

All jelly should be made over a moderate fire, and be carefully watched and skimmed.

In making preserves there must be no economy of time and care, and the fruit must be fresh.

It is well also to heat the sugar before it is added, as in so doing the boiling process will not be interrupted.

In all cases it is best to boil the juice fifteen minutes before adding the sugar, thus insuring the necessary evaporation and avoiding the liability to burn it.

A flannel bag is best for straining jelly. If possible avoid putting jelly in any stage in a metal vessel. For every pint of strained juice allow a pound of sugar—granulated is the best.

CRAB APPLE JELLY.—Procure the Siberian Crab, pick out those that are perfectly firm; wash in water and pour over them just enough water to cover; let them cook until soft; then strain into a jelly bag; add one pound of sugar to one pint of juice; let boil twenty minutes.

TO CAN PEACHES.—Pare and halve the peaches; and to every pound of fruit allow a quarter of a pound of sugar; make a syrup of the sugar and some water; then cook the peaches until they can be easily pierced with a darning needle or straw; place in jars and cover with the syrup, and seal immediately.

PICKLE CHERRIES.—Take nice, large, ripe cherries; remove the stones; take a large glass jar and fill two-thirds full of cherries; then fill up with best vinegar; keep it well covered; no boiling or spice is necessary, as the cherry flavor will be retained and the cherries will not shrivel.

SPICED PEARS OR PEACHES.—Ten pounds of fruit; five pounds of sugar; one-half pint of vinegar; mace, cinnamon and cloves tied in a bag; boil the pears until clear; then scald thoroughly in the syrup; boil it down, and pour over the pears.

GRAPE CATSUP.—Five pounds of grapes boiled in a little water and put through a colander; three pounds of sugar; one pint of vinegar; one tablespoonful of ground cloves; one of cinnamon; one of pepper; one-half tablespoonful of salt; boil until a little thick; bottle and seal.

TOMATO CATSUP.—One gallon of tomatoes; one pint of vinegar; two tablespoonfuls of salt; two of black pepper; two of mustard; one of cloves; one dozen onions, sliced fine; boil all together till quite thick; strain through a colander; bottle and cork tight, and keep in a cool place.

ELDERBERRY WINE.—Boil three gallons of elder berries in two and one-half gallons of water for 20 minutes, then strain through a fine sieve, not bruising the berries; then measure the liquid into a boiler, and to every quart add one pound of moist sugar and the peel of four lemons; place on fire and heat scalding hot; add the whites of four eggs well beaten, stirring into the liquid. When the liquor is cool place it in a keg; place a piece of toasted bread, spread with compressed yeast as you would butter in the keg; bung the keg air-tight; $\frac{1}{4}$ of a pound of bruised ginger placed in the keg gives the wine a fine flavor; let it remain in the keg from six to eight weeks, when it will be ready to bottle.—R. H. S.

To Prevent the Skin from Discoloring after a Blow or Fall.

Take a little dry starch or arrowroot, and merely moisten it with cold water, and lay it on the injured part. This must be done immediately, so as to prevent the action of the air upon the skin. However, it may be applied some hours afterwards with effect. I learned this when resident in France. It may already be known here, but I have met with none among my own acquaintances who seem to have heard of it. Raw meat is not always at hand, and some children have an insurmountable repugnance to let it be applied. I always make use of the above when my children meet with an accident, and find that it keeps down swelling, and cleanses and facilitates the healing of scratches, when they happen to fall on the gravel in the garden.

Answers to Inquirers.

MINNIE G.—If a call is made upon you when visiting in a strange city, which you had not time to return, the most polite thing to do, under the circumstances, would be to write a note of explanation to your visitor. If you are in the same city again, it would be most courteous in you to pay a visit without waiting for one of greeting.

COUNTRY MAID.—1. Your brown and white striped silk will make up very nicely by combining it with brown cashmere of a light quality or nun's veiling. 2. Girls of fourteen should wear their dresses slightly below their ankles. It is not considered in good taste for young girls or children to wear their dresses as short as they formerly did.

TRUE BLUE.—1. There is no rule in regard to the style of engagement rings, the selection being governed entirely by individual taste. It would be nice to have the two initials and the date of the engagement engraved inside. 2. Plaques and fancy china plates are most decorative in effect when hung against the wall. Statuettes look pretty on tiny brackets covered with plush or velvet. The brackets could be made of ordinary pine wood. 3. There is no reason why a widow should always dress in mourning or wear crape, unless she so desires. There will be no impropriety in her wearing colors, after being in mourning five years.



THE WHITE-FOOTED MOUSE, OR DEER MOUSE.

BRUNETTE.—1. A pretty present for the gentleman would be a set of linen or silk handkerchiefs, having his initial embroidered upon them; or a handkerchief case made of satin with a quilted lining. Mingle fine perfume with the wadding, and either paint or embroider the initials on the top. 2. It is not a breach of etiquette to speak of the beauty of any articles in the room to your hostess; instead, it is frequently done in the best society.

W. O. L.—1. Letters of introduction are usually sent by messenger or post with a card, showing where the introduced is staying. They should be acknowledged by a visit or by a written answer within two days, stating why a visit is not made. 2. In ordinary conversation there is no necessity to add "Sir" or "Madam" when answering a question, unless to a person your senior; but it is always well to remember that one had better be too formal than be considered rude.

M. A. C.—1. When a gentleman escorts a lady home, it is not only polite but it is her duty to thank him for his courtesy. 2. A black dress comes out best in a photograph. 3. Neuralgia generally proceeds from weakness of the nerves. Bathing the face and behind the ears well with cold bay salt and water is very beneficial, and you should take some strengthening medicine.

The White-Footed Mouse, or Deer Mouse.

There are many persons who believe that all mice found in the fields and meadows are simply "house mice which have run wild." On the contrary, they differ so widely that they can not even be admitted into the genus *mus*, to which the common mouse belongs.

The white-footed mouse is the *Hesperomys leucopus* of modern zoologists. Some have seen fit to include in it a subgenus *vesperimus*. It was first discovered by the eccentric French naturalist Rafinesque as the *Musculus leucopus*. The meaning of the word *Hesperomys* is evening mouse, and of *leucopus*, white foot. This species can be distinguished from the other mice of our fields and woods by the following description: Ears large; tail slender, about as long as the head and body, and thickly clothed with short hairs, no scales being visible like those of the common mouse. Color of the body above, yellowish brown to gray; feet and lower parts of body, white. Tail distinctly bi-color; that is, its upper part is the color of the back, and the lower portion white. Length of the head and body, $2\frac{1}{4}$ to $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches; length of tail generally equaling the length of the head and body.

The white-footed mouse is agile in its movements, and is an expert climber. The first nest of this species I met with was in a hollow stump, and was of a rounded form, and composed of leaves, grasses and moss. They also nest under stone heaps or logs, or in the ground. It generally builds its nest in thick brier bushes, several feet from the ground. These are made also of moss and leaves, but are interwoven with strips of fibrous bark, probably of the wild grape vine, to make them stronger and more secure. The hole or place of entrance to the nest is always at the bottom. These nests at a first glance may readily be mistaken for those of birds. On shaking the bush or nest you will see the little intruder come forth and rapidly descend to the ground, and conceal themselves amid the bushes and grass. Sometimes you will observe several young adhering to the abdomen of the mother. These she assists in keeping their hold by pressing her tail against them as she climbs down the stems of the briars. The female produces young two or three times during the spring and summer, having from three to six young at a birth.

It has a habit of laying up little stores of grain and grass seeds. They are generally composed of wheat. It is also fond of corn, but eating the heart only and leaving the rest untouched. This species is sometimes accused of destroying cabbage plants and other young and tender vegetables, and of gnawing the bark from young fruit trees. It is doubtless that this species is sometimes to blame, but the greater amount of this damage, I think, is caused by the meadow mouse and the so-called "pine mouse."

The white-footed mouse is of crepuscular and nocturnal habits. Many of them fall prey to the different species of owls, notably the screech owl, as the bones and fur of this mouse found in their ejected pellets clearly show. It has a wide geographical range, being found from Nova Scotia to Florida, and west to the Mississippi River, and perhaps far beyond.

Advice to Wives.

Wives often regret that their husbands do not talk to them. This is not the place to discuss the short-comings of a man, but sometimes when I have listened to the fault-finding, the garrulous repetitions, the frivolous details, the childish exactions of sympathy and attention with which some women bore their husbands when they are overburdened and anxious with care and work, I have not wondered that some men grow taciturn in their homes. But it is a great loss if a man is silent among his wife and children. The husband and wife live so much of the time in a different world that a free intercourse can be a great help and pleasure to each of them.

You will not be likely to make a man talk by telling him that he ought to talk, or scolding him because he does not do so. Make it a pleasure for him to talk with you. Exercise good sense, good temper and tact in drawing him out on topics of interest to himself. Be patient under his moods