

THE HOUSEHOLD.

The Editors are prepared to answer all questions on matters connected with this Department.

(Specially prepared for THE POST and TRUE WITNESS.)

The following menu for Friday is taken from the New York Freeman:

- Oyster Soup, French Baked Rice, Broiled Kook Fish, Boiled Onions, White Potatoes, Macaroni with Tomatoes, Lobster Salad, Fig Pudding, or Biscuit and Apple Jelly.

Take 100 oysters or less, according to circumstances—out of the liquor. To half of the liquor add an equal quantity of water. Boil it with one teaspoonful of crushed allspice, a little mace, some cayenne pepper and salt. Let it boil twenty minutes, then strain it, put it back in the stew-pan, and add the oysters. As soon as it begins to boil, add a teaspoonful of cream, and a little grated cracker, rubbed in one ounce of butter. As soon as the oysters are plump, serve them.

Put a small cup of rice on to boil with a pint and a half of milk. When it is cooked quite soft and as stiff as it can be stirred, turn it out, sweeten, put a tiny pinch of salt to it, a large teaspoonful of vanilla extract, the grated rind of a lemon, and when it is a little cooled the yolks of two eggs beaten. It should now be about as thick as mush.

Butter a small shallow pan, square or oblong, cover it with bread crumbs and put in the rice, smoothing it over on the top. It should be in a layer about an inch and a half deep; or, oil a little butter (over the tea-kettle) and pour over the top, starting the pan so that it will cover the rice equally. Sift fine sugar thickly over the top, and put into the oven to bake a light brown. Then cut it into two or three strips of an inch broad and two or three inches long, like a delicate cake. To make it very dainty, chopped almonds may be strewn into the sugar of the top before baking.

In cleaning silver, kerosene may be used to advantage. Carpets may be brightened by dusting with a damp flannel mop.

Fig stains can be removed by rubbing them with common table salt. Rub soiled furniture with a wooden cloth saturated slightly with oil.

Stains on wood can be removed with strong vinegar or salts of lemon. Plain wood frames are the rule in the framing of most etchings.

Leather chair seats may be revived by rubbing them with well beaten white of egg. Sandpaper will whiten ivory knife handles that may become yellow with use or age.

White paint that has become discolored may be nicely cleaned by using a little whitening in the water for washing.

A small spirit lamp will enable one to get, with little trouble, a cup of hot coffee, tea or chocolate at picnics.

A good cement for china or ordinary carriage varnish; if put together neatly the fracture will be hardly perceptible, and it is not affected by water.

Garnished iron rails are not desirable receptacles for drinking water. The zinc coating is quickly affected by the water, forming a poisonous oxide of zinc.

For cleaning brasses belonging to malodorous furniture, use either powdered whitening or cerise rottenstone mixed with sweet oil, and rub on with a chamois skin.

It is not known to every woman, but it is a fact, that matting can be sewed together. A stout thread is needed, and the edges must be drawn to close together, as, of course, there must be no seam, but simply a joining of the edges.

MACARONI WITH TOMATOES. Stew the macaroni until tender; put a layer of it in your baking-dish, then a layer of bread crumbs and tomato, with bits of butter, pepper and salt; macaroni on top. Bake brown.

LOBSTER SALAD. Boil the lobster over half an hour; remove the shell, being careful to remove the vein in the back. Chop the meat, or pick it fine. For dressing take three or four table-spoonfuls of made mustard and the yolks of two hard-boiled eggs. Mix these ingredients well with the meat from the body of the lobster. Make a salad of lettuce and chopped red beets.

FIG PUDDING. Take one half pound of figs, chop with three-quarter pound bread-crumbs, add three table-spoonfuls of sugar, two ounces butter, half pint milk and two eggs. Butter a mold, sprinkle with fine bread-crumbs, pour in the pudding and steam three hours. Serve with a lemon and sugar.

BRAN or "sea foam" biscuits make a nice dessert with apple jelly.

Wash, quarter and core, but do not peel, a quantity of the best apple; put in a porcelain-lined kettle and pour on water to nearly, but not quite, cover the apples, which should be quite firm (and only such for jelly); if at all mellow use less water. Boil until tender, strain through a flannel jelly-bag, but do not squeeze if you desire the most delicate jelly, as by squeezing enough pulp will be forced through the bag to give the jelly a cloudy appearance, though the flavor will not be at all injured.

Measure the juice and return to the kettle; boil five minutes and then add one pint of sugar granulated sugar for every pint of juice and boil again; test by dropping from the end of a spoon into cold water; if it goes to the bottom it has boiled long enough (usually about fifteen minutes); remove from the fire the instant it jellies, as too much boiling is ruinous; pour into molds and seal as soon as cold. This is a very delicate and delicious jelly, which can be made at any time during the fall and winter months, after the hurry and rush of summer canning.

COTTAGE or "POT CHEESE."—Beat four milk until the whey rises to the top; pour it off, put the curd in a muslin bag and let it drip six hours without squeezing it. Put it in a wooden bowl, chop fine with a wooden spoon. Salt it to taste and work until it is as patty. A little cream or butter will improve it at this stage. Mould it with your hands into round balls and keep in a cool place. "Pot cheese" is delicious with brown bread and butter and just a suspicion of red pepper on top.

How to ROAST BEEF.—Save all the drippings—one has no idea without trying how useful they are, and so handy for all kinds of homemade pastry and most varieties of cake for family use. Beef, lamb and pork, indeed pork drip is preferable to lard. In a roast of beef, especially if fat, there will frequently be a teaspoonful of clear grease, so good for shortening, quite equal to butter for making biscuits, especially if the butter be poor or strong. In roasting beef, use a roast of four or five pounds, have the oven quick when first put in; use hot water sufficient to cover the bottom of the pan; to the depth of a quarter of an inch. Do not wash the roast; rub it all over with a good

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The returns of the germinating power of seeds will not be based upon a single test, but every sample will be tested in duplicate, once in the soil and again out of the soil in the most approved form of apparatus devised for this purpose. Small seeds will also be examined for impurities, such as sand, dust, foreign seeds, chaff, &c., and the proportion of seeds given.

The samples sent should be a fair average of the whole of the seed from which it is taken. The quantities which should be forwarded will vary in proportion to the size of the seed. Of large seeds such as corn, peas, oats, &c., about four ounces will be required, while of the smaller seeds such as grass, clover, turnip, carrot, &c., from half an ounce to one ounce will be sufficient. The larger seeds may be put into small cotton bags each marked with the name of the seed, and these smaller bags enclosed in a larger canvas bag provided with a tag on which the address may be written. The smaller seeds may be folded in stout paper, each parcel marked and the whole enclosed in a strong envelope. Packages and communications should be addressed: "Experimental Farm, Ottawa, Canada." All mail matter will be carried free and from the experimental farm within the limits of the general postal regulations as to the size and weight of packages. All seeds received will be entered in the order in which they arrive and the return made as promptly as possible.

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Many of the tree seeds which mature early are better sown soon after they are gathered. This applies especially to the several varieties of elm and to the soft maple. The hard maple, box elder and ash seeds keep well over winter, provided they are stored in a cool place and not allowed to get too dry. Acorns, nuts and stone fruits are most successfully planted in the autumn, but if kept over winter should be mixed with moist sand and exposed to frost and planted as early as possible in the spring, taking care that they are at no time left in masses under conditions so as to heat. Many failures are sometimes arise from not sowing in partial shade. If seeds are exposed alternately to hot sunshine and cold, while they are swelling, they will frequently rot before they appear above the surface. The requisite shade may be obtained by the use of brush wood, or a light layer of cornstalks or straw, removing this as soon as the seedlings are up and fairly established. Many nurserymen enclose their seedbeds with wooden frames, on which are laid light frames made of one-inch strips and covered with cotton or muslin. These are convenient and can be provided at small cost. Seedlings of evergreen trees grow slowly and require to be shaded and kept moist during hot weather all through the first year of their growth, and sometimes longer. Seeds take some time to swell their coats after being placed in the ground, hence, if planted dry, they should be sown as soon as soil can be had to cover them. Germination may be hastened, especially with seeds of a hard texture, by pouring hot water on them and allowing them to soak for twenty-four hours before sowing.

Seeds sometimes fail to grow from being planted too deep. The larger nuts and acorns should be covered with soil about as deep as the seed is thick; other smaller seeds should not be covered with more than half an inch of mellow soil, pressed gently with the back of a spade so as to make the earth firm around them, and when the young seedlings appear they should be carefully weeded. Occasionally seeds will remain in the ground all the following season without germinating. Should any fail to grow by the time spring is over, and on examination, the kernels are a fond sound, the seedbeds should be kept weeded and shaded until next season.

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1887—Winter Arrangements—1887. This Company's Lines are composed of the following double-ended, Clyde-built IRON STEAMSHIPS. They are built in water-tight compartments, are unsurpassed for strength and speed, and are fitted up with all the modern improvements of the practical experience can suggest, and have made the fastest time on record.

Capital Prize, \$150,000. We do hereby certify that we supervise the arrangements for all the Monthly and Semi-Annual Drawings of the Louisiana State Lottery Company, and in person manage and control the Drawings themselves, and that the same are conducted with honesty, fairness and in good faith towards all parties, and we authorize the Company to use this certificate, with fac-similes of our signatures attached, in its advertisements.

REMEDIAL AND REPRESSIVE. PROPOSED LEGISLATION FOR IRELAND. LONDON, March 17.—The Daily News says the Government has assured the Unionist Liberals that it intends to introduce concurrently in parliament remedial and repressive Irish proposals. The remedial measure is to be divided into two parts, one dealing with pressing matters, such as the inclusion of leaseholders in the operations of the Land Act and suspension of evictions. The other, to be introduced at next session, dealing with the land purchase and local government questions.

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