

starch, a large proportion of a poisonous, milky juice, containing hydrocyanic acid and an acrid bitter substance. The poisonous principle is used by the inhabitants of northern South America, to poison thorn arrows thrown from their *pucanas*, or blow guns, for the killing of game. The root is brought from the maudicoa patch and then washed and peeled. The peeling is usually performed by the teeth; after that the root is grated, the grater being a wooden slab about three feet long, a foot wide, slightly hollowed, and set in diamond shaped patterns with sharp pieces of quartz. The grated pulp is then partially dried on a sieve and placed in a long cylindrical basket of elastic fibres. One end of this basket is affixed to the limb of a tree or a stout peg in the wall and a pole passed through a loop on the lower end. One end of the pole is rested under some projection, and the Indian woman seats herself on the other end as the power. Her weight draws the sides of the basket together until it assumes the shape of an inverted cone. The milky juice drops into a vessel placed to receive it. The pulp is then removed and dried in a kiln or oven. This pulp is known as *semonilla*, and used for bread. The poisonous liquid deposits the starch known as the tapioca of commerce. This deposit is dried either in the sun, or by rude kilns, and granulates, as is seen in that so extensively used for puddings. Sometimes it is denominated Brazilian arrowroot, but under whatever name, it is the product of a root which in its natural state is one of the most virulent of poisons.

It is almost impossible to believe that one of the most nutritious and palatable of the elements of our cuisine should be derived from one of the most fatal poisons known in the vegetable kingdom. yet such is the case.—*Sci. American.*

A GOOD MIXTURE FOR LEATHER.—One pint of tanner's oil, one pint of linseed oil, one pint of fallow, one pint of lard. Simmer all together.

HOW TO MAKE SOFT SOAP.—A WASH FOR ALL PERSONS.—The following is endorsed by a subscriber:—Take two ounces of borax, two ounces of sal. soda, one pound hard soap; dissolve in one quart of rain water; simmer only, and it is ready.

LATEST BONNET.—The *Maine Farmer* informs its readers that "the latest prescription for a fashionable bonnet, originating from a country milliner, is to take a medium-sized pumpkin seed, carefully cut out the meat on the under side, put a narrow strip of fur around the edge, and fasten the strings to the sides. The broad end of the bonnet should be worn in front, to keep off the sun and wind."

SUGGESTIONS TO PREVENT FIRES.—Keep matches in metal boxes, and out of the reach of children; wax matches are particularly dangerous, and should be kept out of the way of rats and mice; be careful in making fires with shavings and other light kindling; do not deposit coal or wood ashes in a wood vessel, and be sure burning cinders are extinguished before they are deposited; never put firewood upon the stove to dry; never put ashes or a light under a staircase; fill fluid or spirit lamps only by daylight, and never near a fire or light; do not leave a candle burning on a bureau or chest; always be cautious in extinguishing matches and other lighters before throwing them away; never throw a cigar stump upon the floor, or spit-box containing saw-dust or trash, without being certain that it contains no fire; after blowing out a candle, never put it away on a shelf or anywhere else, until sure that the snuff has gone entirely out; a lighted candle ought not to be stuck up against a frame wall, or placed upon any portion of the woodwork in a stable, manufactory, shop, or any other places; never enter a barn or stable at night with an uncovered light; ostlers should never smoke about stables; never take an open light to examine a gas-meter; do not put gas or other lights near curtains; never take a light into a closet; do not read in bed, either by candle or lamp light; place glass shades over gas-lights in show-windows, and do not crowd goods too close to them; no smoking should ever be permitted in warehouses, especially where goods are packed or cotton stored; the principal register of a furnace should always be fastened open; stove-pipes should be at least four inches from wood-work; and well guarded by tin or zinc; rags ought never to be stuffed into stove-pipe holes; openings in chimney-flues for stove-pipes which are not used, ought always to be securely protected by metallic coverings; never close up a place of business in the evening without looking well to the extinguishment of lights, and the proper security of the fire; when retiring to bed at night, always see that there is no danger from your fires, and be sure that your lights are safe.—*Builder.*

Poetry.

How we Set the Steam to Work.

(WRITTEN FOR THE CANADA FARMER.)

We have robbed the mine, we have kindled the flame,
And lighted the fire so bright;
We have made a prison the strongest on earth,
To hold in the "water sprite."

For the sprite is lazy, and roams abroad,
In the river, the spring, the sea;
He will sing, and bubble, and murmur about,
But never to work will be.

Let us him at large, let him run down hill,
Let him roam where'er he list,
And he aimlessly rushes to and fro,
He exhales in fogs and mist.

But we want him to work wherever we will—
He is strong, and our muscles will save,
So we fasten him up in an iron box,
And force him to be our slave.

And we light the fire, and torture him well,
Till he kicks and screams like mad—
"I will get out of this nasty hole;
Be quiet; you hurt me bad."

Then out he comes, with a rush and a roar,
In a scalding cataract shower.
"Very well," quoth he, "come out if you will,
Provided you yield us power."

And we guide him, and turn him, and twist him about,
In a narrow and straitened road,
And we make him to pull, and struggle, and shout,
Till he moves the heaviest load.

So he turns the mill, and works the mine,
And he takes our ships to sea;
He ploughs the land, and he moves the sand,
And he mows the meadow free.

We found him cold, we have made him hot;
He was slow, and weary, and wet;
We move him about from place to place,
And we make him puff and sweat.

Aha! old sprite, we have got you now,
And never will let you loose;
We have you enchained, and will manage your powers,
By the wheel and the iron noose.

Toronto, 20th December, 1867.

The Apiary.

Introducing Italian Queens.

A SAFE and perfectly reliable method for introducing Italian Queens is as follows:—

When the Italian queen arrives, put her into the wire cage sent with her, and tie firmly over the end of it a piece of old factory cotton. This should be done in a close room; then, if the queen happens to fly, she cannot escape. Now find and destroy the black queen; then cut out, from a card of comb, a piece the size of the queen cage, but one inch longer; insert the cage so that the bees can get at the factory cotton. The cage should always be inserted near the centre of the combs, or where there is brood, so that the bees will be sure to cluster about it. Within forty-eight hours, they will generally liberate her by eating through the cotton, and she will be received all right—no further attention being required. But should it so happen, at the end of forty-eight hours, that they have not eaten through the cotton, a small opening may be made through the cotton, with a pocket knife, so that the bees can enter the cage if they wish. It is well to smear the cage and the cotton with a little honey, after it is inserted into the comb, in order to attract the bees to it; a few drops are sufficient. This method may be practised at any season of the year, and the cage with the Italian queen may be inserted immediately, on removing the old black or native queen.

If the bees are in a common box or straw hive, they must be driven out, the old queen captured, the cage inserted between the combs, and the bees returned. In searching for the black queen in a frame hive, it is better to smoke the bees but little, as much smoking will frequently cause the queen to leave the combs and run on the sides of the hive, where it is more difficult to find her.

Miscellaneous.

Ten Follies.

To think that the more a man eats the fatter and stronger he will become.

To believe that the more hours children study at school the faster they learn.

To conclude that if exercise is good for the health, the more violent and exhausting it is, the more good is done.

To imagine that every hour taken from sleep is an hour gained.

To act on the presumption that the smallest room in the house is large enough to sleep in.

To argue that whatever remedy causes one to feel immediately better, is "good for" the system, without regard to more ulterior effects.

To commit an act which is felt in itself to be prejudicial, hoping that somehow or other it may be done in your case with impunity.

To advise another to take a remedy which you have tried yourself without making special inquiry whether all the conditions are alike.

To eat without a appetite, or continue to eat after it has been satisfied, merely to gratify the taste.

To eat a hearty supper for the pleasure experienced during the brief time it is passing down the throat, at the expense of a whole night of disturbed sleep, and a weary waking in the morning.

AN oyster takes three times as long to grow as a sheep. The creature must actually be four years old before he is fit for the table, whereas we can get very good mutton now-a-days in thirteen months.—*Farmer (Scottish.)*

FALLING IN LOVE.—Sam Slick says:—"If you want a son not to fall in love with any splendid gal, praise her up to the skies, call her an angel, say she is a whole team and a horse to spare, and all that. The moment the critter sees her he is a grain disappointed, and says, 'Well, she is handsome that's a fact; but she is not so very everlastin' after all.' Nothing damages a gal, a preacher, or a lake, like over praise. A boss is one of the onliest things in nature as is helped by it."

GROWTH OF GREAT BRITAIN.—In 1801 the population of the United Kingdom was 15,902,322; in 1811, 18,103,492; in 1816, 19,520,488; in 1826, 22,575,495; in 1832, 21,135,422; in 1836, 25,106,261; in 1846, 28,002,094. Then came the Irish famine and extensive emigration, so that in 1851 we have the population down to 27,493,337; in 1856, 28,011,031; in 1861, 28,971,362; in 1862, 29,204,983; in 1863, 29,768,089; 1864, 29,566,316; in 1865, 29,768,089; in 1866, 29,946,058; and in 1867 it had reached 30,157,239, notwithstanding the drain by emigration continually going on.

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