

creamy look; the more you beat it the finer the cake will be, and it will not dry so soon as when it is coarser. Put in a greased pan, and bake at once in a moderate oven for about an hour. If you have no buttermilk or sour milk, add have sweet milk, use two teaspoonfuls of baking powder, instead of soda; or if you have no milk, you can mix with water. This cake, if not baked too hard, and kept in a covered tin or crock, will keep moist and nice for two weeks. A nice pudding that our men are fond of is made by soaking stale pieces of bread or crusts in cold water; when soaked, squeeze out. If you have nearly enough bread for the pudding, a little flour (half a cupful will be enough to add), and a cupful of suet, to two cups of bread and flour. Form it into a roll; put into the corner of the pudding-cloth, turn in the sides of the cloth, roll up, and pin in place; drop into boiling water, and boil for one or two hours according to the size of the pudding. This makes a nice, light pudding, which may be eaten with jam, syrup, or brown sugar. Quite a different pudding, almost as good as Christmas plum pudding, can be made by adding sugar, spice, currants and raisins; and making a sauce for it. There are so many inexpensive things which may be made, but it is the "know how." In my next letter, I will tell you how we manage our washing.

HELP-ON-A-BIT.

A FAVORITE POEM.

Dear Dame Durden,—We enjoy the "Advocate" so much now. There is something in it for everyone—from the youngest to the oldest. I got so many helpful ideas from the Ingle Nook. In reading it this evening I noticed the request sent by M. R. B. for the poem, "The Bairnies' Have Cuddled Doon." Now, I think I have the poem she wants, though it has a different title. I will send you a copy of it. With best wishes. M. M. M.

THE LAST TO CUDDLE DOON.

I sit afore a half-oot fire,
An' I am a' my lane,
Nae frien' or fremit dauners in,
For a' my fouk are gane.
An' John—that was my ain gude man—
He sleeps the mools amang.
An' auld frail body like mysel'—
It's time that I should gang.

The win' moans roun' the auld houseen'
An' shakes the a'e fir tree,
An' as it souchs it waukens up
Auld things fu' dear to me.
If I could only greet, my heart
It wadna' be sae sair;
But tears are gane, an' brains are gane,
An' baith come back nae mair.

Ay, Tam, puir Tam, sae fu' o' fun,
He fan' this warld a fecht,
An' sair, sair he was hadden doon,
Wi' mony a weary wecht.
He bore it a' until the en',
But when we laid him doon,
The grey hairs there afore their time,
Were thick amang the broon.

An' Jamie wi' the curly heid,
Sae hurly, big, an' braw,
Was cut doon in the prime o' youth,
The first amang them a'.
If I had tears for thae auld een,
Then could I greet fu' weel,
To think o' Jamie lyin' deid
Aneath the engine wheel.

Wee Rab—what can I sae o' him?
He's waur then deid to me;
Nae word frae him thae weary years
Has come across the sea.
Could I but ken that he is weel,
As here I sit this nicht,
This warld wi' aj its faucht an' care
Wad look a wee thing licht.

I sit afore a half-oot fire,
An' I am a' my lane,
Nae frien' hae I to dauner in,
For a' my fouk are gane.
I wuss that He wha rules us a'
Frae where He dwells abune,
Wad touch my auld grey heid an' say,
"It's time to cuddle doon."

The same poem has also been kindly sent by Mrs. J. B. C.

DAME DURDEN.

"Farmer's Advocate" office, London, Ont.

Domestic Economy.

To keep palms green and fresh-looking, and remove the dusty and faded appearance of the leaves, wipe each leaf separately with a cloth dipped in milk. This will at once give back their natural gloss and fresh green appearance.

Very often cakes stick to the tin, and it is difficult to get them out without breaking the cake. Wring out a cloth in cold water, and wrap it round the sides and bottom of the tin. Leave it for five minutes, then tip it up, and the cake will slip from the tin without breaking.

A woman whose sitting-room window looked out on a dreary blank wall, gave the matter a little thought, and devised an ingenious screen. She had a latticework made to fit the window inside the room, which she painted white, and then converted into a trellis for climbing ivy. The effect was charming, and the end was most successfully and artistically accomplished.

CUSTARDS.

To make custards successfully, cook the soft custards in a double boiler over hot, not boiling, water, and stir constantly. The custards to be baked should be set into a second dish half filled with warm water.

A good formula to use for custards of any sort is the following: One cup of milk, one egg, one tablespoonful of sugar, and flavoring to taste, added (in case of soft custards) after the custard is cooked, but while it is still hot.

To restore a soft custard which has separated or "curdled," set the dish in cold water, and beat with an egg beater until smooth.

For white sauces of the ordinary consistency used for cream toast, creamed vegetables, escalloped dishes and others, a very satisfactory formula is: One cup of milk, one tablespoonful each of butter and flour, and one-half teaspoonful of salt. There are several methods, equally good, for preparing the sauce, but this is the simplest in the writer's experience: Heat the milk slightly in the top of the double boiler. After rubbing together the butter and flour and salt, add a little of the heated milk and mix smoothly. Add the mixture to the rest of the milk in the boiler, and cook with the water boiling until well thickened, stirring occasionally to keep it smooth.

Book for the Kitchen.

After a perusal of Prof. H. W. Conn's new book on Bacteria, Yeasts and Molds, we have laid it down with the conviction that this is a little manual which should occupy a place beside the cook-book and medicine-chest of every kitchen. In an interesting manner, and in simple language, free from the excess of scientific terms which bars the ordinary reader from so many books of this kind, Prof. Conn has told the story of Bacteria, Yeasts and Molds, dwelling especially upon the part they play in domestic economy; describing those micro-organisms that are helpful and those that are harmful, and how the housewife may, to all practical purposes, utilize the one and eliminate the other. Bread-baking, canning, preservation of foods, prevention of disease, etc., are all dealt with in the treatise, but though ostensibly a book for the housewife, "Bacteria, Yeasts and Molds" incidentally opens up a world of scientific information so attractively told as to hold the attention of any reader interested from cover to cover. Publishers, Ginn & Co., Boston, Mass.; price, \$1. The book may be ordered through this office.

A Highland waiter once refused to serve the late Max O'Rell at table. "It's no to be expected," said he, "that a self-respecting Scotsman could serve him with civility. Did he no' say we took to the kilt because our feet were too large to get through trousers?"

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