

## About the House.

### SOUPS.

**Potato Soup.**—Possibly this is the least expensive and the most quickly prepared. Pare and slice three or four potatoes and cook in a very little water. Put a quart of milk in a double boiler, or in a basin over an asbestos mat, that it may not scorch, and add a tablespoonful of chopped onion. Skim out the potatoes when soft, mash and rub through a colander; blend half a tablespoonful of cornstarch with a little melted butter, cook two minutes, then stir it into the scalding milk, add the potato and cook five minutes. Serve hot with croutons, small squares of bread browned in a hot oven.

**Canned Tomatoes.**—Make a delicious soup. Put a quart of canned or freshly-stewed tomatoes into a porcelain or granite saucepan; add a teaspoonful of boiling water, a teaspoonful of salt, a tablespoonful of granulated sugar, and a slight dusting of white pepper. In a basin or small saucepan, heat a tablespoonful of butter very hot, do not brown it; add a few slices of onion; cook gently five minutes then add a tablespoonful of cornstarch or flour mixed smoothly with a little cold water; stir and immediately pour in a teaspoonful of boiling milk, and simmer two or three minutes. Strain and serve with crackers crisped in a hot oven.

**Mock Bisque Soup.**—Strain a pint of canned or freshly-stewed tomatoes; heat to boiling a quart of milk, as directed for potato soup. Melt a tablespoonful of butter; pour in two teaspoonfuls of cornstarch blended with half a teaspoonful of thick cream, stirring rapidly as you pour, and cook a few minutes. Season with a scant teaspoonful of salt, a pinch of white pepper, and bits of butter, as if a rich soup is desired. To be served with croutons or crackers.

**Onion Soup.**—Melt a piece of butter the size of an egg; slice into it a medium-sized onion, and fry a delicate brown; add three gills of milk and one of cream; season to taste with pepper and celery salt. Split three or four Boston crackers put in a tureen, and over them strain the hot milk.

**Green Corn Soup.**—Into a saucepan put half a can of corn; crush the kernels as much as may be; add a pint of milk and half a pint of cream, and cook ten minutes; meantime fry two slices of onion in a little butter. Add this to the milk; thicken with flour made into a smooth paste with a little cold milk; season with salt and pepper; cook three minutes and strain.

**Soup from Lima Beans.**—Heat a pint of fresh-cooked or canned beans, press through a colander, add a quart of milk and a teaspoonful of cream, season with a tablespoonful of butter and the usual condiments, and simmer fifteen minutes. Serve in soup plates, and at each cover place a saucer of very small crackers.

**Cream of Asparagus.**—Cut young tender stalks into inch lengths, boil until tender in water to cover, and rub through a sieve. Into a quart of hot milk put a heaping tablespoonful of butter, add the asparagus pulp, two tablespoonfuls of thick cream, and pour over very thin slices of hard-boiled eggs.

Put finely a large bunch of celery, cook soft in only water enough to cover and rub through a coarse colander. Scald a pint of half milk and half cream and add to the celery, also the water in which it was boiled. Season with white pepper and salt, and slightly thicken with a little flour, blended with melted butter. Serve with inch-wide finger lengths of delicately toasted bread.

Never use butter that is in the least off flavor. White pepper makes a more delicate soup. If soups maigre are too thick, they are not relished and they lack body if too thin. Soups should be served very hot. The tureen should first be heated; this may be done by placing it on the stove shelves, with which nearly all stoves are now supplied, or it may be filled with boiling water a few minutes. When wanted, drain quickly and fill.

Soup plates should be heated. The mistress should serve the soup from the dish placed on the table. Note that it is not good form to serve too large a quantity; only a small portion as an appetizer for the more substantial viands which follow.

### THE BIRTHDAY FLOWER.

For a child's birthday party let the table be decorated with the flower of the month in which the child was born, as: January, snowdrop; February, the primrose; March, violet; April, daisy; May, hawthorn; June, wild rose; July, lily; August, poppy; September, convolvulus; October, hops; November, chrysanthemum; December, holly. Each has an appropriate sentiment attached to it. The snowdrop means consolation; the primrose, youthful sunshine; the violet, modesty; the daisy, innocence; the hawthorne, hope; the wild rose, simplicity; the lily, purity; the poppy, the comfort of sleep; the convolvulus, contentment; hops, aspiration; the chrysanthemum, cheerfulness; holly, foresight and protection.

### THINGS MOTHERS SHOULD'NT DO

She should not forget that if she treats her boy as a gentleman, she will do much toward making him a gentleman.

She should not treat her boy to perpetual frowns, scoldings, and fault-finding. "Sugar attracts more flies than vinegar." Love wins her boy to a noble manhood.

She should never be so busy or hard pressed for time that she cannot listen to him. If he lives to be a man he will all too soon leave her. She should make the most of him, while she has him.

She should encourage outdoor exercise or sports, and she should not forget to train him with proper regard for his personal appearance.

She should never allow him to form such habits as coming to the table in his shirt sleeves, neglecting his nails or teeth, or carrying soiled handkerchiefs about with him.

She should never nag him, or forget that he is a creature of reason, not an animal that requires to be driven.

She should not try to break her boy's will, but be thankful that he is manly enough to have a mind of his own.

### VALUE OF EGGS.

Eggs can be used as a substitute for paste or mucilage to seal a letter or a jar of jelly.

The white of an egg will allay the smart of a burn if bound upon it immediately, excluding the air.

Half a dozen eggs given immediately after an emetic will render corrosive sublimate harmless.

The white of an egg beaten and swallowed will dislodge a fish bone from the throat.

When a mustard plaster is mixed with the white of an egg, instead of water, no blister will follow its application.

In testing eggs remember that a good egg will sink and a bad egg will swim; if it is difficult to remember which is which, just stop to think that a fresh egg sinks because of the water in its own composition.

Another test of a thoroughly fresh egg is the distinctness with which the yolk may be seen when the egg is held up to the light.

### LET THE CHILDREN LAUGH.

Chavasse, an eminent surgeon, says: "Encourage your children to be merry and to laugh aloud. A good, hearty laugh expands the chest and makes the blood bound merrily along. Commend me to a good laugh, not to a little, sniggering laugh, but to one that will sound right through the house. It will not only do your child good, but will be a benefit to all who hear and be an important means of driving the blues away from a dwelling. Merriment is very catching and spreads in a remarkable manner, few being able to resist the contagion. A hearty laugh is delightful harmony. Indeed it is the best of all music."

### CHILDREN'S FOOD.

While mothers should keep their children clothed as well as means and time permit, they must not forget that, while any old thing may do for a child to wear without serious discomfort, too much care cannot be taken in regard to food. This is especially true of the growing children in school. An eminent physician says that "school experiences are particularly apt to encourage irritation and waste of nerve and muscle tissue. Hence the need during school life of special care with respect to diet."

### ABOUT IRONING.

To get the best results the starching should be solid, stiff enough to stand wear, and flexible enough to give to your movements.

A high polish should not be aimed at but instead a fine even finish. Neckbands of shirts should be ironed in their original shape, and set up at right angles with the shirt to allow the neck free play.

Very stiff work does more damage to your linen than washing and wear combined. Solid and flexible is the thing.

### SORE MOUTH.

Children frequently have sores on their tongues, caused from a deranged stomach, more commonly known as story blisters. Sulphur is the very best remedy known. It stands far ahead of the mouth washes composed of sage, borax, alum, etc., and is not so painful. If the child is too small to hold the sulphur in its mouth dry, mix it with butter. If it swallows it so much the better.

### SIBERIA'S WHEAT.

Thousands of Tons Were Available For Export Last Year.

A few years ago some of the best writers on the Russian Empire, including Prince Krapotkin, believed that the wheat producing capabilities of Siberia had been much overrated, and that the country would never be able to produce much more of the cereal than it needs for its own consumption. But as the Siberian railroad has pushed through new regions, and thousands of Russian families have followed its advance and made new homes, it begins to look as though the writers who held pessimistic views concerning Siberian agriculture were mistaken.

In the Altai mining district, last year over 800,000 tons of surplus wheat were produced and only 5 per cent. of the available agricultural lands have yet been brought into cultivation. In the fertile steppe country opened up by the western section of the railroad, 64,500 tons of wheat were raised for export where until recently it was necessary to import wheat every year for local consumption.

Few persons have sufficient wisdom to prefer censure, which is useful to praise which deceives them.—Rochefoucauld.

## Interesting for Women.

The former Empress Eugenie has gone to the Continent in accordance with her custom and will not return to England for eight months. Much of her time will be spent on the Riviera and in travelling on her yacht. Her English home at Farnborough is said to be a most substantial building of red brick and stone, unpretentious, but most comfortable. Unlike many English country places, it is supplied with gas, equipped with a steam plant, and supplied with hydrants for protection in case of fire. It is surrounded by beautifully wooded grounds. This is in reality, Eugenie's home, although she spends a large part of every year in travel. She is an early riser in spite of the fact that she suffers from insomnia. Two friends live with her, and her household consists of ten servants. The regular routine of the day is described as monotonously quiet. Breakfast is an early meal, and is followed by letter writing and reading the newspapers, which are attended to by Eugenie's two devoted friends. She sometimes visits the village of Farnborough in the morning, and regularly before luncheon every day a visit is made to the mausoleum on the grounds where the Emperor and the Prince Imperial are buried. The afternoon the Empress usually spends in walking through the grounds. On her visits to London Eugenie is accompanied always by four servants. Her comfortable and dignified estate of semi-royalty is maintained with her own fortune, which is said to be large enough to keep her in luxury and will probably continue to be sufficient for the rest of her life. She gives liberally to charities in the neighborhood of her English home. Her entire time is spent in Farnborough, save for occasional visits to London, which are made to attend to her business interests. She is said not to be sad, in spite of the loneliness of her life. She has a bicycle track at Farnborough, for her young relatives, and takes great delight in their society when they visit her. The friendship of Queen Victoria has always been a boon to her, and the English sovereign has never failed to recognize her equal rights. In the official court journal, every mention of the Empress is made to place her on an exactly equal footing with the Queen.

### DAMMING THE NILE.

The Wonders of the Great Reservoir Just Started at Assuan.

Since the building of the pyramids Egypt has seen few such gigantic undertakings as the construction of the great reservoir dam at Assuan, the foundation stone of which was laid a few days ago by the Duke of Connaught, says the London Mail. This dam will be a mile and a quarter in length; the height of the coping-stone, will be 300 feet above the bed of the lower river, and for 140 miles Father Nile will feel the influence of this great impounding of waters. English engineers and English surveyors have planned this great enterprise, English money is at the back of it, and English bondholders will, next perhaps to the cultivators of the soil on the Nile banks, derive the greatest benefit. Five thousand dusky natives are already at work; one order for 3,000,000 barrels of European cement has been issued and is about to be delivered; thousands of tons of granite ashlar are being quarried from the Assuan side of the river. Never has the ancient river on whose bosom Moses was cradled seen such industry. John Bull has very much arrived.

The dam will be built of material taken from the quarries at Assuan, whence came the granite used for the construction of the Thames embankment. On its completion the reservoir will hold 250,000,000,000 gallons of water, and across this huge artificial lake a bridge will stretch, and camel trains and pedestrians will pass over, and all will be life and bustle and hurry. Never had the descendants of Pharaoh such a shaking up.

And what is the object of it all? Egypt is the Nile, and the Nile is Egypt. In that ancient saying the whole business may be summed up. The dam will bottle up the rich Nile waters.

### MILLIONS OF ACRES OF LAND

will be irrigated; 2,500 square miles will be reclaimed from the deserts; in short, the dam will increase the country's productive capacity by 25 per cent. Egypt's output of raw sugar will in a year or two be doubled perhaps trebled.

Here is a chance for the "depressed" British farmer. Let him go to Egypt. The soil there, when it can get Nile water, is more kind than that at home. Cotton and sugar command high prices, and one acre will produce long-staple cotton. When the great dam is completed vast tracts of land will be capable of producing two, if not three, crops in the year.

The work will be completed in a little over five years from now. This is the first time a river approaching the size of the Nile has had a dam built in it. Another novel thing about this altogether novel undertaking is that it will be both a dam and a waterway. Now, as to the cost. When one considers the stupendous character of the scheme, the many difficulties that will have to be overcome, and the incalculable benefits that will accrue, the price does not appear exorbitant. The contractors are to receive, in round figures, £16,000,000 a year for thirty years, making in all about £4,800,000.

The period over which this payment is to extend must carry conviction to the minds of other nations who have set longing eyes on the valley of the Nile that Great Britain means to hold onto it, for some time, at any rate. A curious obstacle was at the outset placed in the way of realizing the scheme. The original plans for the construction of the dam would have involved the disappearance of the famous ruins of Philae. Miles of petitions were drawn up and submitted to the authorities, and scores of alternative plans suggested some of them worthy the imaginative minds that had conceived them. One was to remove Philae, stone by stone, to Cairo, thus bringing it still easier within the reach of tourists.

Finally the engineers modified their plans, and the dam will be one-third lower than was at first proposed. Still, when the reservoir is finished, Philae will never be itself again; for the waters will wash the feet of the temples that for ages have stood like sentinels guarding the boundary of Nubia and Egypt.

This is unfortunate, but the most enthusiastic of Egyptologists will confess that the sacrifice is not in vain.

same. The Empress, when in full dress wears many jewels. Some of these are the property of the Crown, and she is entitled to use them only so long as her husband remains Emperor. She has no right to wear them as a widow. But she has some beautiful gems given to her by the Emperor at their marriage, and a beautiful collection of pearls left to her by the late Empress Augusta. The Empress Friedrich is most economical in matters of dress, and so are the majority of women who come to the German event. At the so-called "Schleppe Cour" or "train court," which corresponds to a presentation in England, the costumes are not brilliant. The most necessary thing is a train of satin of a certain length. Some of these trains appear to have been in use for years—indeed, until most of the satin has been worn away, and only the back remains. They are handed down for years in families, and hatched on to the dresses, of various members of the families to qualify them for presentation at this formal court function.

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## YOUNG FOLKS.

### DREAMS.

To dream of angels means joy; and denote good trade; apples denote a wedding—sours ones denoting bad luck, sweet ones prosperity and good luck.

To dream of a donkey denotes bad luck, and it is said to ride one is scorn to hold one is much toil; and to dream you are beating one, you'll mourn.

To dream of a cloudy morning shows ill luck and grief; but to see a bright sunny morn in your dream will bring you good news.

To dream you hear dogs barking and howling is a bad sign.

To dream you hear bells is a sign of enmity, or if you hear the wind blowing it denotes hatred and quarrelling.

To dream of birds' nests or eggs shows good luck will come to you; but if you dream you are eating eggs, these sorrow is in store for you.

Clear water seen in a dream denotes good news, just as dirty water denotes ill luck to the dreamer.

If you dream you are crossing a bridge, an elevation in life is in store for you; or if the bridge be broken, difficulty and strife lie before you.

Cats denote bad luck, except it be a black one that you dream of, then this is lucky.

To dream of cattle denotes riches to come, while to dream of a sweep shows good luck will you attend.

Clocks are good to dream about, but if they strike then bad luck is the result.

To dream of fowls is good news; and if they crow, better luck still.

Old clothes denote a fire.

To dream of a corpse denotes fortune to you.

To dream of horses, horse shoes, horsemen and such things, means riches and good luck.

To dream you are drinking wine, denotes news, or if you dream you are in a wine cellar, it denotes an illness.

Tears denote you'll be lucky in your situation; teeth falling out is a good sign; but to break them off, ill luck.

Rats and ravens denote ill will, death, and disgrace.

To lose a ring indicates sickness.

To dream of lambs indicate pleasure, riches, etc.

To be writing shows misery, as also is it denoted by dreaming of worry.

Dead horses indicate much adversity. Goats, flowers, or flying in the air are good omens to all.

Clean clothes denote prosperity, unclean linen, sickness and trouble.

### ELSIE'S GARDENING.

Little Elsie felt herself quite a gardener as she quietly walked across the lawn with her new rake and watering can.

"My garden will always look nice, now for I can rake it smooth with my new rake, and I shall water it every evening and then the seeds will all come up and the flowers will look fresh."

Elsie held up her head and looked quite proud.

She had not gone far before she met her brother Dick.

"Ah!" said he, "you are going to your garden. Have you any seed to set?"

"No," said Elsie; "it is not the right time."

"Doll seed may be set at any time," said Dick, taking two large beans out of his pocket. "Don't set them very deep in the ground, and come every morning to see if they have come up."

Dick was very fond of playing tricks on his sister though his mother told him it was wrong to do so, and he laughed as he saw Elsie going off with her beans, which she set near some flower pots.

One morning Dick went off to the garden with a small paper parcel tucked under his coat, and hid himself behind some bushes.

Presently Elsie came along, and when she looked at her garden she spread out her hands and said:

"Oh!"

Close by the flower pots lay a little wax doll. Elsie ran to the house, calling out:

"Mother, mother! my doll seed has come up. It has grown into a real doll. Come and look."

But when her mother came and saw Dick looking through the bushes, she said: "Oh! Dick, Dick! you have been playing your sister another trick."

### THE BIRDS' PETITION.

Dear Brothers of the Earth:

We, your little brothers of the air, wish and hereby request you to show the little kindnesses which we ask of you.

Whenever you go out to the woods in winter or early spring always take with you some corn or bread for us, as our supply of berries will be nearly gone by that time.

Never take a gun or slingshot into the woods with you.

Please never destroy our nests or take our young or eggs.

Whenever you see a young bird on the ground lift it up into its little home.

Tell your mamma and aunties never to wear feathers in their hats, as thousands of us are slaughtered every year to decorate bonnets.

And we promise you that we will repay your favors by delighting you with our quaint pranks and sweet songs.

Signed, Robin, Bluebird, Sparrow, Chickadee, Oriole and many others.

Title and ancestry render a good man more illustrious, but an ill one more contemptible.—Addison.