meal either as a curry or "pilaf."

Is it not possible to take the piece of shoulder chuck and cook it some other way than unending pot roast? It could be seasoned with dressing and served with a tomato instead of a brown sauce. In the matter of soups, many of us go on in the same unvarying way of vegetable bouillon and tomato bisque. How about all the other purees, green dried peas, yellow split peas, onions, carrots? How about the many kinds of soups with meat balls or noodles? There is not a foreign nation but excels us in the variety of its soups. So, too, with potatoes. Why always the same mashed, boiled or creamed?

Useful Hints.

Fresh shoulder of pork stuffed is delicious.

Lamb when fresh is a bright red color with white fat.

Dusters, kitchen clothes, etc., should be washed last of all.

Shirts should be suspended from the bottom of the clothes line.

Boston baked beans require about eight hours in a slow oven.

Fried food should never become chilled before serving.

Before stoning raisins soak them in a basin of warm water.

Olive sandwiches are improved by adding a little mayonnaise.

To prevent blue from streaking clothes mix one dessertspoonful of soda in the bluing water.

When making a mustard plaster mix with it the white of an egg, this will prevent the plaster from causing a blister.

Grate all scraps of stale cheese and place in a tightly corked bottle or tin for flavoring soups, sauces, and similar things.

When tomatoes have become soft and wrinkled they can be restored to their original freshness by soaking in cold water for an hour.

Organdies, chambrays and fine cambrics may be washed without danger of fading if they be washed first in clear water in which a cupful of very coarse salt has been dissolved.

Soap and powdered chalk mixed and rubbed on mildew spots will remove them. To expedite matters let the spotted article lie in the sun for a few hours, dampening it again as it dries.

It is a good idea to clean the glass over pictures with a cloth wrung from hot water and dipped in alcohol. Polish them immediately until they are dry and glossy with chamois or tissue paper.

To whiten ivory knife handles cut a lemon in half, dip it into common kitchen salt and rub over the handles. This will remove the dirty yellow look and make the ivory as bright and white as new.

To ventilate a room having double windows that do not open bore a number of holes in the lower edge of the outer window frame and fit the holes with cork stoppers. The inner window may then be raised and the corks taken out to admit fresh air.

Old Saskatchewan Dishes.

Forty miles out from Winnipeg, living apart on immense sections, I met some of the happiest women it has been my pleasure to visit, writes Mary Mills.

In spring and summer, and until early fall, the farming, with its extra hands, brings much work to the housewife. After harvest the delightful visiting from homestead to homestead

is begun, with dances and entertainments galore.

They think nothing of motoring or driving a team or sleigh from 20 to 40 miles and dancing till sunup (sunrise). When the blizzards come, compelling them to remain indoors, they have famous times. Being of English, Dutch and French ancestry, they cook many dishes which may be unusual in this section.

Slangh.—Clean a head of a pig and a set of feet and put on to boil in cold water; cook until tender, remove the meat, strain the liquor, pick all meat from bones and chop fine. Return to kettle and season with sweet marjoram, thyme, parsley, salt and pepper. Thicken with equal parts of cornmeal and buckwheat. Set on back part of stove, to prevent burning, for five hours; pour in large bakepan that has been previously wet with cold water; use knife or back of spoon to smooth in places, when cold turn out, cut in thick slices, dip in flour and brown in hot pan.

Milk Dumplings.—Work 4 ounces of butter, very slightly warmed; 3 eggs and 8 ounces of fine bread crumbs; add a teaspoonful of salt and a pinch of pepper; mold in small balls and boil in 2 quarts of milk for 15 minutes. When ready lift with skimmer and add yolks of 2 eggs to milk; pour over all dumplings and serve.

Black Bread Soup.—Cut 2 heads of celery, 2 parsnips and 2 large onions into very fine pieces; put in pan with ½ pound of butter, stew gently for ½ hour; add 2 quarts of water, 1 cup of hot water, cover and cook one-half hour. Season with salt and pepper to taste, and just before lifting beat 3 eggs in bowl and pour over all. Put in oven 10 minutes to cook eggs, turn on dish, mold nicely, and send to table.

The Fashions

Spring and Summer Fashions.

Quite as interesting, at the opening of a season, as the new designs themselves and a thousand and one odd little fads which Fashion always presents at her openings, are the new materials in which to fashion these



One of the New Bordered Voiles.

stunning modes. It is amusing to note to what an extent serge is still being used this spring for suits and one-piece frocks. It is not an exaggeration to state that at least nine-tenths of the new spring suits are being made of dark blue serge.

White cotton and wool mixtures, striped or barred with pale tones of gold, blue, green, and thin lines of black are unusually modish. For sport wear there are any number of effective materials; some loose weave plaids with backgrounds of white, pastel broadcloths, barred and plaided in more vivid tones, and some par-

ticularly effective hopsacking in plain colors and plaids which may be used for street suits or sport skirts or coats.

Silk Suitings Popular

The new silk suitings, fraile, and the numerous other twilled silks, tussahs, gros de Londres, and heavier ribbed silks are very much the vogue. These silks are particularly well suited to the full skirts of the moment, affording the bouffant effect, and lending themselves most effectively to the cordings, quillings, pleatings and similar trimming notions now smart. These silk suitings come in all shades of tan, buff, blue, rose, mauve and gray.

Taffetas are being used considerably for suit purposes too; there are quantities of plain taffetas being used in combination with bayadere effects, white stripes on black, blue or green grounds. Checks and stripes are particularly smart in taffetas. Pompadour taffetas will be used generally for wraps and the trimming of suits. Light colors will predominate in these suits as in the wool mixtures. It may be safely said that the silk suit will be the mainstay of spring and early summer.

The Novelty Cottons.

There is no paucity of novelties in the new spring and summer cottons; they are most charming, both in coloring and design. Voiles forms the basis of the majority of these fabrics; there are printed and striped voiles; voiles striped and barred with openwork or needlework patterns and voiles striped and barred with artificial silk. Some of the openwork checked voiles are printed and embroidered with bright colors. Some of the voiles are printed with



Rose Linen With White Vest.

quaint precise, art nouveau figures. Soft white batistes show hairlines of color, and are bordered in plain white, edged with the color; these are the new handkerchief embroidered batistes and are used for lingerie gowns and blouses.

Plain lawns and organdies in all the soft pastel tones, and in plain white are exceptionally good this season. The organdies are being used for entire frocks over slips of a stiffer organdy. In white these are unusually pretty for graduating frocks and summer dance dresses. One of the prettiest notions for a summer dance frock seen for many a season, was a dainty pale blue organdy with short, full-gathered skirt fluffed here and there with a small cluster of pink rosebuds; the surplice closing bodice had full drop-shoulder sleeves, and was finished at the throat with a fine pleated ruff of the organdy, closed on one side with a small bunch of the buds, and long narrow ribbon streamers of pale pink. The idea of a high-necked dance frock is somewhat out-of-the-ordinary, but that is just what most of us are looking for. A bit of bare throat showing in a V-shaped opening below the dainty ruff gave just a suggestion of décolleté which was all that was needed.

The silk striped and checked voiles show grounds of one color, striped and barred with contrasting tones, for instance rose, striped with pale green, blue with grey, mauve with gold and many other cool, opalescent effects.

Trimmings for Summer Frocks. Lace in shadowy patterns and cobwebby weaves such as Chantilly, Maline, and the cheaper shadow laces, will be used for flouncings and trimmings for both gowns and blouses; lace is being used considerably in millinery also, draping the picture hat to accompany the organdy frock. Many metal laces are shown for trimming purposes, too, some of them carrying out the patterns of the thread designs. Valenciennes lace will be a favorite for the regulation lingerie frock; and for children's dresses. These patterns may be obtained at your local McCall dealer or from The McCall Company, Dept. W., 70 Bond Street, Toronto, Ontario.

Do not try to poach any but strictly fresh eggs.

THE SUNDAY LESSON

INTERNATIONAL LESSON
MARCH 19.

Lesson XII.—Philip and the Ethiopian, Acts 8. 26-40. Golden Text: Acts 8. 30.

Verse 26. An angel.—The manner of the divine monition is not explained. If we know the plain prose of the event we might say it was only some strange coincidence. Luke is mainly concerned with its being taken as the Lord's doing. Philip—One of the seven, as Acts 21. 8 makes fairly certain, and not the apostle. Desert, and therefore so absurd a place for an evangelist to travel in that the monition or impulse can only be divine.

27. A eunuch, and as such excluded from the congregation of Israel by the law. He could hardly have been a proselyte, but the Septuagint was open to him—the papyri of upper Egypt shows us how Greek was spoken in those distant regions—and in its pages he would come as near as he could to the true God.

28. Reading.—Aloud, as the word usually implies. Since Greek MSS. were written without division of words or punctuation, reading aloud was the easiest way of taking in the meaning, and it became a habit. The prophet Isaiah—The book that bore his name. Chapter 53 lies, in fact, within the great section that was written a century and a half after Israel's time.

29. Understandeth.—The verb is that of which readest is a compound, but it is hardly possible to reproduce in English the play upon words. (Such plays were very common in Greek, and had none of the light associations our plays upon words carry.)

31. How can I.—The history of the interpretation of Isa. 53 is a commentary on the question.

32. The quotation is from a very imperfect translation, so that we must study the Revised Version of the original, or some modern commentary to realize what the prophet meant. Of course detailed mistranslations do not affect the general sense. The "servant of Jehovah" in this great prophecy was Israel to begin with. Compare the scathing denunciation of his infirmity in Isa. 42. 18-21. But as the prophet contemplates the work for which God has called Israel, he idealizes more and more, till at last his conception rises utterly beyond the reach of a nation, or the best men in it, or even such a prophet as Jeremiah. In chapter 53 we can only say that "he saw his glory, and he spake of him."

33. His judgment.—In the Hebrew oppression and judgment—that is, an unjust trial. The Greek translator thinks of the absence of forms of justice. His generation.—The Hebrew has as for his generation, who (among them) considered?

34. Answered.—An idiom Luke has taken over from biblical languages, where the verb need not imply answering spoken words.

35. Opened his mouth.—Another biblical phrase, appropriate to solemn and weighty utterance. This scripture was naturally the favorite Old Testament text for apostolic sermons. But it was a great advantage that on this occasion the preacher's text was chosen for him.

36. A certain water.—The gospel preaching regularly began with the baptism of John (Acts 1. 22), as our oldest gospel still shows (Mark 1. 4). This preparatory doctrine of cleansing, vividly presented in acted parables by the apostles as the necessary precursor of spiritual baptism, with "Holy spirit and fire." The eunuch was accordingly learned that he must break with his past and make open confession of his new Master. An interesting and ancient interpolation (verse 37) gives us Philip's reply and the eunuch's brief, but sufficient creed, "Jesus Christ is Lord."

39. The manner of Philip's disappearance is not explained any more than the outward form of God's message to him. The main thought seems to be that Philip's work is done and the preacher—like every true preacher—is thankful to efface himself and leave the happy soul alone with its newlyfound joy.

40. Azotus.—The Philistine city of Ashdod, where evangelist finds new work to do. In Caesarea he seems to have settled (Acts 21. 8), and found a sphere of service where there was enough to do for many years. His four daughters were also preachers; they fortunately lived in a place where the public ministry of women raised no scandal such as forced Paul to discontinue it in many churches.

She Ought To.

"Do you know the nature of an oath, madam?"
"Well, I ought to sir. We've just moved and my husband has been laying the carpets."

A word of sympathy timely spoken is balm to a wounded spirit.

Debt collector—"Is your master at home?"
Servant (curtly) "No, he isn't."
Debt collector (suspiciously) "But I can see his hat hanging in the hall."
Servant—"Well, you are many to-day who put their feet in boards and committees, not in men of genius. Let me tell them that the records are not theirs. The Board of Admir-

"Why Is It That My Head Springs"

"Man shall not live by bread alone." Matthew, iv., 4.

"Man shall not live by bread alone," is a fact statement, not an arbitrary dictum. Beasts may, and do, live forever, and the general centre of that life must be lights and stimulates all his Christianity is so practical that cannot reach his best without Materialism enthroned upon troysers. Mere materialism heart atrophy, and the secular peggish top, in the Father feeds a humanness that preserves the and wisdom powers, have the bone hearted Nero, souled Huxley, the moral degenerate Wilde or the money crusted miser.

Man is More Than Physical.

Ingersoll boldly denying immortality cannot choke back innate instinct's cry for a future life, when, speaking at his brother's grave, he says:—"In the night of death hope sees a star and listening love can hear the rustle of a wing." As Victor Hugo says:—"Why is it that while winter is on my head spring is in my heart?" This innate belief has been in all men in all time. In other nature hungers there is something to satisfy the appetite. For example, the bird born in the spring finds a southland when instinct's leadings are followed in the fall. What right have we to conclude that a Creator not found cruel in any other creations should be so in not providing a southland for the soul fleeing the frosts of death?

ACHIEVEMENTS OF LORD FISHER

RESPONSIBLE FOR GREATEST BRITISH VICTORY.

Ten Strokes of Genius Which Have Made Him Britain's Greatest Naval Chief.

In an article in London Opinion calling on the British people to unite in an irresistible demand for the recall of Lord Fisher to the post of First Lord of the Admiralty, and writing as a land lubber for land lubbers, James Douglas thus sums up the achievements of the great British seaman:

There is no statesman in England who can deny the dazzling genius of Fisher. It is a truism. Let me catalogue a few of his achievements. His first stroke of genius was the scrapping of 162 warships which could neither fight nor run away. How that stroke was execrated! How it was denounced! But by it he made possible another stroke of genius—the system of nucleus crews, which put



Lord Fisher.

into each ship its brains, leaving the beef to come along when it was wanted.

Fisher's third stroke of genius was the adoption of the water-tube boiler—the biggest revolution on record, a revolution which put the fire where the water was and the water where the fire was, the consequence being that instead of taking seven or eight hours to get up steam, you take only twenty minutes, you keep your boilers clean, you have your fuel, and you are ready whenever your enemy arrives.

Fisher's fourth stroke of genius was the adoption of the Parsons turbine in the teeth of the bitterest opposition. Fisher discovered the turbine in a penny steamer. Parsons said: "Will you see me through?" Fisher saw, him through. To-day, 80 per cent of the horsepower on the seven seas is turbine. And yet all the man-daring turned up their noses at the

There are many to-day who put their feet in boards and committees, not in men of genius. Let me tell them that the records are not theirs. The Board of Admir-

ality was hostile to the introduction of steam into the navy. Its wooden-headed stupidity is embalmed in a minute. The Board of Admiralty was hostile to the iron ship. Its wooden-headed hostility is embalmed in a minute, which solemnly declared that wood was better because wood floats, while iron sinks!

Introduced Oil Fuel.—Fisher's fifth stroke of genius was the introduction of oil fuel into the navy, again in the teeth of authority. When Fisher left the Admiralty, fiscal idiots went back to coal, stopped the development of oil. They laid down battleships using only. These very battleships, now been transformed into oil-ships. Once more, Fisher was proved to be right, and the reactionaries forced to be wrong.

Fisher's sixth stroke of genius was the concentration of our navy in the North Sea. A simple thing, you say. Yes, but the simplicity of genius. Nobody had thought of that simple thing. Fisher divined it and did it silently and secretly, thus checking the strategy of Tirpitz. Then you have the Fisher touch in purest form.

Fisher's seventh stroke of genius was the creation of the Dreadnought and the ship that baffled German attention and converted the Kiel Canal years into a useless ditch. British people realize that the Fleet, which now stands Germany and the dominion world, is Fisher's fleet. Dreadnought to the O and the inflexible it is all an adult-rated Fisher.

Fisher's eighth stroke of genius was the creation of the battle-cruiser, the greyhound with the big When, after a series of disasters, Fisher was called in a year ago, first thing he did was to send battle-cruisers to sink Von Spee's squadron. He must have straddled barnacles when he issued his famous order. One can imagine their doubts and fears, their waverings, and hesitations, their prayers for delay, their pleas for caution. But Fisher swept aside the barnacles, unloosed his greyhounds, and boldly chose as their admiral the very man who had been honestly and profoundly sceptical about them before they were born!

Greatest Victory of War.

Fisher divined the game of Von Spee. He guessed that he was making for Cape Town. There he meant to sink the South African squadron, destroy Botha's transports on the way to German South-West Africa, and then get on to the Atlantic trade routes, where he might have cut off our food supply for weeks. Instead of which, Fisher's greyhounds caught him at the Falkland Islands and sank him and his ships to the bottom. It was not victory; it was annihilation. Superior speed kept Von Spee outside his own gun-range; superior power destroyed him. The Falkland Islands is the greatest British victory of the war. It was won through Fisher's strategy by Fisher's ships.

Fisher's ninth stroke of genius was the hunting down of the German submarines. He organized that great hunt. The collapse of the submarine piracy was due directly to Fisher's daring initiative. Fisher's tenth stroke of genius was his protest against the Dardanelles "gamble" which has now come to a disastrous close. His last stand probably saved the Queen Elizabeth and other capital ships from sharing the fate of the Majestic. The New Year will open auspiciously if the nation demands the recall of Lord Fisher, the man who has always been right.