

Preserving Butter.

There are few butter-makers who can make an article that will preserve its good qualities during hot weather. An Illinois correspondent of the *Country Gentleman* in reply to another correspondent who asks whether sugar and saltpeter added salt preserves butter any more perfectly than when salt is used alone, and, if so, in what proportion they should be worked into the butter, or placed between the layers, says:

No most decidedly, as to the first part of the question. There is already sugar sufficient in butter when made from natural butter-making cows, which have had good pasture in summer and early-out and well-cured timothy and clover hay, and bright cereals, with cornmeal and wheat-bran in winter, with clean, warm, well-ventilated stables. The milk and cream, and butter must be properly cared for after the cow has done her part. There can be no good resulting from the use of saltpeter in any way; only an injury, being foreign entirely to anything in the food of the cow. It is nitrate of potash—"sweat of rocks." The idea of buying saltpeter snuff, or any other preparation to preserve butter or to change its color from a natural to an unnatural shade, must have originated in the minds of these who are unskilled in the true principles of making choice butter. One must in all respects have his butter perfect when ready to pack, and salted with one ounce of Ashton or Higgin's salt to the pound of fresh butter. Select the best, perfectly glazed stone crocks. On the bottom place a small quantity of salt. Over the salt place a thin, well-blossomed, muslin cloth that has been saturated with brine. Upon this cloth place the butter; carefully pressed so as to have no hollow places. Fill within half an inch of the top. Over the butter place a cloth, tightly fitting around the edge of the butter. On this, when cold, pour a pint or more of as strong brine as can be made by the use of hot water and heavy salt. Cover with heavy paper or a board. Have ready a common box, large enough to receive the crock, with space on all sides of about two inches. At the bottom put an inch or two of salt. Put the crock in and fill all around with salt, sufficient to cover the crock about two inches. Over all place a board. The box may be only large enough for one crock, or for a dozen or more. The object of burying in salt is to keep the butter from all impure atmosphere, sudden changes of the weather, and in an even, cool temperature. When thus treated, provided the butter is perfect when placed in the crock, it will remain so for many months, as there is nothing to disturb it. Butter treated in this way retains all its original purity, and goes through a natural ripening, increasing that agreeable aroma so much desired—a rich, nutty taste.

Iron Castings.

Cast iron was not in commercial use before the year 1709, when Abraham Darby, an intelligent mechanic, who had brought some Dutch workmen to establish a brass foundry at Bristol, England, conceived the idea that iron might be a substitute for brass. This his workmen did not succeed in effecting, being probably too much prejudiced in favor of the metal with which they were best acquainted. A Welsh shepherd-boy named John Thomas, had some little time previous to this, been received by Abraham Darby into his workshop on the recommendation of a distant relative. While looking on during the experiments of the Dutch workmen, he said to Mr. Darby that he thought he saw where they missed it. He begged to be allowed to try; so he said Mr. Darby remained alone in the workshop all night, struggling with the refractory metal and imperfect moulds. The hours passed on and daylight appeared, but neither would leave his task, and just as morning dawned they succeeded in casting an ironpot complete. The boy entered into an agreement with Abraham Darby to serve him and keep the secret. He was enticed by the offer of double wages to leave his master, but he continued faithful, and from 1709 to 1822 the family of Thomas were confidential and invaluable agents to the descendants of Abraham Darby. For more than 100 years after the night in which Thomas and his master succeeded in making an iron casting in a mould of fine sand, contained in frames and with airholes the same process was practiced and kept secret at Coalbrook Dale, with plugged keyholes and barred doors.

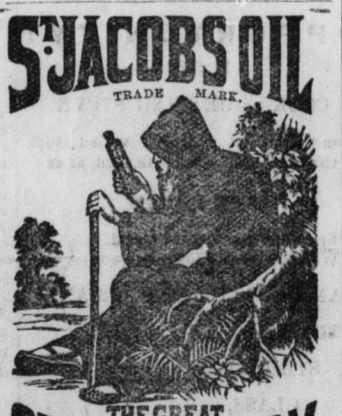
Total number of deaths by lock jaw in Baltimore caused by toy pistols, is 16. New York has had 6, Rochester has had some also, and Washington 4.

A Cure by Imagination.

At a large hotel the not uncommon dilemma arose of there being only one room in the house vacant when two visitors required accommodation for the night. It was a double-bedded chamber, or was soon converted into such, and the two guests—who were both commercial travellers—agreed to share it. One of these gentlemen was a confirmed hypochondriac and greatly alarmed his companion by waking him up in the middle of the night gasping for breath. "Asthma," he panted out; "I am subject to these spasmodic attacks. Open the window quickly; give me air!" Terrified beyond measure, the other jumped out of bed. But the room was pitch dark; he had no matches, and he had forgotten the position of the window. "For Heaven's sake be quick!" gasped the invalid. "Give me more air or I shall choke!" At length, by dint of groping wildly and upsetting half the furniture in the apartment, the window was found; but it was an old-fashioned casement, and no hope or cure was to be discovered. "Quick, quick; air, air!" implored the apparently dying man. "Open it, break it, or I shall be suffocated!" Thus adjured, his friend led no time, but seizing a boot, smashed every pane and the sufferer immediately experienced great relief. "Oh, thank you; a thousand thanks. Ha!" he exclaimed, drawing deep sighs which testified to the great comfort he derived; "I think in another moment I should have been dead!" And when he had sufficiently recovered and had expressed his heartfelt gratitude, he described the intense distress of these attacks and the length of time he had suffered from them. After a while both fell asleep again, devotedly thankful for the result. It was a warm summer night, and they felt no inconvenience from the broken window; but when daylight revealed the pitchy darkness of the night the window was found to be still entire. Had invisible gnomes been at work already, or was the episode of the past night only a dream? No; for the floor was still strewn with the broken glass. Then, as they looked round the room in amazement, the solution of the mystery presented itself in the shape of an antiquated bookcase, whose latticed glass doors were a shattered wreck. The spasmodically awakened one was cured from that moment. So much for imagination. — *Chamber's Journal.*

Does Pleasure Pay?

With the above words an English society journal opens an article on the current habits of good society in search of pleasure. It is unnecessary to say that pleasure, if it can be taken only as many fashionable people take it, is not worth the time and money that it costs. No one enjoys this world's diversions so little as those who pay most for their fun and devote most time to it. At the theater and opera the people who appear most pleased are those who sit in the cheapest seats and wear the cheapest suits and wear the poorest clothes, and elsewhere the rule is the same. All else being equal, the man who has the most money to spend can secure the most enjoyment in this world; but one thing that thousands of people seem to forget is that with all things with pleasing possibilities a common rule of the table holds good—it is of no use to eat unless you have an appetite. The most forlorn diner-out in New York is the man who eats several dinners daily, and the most unhappy man at the theater—the man who finds fault with everything and enjoys nothing—is he who goes to the theater every night. Pleasure is like dessert—very good to take after something substantial but the most unsatisfactory of all things when taken as a steady diet.



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