

Ladies' Department.

FAMILY MATTERS

Carrots boiled and then browned in butter are an appetizing dish at this season.

Common soft soap well rubbed on mildew stains and exposed to the sun will take them out entirely.

If a little kerosine is mixed with stove polish, it will assist greatly in improving the look of rusty stoves.

Oxalic acid will almost always remove stains left by mud which cannot be removed with soap and water.

Kerosine will soften boots and shoes that have been hardened by water, and will render them pliable and new.

If the brass top of a coal oil lamp has come off it may be repaired with plaster-of-Paris, wet with a little water, and will be as strong as ever.

Tinned meats and vegetables should be made hot in the tin before the latter is opened, by placing it in hot water and heating it for awhile.

If cayenne pepper is sprinkled plentifully in the resorts of rats they will resent the inhospitable treatment, and will retire from the premises.

Some one says a good dressing for leather is made of one quart of vinegar, two ounces of spermaceti oil, and six ounces each of molasses and ivory black.

If stove polish is mixed with very strong soap suds, the lustre appears immediately, and the dust of the polish does not fly around as it usually does.

A carpet, especially a dark one, often looks dusty, when it does not need sweeping; wet a sponge in water, (a few drops of ammonia helps to brighten the color), wring it dry, and wipe off the dust.

"There is one thing about babies," said a recent traveler; "they never change. We have girls in the period, men of the world, but the baby is the same self-possessed, fearless, laughing, voracious little heathen in all ages and in all countries."

To purify the air of the cellar, and to destroy parasitical growth, a German authority says: Put some roll brimstone into a pan, set fire to it, close the doors and windows as tight as possible for two or three hours; repeat this inexpensive operation every three months.

Burns and scalds are soonest relieved by an application of cold water. Dry carbonate of soda, or baking soda, sprinkled over the burned spot, is the latest remedy, and it is said to be very effectual. These means are only temporary. In severe cases a physician should be sent for.

Knives with ivory handles, which have become loosened or fallen out entirely, can be cemented at home and with small expense, by using this cement. Take four parts of resin, one part of beeswax, one part of plaster of Paris, fill the hole in the handle with the cement, then heat the steel of the handle, and press it firmly into the cement.

THE DISEASE OF QUININE.—Professor Bartholow and Da Costa agree that the antipyretic dose of quinine is not less than five grains every two hours until four doses are taken, or else thirty grains in two or three doses close together. The former believed a small dose of morphine given with quinine is the best thing to counteract the unpleasant cerebral symptoms of the latter.

Baked eggs are sometimes relished by those who find fresh ones greasy and indigestible. Butter a deep pie plate, then put in the eggs, taking care not to break the yolks of any, put a little lump of butter on each egg, and a little pepper and salt, too. If the oven is hot, the eggs will be cooked sufficiently in four minutes. As soon as the whites are firmly set they are done.

One of the most valuable receipts for a

white layer cake is this: One cup of butter beaten to a cream, with two cups of sugar; add one cup of sweet milk, three cups of flour, with two teaspoonsful of baking powder mixed with it and the well-beaten whites of five eggs. This is also delicious if baked in a loaf, with a large cup of chopped raisins in it; then put them in last, reserving a little of the flour to sprinkle over them.

Woman's Gardening.

When boiling down lye for soap, throw the bones in a kettle of lye, boil till soft, take them out and dry them. Have them powdered till fine; mix them with a quantity of earth from the wood-pile, say a peck to a half-gallon of bones, a gallon of sandy loam and a half-gallon sweepings of hen-house. Mix well and sift on a large cloth. Put the coarse left in sifter, in the bottom of pots or shallow boxes, fill up with the fine earth to within one inch of top; plant tomato, celery, cress, lettuce or flower seeds, water with hot water; sift over enough earth to cover them, lay a pane of glass over each, set over the mantel-piece till sprouted, then in a sunny window or in the open air when warm. Water when dry, and sift more earth when they grow too tall.

Thus you may have plants to set in the open ground as soon as the earth becomes workable. I always raise my celery in this manner, and transplant to the trenches in June.

The tomato plants may be lifted with a spoon and put singly into small pots and turned out into the ground in April, when broken fruit jars may be inverted over them until they become established; after which train them to supports as soon as necessary, and water with liquid fertilizer at the roots when about to be hoed.

These same fruit jars, or bottomless bottles, will do to turn over the cucumber or melon plants as soon as they appear above ground to protect from bugs. Or four bricks may serve as a wall, with a pane of glass on top. I have a fine Niagara Grape vine in a jar, already budding for its new growth, cut back to the second bud.

In the same pot is another plant with pealike or locust foliage growing vigorously in the midst of other little seedlings just coming up from the fresh sowing of a week ago. The vine and pea are biennials from last winter's planting. I used the same pot for sowing some early annuals. I can turn the whole mass out, separate the roots of grape and pea, and put them in the ground in May.

I have not brought out my numerous boxes and tubs from the cellar yet. When it is warm and settled I shall bring them out, clip off the dead branches, stir the earth around the biennials, sow more seeds, sift over fresh earth, and allow the rain and sun to do the rest. I have in the yard stout posts set in the ground with rounded planks nailed on top. Upon these I set the tubs that have a chief plant in centre, say a calla, and around this a row of gladioli, or tuberoses, because these plants require so much water; particularly the calla. Then the plants requiring heat or warmth, I put in sand, such as Tradescantia, pansies, Madeira Vine. My large stationary grapevine baskets became receptacles for many pot plants—verbenas, petunias, etc.; and vines are running all over it, hanging in graceful festoons.

Hints on Picture Frames.

In framing photographs, engravings and etchings it is usual and proper to interpose a mat of some tint between the subject and the frame, because the immediate proximity of the solid frame to a colorless composition would be in too strong contrast, and would tend to flatten the presentation of solid objects. White mats should be avoided, because the high lights in photographs, engravings and etchings are white, and a mat of the

same robs them of much of their value. In some instances the values of the composition are strong enough to require a gold mat, but this will be found most effective where the wall covering is very sombre in tone, or exceedingly brilliant and pronounced in character. Sometimes two and even three mats of different thickness, different materials, and of such difference in width as to form a graduation of tint, are found to be very effective, and set in a light, decorated gold frame. This treatment is particularly happy with mezzotint engravings, but each instance requires a special treatment. However, it is safe to assert that, with a few exceptions, the frame, in which the mat and all are included, should be slight, and generally flat in form, whether of wood or gilt, whether plain, moulded, or decorated. Many absurdities have been perpetrated in what I believe are called rustic frames, with branches of kindling wood on the angles, and looking, when hung, like some large and curious insect. In framing water-colors the same general rules apply, though white mats are more effective with a bevelled edge next the subject, and this bevelled edge should generally be gilt. Often a few lines, hot pressed, or in black or gold, or both, carried round within some fraction of an inch of the subject, serve to vary the monotony of a plain mat, and make the transition from subject to mat less abrupt. The texture of a mat is a nice question. The choice ranges from the smooth hard surface to the roughest.

This question, like all the rest, depends not only on the subject, but the light and wall paper against which it is to be seen. The whole question is one of harmony, to be realized by analogy or by contrast, and often by both; but some protest should be entered against framing two pictures exactly alike because they are of the same size, and are hung in the same relative position to some central object. Where such precision of symmetry is necessary, a work of fine art should not be sacrificed to it. If a picture is worth hanging at all, it is worth framing and hanging intelligently, and a frame can always be devised that will make the most of it.

Cooking Potatoes

The universal principle of cooking all vegetables must not be forgotten in preparing potatoes, for the addition of salt, even with the potato, is a most essential thing. The quantity, of course, varies much, but will generally be found to be of the proportion of a large teaspoonful to half a gallon of water. Most vegetables require to be plunged into boiling water; but in some cases the potatoes should be placed in cold water, otherwise, the outside would become pulpy or watery before the inside got soft. Middle-aged potatoes should be boiled in lukewarm water, in which, if liked, a little mint may have been placed. When quite new, they require only to be rubbed in a cloth, not peeled. Potatoes which cannot come under the head of new should be well washed, and, to my thinking, those boiled in their skins are preferable; but as this is an idea in which many of your readers may not concur, let them select the quantity they require, and peel with a sharp knife (if a peeler, a most useful and inexpensive adjunct to the kitchen, be not at hand), and place them in a stewpan; pour the water over them with the addition of a little salt, then put the lid on, and if it does not fit quite close place a weight on the top, or the bubbling of the water will force it open and thus allow some of the steam to escape. Thus keep them for twenty minutes, and after drain all the water off; by this means, the water having no time to soak in, the potatoes will become mealy, otherwise they often appear semi-mashed. Then place the stewpan on the boiler at the side of the fire, with a cloth folded into several thicknesses, over the

potatoes instead of the lid. The yellow potato, though not so slightly on the dinner table as its brother the mealy, has the advantage of being a better boiler, and one which does not require so much attention, not being so readily broken. To steam (by adopting which method the potato becomes more digestible and more ready in appearance), first wash and pare, then throw each as it is finished into cold water; drain and put into a steamer, which place on an ordinary saucepan, filled with boiling water. Be careful that your steamer fits quite tightly, or the steam escaping will not allow the vegetables to cook; cover closely, and keep them boiling until sufficiently cooked, which can be ascertained by plunging a fork into one of them; if done the potato will appear soft. Shake the steamer over a bowl a few times in order to give them a mealy look. The time depends much on both the size and kind of potato, but varies from twenty to fifty minutes.

By land or at sea, out on the prairie, or in the crowded city, Ayer's Cathartic Pills are the best for purgative purposes, everywhere alike convenient, efficacious, and safe. For sluggish bowels, torpid liver, indigestion, bad breath, flatulency, and sick headache, they are a sure remedy.

The excavations at Olympia, in Greece, have been resumed, and are now proceeding at the expense of the Athens Archaeological Society. An Athenian gentleman has given 200,000 francs for the erection of a museum, which is making good progress.

Peter Kieffer, Buffalo, says: "I was badly bitten by a horse a few days ago and was induced by a friend, who witnessed the occurrence, to try Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil. It relieved the pain almost immediately, and in four days the wound was completely healed. Nothing can be better for fresh wounds." See that you get the genuine Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil, as there are imitations on the market.

The death is announced, at the age of 92, of Benjamin Gratz, the youngest brother of Rebecca Gratz, who was the model from which Sir Walter Scott drew his beautiful character of Rebecca in "Ivanhoe."

Miss Mary Campbell, Elm, writes: After taking four bottles of Northrop & Lyman's Vegetable Discovery and Hygienic Cure, I feel as if I were a new person. I had been troubled with Dyspepsia for a number of years, and tried many remedies, but of no avail, until I used the celebrated "Hygienic Cure." For all impurities of the blood, Sick Headache, Liver and Kidney Complaints, Constipation, etc., it is the best medicine known.

A HOME DRUGGIST TESTIFIES.

Popularity at home is not always the best test of merit, but we point proudly to the fact that no other medicine has won for itself such universal appreciation in its own city, state, and country, and among all people, as

Ayer's Sarsaparilla.

The following letter from one of our best-known Massachusetts Druggists should be of interest to every sufferer:—

RHEUMATISM. "Eight years ago I had an attack of Rheumatism, so severe that I could not move from the bed, or dress without help. I tried several remedies without much if any relief, until I took AYER'S SARSAPARILLA, by the use of two bottles of which I was completely cured. I have sold large quantities of your SARSAPARILLA, and it still retains its wonderful popularity. The many noble cures it has effected in this vicinity convince me that it is the best blood medicine ever offered to the people."
—E. F. HARRIS.
Liver St., Buckland, Mass., May 11, 1882.

SALT RHEUM. GEORGE ANTHONY, owner in the Lowell Carpet Corporation, was for over twenty years before his removal to Lowell afflicted with Salt Rheum in its worst form. His eruptions actually covered more than half the surface of his body and limbs. He was entirely cured by AYER'S SARSAPARILLA. See certificate in Ayer's Almanac for 1883.

PREPARED BY
Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass.
Sold by all Druggists; \$1, six bottles for \$5.