

# THE PINE KNOT.

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We are glad to be able to contradict the doleful prophecy contained in our Washington letter concerning Gen. Sheridan's death. At latest accounts the general was not dead, but rather improving. We hope the news will continue to be favorable.

Not long since a man boarded the train at a small station on our railroad. He had a small keg of whiskey in a gunny sack which he took with him into the passenger coach. The sharp eyed young conductor very properly and promptly ordered him to take it out and have it billed as freight. He objected with some round oaths, but finally had to submit and the evil smelling keg was unceremoniously dumped out onto the platform of the station. The passenger really had no more weight with him than is often carried as baggage, and if it had been a sack of almost anything else of equal weight probably no objection would have been made, but this stuff was so evidently villainous and unfit for decent company that nobody doubted the authority of the conductor to have it put out.

It is a favorite saying of a friend of ours that "the Lord sends the food, and it is good and wholesome, but the devil sends the cooks." These emissaries of Satan are often as innocent of any evil intent as it is possible to imagine, but they work the works of their master, as is evidenced by the dyspeptic victims of their diabolic arts. Their weapons are various. In some sections it is the nightmare-producing mince pie; in others the bullet-proof pound cake; here in the South it is the frying pan that tortures its countless victims with "misery" in the stomach. A gentleman, native to this state, and well known throughout its length and breadth, once remarked to us that he would like to travel through this section, equipped with a lecture entitled "The Frying Pan, the Curse of the South." He thought he could do more good in that way than in any other. Along with the frying pan go the abominations that are put into it, chief of which is bacon. Strange, isn't it, that such an indigestible, heat producing food should be used in a warm country where the severities of winter are almost unknown, and where delicious fruits grow wild in the greatest abundance, and cultivated ones respond generously to the slightest care! Bacon fat is more expensive than butter, and bacon itself is more expensive than good beef, without taking account

of the doctor's bill and the patent medicine vendor's profit, which are principally paid by those who make bacon the staple of their living. Aside from this the continued absorption of bacon fat tends to destroy the taste for delicate flavors. Those who eat it seldom care for much of anything else. The moral is: Don't fry anything that can possibly be cooked any other way; leave the grease out of nine-tenths of the articles of food it is used in now; don't spoil good beef by cooking the life all out of it; eat fruits in preference to everything else; in short, live the life nature intends you to and eat what she intends you should.

## Inside of a Japanese House.

While the banto was gone to prepare other things for us to look at the hostess invited us to walk over the house. We were shown the proper cha-no-ma; the family altar, with its image of Buddha in a heavily gilt shrine, and the brass incense burner, flower vase and stork candlestick, and the various living rooms of the family. They were all scrupulously clean, the fresh looking yellow mats giving a cool effect that was most pleasing at this season, although highly suggestive of cold and discomfort in winter, for any means of producing artificial heat were entirely wanting, if I except the hibachi or brazier, over which the people cower when they are cold. Habit stands them instead of furnaces, stoves and fireplaces.

The feature of all these rooms which struck us most forcibly was the absence of furniture and ornaments. The woodwork of the walls, sliding screens that serve for doors and windows, ceilings and staircases, were very elaborately carved, and evidently cost much money; but excepting a kake-mono in one or two, or a bit of bronze, the rooms contained nothing. One felt constantly as if inspecting a new house, and disposed to say: "How comfortable this will be when the furniture, pictures and hangings are brought in!" Yet the family is a very rich one, and possesses treasures of art that made us almost green with envy.—Professor J. K. Goodrich in *The Cosmopolitan*.

## An Automatic Medicine Dispenser.

An American manufacturer of sugar coated pills added to the attractions of an exhibit of his product in London an ingenious piece of mechanism, which might have been intended to represent the pharmacist of the future. It was in the form of a cabinet provided with a series of knobs or buttons, each inscribed with the name of some malady for which a remedy might be asked. The customer puts a coin into a slit and presses the button calling for the remedy he requires, when immediately a drawer flies out containing the article sought. This automatic

dispenser of course makes no mistakes. If the customer accidentally presses the wrong button, he alone is responsible for the error. Is this really what we are coming to?—*Scientific American*.

## Value of Eggs as Food.

No honest appetite ever rejected an egg in some guise. It is nutriment in the most portable form and in the most concentrated shape. Whole nations of mankind rarely touch any other animal food. Kings eat them plain as readily as do the humble tradesmen. After the battle of Muhlendorf, when Kaiser Ludwig sat at a meal with his burggrafs and great captains, he determined on a piece of luxury—"one egg to every man and two to the excellently valiant Schweperman." Far more than fish—for it is a watery diet—eggs are the scholar's fare. They contain phosphorus, which is brain food, and sulphur, which performs a variety of functions in economy. And they are the best nutriment for children, for in a compact form they contain everything that is necessary to the growth of the youthful frame.

Eggs are, however, not only food—they are medicine also. The white is the most efficacious of remedies for burns, and the oil extracted from the yolk is regarded by the Russians as an almost miraculous salve for cuts, bruises and scratches. A raw egg, if swallowed in time, will effectually detach a fish bone fastened in the throat, and the whites of eggs will render the deadly corrosive sublimate as harmless as a dose of calomel. They strengthen the consumptive, invigorate the feeble and render the most susceptible all but proof against jaundice in its most malignant phase.—*Eastern Farmer*.

## The Princess of Brazil.

The credit of having struck the last blow at the shackles of the slaves in Brazil belongs to a woman. The Princess Isabella has been at the head of the government as the princess regent for a year past, during the illness of her father, the Emperor Dom Pedro, and she has devoted her energies to hastening the rather slow work of emancipation begun by the Emperor. She summarily dismissed one ministry that was not in sympathy with her views on this question, and she called to her aid a council a month ago, all of whom were pledged to the immediate freeing of the slaves of the empire. Through the influence thus obtained she was able to get the necessary sanction from the legislative branch, and the great work mapped out by her father is carried into execution by the daughter, who will succeed the invalid Emperor on the throne. All honor to the Princess Isabella!—*Boston Herald*.

Gold is being constantly discovered in Wales. Doubtless Patti has dropped some loose change from her pockets as she passed to and from her Craig-y-Nos castle.—*Ex*.