

**HOUSEHOLD MATTERS.**

**The Buffalo Bug.**

The name of all others that rhymes best with rug  
Is the name of a mite, called the Buffalo Bug!  
It's a hairy, horny, and horrible thing,  
Though thanks to kind nature, it cannot sting.  
It can run like a fox, or creep like a snail,  
Whilst its appetite never was known to fail.  
Your carpets, your mats, your coats and your hats,  
'Twill quickly devour them just like the rats,  
Slip into a cranny and hide like a thief;  
And, as true as I live, it is my belief  
The creature is only a witch in disguise,  
Who delights in taking some folks by surprise.  
Who delights in making mischief and trouble,  
Then eluding one's grasp like a blown bubble—  
It's a waste of your time, your strength and your skill,  
The Buffalo Bug to hunt and to kill.  
'Twill make its appearance, some unlucky day,  
When you are sure you have chased the whole herd away;  
'Twill haunt you and daunt you until you will cry:  
"I wish, in my heart, I could lie down and die!"

—Good Housekeeping.

**Sauerkraut.**

Emilia Custer writing in *Good Housekeeping* about German cooking says: Next in order comes a recipe for sauerkraut. I can see some of the readers smile, and hear them say: "Oh, of course, I thought that was coming! Whoever can think of German cooking without being reminded of sauerkraut? Who wants to eat the nasty stuff? Now, I cannot see that sauerkraut is more nasty than anything else that has to undergo a chemical change before it is considered ready for use. Beer and wine have to be fermented, and the odor that emanates from them during this process is not always an agreeable one. Tainted meat, as long as it comes under the head of game, is eaten and relished by many, then why be disgusted with sauerkraut, which is merely cabbage which has become sour (not putrid)? The popular idea that it is put into casks and stamped down with the feet has about as much truth in it as the one that bakers knead the dough with their feet. I have never seen it done myself, nor do I know of any one that has seen it. Of course, when it is prepared at home that objection cannot be urged. However, the following recipes are given for the benefit of those who are cosmopolitan enough to eat it and like it:

Trim off the coarse outer leaves of as many heads of cabbages as you wish to use; quarter them and take out the stalks, then shave each piece very fine on a cold-saw cutter; when you have cut up one head of cabbage lay it in a large stone pot or wooden tub, sprinkle about as much salt over this layer as you would use in boiling it—no more, if anything a little less, as, if it gets too much salt, the cabbage will probably not turn sour—and pound each layer down with a potato-masher until the water comes. Proceed in like manner with each successive layer, and then cover with a cloth, board, and heavy stone. The sauerkraut should be looked after once a week, the scum carefully removed, and if the water evaporates, boil a little salt and water, and when cold pour over it.

This is one method, and the simplest and best. The other is more of what some would call "an incongruous mixture."

The cabbage is cut the same as above, then, instead of putting salt between the layers, green grapes, small lady apples, whole peppers and caraway seeds are put in, merely sprinkling the cask or tub with salt.

There are various ways of cooking sauerkraut. One way is to cook a nice piece of fresh pork in it, and this, with mashed potatoes, makes a very good plain dinner.

**Useful Hints.**

Crackers that have been softened by exposure will become crisp and fresh again by being heated in an oven a few minutes.

Cover house plants with newspapers before sweeping; also, give them a little ammonia once a week in the water you put on them.

To prevent children losing their mittens or gloves sew on each one a long ribbon, and fasten the ribbon to the inside of the coat sleeve.

When cooking cabbage or onions put a small quantity of vinegar in a cup on the stove. This neutralizes in a great

measure the disagreeable odor from the cooking vegetables.

Feathers slightly incurled by the damp air may be restored by holding them over a hot stove, then shaking and repeating until curled. Care should be taken not to burn the feather.

Do not let your laundress or washer-woman put clothes into the blueing water until they have been well shaken. If tossed in while folded as they come through the wringer they are almost certain to be streaked with blueing, and although after repeated washing these streaks will come out, every one knows how aggravating it is to use napkins or handkerchiefs that show traces of careless washing.

**An Ominous Cough.**

In the smoking salon of a West-bound sleeping car was a man of about thirty-five years—a wealthy, active-looking man of a lively spirit and a ready tongue. Story telling was the order of the hour, and the traveler in question did more than his share, and with such display of vivacity and humor that his fellow passengers instinctively set him down in their mental note-books as one of the jolliest and happiest men they had had the pleasure of meeting for many a day.

Suddenly, and in the midst of one of his liveliest stories, he was compelled by coughing to pause in his recital. He did not at once resume, and when his expectant listeners looked at him more closely to discover the cause of the delay they saw that he was as pale as a sheet and trembling violently. In his eyes was a wild expression, and his lips twitched nervously.

"He is ill—bring a glass of water," some one cried.

But the story-teller waved a negative gesture with his hand, and made a visible effort to control himself and speak.

"It—it is nothing," he said, after a few moments. "It is nothing, gentlemen, but that cough. Did you hear it? It was not much, was it? And yet to me it means a good deal. Boys, six years ago I had three brothers and two sisters. Now I have neither brother nor sister. I am the last of a family of six children. One by one they took consumption and quickly fell before the destroyer. First Emma, then Clarence, next George and Harry within two months of each other, and finally Kate, my favorite sister. Within three years they all died. And now—it is my turn. It has been a peculiarity of the work of that terrible disease in our family that in every case it first made its presence manifest by a peculiar cough. It was so with all of them. It seems that at least it is so with me.

"Boys, that cough which came to me a few moments ago was the first warning. Oh, I know its dread sound only too well. Within nine months at the furthest; I, too, shall be called away. But why care? Death must come some time. We are all in the same boat, and—let me see, where was I? I will finish my story. Oh, yes, I have it."

The story was finished. The teller seemed to throw into it all of his old-time spirit. With an almost reckless abandon he gave a richness to the dialect of the anecdote and a delicious emphasis to every telling word. His face, too, was wreathed in smiles as he reached the end of the ludicrous tale. But not a laugh was heard. Among all of his listeners there was not a dry eye—not one who could for his life have told what the story was about. What was a bit of comedy in the presence of a tragedy in real life like that?—*Chicago Herald*.

**The First Watch.**

At first the watch was about the size of a dessert plate. It had weights, and was used as a "pocket clock." The earliest known use of the modern name occurs in the record of 1552, which mentions that Edward VI. had "one larum or watch of iron, the case being likewise of iron gilt, with two plummetts of lead." The first watch may readily be supposed to be of rude execution. The first great improvement—the substitution of springs for weights—was in 1580. The earliest springs were not coiled, but only straight pieces of steel. Early watches had only one hand, and, being wound up twice a day, they could not be expected to keep the time nearer than fifteen or twenty minutes in twelve hours. The dials were of silver and brass; the cases had no crystals, but opened at the back and front, and were four or five inches in diameter. A plain watch cost more than \$1,500, and, after one was ordered, it took a year to make it.

Life indeed is short, but by ills it becomes too long.

**To Err is Human**  
But it is positively inexcusable to administer or take narcotics or potent sedatives to relieve intranquility of the nerves, the easily discoverable cause of which is simply indigestion. Hostetter's Stomach Bitters is the remedy indicated when the nervous system is weak, and consequently super-sensitive and untroubled. Braced and quieted by this superlative tonic, the system obtains needful repose at night, dyspeptic qualms cease to disturb the stomach, and mental inquietude disappears. The habit of body becomes regular, the liver and kidneys are healthfully stimulated, and bodily or mental exertion ceases to be a wearisome and difficult task. Neuralgia, rheumatism and malarial disorders, and kidney troubles, are entirely eradicated by this matchless invigorant and regulator.

It was a much respected negro preacher stationed at Possum Trot, who astonished his congregation one bright and beautiful Sunday, by announcing, solemnly, "My frens, dere am two ways from dis world. One am de broad an' narrer road dat leads ter hell, and de odder am de narrer an' broad road dat leads ter damnation."

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