

repaid in knowing that it is all safe from flies and mould, and ready at a moment's notice. If it is put away early, it gives plenty of time to use the "bones," before they spoil, and what is of more consequence, the meat retains in a great measure, the sweet taste of new ham. I have practiced this method several years, and always have some on hand as late as November, that is perfectly sweet and good, I keep the jars like the sausage, in the coolest place I have above the cellar. If I wish to save one or two, to boil, I put them into bags made of stout muslin, sew them up tight and then dip them into thick whitewash, and then hang them in a cool dark place.

I like to make my soap as early in the season as possible, before the grease gets rancid and mouldy, so I generally take the warm pleasant days, that we always have here, the last of March, to make my yearly supply, both hard and soft, the hard soap first. For this I use the gravy that remained in the jars after I had used out the sausage last year. I had melted it, strained out all the fine scraps of meat, and then had a fire made under the "big kettle" in the wash house; put in it 8 gallons of water, 2 pounds of clean unslaked lime, and 6 pounds of soda ash, (we can get the last, here, for ten cents per pound,) when it is boiling hot, strain it, and return it to the kettle, then add 12 pounds of clean grease. Let it boil slowly three hours, then put out the fire and let it cool. The next morning there is a hard cake of soap in the top of the contents of the kettle, this I cut in pieces and take out with a long handled ladle, touching it as little as possible with the hands, as the liquid underneath is very strong. Put the pieces in a clean kettle, add one pound of borax, pounded fine, and let it melt, stirring it well together, and when hot, pour it into a shallow mould that has been previously well soaked in water. Mine, John made for me, is two-feet long, twelve inches wide, with two movable partitions lengthwise of the box. When the soap is perfectly cold, I take out the partitions, and it is in long bars. These for convenience I generally cut in pieces of proper length for use, set them in an airy place, not in the sunshine for the first day or two, as it would cure them out of shape, afterward, dry perfectly, and then pack away in a dry place. The liquid remaining in the kettle is strong enough to make another lot by adding 4 or 5 pounds of grease, it will not quite equal No. 1, but is good for many uses. Whatever remains after No. 2 is finished I leave in the kettle for the soft soap. The process of making soft soap is far more difficult to describe from the fact that the materials as gathered in a farmer's household, can hardly be measured or weighed with much accuracy, but I will do the best I can to give my own method, as I find so many try, and as often fail of having a good article. The best house-

keeper in the neighborhood, asked me the other day for directions, saying she had kept house nearly thirty years, and had never been able to make any to her own satisfaction.

First, John makes a leach that will hold about three barrels of ashes, he puts a few sticks in the bottom, then a handful of hay, (so that the ashes will not clog the outlet,) then half a peck of unslaked lime and then the ashes, adding occasionally a bucket of water, and pounding down the ashes moderately hard, and when full, leaving a shallow place in the centre to hold the water. This leach I wet with hot soft water until it begins to drop at the outlet, and then I like to let it stand a few days, so that the ashes will get perfectly soaked. A kettle that will hold ten pailsful is the very best for making soft soap, as you can boil half a barrel at a time, with ordinary care, without its boiling over.

When I am ready, I commence putting hot soft water into the leach again, and when it begins to run off, I save all that will float an egg sufficiently to see a white place as large as an old fashioned copper cent. This I divide into two equal parts, then I put into the kettle two or three quarts of it, and add, say, six gallons of ordinary soap grease, mine was rinds from the hams, and other meat scraps from the lard, and other waste grease, pressed in as closely as I could with my hands. I let it boil slowly, stirring it often, until the grease is dissolved in the lye, or nearly so, then I add a quart or two at a time the strong lye that I intended for the first half barrel, and then a pailful or more of that, that will not bear up an egg. After this has boiled an hour or so, I take out a little in a bowl, and let it cool if not as thick as I wish. I add, a little at a time (to that in the bowl) weak lye, stirring it well together, until I can tell what is needed, always using the weak lye in preference to water. As a general rule, this amount of grease will allow adding sufficient lye to make a half barrel of prime soap. It needs about six or seven hours constant boiling and when finished, I strain it into the barrel through a piece of coffee sack or an old seive.—*American Stock Journal.*

#### THEORY AND PRACTICE.

We hold that no merely Theoretical knowledge is so perfect, deeply fixed, or readily acquired and retained, as that which is obtained by practice. Let us take a familiar example to prove and illustrate our position. Before visiting a distant Town or other place of interest, we always form an idea of its characteristic features and general appearance, from what we have heard others say, or what we have read of it in books or elsewhere; but yet if these descriptions have been most minute, and correct in every particular. Who ever visited a strange place and found it to

be just what he anticipated? Not one! There will be many peculiarities, of which he had never heard, and others, which he had in part, or wholly misapprehended, and the result is that the place, of which he has now obtained a knowledge, by personal observation, is quite a different one from that which he had before pictured in his imagination. The fact is, he before had a THEORETICAL knowledge of the place, and he now has a PRACTICAL one, and finds that the two are quite unlike each other. Just so with regard to the knowledge which we acquire of the different arts and sciences. Who would trust his life, or that of his friend, in the hands of a Physician who had acquired all of his knowledge of the "Healing Art" from books or the simply oral teachings of another? or Who would think of employing a man to construct a Locomotive, who had studied its construction ever so closely from books, but was totally destitute of experience in the use of the tools, and the different mechanical operations necessary to its beginning, progress, and completion? We cannot become successful surgeons by the study of the best works on Anatomy and Physiology, but must also have actual experience in the Dissecting Room and Hospital in connection with those already skilled in the art. Neither can we become adepts in any of the mechanical arts or natural sciences, without actually practising the several operations included therein.—*The Educator.*

#### FEMALE EDUCATION.

LET the education of the young woman be commensurate with her influence. Is it true that, in the completion of social life, she is the mistress of that which decides its hues? Then let her be trained to wield this fearful power with skill, with principle, and for the salvation of social man. Does she sometimes bear the sceptre of a nation's well-being in her hand? Cato said of his countrymen, "The Romans govern the world, but it is the women that govern the Romans."

The discovery of this very continent testifies to the political influence of women. Who favored the bold genius of Columbus? Do you say Ferdinand of Spain? I answer Isabella, prompting her partner to the patronage he so reluctantly bestowed. Her influence unexerted, the Genoese mariner had never worn the laurel that now graces his brow. Will you now leave this allpotent being illiterate, to rear sons debased by ignorance, and become dupes of the demagogue?

Look at the domestic circle! Not more surely does the empress of night illuminate and beautify the whole canopy of heaven, than does woman, if educated aright, irradiate, and give her fairest tints to her own fireside. To leave her uncultivated, a victim of ignorance, prejudice, and the vices they entail, is to take pang sharper than death. For the love and honor of our homes, let us encourage the most liberal culture of the female mind.—*Young Maiden.*