

DAILY MAGAZINE PAGE FOR EVERYBODY

STORIES OF THE OPERAS

Rossini's "WILLIAM TELL." Condensed by ADRIEN TOURNIER

"WILLIAM TELL" is written around the historical drama of the same name, by Schiller. Its scenes are laid in Switzerland during the 13th century.

On the picturesque shores of Lake Lucerne, near the home of William Tell, the villagers are making joyful preparations for the shepherd's festival. Tell and his wife and little son join in the merry making, when they are visited by Melethal, their aged countryman, and his son, Arnold. The latter, a brave, stalwart young man, is torn between two desires: He longs to aid Tell and the patriots in accomplishing the downfall of Gessler, but he loves Matilda, the daughter of the tyrant, whom he saved from drowning.

Tell, fearing that Arnold may falter in his purpose, pleads with him to consider his country first. The young patriot valiantly pledges his support to Switzerland, and goes away to bid farewell to Matilda.

The festival progresses, Melethal performs the marriage ceremony for these young couples. In the midst of the merriment, Leuthold, a villager, rushes in crying out to his friends for assistance. He has killed a soldier who tried to abduct his daughter. The distracted man begs Rudolf to row him across the lake to safety, but the fisherman refuses, fearing the wrath of Gessler and a storm that is brewing. The soldiers approach. Tell leaps into the boat and puts off with Leuthold. Gessler, in revenge, sets fire to the home of Tell, destroys the entire village and then kills the beloved Melethal.

In the forest by the lakeside sits the lovely Matilda, thinking of Arnold. He comes to her and they exchange vows of love. They are interrupted by William Tell and Walter Furst, who seek Arnold, to tell him of the cruel death of his father. Remorseful and heart-broken because he had not been with his father when he was most in need of aid, Arnold bids Matilda a sorrowful farewell and casts his lot with his country.

The patriots follow the call of Tell, Furst and Arnold, avowing allegiance to Switzerland. They prepare to battle against the tyrant.

In the open square at Altorf, before the mansion of Gessler, a pole bearing a cap has been erected. The populace has been ordered to bow before it as a symbol of Gessler's power. From a high seat of honor the tyrant views the crowd and notices that Tell and his small son, Jemmy, refuse to obey the order. When charged with disloyalty, Tell is defiant, and Gessler, noticing the father's fondness for his only child, and recalling the patriot's reputation as a marvelous crossbowman, determines to punish him. He decrees that Tell shall shoot an apple from his son's head at one hundred paces.

Tell selects an arrow from among those offered to him, and conceals a second under his coat. He carefully aims and shoots the apple thru the centre. He faints with relief when his son is unharmed and the arrow falls from his coat. Questioned about it, he feignsly confesses that it was intended for Gessler had Jemmy been killed. The infuriated tyrant orders father and son put to death. But Matilda appears and demands the life of the boy, whom she takes away with her while Tell is sent to prison.

On the shore of the lake sits Hedwiga, Tell's wife. She grieves for her husband and child, when suddenly she hears Jemmy's voice. He runs towards her as he approaches with Matilda. Hedwiga asks after her husband, and Matilda tells her that he has been removed from the Altorf prison and taken across the lake. With anxious eyes the wife scans the stormy sky. Then Tell suddenly appears, relating how he has managed to escape, and how he had slain Gessler with an arrow. Arnold then comes to her and they exchange vows of patriots, who are happy that their hero is free.

Arnold strives to comfort Matilda as she weeps at the death of her father. Then the sun pierces the dark clouds of the storm and touches the mountain peaks as if in benediction. All unite in thanksgiving and pray that Switzerland may continue in peace and freedom.

FEMININE FOIBLES By Annette Bradshaw



TWO WAYS OF ENJOYING SPRING

Disinfection of Seed Potatoes.

THE treatment of seed potatoes with formaldehyde or with corrosive sublimate has been recommended for many years as a preventive of scab and other diseases carried on the tubers.

Such treatment is, on the whole, profitable, but has several limitations which should be clearly recognized to prevent disappointment, according to the specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture. Only surface infections are reached by this method. It is only partially effective against deep pits of common scab. Formaldehyde is less effective than corrosive sublimate against the black scelerotia or resting bodies of rhizoctonia or russet scab and against powdery scab. Neither chemical is ordinarily used to destroy silver scurf. The formaldehyde treatment consists in soaking the potatoes, before cutting, for two hours in a solution made by adding one pint of formaldehyde to 30 gallons of water. The solution can be used repeatedly.

Corrosive sublimate is used at the rate of 1-1000 for 1 1/2 to 2 hours. Dissolve two ounces of the salt in hot water and dilute to 15 gallons. This is a deadly poison. Use with great care. It must also be kept in wood, porcelain or glass vessels, as it attacks metal.

The Old Gardener Says

That coal ashes may sometimes be used to advantage in the garden. If the soil is very heavy they may be dug into it and will help to let the air in. If spread around the cabbage plants they will help to keep the maggot away. If used in the same way around larkspurs they will save these plants from the slug. If soil or wood ashes are placed in the holes when asters are set out, the root beetles will be routed. All simple remedies, but worth trying.

It is more effective than formaldehyde particularly against rhizoctonia and powdery scab. Do not use the same solution more than three times, as the strength diminishes with each lot of potatoes soaked.

Utilize the space between rows of peas and lettuce, radish or spinach seedlings. In planting clematis be careful to uncoil the roots, straightening them out in their natural form.

Early Tomatoes.

I have made a specialty of early tomatoes for several years and they pay well, the I have only a small garden. My tomatoes are ready a month before others have ripe fruit and I have no difficulty in disposing of my first crop at 70 cents a pound. Later they are sold by the peck and basket. A small plot nets me something more than \$40 a season, besides all we can use for the table and for canning.

The seeds are sown in a hot bed in February and when the plants are up they are gradually hardened off by opening the sash of the hot bed on warm days. As soon as possible several rows of plants are set out in the garden, setting the plants quite deep. When it turns cold each plant is covered with an upturned glass fruit jar. When the vines start running the shoots are pinched off, with the exception of the two most vigorous.

Seeds are also sown late for green tomatoes for pickles, for which there is a good sale.—Mrs. F. W. Hilbert.

How to Classify Fowls

ALTHOUGH there are several very excellent methods of classifying the many races of domestic poultry, there is none so good as by means of economic characteristics. It may surprise some to know that there are over a hundred distinct breeds of poultry, and upwards of three hundred varieties. Many of these are of no value to the utility poultry-keeper, since they are merely ornamental and possess neither laying nor table properties. Some times fowls are classed according to country of origin, and dividing the breeds thus we have the principal classes—the Asiatic and the Mediterranean.

The Asiatic is a large, heavy bird, possessing good edible qualities; the hen, as a rule, are poor layers, but reliable sitters. The Mediterranean, on the other hand, is a small-bodied fowl, carrying a single comb; the hens are heavy layers but poor sitters, while the flesh qualities are unsatisfactory. Another method of classifying is by means of color of plumage, in which case we have white birds, black birds, buff birds, etc., but since this serves no useful purpose to the utilitarian it is not worth while discussing it. Then, again, fowls are sometimes classified according to the presence or absence of leg feathering; to shape of the comb, to the possession of the fifth toe, and in many other ways, none of which, however, are of any practical value.

The best and only really satisfactory method of classifying fowls is by means of their economic qualities, since this denotes at once for what purpose a breed is most suitable. Dividing the varieties in this manner, we have four great classes, namely: (1) The table, (2) the non-sitting or laying, (3) the general purpose, (4) the fancy. To the fancy belongs by far the greater number of breeds, including, as it does, all the varieties of Bantam and game fowls. Fancy fowls are those that are bred or selected for their outward characteristics only—their plumage, shape, comb, wattles, and general appearance. From the fact that these points are correct, the number of eggs the hen lay, or the quality and flavor of their flesh, is of small importance. The fancy is a great and very valuable class, and there is not the least doubt but that had it not been for the fancy breeds of poultry, the industry, as a whole, would not be in anything like its flourishing condition.

Do not buy cheap tools. They are the most expensive in the long run. Remove the dead fronds from hardy ferns and work in a dressing of loam and sand among the crowns.

WHITE LEGHORN HENS ARE SPLENDID LAYERS

Eggs Are Large and White and Always Find a Ready Market.

OUR earliest records show that Leghorns were first introduced into the United States about 1855. Little attention was paid to them at the time, but in 1883 Mr. Simpson of New York purchased some of the fowls from a shipowner and later imported some white Leghorns direct. These came from the port of Leghorn in Italy, and from that fact the breed carries its name.

White Leghorns were the first to become generally known, after which the other varieties followed. The Single Comb white Leghorn is undoubtedly the most widely bred variety in America today, and its popularity is still growing.

No better laying hen has ever been developed, and most of the large commercial egg farms are stocked with them.

White Leghorns are hardy and industrious and not prone to become fat, which makes it possible to feed them heavily for egg production. They lay large white eggs, which are much in demand, especially in New York, where they command the very topmost prices. The Leghorn hen will probably respond more readily to highly concentrated feeding methods than any other variety. They are veritable egg machines. Hens laying over 300 eggs in a year are not uncommon in this variety.

Leghorn eggs are usually very fertile and the chicks develop and grow rapidly. Pullets often commence laying at 4 months old. The young cockerels make splendid equal broilers for which there is a steady demand.

They have long heads, bright prominent eyes and brilliant red comb and wattles, which make a striking contrast to their snowy white plumage. The back is long and curves gracefully into a low well-spread tail. Bone prominent in the breast and wide between the thighs, providing ample room for the egg and digestive organs.

Broodens occupy the same relative position to poultry culture on a profitable scale as do incubators, dining fountains and feed hoppers. The Egyptians did custom hatching in incubators 3000 years before the present Christian era, and yet the modern farm, equipped to supply hatching eggs or day-old chicks to its neighbors, is rare, profits going to waste in many cases.

Little Stories Told in Homely Rhyme

IT'S FISHING TIME.

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SINCE spring has returned I am languid and slow. My brain is a laggard for fair. The wheels in my head are refusing to go. The worst of it is, I don't care. Spring fever has got me; I'm tight in its grip. The thought of all labor I hate. I guess I'll just give all my duties the slip and go out and dig for some bait. I'm dreaming of fishpools and sinkers and lines; I'm dreaming of brooks and the like. To feel a fish tugging, my heart swims pines. I'm jealous of Walton's boy, like. The scent of the fields seems to be all around. You see, I imagine it is. Great Scott, how I'd like to get close to the ground and mingle with Nature—gee whizz! Say, listen, friend reader! let's chuck all our work and meet on the banks of the creek. Let's banish our worries and all things that irk—let's kick 'em aside, so to speak. Let's rig up our tackle and drop in our hooks; let's leave the old world to its fate. You'll go me! Hooray! Then it's me for the brooks! I'll go out and dig for some bait.

The Amateur Gardener

EVERY woman who loves flowers should attempt the culture of the chrysanthemum the coming season. If she succeeds, and there is no good reason why she should not if she is willing to give the plant the care it requires, she will wonder why she never undertook to grow this plant before. A dozen well-grown plants of choice varieties will enable a woman to give a flower show of her own each fall, for of all floriferous plants this one stands at the head of the list. And as for color it is magnificent.

To grow the chrysanthemum well it must be given a rich soil and kept going steadily ahead from start to finish. Any check which it may receive during its growing season will greatly lessen the chances of success with it. Therefore it is important that nothing should be allowed to interfere with its development. It likes a soil of garden loam made rich with rotten cow manure, but fine bonemeal can be substituted for the latter if there is no barnyard to draw on for material.

Watering is a matter of great importance. This plant, when making vigorous growth, requires an almost unlimited amount of water, especially in summer, when evaporation takes place rapidly. It will be necessary to give a daily application, and this application should be a generous one. If you allow your plants to once get really dry at the root they will rarely recover during the season.

If you want plants of tree form grow the young plants to a straight stake till about three feet tall. Then pinch off the top. Branches will start all along the plant, but rub off all but those at the top where you want the head of your little tree to be. If you prefer a shrubby plant, nip the back when only a few inches tall and encourage it to send out branches close to the pot.

Tender or half hardy annuals can be sown in the open ground the first of June.

For real artistic beauty in flowers of large size, the single variety is pre-eminence. It has little in common with the large and more massy double varieties, but is infinitely superior in charm and exquisite simplicity of form. A mass of immense golden stems seems to crown each flower, and the combination of soft pink, white or rose-colored petals, in conjunction with the feathery-like yellow-stemmed centre, inspires admiration. No other flower do we find such a wealth of golden anthers so fully developed as in the single penny.

The handsome flowers average from seven to nine inches across, the colors in many varieties almost defying description. Some are pure snowy white, others bluish white, lilac white, rose pink, crimson to almost purple crimson, with shades between.

Put tomato juice, water and butter in clean pan and bring to boil. Then add breadcrumbs, stir and remove from fire. Separate yolks and whites of eggs; beat yolks and add to breadcrumbs; chop onion finely and mix in together with seasoning and the pulp of the two tomatoes. Beat whites of eggs to stiff froth and add. Bake in a soufflé dish in a moderate oven.

INGREDIENTS: 6 ounces breadcrumbs, 2 large tomatoes, 1/2-pint water, 1/2-pint strained tomato juice, 4 eggs, 1 onion, 1 ounce butter, Pepper, salt, mace.

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