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C. & C. MERRIAM CO. ngfield, Mass., U.S.A. THE WISE WIFE

never Jack telegraphs m that he is bringing a friend home for dinner," said the young housekeeper who had just begun flatting after a hotel honeymoon, "I have a recipe for tuning dinner up to concert pitch that invariably carries me through with flying colors.

"I knew before we began housekeeping that a man enjoys nothing more than this informal way of asking guests to come home with him and I also realized that it grew to be a bone of contention in many families because there was too elaborate an effort made to get up a company dinner. There never is time to do this and the result

is usually next thing to a failure. "Still one always likes to impres the friend that Jack brings home that Jack has married a treasure of a housekeeper, so I have a system of building up the regular dinner by means of a few pleasant little hum-bugs that make the table look effective and add to the menu without being

too much trouble. "Lots of men think they are 'epicures without really being so. many times one hears them rave over a sauce or a certain dish, as served at some special place, which, when investigated, proves to be a very ordinary affair. Only one man in ten knows really good things to eat and half of them cannot tell beef from mutton; nor can they distinguish modes of cooking. It is easy to humbug them in a culinary way. Now that is just what I do when Jack rushes an unexpected guest upon our fam-

"Suppose I get a wire at 4. That is the earliest it may be hoped for. Men never think of the time it takes to get things ready. I immediately put the system in operation. We dine very simple at this time of year, limiting the number of dishes as much as possible: so I despatch my maid for flowers for the table, tiny Little Neck clams, ordered just in time for dinner and packed on ice, materials for a decorative salad and a cheese of some sort—the very best that is in season. Men as a rule like cheese and toasted crackers better than sweets after a salad. Stuffed olives, those with anchovies or red peppers, salted almonds and peanuts make appetizing additions when served in cut glass dishes, for they are not onehalf so desirable if

carelessly put on. "Now our dinner is always sure to include a bisque of some sort, a fish and a roast with one or two vegetables and a simple dessert, so that with the few additions we have quite a

presentable repast. "I keep busy looking up new and pretty and unusual salads that will look nice as well as taste well. Too many of us fail to change the plan of our salads often enough and yet there are so many different sorts. I like what I call the spectacular salads; those that are something of a surprise to the eye as well as to the palate.

"One of these is the iced-stuffed tomato. Perfect, firm tomatoes must be selected and placed on the ice, then peel with a knife, not by the scalding method. The top is taken off clean-Radley's Drug Store method. The top is taken of cleanly and put aside to be used as a cover.
The interior of the tomato is carefully scooped out into a dish and mixed
with an equal portion of finely choply scooped out into a dish and mixed with an equal portion of finely chopped celery and finely minced spring onion, the amount to be regulated by taste or omitted if desired. A good mayonnais dressing is mixed with this, the tomatoes filled with the mixture, the cover slices adjusted without showing the break and the tomatoes returned to the ice. Served on a bed of cracked ice these make a delicious salad. Cucumbers may also be prepared in this way by making boats of the cold cucumber, unpeeled, and substituting the contents of the vegetable

for the celery. "A French artichoke makes an artistic salad when brought to the table with leaves outspread upon a folded napkin and the centre filled with mayonnaise after the uneatable lower portion of choke is taken out. Potato salad may be made into a thing of beauty by the addition of other coldcooked vegetables, such as beans, peas, carrots and beets used decoratively. A chicken salad may be made to look like a marguerite by serving it on a round white dish. Make the centre a mound and cover together. Halve the whites lengthwise and arrange about the dish to simulate the petals of a

Fan in Umbrella. A Texas man has invented a parasol inside of which is constructed a re-volving fan. The fan is worked by



nects with a gear wheel connected with the wheel at the end of the fan, and is sent spinning by a single pull of a ring near the parasol's handle. The owner thus obtains shade and breeze at the same time.

If grease is spilled on the kitchen floor or table, cold water poured on it at once will prevent the spot from

soaking into the wood. When peeling apples drop them in will not turn brown.

TOMMY'S TAFFY.

uron a time I knew a little who was so fond of candy he could never get enough, says The Examiner. He was always asking for sugar and sweets and always teasing his "auncie" let him "make taffy." So one day. he thought she would try to please him for once, and she gave him the malasses jug and a big pot, and told him just to go off and make all the

The longer the boy looked at the oot and looked at the jug, the more be felt quite sure that he could eat all the taffy the pot could hold, and therefore needed all the molasses the jug contained. So he just emptied the jug nto the pot, and set the whole thing

By and by the molasses began to thicken and get all bubbly; and by and by, after that, it began to get stringy and tough, and the boy knew that very oon it would drop brittle and hard into the cup of cold water in which he was "trying" it, and then it would be "done." It took two hours or more before the candy dropped "brittle and crackly" into the cold water; but at ast it was done, and the boy took his pot of taffy off the fire and began pouring it out into the buttered pans to

He first filled the biscuit pans and then the dripping pans and next the pie pans; and, after that the old saucer and cracked plates, and still there was taffy left in the pot. So he had to use all sorts of old odds and ends of pails and cups and plates to pour his candy into; and, at last, it was all

oured out and set to cool out-doors. When the taffy was hard enough to break, the little boy began to eat it; and, oh! how good that taffy did taste! I think he ate a whole panful at first, and part of a saucer full afterward, and he gave some to his aunt; but, oh, my! That wasn't very much! He had still all the big pans and all the biscuit tins and most of the pie plates that he hadn't even touched; and already he began to feel as if he didn't care so very much for taffy, af-

When his father and grandfather came home in the evening they ex-claimed with surprise at the quantity of taffy candy that was lying about on the kitchen shelves, in the pantry, and everywhere; and the auntie told the boy that he must try to eat up the taffy that he had been so anxious to make. But by this time the boy was "tired to death" of taffy, and felt sick and queer, and didn't even want to look at piece of candy. Nevertheless, the taffy had to be gotten out of the way. So the boy put it all together and rolled it into a big ball, and put it out on

the back porch. On the back porch it was sunny and warm, however; and soon the taffy began to melt, and the flies began swarm about it, and the auntie said

the taffy ball must be taken away.

By this time the boy was very much ashamed of that ball of candy; and he determined to put it out of sight, hiding it away where no one could see it and ask him "how he liked taffy." thought of digging a hole and hiding it in the ground, and the thought of tying a stone to it and sinking it in the brook; but he was afraid that in eithof the places it might be found, and cause more remarks about his fondness for taffy. So he thought for a long time, and finally he gave it to the

As for the little boy, he kept away from piggie, I can tell you, while there was any taffy left. He did not want any one to see him with piggie, while the candy was in sight; and no wonder, for they might have made comparisons, and ask which was the bigest one, you know.

An Appetizing Sauce. What is known as horseradish sauce -a delicious combination of egg and whipped cream with grated horseradish -is now one of the most popular of the appetizing sauces to be served with cold meat. Take the prepared herseradish, after it has been grated and allowed to become thoroughly saturated with vinegar. Squeeze every particle of the vinegar from three tablespoon-fuls of the horse-radish, and mfx thoroughly with the yolk of an egg and half a teaspoonful of salt. Add six tablespoonfuls of whipped cream and mix again. Serve with the meat, or on a separate dish bordered with par-

Minard's Liniment Cures Garget in



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LOW RATES, HEAVY TRAINS.

Through causes wholly beyond the reased competition between trunk the lower price of many commo dities, the rival service of trolley and cable lines, the improvement of road-ways for heavy traffic, the abolition of tollgates and the abandonment of ca-nal charges—there is a steady and ap-parent uncontrollable trend downward of transportation rates for freight on American railroads which is being me by economical operations in every de partment. Economy in the use of fuel, in the force of train hands employed and otherwise is possible, but the chief resource in meeting these reductions in revenue is by the increase of train loads. A general realization of this fact among American railroad men has led to a general new development of the facilities of transportation which bids fair to transform some of the old methods in use for handling freight.
The most marked economy in opera-

tion is attained through the lengthening of trains whereby a single engine without additional cost for train ser vice can draw as much as fifty per cent. additional freight through the use of heavier steel rails, the substitution of iron for wooden bridges, stone masonry for earth embankments, au-tomatic brakes for those operated by hand, stone for earth ballast and the gradual abolition of grade crossings which in many parts of the country entail considerable expense. Long freight trains are no more difficult to handle than short ones, provided always that the capacity of the locomo tive is not over taxed, that the roadbed is in good condition, and that the gradients are not too steep. On many American lines there is in constant progress a plan of modifying the steeper grades and doing away with curves, whereby the cost of railroad operations is lowered to keep pace with the reduction in the rates charged.

On all American roads last year, more than one billion tons of freight were carried and the operating expenses of American rafiroads were about \$1,000,000, exclusive of the sums devoted to new construction and to improvements on the roads, their equipment and their terminal facilities. The practical effect of the change must clearly be the great improvement of American railroad service, and evidences of this improvement are not. difficult to find, for with the addition to the carrying capacity of the roads through their improvement in construction and equipment, have come two other benefits, speedier service and a reduction in the number of accidents. Speedier service enlarges the market for shippers in many lines of product, especially in fruits, vegetables, dairy products and live stock and the reduction in the number of accidents has relieved the railroads in recent years of an onerous item of un-

productive expenditure. Kitchener Yields to a Boer Girl. While Lord Kitchener was engaged in suppressing the Prieka rebellion he ordered the destruction of a certain farmhouse. Not seeing any signs of his orders being carried out, he rode of the doomed farm stood a pretty young Dutch girl, her hands clasping the doorposts and her eyes flashing fire from beneath her dainty suffbonnet The Irish sergeant in charge of the party of destruction was vainly endeavoring to persuade her to let them pass in, but to all his blandishments of "Arrah darlint; wisha now, acushla," etc., the maiden turned a deaf ear, and a deadlock prevailed. Kitchener's sharp "What's this?" put a climax to the scene. The girl evidently guessed that this was the dreaded Chief of Staff, and her lips trembled in spite of herself. Kitchener gazed sourly at her, standing bravely though tearfully there, and turned to his military secretary. "Put down," he

ried cut owing to unexpected opposition. Forward, gentlemen."-London Evening News. The Baby on the Plough. Stories of Western life teem with adventure, battles with redskins, in which the white men have put their foes to rout, and of camp life in the

growled, "that the Commander's or-

ders with reference to the destruction

of Rightman's farm could not be car-

claim districts. There is another side to the story. One full of pathetic interest-the wo-

man's side. Take the case of Bridget Halpin, whose whole life has been spent on the Western border, and whose recent death has recalled memories of her. She was among the first pioneer wom-

en to venture into the West. With her young husband she settled on Superstition Mountain, then a rendezvous for Apaches, and with him courageously faced a death that seem-ed almost inevitable. Their plan was to work a rich mine in the vicinity of

the mountain. At the end of that time Mr. Halpin was shot, together with some com-rades, with poisoned arrows by ambushed Indians. His widow still clung to her little home with her chadren. Not daring to leave her youngest child at home while she ploughed her small acres, she constructed a sort of rude seat for it on top of the plough han-

Care of Rubber Plants.

woman who has great success with her rubber plants, according to an exchange, sponges off each leaf on the under as well as the upper side at least three times a week; more often still if the plant has been exposed to street dust or that of room cleanng. Only enough water is put on the earth in which the roots are planted to keep the soil from feeling hard.

Once a week the earth about the roots is loosened and two teaspoonfuls of castor oil are allowed to drip all about the roots, after which operati the earth is scratched back.



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