

## A WORD ABOUT COFFEE.

Much has been written and printed concerning coffee. Cook books all contain receipts for preparing it in different ways. Every housekeeper considers that coffee is something anybody can make, and therefore she takes no particular pains to make it. It is a fact that on the breakfast table of nine out of ten families, where nice cooking in other respects is the rule, the coffee will be found watery stuff, tasting strongly of chicory, or else so black and thick as to be undrinkable by whoever is used to the better-made article.

In the city the vast majority of housewives buy ground coffee at corner groceries. I think the same rule is good in the country, for most country stores have their coffee-grinder. The groceryman's profit is so large on coffee that of course it pays him well to grind it. And he can, in grinding, adulterate it to so great an extent that he would prefer to sell his "real Java" and "real Mocha" ground, even if he had to sell at a less price than in the bean. The fact that the price is the same, ground or unground, never seems to show people plainly how well it would pay them to grind their own coffee. They may be sure the grocery man does not do it for love.

It is not easy to roast coffee, for it requires much close watching, patience and experience to bring it just to the proper shade, not burnt, nor yet too light, neither too little nor too much, but just right. It can be bought freshly and perfectly roasted in the larger grocery houses of good repute. It is best to buy not more than two pounds of this at a time, and it should be kept closely covered until the last grain is used. I have always found that one-third Mocha and two-thirds Java make a good combination. This costs about thirty-two cents per lb. at the larger downtown houses.

A coffee-grinder—a good one—is worth fifty cents. The comfort of the good coffee it gives you is worth far more. It is true Bridget will not grind it unless compelled, and if she hasn't any coffee but unground to use, but it should be made a case of "needs must." If she is allowed to grind it overnight for use in the morning, it should be put into a tightly-covered vessel until used.

I use a coffee cup full, for a family of five. This makes a pound last about a week. Put in an egg-shell, and fill the pot a third full of cold water. When it boils hard, add boiling-hot water to the quantity you wish to make. When that boils up once, put in a dash of cold water and cover the coffee-pot with a folded towel, and set on the back part of the stove until you wish to use it. If you pour into a silver urn, be sure to scald the urn first, that the coffee may not be chilled.

Whoever is used to drinking good coffee, bought and made in this way, will never be content with "grocers' coffee" again.

Always buy a grinder to screw against the wall. It saves time and temper, and is at hand when it is wanted.—*Harper's Bazaar.*

## A CONVERSATION IN A JEWEL CASE.

The Turquoise Ring—She is asleep, is she not?

The Wedding Ring—Yes—by the way, Turq, why are we all taken off to-night? I don't understand it.

The Turquoise Ring (weakly)—She has not worn me for a long, long time. (Meditatively) Ah, I remember the first time she put me on. She was a happy, laughing-eyed girl, then. How delighted she was. Her father bought me for her. It was on her birthday. She wore me for six years, and then one day a young man took me to the jeweler's and when I came back she put me away and—

The Diamond Ring—And put me on instead. I remember the evening. She ran to the light to see me sparkle on her hand. She has never been as happy since that day as she was then.

The Wedding Ring—Bah! She was twice as happy the day she put me on for the first time. I remember it very well; the church, the flowers, the music, and her white dress. She looked lovely. That was eight years ago. In truth she has never been as happy since as she was then. But what has she taken us off for to-night? It is the first time since I was put on her finger, and I did her a good favor once. It was when that tall fellow with the black eyes—

The Diamond Ring—Yes, I remember.

The Wedding Ring—She got to the door with her things all on, and the carriage waiting, and the tall man standing by it, when she suddenly held up her hand and looked at me. Then she burst into tears and ran back into the house.

The Diamond Ring—Pshaw! You are sentimental. I wanted her to go on. They were going to travel in Europe and settle down finally in Italy. It would have been lots of fun for me.

The Turquoise Ring—But I was to have been left behind and would never have seen her again. Now is my turn once more. This afternoon she came to me and kissed me and cried over me, and told me that to-morrow she would begin wearing me again, and that you two were to be taken off forever. It is a thing that you call divorce that has done it. I'm sure I don't know what it is, but I'm very thankful for it.—*Life.*

## "THE SEASON" FOR JANUARY

just received, and will be welcome in every household for the beautiful designs found in its pages. If such a thing were possible, *The Season* surpasses even itself this month. The especial feature of this journal is, and has always been, to allow nothing to interfere with the matter of dress and home art work, and nothing old or worn-out is ever to be found in it. It is reliable in all its illustrations, which are strictly original.

Every garment worn by ladies or children can be found in *The Season*. In the art work every known kind of design of new, useful or ornamental designs are illustrated and so carefully explained that anyone can master

the work, whether crochet, embroidery, knitting, scotch work canvas, Berlin lace, painting, ribbon or braid work, with descriptions of stitches and diagrams. No house, particularly where there are young girls, should be without this valuable monthly magazine, which can be procured at all news-dealers, or by sending 30 cents for monthly part or yearly subscription of \$3 50 to the International News Company, 83 & 85 Duane Street, New York.

## THE CAUSE OF OLD MAIDS.

An American professor was discussing the process of fertilizing plants by means of insects carrying the pollen from one plant to another, and to amuse his audience told how old maids were the ultimate cause of it all. The humble bees carry the pollen; the field-mice eat the humble bees; therefore, the more field-mice, the fewer humble-bees and the less pollen and variation of plants. But cats devour field-mice, and old maids protect cats. Therefore, the more old maids, the more cats; the fewer field-mice, the more bees. Hence old maids are cause of variety in plants. Thereupon, a masquerader, with a single eyeglass, an English umbrella, a frock coat, with his trousers turned up at the bottom, arose and asked: "I sa-a-y, professah, what is the cause—ah—of old maids, don't you know?" "Perhaps Miss Jones can tell you," suggested the professor. "Dudea!" said Miss Jones, sharply, and without a moment's hesitation.

## INDUSTRIAL NOTES.

The Lunenburg Iron Company, Ltd., was organized last summer by two Yarmouth gentlemen, who enlisted the interest of a number of Lunenburg citizens to establish a foundry. The foundry has now been built, and the first cast, which was a success, was made on December 5th. The following is taken from Lunenburg *Progress* of December 9th:—"The Company is incorporated under the Joint Stock Companies Act, with a capital of \$10,000.00, and Mr. W. T. Lindsay, Chas. E. Patterson and P. O. B. Harris are the provisional directors. The foundry premises consist of a lot of land at the head of the harbor 200x220 feet, with a water frontage of 220 feet, on which are three substantial buildings, one of which is 30x40 ft., two stories used below for engine room and fitting shop and containing engine and boiler, blower forge, lathe, drills, emery wheels, etc. The second floor is devoted to the pattern maker's department, of which Mr. Wm. H. Sanders, one of the stockholders, has charge. Here is also the necessary machinery for making and mounting patterns. Another building is the moulding shop and foundry, size 35x65 ft., well lighted and ventilated, with floors of cement and iron copings on which the moulding is done. The furnace or cupular for melting the iron is in this building, and is 44 inches in diameter and 28 feet high, made of steel and lined with fire brick 9 inches thick clear to the top. These bricks were specially imported from Taunton, Mass. The pipes which feed the wind chest, to force the draft while the iron is being melted, are brought in under ground from the 'blower' in the other building. The moulding sand here used is brought from Albany, New York, the only place in America where it is found suitable for stove plates. Connecting these two buildings is a shed 15x20 in which is the 'gingler,' a machine used for cleaning the sand off the castings as they come out of the moulds. Here is also the pickling tank in which iron patterns are 'pickled' in sulphuric acid before being used. The third building is 20x30 ft., used as a storehouse for sand and coal, and is conveniently situated within the yard, which yard is enclosed with a substantial fence and used for storing pig iron, fire brick, coarse sand, wood, etc. Eight hands are now employed, and it is expected that some six or eight hands more will be required in the near future. The patterns of some eleven stoves are now being bearded, including three cooks, three ranges and two office or cabin, and three parlor stoves, some of which, it is expected, will be on the market by New Year. The Company intend making a specialty of their cook stoves, called 'Our Own,' made expressly for them at the Vedder Pattern Works at Troy, New York, design of which is registered at Ottawa. They also have the patterns of two parlor stoves which they call the 'May-flower,' also made for them at Troy. Besides making stoves they are prepared to do general casting and jobbing, and will soon have a full line of vessel-casting on the market."

Capt. McGray, of the *City of St. John*, is making the experiment of sending live lobsters to England by the steamer *Historian*. His method is to pack the crustaceans one deep in iron frames secured to the deck, with a cover screwed down on them. Near the frames is a reservoir of sea water, which flows in a constant stream through the lobster frames with which it is connected by rubber hose. The reservoir is replenished from the ocean by means of a pump. If the experiment proves a success a large lot will be taken across in this manner next spring. Capt. McGray will take out a patent for his method, which appears to be both simple and practicable. There is a big profit on lobsters in the London market.

The Lloyd Manufacturing & Foundry Co. is much rushed with work. It has two carloads of machinery for saw mills about ready to ship, with many orders ahead as yet untouched. It speaks well for this firm in view of the dull times among saw mill men in general this year, that during the dullness experienced elsewhere all the work that could possibly be accomplished was done, and the workshops were running full blast. The most critical are invited to examine the machinery made by this Company in operation, which may be found in nearly every part of this Province and New Brunswick, come extending as far as Quebec.