

ing was considered just as necessary as house-cleaning. Strong lye was obtained by water draining through hard-wood ashes, pounded compactly into a leach. It required a number of days to obtain sufficient lye to make a barrel of soft soap. As fast as the lye filtered through the leach, which was generally a slow process, it was emptied into the caldron kettle, and when several pailfuls were obtained, all the refuse grease of the household was added, and a fire started beneath the kettle, and the mass boiled until the grease was consumed by the action of the lye, after which the right quantity of lye was added to make it of the right consistency for family use.

Soap-making involved much hard labor, as well as some experience, as the whole process was purely one of luck and chance; but if one happened to combine the correct quantities of fat and lye, the process was less tedious. This made a good soap for many household purposes, and for laundering coarse fabrics it was considered indispensable. The majority of families at the present day buy their soap in bars or by the box, or else manufacture it for family use, which latter is by far the most economical and desirable way, as one then knows just what materials enter into the compound. As inexpensive and cleanly soap, good for all household purposes, can be made from Babbitt's potash, put up in one-pound cans. Any clean fats can be used, such as drippings (if first melted and strained), or lard or tallow, which is generally free from impurities. The purer the fat the whiter the soap, as a matter of course.

To make hard soap, empty the contents of a pound can of Babbitt's potash into a kettle containing one quart of cold water, which will make it boil. Stir it with a stick until dissolved and it becomes cool. Now melt six pounds of clean fat until just lukewarm, and then begin to stir the lye slowly into the grease until well incorporated. The stirring should continue about ten minutes. It is then ready to turn into molds. It will be fit for use in

the course of a week, but like all other soaps it improves with age.

We know of no soap or compound that facilitates laundry work more easily or speedily than this. We fill the wash-boiler (on washing day) half full of soft water; to this we add perhaps three square inches of this soap, sliced and dissolved in boiling water, after which we add the least soiled fabrics and boil half an hour; then rub them slightly through a sudsing water and rinse through two waters, the last slightly blued. We now add more cold water to the boiler, and if necessary more soap, and proceed with the second batch as with the first.

THE TREATMENT OF FELONS.

Felons occur most frequently on the last joint of the fingers or thumb of the right hand, says a doctor writing for the "Youth's Companion." They are localized acute inflammations, resulting from the presence beneath the skin of certain poisonous organisms which have gained admission through a wound. This wound is very likely a scratch or a prick so slight and insignificant that abscess. Immediate relief from all suffering follows the emptying of the abscess, and the wound quickly heals if care is taken to keep it absolutely clean.

The Garden and Orchard.

(CONDUCTED BY MR GEO MOORE).

THE POTATO.

(Continued).

Diseases of the potato.

The long courses of unnatural methods of propagation have doubtless contributed in no small degree, to the development of disease in the potato. In most countries where it came into use as a general field crop, it soon began to show tendencies to disease, and from about the beginning of