



USEFUL HINTS.

A firmer and more delicate grain is secured in cake by stirring the dough only in one direction.

If the outer skin is cut from the leg of mutton before cooking, there will be no occasion to complain of the strong flavour.

It is a saving of time and temper to cool eggs when the whites are to be whipped. A little salt expedites the frothing.

When broiling steak throw a little salt on the coals and the blaze from dripping fat will not annoy.

In a basin of water, salt, of course, falls to the bottom, so never soak salt fish with the skin side down, as the salt will fall to the skin and remain there.

A room with a low ceiling will seem higher if the window curtains hang to the floor. Lambrequins may be used to extend the curtains to the ceiling, and thus carry out the effect.

A useful paste can be made of gum tragacanth and water, or of gum arabic and water. It may be agreeably scented and can be kept from souring by adding a little ground cloves.

Never wash a jelly bag, strainer cloth, pudding bag or dumpling nets with soap. The next thing that is put into or passed through these things will surely taste of the flavouring of alkali.

To cure felons mix one ounce Venice turpentine with one ounce of water, and with a smooth stick mix and spread a thick coating of it around the finger; bind on with a cloth and renew daily.

If the feet are painful after long standing or walking great relief can be had by bathing them in salt and water. A handful of salt to a gallon of water is the right proportion. Have the water as hot as can comfortably be borne.

CARE OF UMBRELLAS.—After coming in out of the rain let the umbrella down, and stand it on the handle, that it may dry in this position. The water will thus drip from the edges of the frame, and the cover dry uniformly. When placed with the handle upwards, as is frequently done, the water runs to the top of the umbrella, and the moisture is there retained by the lining underneath the ring for some length of time, causing the silk or fabric with which the frame is covered to become tender and soon rot. Ordinarily the top of an umbrella wears out sooner than any part of it, and in the majority of cases may be thus accounted for. A silk umbrella is much injured by being left open to dry; the silk becomes stretched and stiff, and will sooner split thus cared for. When not in use let the folds hang loose, not fastened down. The creases are less apt to split from such usage. When carried in the hand, in anticipation of rainy weather, the folds may be strapped down, as it adds to the neatness of its appearance.

LADIES' MISCELLANY.

FANCY WORK.—At this season many ladies will perhaps find a few hints as to holiday presents useful. Besides, such things are much more appreciated when you make them yourself than if they were bought.

A PRETTY TABLE SCARF.—A pretty table scarf, made of fine linen, twenty by twenty-four inches wide, may have above the wide hem a border of drawn work in intricately woven designs. The centre should be embroidered in white, in heavy satin stitch, and the veins and outlines of the flowers traced with dead gold threads, intermixed with a silken web of golden brown silk. The design may be in a running pattern of flowers, with a flight of birds and circling butterflies. In discs outlined with twisted golden threads are cupids in grotesque attitudes—one is riding astride a gigantic butterfly, while another conducts his aerial steeds with slender threads of brown and gold.

A USEFUL WORK TABLE.—Altogether new and taking is a design for a little work-table of white enameled wood. The top is composed of two flaps that open outwards and disclose a firm, square work bag with compartments for scissors, thimble, needlebook, and so on. The outside of the bag is draped with Indian silk finished off with pompons. When the flaps are closed it makes a convenient occasional table, and the top is to be tastefully painted with groups of flowers.

NEEDLE NOTES.—Leaves may be couched with veining in stem stitch. Some of the larger leaves may be slightly worked out from the centre. Buds may be done in long and short stitches from the outer edge, and the calyx couched with a few stitches introduced to show the bend of the leaf. Some flowers in embroidery may be couched around the edge with different shades, with the centres worked out in long and short, artistically shaded, with hearts of knots of soft yellow-brown with touches of dull red. A kind of bold embroidery which answers very effectively in place of solid work is a combination of fine couching and long and short work, from the outside to the centre in some forms, and the reverse in others. Stem work may all be done in fine couching in natural colouring, that is, in two shades of green, and in some cases in wood-browns. Stems may also be done in one or two rows of stem stitch with sketchy stitches here and there through it. In carrying out a cut-

work design suitable for tray-cloths, centre-table mats, or for a cake-basket square, select fine linen. Run the forms of the design closely with the linen thread and the cross threads should be caught from the edge of the already-run pattern until the next crossing thread is reached. Button-hole the rim patterns closely. Small circles may be made in wheel form as in lace work. After the whole work is button holed, cut carefully along the button-holed edge under the crossing lines, leaving the whole in an open, lace-like effect.

FASHION NOTES.

A graceful garment, quite new in style, to be worn over an accordion-pleated house dress, is made of velvet, lined with either a contrasting or harmonizing colour. It has Zouave front, and is sleeveless, and is finished with long Directoire coat-tails at the back. It is called the "Directoire slip," and, put on over a dainty gown, a rich effect is given at moderate expense, for the slip can be made of five yards of velvet.

A simple but attractive gown worn at a five-o'clock tea recently was copied from a Paris-made dress, but of a different colour and quality. The gown was of a lovely tint of heliotrope silk. Hanging straight all round, the skirt was, as fashion directs, excessively full, though there were no visible aids to the fullness at the back. At the hem was a deep border of heliotrope velvet considerably darker than the dress in shade. The perfect-fitting corsage had Empire fronts of velvet on either side. The sleeves were fashioned with a long, loose puff to the elbow, meeting a close coat-sleeve of the velvet, which buttoned up the arm on the outside. The very simplicity of the style lent a charm to the gown.

Some of the new autumn wraps have wide sleeves, in order to go on comfortably over the puffed sleeves of the gown. Many of the mantles are themselves made with puffed sleeves gathered into a deep Cromwellian cut of fur or velvet. A great deal of beaver and astrakhan is used in trimming cloaks and short coats for the winter. Many of the new sealskin wraps are fancifully trimmed with various kinds of fur bands, capes, hoods and deep collars. The elegant effect, however, is lowered, and the garment has invariably a made-over look. Trimming a seal coat is like painting a lily. The less trimming such a garment has the richer it looks.

CHIT-CHAT.—The dress of the mistress of the house has a bearing on her influence. Injunctions as to care and precision in the household work come with greater emphasis from one who is habitually neat in attire, than from one whose slovenly looks are a perpetual example of untidiness everywhere.

Ringol is a new English out-of-doors game for ladies. It is played with grace hoops and sticks and two nets eight feet high and ten feet wide. It is proposed to make it rival and rule out tennis, if possible, as it exercises both arms, both shoulders, both hands and the whole body in the running and turning necessary to catch the hoops before they reach the goals or nets.

LINES

written after looking at some views in the suburbs of St. John, N.B., in the DOMINION ILLUSTRATED.

I know how fair the sunny mornings rise

O'er those dear distant hills—

I know how deeply blue the arching skies,

What peace the landscape fills,

When evening's beauteous lights their tints unveil,

And softly shines afar,

In tender radiance, o'er hill and dale

The lovers' twilight star!

I know how fresh and free the strong airs blow

Up from th' encircling sea!

Ah me! ah me! the years that come and go,

They bring no more to me

The dreams that nestled round my heart the while

I walked those pleasant ways,

And looked, while wrapped in youth's gay morning smile,

Through her transporting haze!

These all have flown—but does it look the same

To other eyes than mine?

Do others mark the well known glories flame

At morn and vesper time?

Do feet that bound to the heart's music still

Frequent each lovely spot?

Then, then—my star, shine on o'er dale and hill,

Shine on, and miss me not!

Toronto.

MARIAN J. WILLS.

OTTO HEGNER.—This young genius, whose appearance at the Queen's Hall on Wednesday last, was greeted with enthusiasm by an appreciative audience, will appear in a matinée at the same place on Saturday next. His touch and execution fulfil all the expectations entertained regarding him on the basis of previous successes. He comes to this city under the direction of Henry E. Abbey and Maurice Grau. He is accompanied by the Mendelssohn Quintette Club, of Boston, and Mrs. Pemberton Hincks. The programme of the matinée comprises choice pieces from Brahms, Ardit, Liszt (Rhapsody No. 2), Schubert, Beethoven (Sonata Opus 53) and other masters. There ought to be a large attendance from music-loving circles.

THOMAS HOOD.

(Concluded.)

Hood's time in Germany was principally devoted to preparing "Hood's Annual" and "Up the Rhine," and his leisure hours were devoted to correspondence.

Five months after his arrival at Rotterdam his wife and family joined him at Coblenz. They found him in a sad state of health, he never having fully recovered the terrible suffering he experienced while on board the Lord Melville. Besides, he was so thoroughly disgusted with the German system of medicine that he absolutely refused to call in a doctor. In spite of his strong will, however, his wife was obliged to obtain the services of a physician shortly after her arrival in the new country.

But she soon found that Hood's dislike for anything German was fully shared by herself.

In a letter written to their dearest friends, Dr. and Mrs. Elliott, of Stratford, she said: "The only one thing about Germany is the coffee, and that is really a sort of Evening Brown Stout. It is roasted, or as they say here, burned, at home; and is so different from the coffee obtained in England that Hood says THAT coffee is made from horse beans. Tea is bad and dear.

I have heard of German cousins, but I am sure we are no relations or we should be more upon speaking terms.

We are only on talking terms with the butcher and the doctor (both in the killing line), but Hood manages to get along with a little bad French.

All our dinners are ordered per dictionary, but we still get onions for turnips and radishes for carrots.

It sounds farcical, but it is quite true that I sent for a fowl the other day for Hood's dinner, and the servant returned with two bundles of goose quills."

One great surprise to Mrs. Hood was that they were able to get sweet milk, the Germans had such a craze for everything sour. Their wine was sour. They pickled plums in vinegar. The very spring water was acid, and was called sour water.

The vinegar made from Moselle, however, was superb and pickled cucumber Hood said was *superlative*.

Although Hood was such a great sufferer, he never lost spirits. One has only to read his letters to his friends to realize this.

In one of these letters he concluded with his experience at Coblenz as follows: While his wife was ill in bed, smothered by pillows and blankets, suffering from a terribly inflamed eye, in rushed their maid, and without any warning, suddenly enveloped Mrs. Hood's head in a baker's meal-sack just hot from the oven; prescribed as a sudorific and the best thing in the world for an inflamed eye, by the bake wife. That between the suddenness of the attack and her sense of the fun of the thing, Mas. Hood lay helplessly laughing, while Graddle, the servant, partly in German, partly in English, called the children out of the room.

Hood's idea of happiness was centred in the happiness of others. He cared not for clubs, dinners, society, or any other life in which his wife did not join. His children were regarded as part of himself, and though young, were allowed to have their little say at the end of their father's letters written to persons whom they knew. Here is one of them: Tommy has grown and is very fat; he has two sharp teeth, and he bites my fingers when I put them in his mouth; I can say how many months make a year and how many weeks make a month; and, oh, I have a great house for my dolls and three rooms in it and I can't say any more for my head aches and I have a great many teapots and mugs, and I have got a cold and a kitten. To this Hood added:

All of this stuff is Fanny's, every line,
For God's sake, reader, take them not for mine.

In 1836 Hood commenced a tour through Germany, making special drawings of what he saw and considered would be of value for publication in "Up the Rhine." During this tour he made many friends, but the one who stuck closest to him was a young Prussian officer named Tranch. This gen-