

## DOMESTIC RECEIPTS

**BRASS LACQUERING.**—If you want a good deep gold lacquer you should make up a small stock bottle, holding, say, half a pint, according to the following recipe. You can then add as much as may be required for the tint you wish to get: Alcohol,  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint; dragon's blood, 1 dram; seed lac,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  oz.; turmeric,  $\frac{1}{4}$  oz. Shake up well for a week, at intervals of, say, a couple of hours, then allow to settle, and decant the clear lacquer; and if at all dirty, filter through a tuft of cotton wool. Mix with the pale lacquer a day or two before you wish to use it.

**A GHOST STORY.**—A foolish fellow went to the parish priest, and told him, with a very long face, that he had seen a ghost. "When and where?" said the pastor.—"Last night," replied the timid man, "I was passing by the church, and up against the wall of it did I behold the spectre."—"In what shape did it appear?" said the priest.—"It appeared to be in the shape of a great ass."—"Go home and hold your tongue about it," rejoined the pastor; "you are a very timid man, and have been frightened by your own shadow."

**THE MAGIC THREAD.**—Soak a piece of thread in a solution of salt or alum, and affix to it a light wedding ring. Apply it to the flame of a candle, and burn it to ash, and it will, nevertheless, continue to support the ring.

**TO FIX A COIN TO A WALL.**—Privately notch the rim of a shilling, or any other coin, in so abrupt a manner that a sharp point of the silver may stick up. Take the coin in your hand, and clap it pretty sharp against the wall, at the same time press with your thumb the part that you know to be sticking out. By so doing the coin will enter the wood and remain fixed.

**MAGIC BREATH.**—Put some limewater into a tumbler, and breath into it through a small glass tube. The fluid, which before was perfectly limpid, will gradually become as white as milk; if allowed to remain at rest for a short time, red chalk will be deposited at the bottom of the tumbler.

**WET BOOTS.**—When the boots are taken off, fill them quite full with dry oats. This grain has a great fondness for damp, and will rapidly absorb the least vestige of it from the wet leather. As it takes up the moisture, it swells and fills the boot with a tightly-fitting last, keeping its form good, and drying the leather without hardening it. In the morning, shake out the oats, and hang them in a bag near the fire to dry, ready for the next wet night.

**A REMARKABLE PARROT.**—Henry VII. had a parrot which he kept in a room next to the Thames in his palace at Westminster. This parrot had learned to repeat sentences which it had heard the boatmen use. One day it fell into the river by accident, and called out loud, "A boat! A boat! Twenty pounds for a boat!" Immediately a waterman picked it out of the water and gave it to the king, and asked for the promised reward. This was refused, but it was agreed that, as the parrot had offered the sum, the man should again refer to its determination for the reward that he was to receive. The reference was made to the parrot, when it screamed out with all its might, "Give the knave a groat!"

**PRESERVATION OF EGGS.**—The *Journal of the Medical Academy of Turin*, in a recent number, says: The sure and simple method of keeping eggs sound by smearing the shells with linseed oil has long been practiced. The oil forms a sort of film over the shell, thereby preventing the two immediate causes of decomposition—evaporation from and penetration of air into the egg. A recent experiment in point deserves notice. A dozen new-laid eggs were rubbed over with linseed oil applied with the tip of the finger; another dozen were coated in like manner with poppy oil; two more eggs were left in their natural state. The whole 26 were then laid close together, in three rows, on dry sand upon a shelf, where they were left undisturbed. At the end of three months they were weighed, and again at the end of six months, when they were opened. The two eggs left in their natural state at the end of the three months had lost 11% of their weight, and at the end of six months 18%, and were found to be half empty and the contents rotten. The eggs coated with poppy oil in three months lost 3%, and in six months 44% of their weight. The eggs were still full and devoid of unpleasant smell. The eggs rubbed over with linseed oil in three months lost 2%, and in six months 3% only of their weight, and when opened were found to be full, with the smell of fresh eggs.

Are blacksmiths who make a living by forging, or carpenters who do a little counterfitting, any worse than men who sell iron and steel for a living?

## PARLOUR CONJURING.

**TO OBTAIN FIRE FROM WATER.**—A small quantity of potassium thrown on to the surface of a little water in a basin will immediately produce a rose-coloured flame.

**LUMINOUS WRITING.**—Place a small piece of solid phosphorus in a quill, and write with it upon paper. If the writing then be taken into a dark room it will appear beautifully luminous.

**TO LIGHT A CANDLE WITH WATER.**—Get a very small piece of phosphorus, and, with a little tallow, place it on the rim of a tumbler; next get a lighted candle, and after having extinguished it, hold it to the glass, and it will at once ignite.

**HOW TO MAKE AN EGG DANCE.**—Boil an egg hard, and break off a little piece of the shell at either end: then thrust in a quill filled with quicksilver, and seal at each end. As long as the egg is warm it will continue to dance.

**THE AFFECTIONATE CARD.**—This trick if properly managed will appear marvellous. Having forced a card upon one of the company, after shuffling it up with one of the back, you will know the card by feeling. You then take a small piece of wax and place it under the thumb nail of your right hand, and by this wax you fasten one end of a hair to your thumb, and the other end to the chosen card. By this means, when you spread your cards on the table, by drawing about your right hand, the chosen card will follow you all round the table as though attracted by some magic sympathy.

**HOW TO COOK AN OMELET IN A HAT.**—Inform your company that you are about to cook an omelet. You then borrow the best looking hat you can see among the audience, and while bringing it to the table, slip in, unperceived, a round tin dish with a bottom exactly in the center, the under part of which, it lies in the hat contains pancakes, and the upper part is intended to receive the mixture of flour, eggs, &c., which you have mixed up in a jar, and pour it into the hat, or rather into the tin dish, and while pretending to empty the jar, it is placed in the hat, and pressing its mouth over the sides of the tin dish, it lifts it out, batter and all, leaving only the pancakes.

## NOTES AND MEMORANDA.

**INGROWING NAILS.**—One of the deserved punishments which people suffer from the folly of squeezing their feet into narrow shoes and boots is an ingrowing nail. Mr. South recommends the following treatment for its cure. First get rid of the narrow shoe, so that the toe may be unconfined, and the nail allowed to recover its proper breadth, which, however, it does not do very quickly. Then proceed to relieve the sore skin by the side of the nail of its pressure. It is of no use, however, merely to cut away the pressing nail even freely, and then to press a piece of lint under its edge, which is as painful as it is useless; for the nail, if it is not otherwise managed, will drop, in the course of a few days, upon the old spot, and again render it "angry." The proper treatment is thinning the whole length of the middle of the nail, from its root to its end as much as possible; and this is best done by scraping it perseveringly with the sharp edge of a piece of glass, again and again, till the middle of the nail be as thin as writing paper, and will readily bend under the pressure of the finger nail. This is, at first, a rather painful operation; but the scraping must be done with a light hand. As soon as the middle of the nail has been thus thinned, it yields to the upward pressure of the skin on its side edges, readily bends, and offers no further resistance. The sore place being no longer irritated by pressure, the "proud" flesh soon drops down, and the sore heals. If narrow shoes or boots be again used, the foolish wearer may expect a repetition of his plague.

An instance of rare honesty, and showing how a dog may desire to pay his board bill, is said to have recently occurred in Fitchburg. A lady saw a dog frequently about her house picking up odd bits which had been thrown out, and one day she called him in and fed him. The next he came back, and as she opened the door he walked in and placed an egg on the floor, when he was again fed. The following day he brought another egg to pay for his dinner, and on the fourth day he brought the old hen herself, who it seemed had failed to furnish the required egg.

"WHAT are you about? you black rascal! Twice you have roused me from my sleep to tell me that breakfast is ready, and now you've awoke me by attempting to pull off the bed-clothes! What the duce do you mean?"—"Why, massa, if you isn't going to get up, I must hab de sheet anyhow, 'case dey'r wa'ting for de table-clof!"