

Country Home Department.

Conducted by Mrs. E. D. Nall, Sanford, N. C., to Whom all Matter for this Department Should be Sent.

WHEN THE PIPER PLAYED.

The Piper came to my garden gate,
With a jaunty air, and a step elate;
And I hastened to call the children in,
Before his playing he should begin,
For I feared they would follow his music on,
And Piper and children would all be gone.

But oh, they were deaf to my eager call,
For the music had caught them in tranced thrall;
Ah, never more sweet did the Piper play,
Than he played at my gate that spring-time day,
Now quick and merry, now thrilling low—
What could the children do but go?

They left their toys in the garden-pace,
And up the pathway of Time they raced
To the hills of Youth where the winds blow free,
And their eyes scan far over land and sea,
Where the Piper Pleasure plays gay and sweet,
And they beat the time with their dancing feet. —Selected.

RECIPES.

How to Make a Pot of Tea.

Three teaspoonfuls of tea and three cupfuls of boiling water. Scald an earthenware or china teapot. Measure the tea, turn the water from the teapot, put in the tea, pour over it teapot, put in the tea, pour over it the boiling water, cover and let stand on the back of the range or in a warm place three minutes—then serve immediately. Pour out as soon as brought to table. Sugar, milk, or cream may be served with it, or it may be preferred without any addition.

Russian Tea.

This may be made by the preceding recipe, using English breakfast tea. It is always served without milk or cream. Place a thin slice of lemon from which the seeds have been removed in a heated cup, put a small cube of sugar on the lemon, and pour the tea onto the sugar. Sometimes a preserved strawberry or a small teaspoonful of raspberry jam is added and considered an improvement.

Orange Tea.

Place one-third or one-quarter of an orange, cut across the sections, in a heated teapot, add the tea and boiling water, let steep for three minutes and serve. Use a black tea.

WHY SCHOOL TEACHERS AGE RAPIDLY.

Many people wonder why school teachers age so early and rapidly. The following are some excerpts from the harvest one pedagogue reaped from her sowing, and which will, in a measure, explain her despair:

"Lowell was born in Cambridge at his old home Elmwood."

"Whenever a knight started out on an errand, he was called a knight errant."

"Geology treats of the interior of the earth and the exterior of the earth and the historical events of its future."

"The divisions of geology are structural, dramatical, and hysterical."

"Oliver Wendell Holmes was a man of good ideas, a few of which are exposed in his works."—January Woman's Home Companion.

THE LADY OF LEISURE.

"If there is any one shopper more trying than a hurry-up purchaser, it is the Lady of Leisure, who has an endless amount of time at her disposal, and never considers that the girl attending to her wants would like to finish the sale and turn to another customer. Box after box is pulled out for her inspection, draw-

ers are ransacked, head-saleswomen and floor-walkers are appealed to—all in an almost useless effort to satisfy the whims of this leisurely shopper. She examines every article so slowly, so deliberately, and so indifferently, that it is a perfect aggravation to the wiry, energetic little body behind the counter.

There is a happy medium to be found in shopping as in all things, and happy is the girl who is wise enough to ferret out this line while she is young, and then adhere to it in all her shopping tours.—Selected.

EAT PLENTY OF FRUIT.

Americans do not pay sufficient attention to fruit on their tables. More fruits and fewer vegetables should be a household's policy. The buying of fruit that is in season means no unnecessary outlay of money, and the results both as to health and satisfaction of the appetite will be encouraging. There are qualities peculiar to each kind of fruit that render it of value to the system.

From the point of view of health the raw fruit is far better than the cooked. There is hardly a month that some kind of raw fruit cannot be had. The old farm house policy of keeping a barrel of red apples where anybody could help himself was very wise. If it accomplished nothing else it at least saved doctors' bills. City homes and small houses and apartments cannot have the apple-barrel, but even the people of small means can manage to have some fruit always on hand.—Woman's Home Companion.

NAMES OF ANIMALS.

The kangaroo came by his name rather strangely. When first Australia was discovered a sailor pointed to a kangaroo and asked a native what they called that animal.

The poor black man having never met an Englishman before, had no idea what the sailor was talking about and replied in his own language, kangaroo, that is, "I do not understand." The sailor foolishly supposed this was the name of the animal in the Australian tongue, and ever since we have called the animal kangaroo, "I do not understand."

A curious mistake occurs also in the word crayfish. The name was borrowed from the French, who call this lobster-like animal ecrevisse. The English thought that because it lived in the water it must be a fish, says the Raja Yoga Messenger; and so we always call it the crayfish. Of course the little creature is no more a fish than a seal is a fish, or a sponge or an oyster, although they also live in the water.

The large American cat known as the puma is very rich in names, which fact leads to no little confusion in the minds of young students of natural history. The early Puritan settlers in New England named the animal the painter, meaning of course panther, because in shape and size it strongly resembles this fierce carnivore of the Old World.

He also received the name catamount, which was shortened down from cat of the mountain. The reddish color of the fur of some of the specimens suggested the name red tiger, while in certain places it was given the more majestic name of mountain lion. In South America one of the native names was cugua-cuara, but we have very sensibly knocked off four of the six syllables and shortened it to cougar.

The puma has such a wide range, being found from Canada to Patagonia, that naturally enough it receives a different name in the various countries and localities which it inhabits. Six names for one animal. No wonder readers of books of travel get confused.

When an animal becomes known for the first time to English-speaking people, they usually adopt the name it goes by in its native country. Thus our word camel is evidently the Hebrew name for that animal, gamal, which has become slightly changed in the course of time.

Sometimes we use a purely English compound word in place of the native name of the animal, which often seems a great pity. The Red Indians speak of the wishton-wish when they mean that pretty little marmot of the plains which we refer to as the prairie-dog. It is not of the dog family, being far more nearly related to the guinea-pig than to the mastiff or the wolf.

The name guinea-pig was bestowed by a most unfortunate mistake. This little household pet is a eavy and not a pig, and does not come from the Guinea coast of Africa but from Guiana on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean.

Every one at Point Loma knows the troublesome burrowing pocket-gopher who makes his holes in our gardens and throws up the earth in unsightly heaps. When the French first settled on the eastern coast, they thought the numerous burrows made the ground like honeycomb, and so they called him gaufre, that is, honeycomb, which later on became corrupted to gopher.

GOOD DATE RECIPES.

Among the most nutritious of foods is the date, which forms the principal article of food of a large proportion of the inhabitants of some of the tropical countries. Although a delicious fruit, and not expensive, it is too seldom found on the American bill of fare.

Date-Custard.—To one quart of milk add one cupful of sugar, a small piece of butter and, when boiling, thicken with corn-starch and flavor with a teaspoonful of almond-extract. Add two cupfuls of stoned dates and set on ice until served.

Date-Cream.—Stone and chop one cupful of dates and add them to one pint of slightly sweetened whipped cream, whip all together until solid, flavoring with any desired extract. Serve very cold.

Date-Bread.—A delicious variation in the bread line is made by adding dates. Stone the dates and cut across in three or four pieces, allow a cupful for a small loaf of bread, kneading them into the dough before putting it into the pans to rise the last time. Raise and bake as usual.

Date-Buns.—When making bread save out three cupfuls of the raised dough, mix with it one and one-half cupfuls of white sugar, one-half cupful of butter, two eggs, one-half teaspoonful of soda, one-fourth of a teaspoonful each of extract of cinnamon and nutmeg, and two cupfuls of stoned and chopped dates. Add flour to mold and set to rise. When light, mold and make into buns, let rise until very light, bake quickly, and as soon as taken from the oven glaze with a mixture of two tablespoonfuls of white sugar dissolved in three of sweet skim-milk.

Date-Gems.—Two cupfuls of sweet milk, one well-beaten egg, one large spoonful of butter, one teaspoonful of baking-powder, a little salt, three

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References: J. W. Brooks, Wilmington, N. C.; Bank of Brunswick, Southport, N. C.

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