

MUFFINS—two and a-half cups flour, two eggs, one teaspoon sugar, piece of butter size of an egg, three-fourths of a cup sweet milk, four even teaspoons baking powder.

ORANGE CAKE.—Two cups sugar, two cups flour, one-half cup cold water, yolks of five eggs, whites of four beaten to a stiff froth, pinch of salt, one teaspoon soda, two teaspoons cream tartar.

GINGER BREAD.—Two eggs, one-half cup sugar, one-half cup shortening, one cup molasses, one teaspoon ginger, one teaspoon soda.

FRIED CAKES—Three eggs, one cup sugar, one cup butter, three cups flour, one cup water, one cup of raisins rolled in flour, one teaspoon soda, two teaspoons cream tartar.

SPICE CAKES.—one-half cup molasses, one-half cup sugar, three and a-half tablespoons melted butter, two-thirds of a cup cold water, lump of alum size of a chestnut in the water one teaspoon soda, three teaspoons ginger.

GINGER CAKE—One cup butter, one cup sugar, one cup molasses, one and a-half teaspoons soda, two teaspoons ginger, one teaspoon vinegar

JELLY CAKE.—Two eggs, one cup sugar, two tablespoons butter, three tablespoons water, one teaspoon soda, two teaspoons cream tartar.

JOHNNY CAKE—One quart sour milk, one-half quart water, one-half cup sugar, one and a-half teaspoons soda.

COFFEE CAKE.—One cup of strong coffee, prepared as for drinking, one cup of sugar, one cup of butter, or lard and butter mixed, one cup of raisins, one and a half teaspoons of baking soda, add flour enough to make it as stiff as stirred cake. This quantity will make two nice sized cakes.

VINEGAR PIE—one-half slice bread crumbed, one cup vinegar and water in equal parts, two even teaspoons flour, one-half cup sugar; essence.

LEMONADE.—Four pounds sugar, four quarts water boiled and poured on the sugar, four ounces tartaric acid, one ten cent bottle lemon essence.

Rust may often be removed from steel tools by immersing them in kerosene oil for a few days. This loosens the rust so that it may be rubbed off. Where the rust is not very deep-seated emery paper will do, but if of long standing the tools must be refinished.

The simplest and cleanest substance for cleaning silver articles is, according to Professor Davenport, hyposulphite of soda. It acts quickly, and is inexpensive. A rag or brush, moistened with a saturated solution of the salt will cleanse even strongly oxidized silver surfaces in a few seconds, without the application of any polishing powder.

BLUE AND BLACK INDELIBLE INK—Dissolve in a solution of iodide of potassium in as much more iodine as it contains, and pour this solution into one of yellow prussiate of potash, containing as much of the solid prussiate as the whole amount of iodine. Soluble Prussian blue precipitates, and iodide of potassium remains in solution. After filtering, the precipitate is dissolved in water, and forms a blue ink, which cannot be removed from paper without destroying it.

Economical Hints.

A strip of thick paper laid over the edge of each stair under the carpet will preserve a stair carpet from wearing through one-third longer than otherwise.

Clean brass kettles before using, with salt and vinegar, to avoid being poisoned by the verdigris.

Gum tragacanth dissolved in water makes a good and cheap paste which will keep when it is sealed up.

The flavor of common molasses is much improved by boiling and skimming before using.

Damp tea leaves scattered over the carpet before sweeping, improve the colors and give it a fresh clean look.

When you want a dust pan, have it made to order, with the handles turning down instead of up, so as to rest on the floor, and tip the dust pan at the proper angle for receiving the dust. It is a great convenience, as you do not have to stoop and hold it while sweeping.—*Household*.

OUR BIOGRAPHICAL BUREAU.

WALT WHITMAN.

[Written for the Family Circle.]

BY R. M. BUCKE, M. D.

Few men of all those who have ever lived have excited in their contemporaries such strong and such diverse feelings as Walt Whitman. By the majority of those who know anything about him he is regarded with a mixture of aversion and dread. By these people his writings are considered immoral, irreligious and indecent, and again and again reviewers of this class have pronounced the man himself unfit to be admitted into decent society. On the other hand W. D. O'Connor, J. H. Burroughs, Frank W. Walters and many others, who have known both the man himself and his writings long and intimately are as extreme in their admiration as are the former class in their denunciations. O'Connor has identified him with Christ, Burroughs declares his belief that he is the initiator of a new and higher phase of society, Walters and many more pronounce him the chief poet of the modern world, while others consider him the founder of a new religion more spiritual and elevating than Christianity itself. Then personally, while on the one hand there are undoubtedly thousands of men and women, in the States and Canada who would on no account suffer Walt Whitman to enter their homes, so strong is their feeling against him, on the other hand I do not believe it is an exaggeration to say that their are hundreds who would not only freely sacrifice all they possess but cheerfully endure any suffering for his sake. The man of whom all this can be said must possess extraordinary qualities of some kind.

Walt Whitman was born on 31st of May, 1819, at West Hills, Suffolk County, Long Island, New York State. His ancestors on his father's side were farmers owning land outside the village of West Hills. His mother's ancestors, the Van Velsors, were farmers and stock-raisers, they owned a large farm a mile and a-half from Cold Springs, also in Suffolk County. The Whitmans were, and are, a large, long-lived race of stern, rather silent men of indomitable resolution, hospitable and warm-hearted, fond of children and animals, good neighbors. The Van Velsors seem to have been more liked though they could not be more respected than the Whitmans, and Louisa, the daughter of Major Van Velsor, wife of Walter, and mother of Walt Whitman, is universally pronounced by those who were personally acquainted with her to have had an extraordinary affectionate and intuitive nature, and she seems to have been universally beloved and revered by all who knew her. When Walt Whitman was still a child his parents removed to Brooklyn. He went to the Common School there, and at thirteen years of age entered a printing office and learned to set type. At the age of seventeen and eighteen he taught country school on Long Island and shortly afterwards established and edited the "Long Islander," a weekly paper, at Huntington, L. I. When about twenty he returned to Brooklyn and New York, and for the next ten years he lived in those cities, working in printing offices and writing for newspapers and magazines. In 1849 he started on an expedition through the States, crossed New York and Pennsylvania and passed down the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, travelling very deliberately and making many pauses and detours. He lived over a year at New Orleans, and edited a paper there. Returning he ascended the Mississippi and kept on north until he reached the Straits of Mackinac, then descended the lakes to Niagara, and from there crossed New York State and so returned in 1851 to New York City, which was again his home for the next ten years.

About this time (1851 or 52) he began to think of "Leaves of Grass," that is to say the feelings and thoughts (dim and formless at that time) which eventually took shape in "Leaves of Grass" began to present themselves in his mind. From time to time he wrote and actually composed several volumes, which he successively destroyed, before he succeeded in expressing what he wanted to say. By the summer of 1855 he had written twelve poems which satisfied him, and these he printed in a small book. In 1856 the second edition was issued by Fowler & Wells of New York. It