

Scientific and Useful.

PERMANENT WHITENESS.

With the return of spring comes the usual inquiries for a good whitewash. We have only to repeat the following directions given before, as follows: Take half a bushel of unslacked lime, slake it with boiling water, covering it during the process to keep in the steam; strain the liquid through a fine sieve or strainer, and add to it a peck of salt previously well dissolved in water; then p... and send rice boiled to a thin paste, and add it in boiling hot; add a pound Spanish whiting, and a pound of clean glue which has been previously dissolved by soaking it first, and then hanging over a slow fire in a small kettle inside a large one filled with water; add five gallons of hot water to a mixture, stir it well, and let it stand a few days covered from the dirt. It should be put on quite hot; for this purpose it can be kept in a kettle on a furnace. A pint of this mixture will cover a yard square of the outside of a house, if applied with a large paint-brush.

FECUNDITY OF FISHES.

It is said that probably about 60,000,000 or 70,000,000 codfish are taken from the sea annually around the shores of Newfoundland. But even that quantity seems small when we consider that the cod yields something like 3,500,000 eggs each season, and that even 8,000,000 have been found in the roe of a single cod! Other fish, though not equalling the cod, are wonderfully productive. A herring six or seven ounces in weight is provided with about 80,000 ova. After making reasonable allowances for the destruction of eggs and of the young, it has been calculated that in three years a single pair of herrings would produce 154,000,000. Buffon said that if a pair of herrings were left to breed and multiply undisturbed for a period of twenty years, they would yield a fish bulk equal to the globe on which we live. The cod far surpasses the herring in fecundity. Were it not that vast numbers of the eggs are destroyed, fish would so multiply as to fill the waters completely.—Scientific American.

MAKING BREAD.

A housewife writes: "I have been making such good bread lately that I concluded not to hide my light under a bushel, so I will let you into the secret. For two ordinary loaves I boil about six white potatoes, with the skins on. When they are done, I take them out, skin them and mash them nicely with a small piece of lard, then add to them about half a pint of flour, and pour the boiling water on the mess. Beat it until it is smooth and white, and when cool enough add a cake of yeast well dissolved in a little water, with a lump of white sugar in it. Stir it in well; cover up and set in a warm place until morning, when it ought to be very light, then add a little warm water and enough flour and salt as usual. I use all the sponge at one baking. Well, the bread will get very light; then grease your pans and form the loaves, and when light, bake them. When the bread is done, I simply turn it upside down until it is cool, then wrap it up; it will be very soft, and I think you will like it.

"While on the subject, perhaps another receipt would be acceptable during the high prices: Sift so much corn-meal as you think sufficient, add a little salt, and pour boiling water on it, beat it until smooth, grease a hot griddle, and put on the cakes with a spoon; do not have the batter stiff or too thin. When done, spit and butter; we like them very much for a change. Yellow meal would probably be as good for those who like it."

HOW THIMBLES ARE MADE.

The manufacture of thimbles is very simple, but singularly interesting. Coin silver is mostly used, and is obtained by purchasing coin dollars. Hence it happens that the profits of the business are affected instantaneously by all the variations in the nation's greenback premises to pay. The first operation strikes a novice as almost wicked, for it is nothing else but putting a lot of bright silver dollars, fresh from the mint, into dirty crucibles, and melting them up into solid ingots. These are rolled out to the required thickness, and cut by a stamp into circular pieces of any required size. A solid metal bar of the size of the intended thimble, moved by a powerful machinery up and down in a bottomless mould of the outside of the same thimble, bends the circular disks into the thimble shape as fast as they can be placed under the descending bar. Once in shape, the work of brightening, polishing, and decorating is done upon a lathe. First the blank form is fitted with a rapidly-revolving rod. A single touch of a sharp obisel takes a thin shaving from the end, another does the same on the side, and a third rounds off the rim. A round steel rod, dipped in oil and pressed upon the surface, gives it a lustrous polish. Then a little revolving steel wheel, whose edge is a raised ornament, held against the revolving blank, prints that ornament just outside the rim. A second wheel prints a different ornament around the centre, while a third wheel with sharp points makes the indentations on the lower half and end of the thimble. The inside is brightened and polished in a similar way, the thimble being held in a revolving mould. All that remains to be done is to beil the completed thimbles in soap suds, to remove the oil, brush them up, and pack them for the trade.—Exchange.

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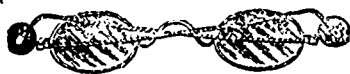
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