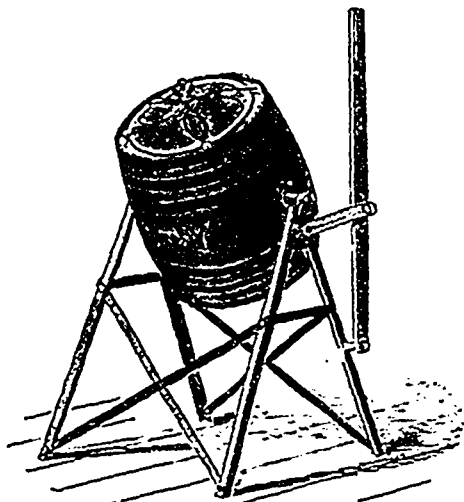


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It is scarcely credible that the national reproach of bad cookery can have been deserved when one contemplates the number of recipes collected and treasured by the dear, dead women of long ago. Truly, there are some that smack of barbarity, as, for instance, the following:

"At a Feste Roiall Pecokkes shall be dighte in this manere: Take and flee off the skyn with the fedurs, taylor and the necke, and the hed thereon; then take the skyn with all the fedurs, and lay it on a table abroad; and strawe thereon grounden comyn; then take the pecokke, and roste hym, and endore him with rawe yolkes of egges; and when he is rosted take hym of, and let hym coole awhile; and take and sowe hym in his skyn, and glide his combe, and so serve hym forthe with the last cours."

One can well imagine "good Queen Bess" appreciating the splendor of such a dish at one of her royal banquets, and to this day a similar one, or at least a roast peacock decorated with its tail feathers, glorifies the banquet at the Guildhall on Lord Mayor's Day, while at Christmas and other ceremonials the same dainty graces the royal table of our times; connoisseurs, however, declare that, as regards flavor, the gorgeous bird does not compare favorably with the more homely yet toothsome guinea fowl.

I select another recipe from the same source as the foregoing, which shows that in the days of our forefathers the fashion of vegetables plain boiled in water did not obtain, for this is how they dressed their caboches:—

CABOCHES.

"Take caboches, and washe hom in clene water; and boyle hom wel, and at the second boyle take hom down off the fyre, and presse hom wel tyl the water be clene oute and then cutte hom in grete peces, and caste hom in the broth of beef, and seth hom up with maribones (marrow bones), colour hom then with saffrone and thikke hit with grated bred; but for a lorde hit schal be thikke with yolkes of eyren (eggs) beten, and then let ones boyle, and serve hit forthe."

The curious spelling is as interesting as the recipes themselves. Many times a word recurring a second time

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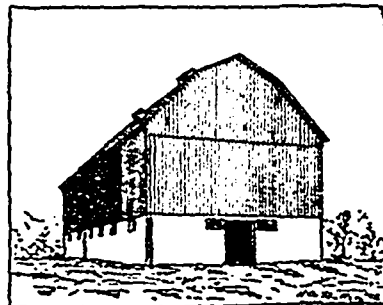
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