

FOR SPRAINS AND BRUISES.—Take half a pound each of beef tallow, beeswax, resin and stone-pitch, and one pint of lard oil. Boil together for half an hour, remove the scum and pour into cups. For use, spread it on kid and apply. It gives immediate relief, and is good also for domestic animals as well as man.

PRESERVING CUT FLOWERS.—Cut flowers in vases will keep much longer if the vases are filled with white sand, and with water enough barely to cover it, or rather to keep it thoroughly wet. Water by itself rots the stems, so that they lose the power of drawing up moisture; but this does not occur so readily where they are thrust into the wet sand. The sand should be washed by having water poured on it and drained off before use; otherwise, the salt which all sea sand contains will prove injurious. As wet sand is an unhandy thing to put into vases, it is well to have it washed and dry beforehand.

A French chemist recommends putting sal ammoniac to the water in which cut flowers are placed say 5 grains to a pint and a-half of water, to preserve them. They will retain their freshness by this means, it is said, for a fortnight.

REMOVE THE FLOWERS.—The *Garden* says: "All lovers of flowers must remember that one blossom allowed to mature or 'go to seed' injures the plant more than a dozen buds. Cut your flowers, then, all of them, before they begin to fade. Adorn your room with them; send bouquets to your friends who have no flowers, or exchange favors with those who have. On bushes not a seed should be allowed to mature."

DOING UP SHIRTS.—First have the clothes well washed and well wrung out, and laid in your clothes basket; then make your starch—cook until very thick; to every quart of boiled starch put in one teaspoonful of sugar. Dip your collars and cuffs and the shirt-bosoms in the thick starch, just as hot as the hand can bear; rub in well; wring out, shake and hang up to dry. Fold down the evening before you want to iron. Before you begin to iron see that your irons are clean and smooth and your fire well regulated; have a good clean iron-holder and bowl of water, with an old napkin in it; set on your iron-table; next take up a shirt, shake out well, as that helps to get rid of the wrinkles; iron all but the bosom, then put in your bosom board, stretch it out well, wring out your napkin and give it a good rubbing up and down; then iron it until it looks dry (now you are about half done). Wring out your napkin and give it another good rubbing and iron as before; continue in so doing until the glossy appearance suits you, as I know it will if you only persevere. Don't be afraid of rubbing with a wet cloth; in that way you can do away with all the wrinkles and blisters. Iron collars and cuffs in the same way, and have starched things well dried before laying away. If you want to use what is called cold starch, dissolve the starch in cold water, dip clothing in, roll up and iron as above. I have experimented both ways, and like boiled starch best; it polishes better, is more pliable, and isn't half as "boardy" as cold starch.—*Chicago Tribune*.

WEDDING.—"Student" writes:—"I am about to be married and would like information on two or three points:—1st. What do I need for a wedding suit, what material, etc.? 2nd. Is it customary for the groom to offer the bride presents? If you think it my duty to make a present, what would be suitable? 3rd. I am to be married in church—should the groom and groomsmen leave their hats in the vestibule, or should they carry them in their hands?" At a stylish wedding in a New York church a month or two ago, the bridegroom and groomsmen were dressed in black broadcloth, white vests, white kid gloves and white neckties. The groom walked in with the bride's mother, then the six bridesmaids and groomsmen, then the bride, dressed in white silk, trimmed with lace and flowers, with orange blossoms in her hair, a long, sweeping, lace veil, and leaning on her father's arm. The bridesmaids were dressed in white, with tulle veils reaching to the floor, with bouquets of cardinal red in their hair, and large bouquets of the same color in their hands. No recollection of hats lingers in the memory; they may have been left in the vestibule in care of the sexton. It is customary for the bridegroom to make the bride a present, but the impulse to this is commonly supposed to be love and not duty, and the gift varies indefinitely. The "reception" takes place immediately after the ceremony, at the residence of the bride's father, or on the return of the wedded pair from their bridal tour.

Recipe for an Appetite.

My lad, who sits at breakfast
With forehead in a frown,
Because the chop is underdone
And the fritter overbrown,

Just leave your dainty mincing,
And take, to mend your fare,
A slice of golden sunshine,
And a cup of the morning air.

And when you have eat and drunken,
If you want a little fun,
Throw off your jacket of broadcloth
And take an up-hill run.

And what with one and the other,
You will be so strong and gay,
That work will be only a pleasure
Through all the rest of the day.

And when it is time for supper,
Your bread and milk will be
As sweet as a comb of honey.
Will you try my recipe?

A PLEATING MACHINE.—Mrs. Abel B. sends a description of a pleating machine which does its work well, and which she invented. Any one who chooses can make one like it without being prosecuted for infringement of patent. Take a board one inch thick, ten inches wide, eighteen inches long, and draw a straight line one inch distant from the edge of each side. Take heel-nails used by shoemakers and drive them just a quarter of an inch apart on the straight lines. Before driving the nails make holes for them with an awl, and drive them just far enough to have them firm in the board. Now, take two pieces of wide tape the length of the board, lay the tape just outside of the nails to the edge of the board, draw it firmly and straight, and fasten at each end with a carpet tack. Get one and a half pounds of galvanized wire the size of very large knitting-needles and cut it into pieces ten and a half inches long. Now, fasten with a pin the trimming you wish to pleat around one of the wires, and place the wire outside of the first nails on the board at the right hand. Have the right side of the trimming next the board, the next wire under the tapes and over the trimming, and between the second and third nails; the next wire under the trimming, over the tapes, and between the first and second nails. This makes one pleat. The wires should be perfectly straight and the trimming kept firm and straight while being placed. When the wires are all placed, lay a damp cloth over and steam with a moderately hot iron. Confine the pleats with a strong thread before taking out the wires.

WOMAN'S MARRIAGE.—To marry one man while loving and loved by another is about the most grievous fault that a woman can commit. It is a sin against delicacy, against kindness and truth. It involves double treachery and cruelty. It involves wounding the spirit, withering the heart, perhaps blighting and soiling the soul of one who is abandoned and betrayed. It involves the speedy disenchantment of the one who is mocked by the shadow where he was promised the substance, and who grasps only the phantom, soulless beauty, and the husk, the shell, the skeleton of a dead affection. It entails ceaseless deception at home and abroad, by day and by night, at down-sitting and up-rising; deception in every relation, deception in the tenderest and most endearing moments of existence. It makes the whole of a life a weary, degraded, unrewarded life. A right-minded woman can scarcely lay a deeper sin upon her soul or one more certain to bring down a fearful expiation.

COURTSHIP IN BULGARIA.—When a young man in Bulgaria wishes to get married, he sends his female and male relatives to the object of his adoration with presents, generally materials for costume, which are carried on trays by several young boys who are followed by gypsy musicians. If the fair one thinks that her admirer and the presents are good enough, she sends back gifts by the same people, and straightway the pair are engaged. Their marriage follows a few days after, when a quaint-looking wreath of boxwood plant is placed on the head of the bride, which she is obliged to support for forty days. After that time has elapsed, she is supposed to become settled in life, and the headgear is cut shorter every now and then till her head subsides into its ordinary shape.

A Good Garden.

Years ago Horatio Seymour told me how to have a good garden. His plan was—and it has been mine ever since—to have a small, sunny patch where lettuce and tomatoes and early peas may be started, and then in the field plant everything else. Here with horse culture and good tillage, vegetables will grow and beat the fussy, pent-up, gardening way of most farmers, who generally grow a hundred weeds to one vegetable. "Before breakfast and noon times" (the time allotted to the garden), grow less and less as hoeing time and harvest press upon the hours and energies, and so when she most needs it, the good housewife finds garden sauce scarce, and at the very time it ought to be plenty, and she must set a table scanty in variety and often in fullness when the voracious appetites of long days and growing boys come into the kitchen—and they are sure to come, and often with dissatisfied looks, if not complaints. A few rows across the cornfield set apart for peas, beans, squashes, beets, early potatoes, &c., would have made a wondrous difference. It is no more—not so much—of a task to hoe "garden stuff" in the field as corn, for coming good dinners lend a helping hand, but working in the garden pulling weeds and grubbing up the ground with a hoe is hard work, and every farmer's boy will shirk it if possible, and the paterfamilias too, unless he be possessed of rare grace and goodness.—*F. D. Curtis, Kerby Homestead*.

Never read or sew with any light from the window or a lamp falling directly upon the eyes. Millions have lost their good eyesight from non-observance of this simple rule. It is founded on scientific principles which we will not take room to explain at length. The light direct upon the eyes contracts their pupils, so that not enough rays are admitted from the printed pages or fabrics sewed, to make them plain to the sight. Always sit so that the light from the window or lamp shall fall over the shoulder, usually over the left one as it will not be obstructed by the right hand in sewing. Another advantage, and a great one, is, that when facing the light, one naturally inclines forward to save the eyes. This cramps the chest and lungs, and is injurious to the health; but with the light from the side, or over the shoulder, one inclines to sit in a much more upright and healthful position. Every one who follows this suggestion, will find it conduce to comfort, health, and good vision.

BEAUTIFY YOUR HOME.—It is a great mistake to suppose that money spent in reasonably improving a place is thrown away. It may be doubtful whether there is any more direct way of increasing its pecuniary value. Certainly its market value will depend very much upon its outward appearance. Tasteful and well-painted buildings, well-arranged garden with neat fence, shade trees properly disposed, good farm fences and cleanly-kept fields, will set off a farm to great advantage and make an amazing difference when it comes to be sold. And if it be not sold these things will add wonderfully to the enjoyment of its possessor, if he be not blind to everything but the dollar. Every man owes it to the community in which he is living to contribute to the general reputation and public enjoyment by making his surroundings as attractive as possible. A measure of time and expense should be devoted by everyone to the making of his farm and his home more beautiful year by year.

A CURE FOR STAMMERING.—A Canada journal contains a letter from a correspondent who professes to have been a stammerer from childhood almost to manhood, and who wishes to give others the benefit of the treatment by which he was cured. He says: "Go into a room where you will be quiet and alone, get some book that will interest you, but not excite you, and sit down and read two hours, aloud, to yourself, keeping your teeth together. Do the same thing every two or three days, or once a week, if very tiresome, always taking care to read slowly and distinctly, moving the lips but not the teeth. Then, when conversing with others, try to speak as slowly and distinctly as possible, and make up your mind that you will not stammer. I tried this remedy, and read for two hours aloud, with my teeth together. The first result was to make my tongue and jaws ache—that is, while I was reading; and the next to make me feel as if something had loosened my talking apparatus, for I could speak with less difficulty immediately. The change was so great that every one who knew me remarked it. I repeated the remedy every five or six days for a month, and then at longer intervals until cured."