

## HOUSEHOLD.

### Boiling a Potato.

'We often hear the remark that some would-be cook "cannot boil potatoes." The truth is, few cooks prepare this dish properly,' says Alice Dynes Fealing, B.S., in 'Good House-keeping.' 'The girl who understands science knows that the potato does not boil. The water boils, and the heat conveyed by this medium cooks the starch and softens the cellulose of the potato.

Physics has taught her that, under ordinary pressure, water never becomes any warmer after the boiling point, (212 degrees Fahrenheit, 100 degrees Centigrade) is reached; therefore she allows the water to remain at boiling temperature until the heat has penetrated and cooked the vegetable. She then removes the water at once, and has a mealy, flaky potato. True, without her knowledge of science she might obtain the same result accidentally; but she is quite as likely to continue the cooking until the starch is partly dextrinized and a gummy, sticky potato is the result.

The unscientific cook is quite likely to endeavor to hasten the cooking process by adding fuel to the fire, thus causing violent boiling, believing that she is thus attaining her object. She may cause the vegetable to break by the mechanical action of the water, or the liquid may splash over the stove or pass off in steam, but in no case is the cooking accomplished in less time. Thus a knowledge of the simple laws of physics prevents a waste of fuel, a point in economy well worth consideration.

### An Easily-Made Meat Safe.

Every housewife in towns knows the difficulty of finding satisfactory larder arrangements, and is apt to envy her country sister to whom space is not such an object, and who more often than not rejoices in the possession of a wire-covered safe or outdoor larder. Fresh air is a necessity, yet flies must be kept out; meat keeps best when hung up, yet it must not be left uncovered. A most handy arrangement may be made of coarse muslin or mosquito net. Get two lengths of thin cane and make them into two circles by binding the ends together with stout twine. Then take enough muslin to make a bag that will go round the circles, join this up for all its full length, fix the two circles inside at some distance from each other by running the muslin together round the cane, thus enclosing it in a tuck. Draw up the muslin at the top and fix it to a ring by which the whole can be hung up. Into this ring put an ordinary iron butcher's hook, so that you can hand a joint of meat on it by a loop of string. When the meat is inside, the lower edge of the muslin is to be gathered up in a bunch and tied tightly with string. The air can then get to all parts of the meat, but no flies find an entrance, and this handy little contrivance can be hung quite close to the window without fear of danger from insects. If the muslin gets soiled after a time, it may be washed by soaking in hot water in which a little soda has been dissolved.—'League Journal.'

### Household Hints.

To clean a taffeta silk skirt take equal parts of water and ammonia and rub on with a brush.

Spiced grapes are a good relish for meats and so easily made that any housekeeper can slip in at least one batch in preserving-time. The grapes are in the right condition when not quite ripe. They should be washed thoroughly and simmered till soft in just enough water to cover them. Press through a sieve to remove the stones and the skins, and to ten pounds of the fruit add five pounds of sugar, two quarts of vinegar, one tablespoonful ground cinnamon, two teaspoonfuls ground cloves, with one of allspice. Grate in a whole nutmeg and return to the fire to boil down to about the consistency of thick catsup before sealing in jars.

A good way to use up the bits of soap that form from time to time in the bathroom is to get out a new cake before the old one breaks

in two. Soften the surface of both cakes a little by using, then press the thin cake up against the new. Let them dry together before using, and the old piece will adhere to the new and get used without any waste.

Although the odor of lavender is agreeable to most people, the flies do not like it; it's probably too clean a smell for their taste. If a room is sprinkled with an equal amount of water, they will vacate it.

It is a good plan, when crocheting wool, to place the ball of wool in a china basin; the basin being smooth inside it does not pull out, and unwinds quite easily, and so saves much trouble of getting entangled and soiled by rolling on the table, floor, etc.

Sweet white clover gives a pleasant perfume to sheets and pillow cases. Pull while the sun is shining on it and put in cheesecloth bags.

A housekeeper writes to an eastern contemporary: 'It gives me pleasure to inform you what will entirely exterminate, root out and destroy every moth, whether in carpets, clothes or furniture. I have a large house full of the richest carpets, all are very woolly, also rich furniture, all of which has been in use since 1875, and not a moth has been seen at this date. But the first year we moved in we had millions, although everything was new. Twice a year I take turpentine and a paint brush, and saturate the edges of carpets all around, move all the furniture, and get at the dark and dusty corners and in the dark closets. I rub the brush all over if carpeted. For rich furniture take paper and wet it with turpentine, and nail the paper under the sofas and chairs. The smell of this will drive out the moths and kill their eggs.—'Northwestern Christian Advocate.'

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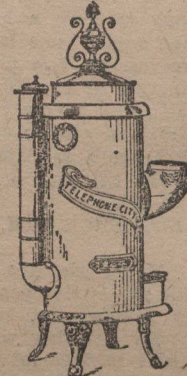
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