

Poetry.

THE MAIDEN.

There's a poem in the lily
With its lowly bending head;
There's a poem in the sunset
With its brilliant tinge of red;
There's a poem in the forest,
In the lofty mountain wall;
But the poem of the maiden
Is the sweetest of them all.

She is tall or she is slender
With the lily's face of white;
She is lovely as the painting
Made by sunset's rosy light;
She is noble as the forest,
As the lofty mountain wall;
Ah, the maiden, of all nature,
Is the sweetest gem of all!

Let the cynic rant on fashion
And its catalogue of whims;
Let him tell of the flirtations
At the church in the hymns;
Let him point at coquettes' costumes
In the operatic stall,
Yet, the maiden, notwithstanding,
Is the sweetest gem of all.
—Wm. Hosea Ballou, in *The Journalist*.

Household.

CORN BREAD.

One and one-half cups sour milk, one cup Indian meal, two cups of flour, one egg, one-half cup of sugar, one teaspoonful of soda, a little salt and two tablespoonfuls of butter.

BUTTERMILK CAKE.

One cup of buttermilk, one large cup of sugar, two-thirds cup of shortening, two eggs and one teaspoonful of soda. Flavor to taste. By putting in mixed spices it makes a good spice cake.

WAFFLES.

Two eggs, one pint of milk, butter size of an egg, two teaspoonfuls of cream tartar, one teaspoonful of soda, a little salt, flour to make a thin batter. Beat the whites of the eggs separately, and add the last thing.

GINGER CAKE.

One cup each of sour cream, sugar and molasses, one-half cup of butter, three eggs, one dessert-spoonful of soda, three cups of flour and one tablespoonful of ginger; add the eggs last, but do not beat them stiff.

FATTED FINNAN HADDIES.

Cold boiled haddies, or any that is left from haddock at dinner, must be pounded fine, with a little butter, cayenne pepper, salt, and an atom of mace or sprinkle of curry powder. Serve in a little mound, with hot, dry toast.

FRUIT PUDDING.

Take stale bread, pour over hot water and soak awhile. Chop as for dressing, though not so fine, place a layer of bread in buttered tin, then a layer of fruit previously stewed, having the last layer bread. Bake half an hour and serve with sugar and cream or any pudding sauce.

PICKLED OYSTERS.

Rinse the oysters in their liquor, strain it upon them, and let them come to a boil; take them out of the liquor to cool. Prepare cider vinegar by boiling it with peppers, a little salt, mace, cloves and nutmeg, and when cold pour it over the oysters, and keep them in a covered stone jar.

NOODLES FOR SOUP.

One teacup of flour, two tablespoonfuls of yeast, a little salt and two eggs, mix hard with milk, and roll out as thin as a wafer on a well-floured board, cover with a cloth and set in a warm place (not hot) after an hour or two, cut into small pieces and drop into the soup; boil ten minutes and serve hot.

LEMON CREAM.

Into 1 1/2 cups of boiling water stir two tablespoonfuls of cornstarch wet with water and the juice of one large lemon; add the beaten yolks of three eggs; and one cup of sugar. Boil five minutes, then stir in the whites beaten stiff. Pour into small glasses and serve cold with whipped cream on the top of each glass.

SANDWICH DRESSING.

One-half pound of butter, two tablespoonfuls of mixed mustard, three tablespoonfuls of salad oil, a little red or white pepper, a little salt, yolk of one egg; rub the butter to a cream, add the other ingredients, and mix thoroughly, set away to cool, spread the bread with this mixture and put in the ham, chopped fine.

CUP CAKE.

A cup of sugar and half a cup of butter Rub well together, put in the yolks of two eggs and mix again. Beat the whites to a stiff froth and proceed in the same manner, add one cup of milk and three cups of flour, with two teaspoonfuls of baking powder sifted with it. Flavor to taste. Bake in a brisk oven.

ESCALLOPED SWEET POTATOES.

Boil nice smooth potatoes twenty minutes, drain and steam them, dry five minutes, slice up, and on every layer of potatoes sprinkle a little sugar and spread with butter; fill up the dish and pour over the potatoes a cup of milk, spread sugar and butter, and a little nutmeg or cinnamon or ground ginger or allspice over the top; and bake twenty minutes.

WHITE LAYER CAKE.

Beat to a cream one-half cup of butter and two cups of pulverized sugar, and one-half cup of sweet milk, 2 1/2 cups of flour sifted with 2 1/2 teaspoonfuls of baking powder, the whites of eight eggs; bake in layers, and put together with thin icing, cups of sugar, cups of water and three tea-cups of the well-beaten whites of three eggs, and beat all together till cool, and each layer with grated cocoanut.

LEMON PRESERVES.

Take large, firm lemons, not quite ripe, and cut into slices one-quarter of an inch thick, take out the seeds, soak in brine a week. Then soak in clear water for several days till quite free of salt and bitter taste, weigh lemons and boil till soft enough to pierce with a straw, make a thin syrup, allowing a pound of sugar to one of fruit, put lemons in, let simmer two hours. Pour out in a bowl, and if the syrup get thin in several days put on fire and boil till they jelly. Put up when cool in glass jar with a screw top. The same recipe may be used for oranges.

HINTS TO HOUSEKEEPERS.

For corns and bunions nothing is so cooling as the white of an egg.

Sunlight is one of the best disinfectants. The microbes that cause disease do not flourish in strong sunshine. It also has the advantage of being cheap.

See that your kitchen stove has a thorough cleaning inside and out every two or three weeks. Many times stoves are blamed for not drawing or baking well when they are clogged up with ashes.

Clean oilcloth with a wet towel pinned over a stiff broom, and rub with long, sweeping strokes. To polish it use a mixture of equal quantities of linseed oil, bees-wax and turpentine, and have it rubbed in well.

Don't think it is time wasted to prepare a few kindlings and lay them behind the stove with paper every night, then if any one is taken ill during the night, and a fire is needed, it is only a moment's work to get it.

In a severe sprain of the ankle immerse the joint as soon as possible in a pail of hot water, and keep it there for fifteen or twenty minutes. After removing it keep it bandaged with hot cloths wrung out of water, or rum and water.

Malaria is due to microbes, which reach their victims either from the air, by inhalation, or from drinking water which has absorbed them. Boil the water, avoid the night air, sleep in the higher rooms of the house, and guard against all excuses.

Cold drinks, as a rule, increase the feverish condition of the mouth and stomach, and so create thirst. Experience shows it to be a fact that hot drinks relieve thirst and "cool off" the body when it is in an abnormally heated condition, better than ice-cold drinks.

Eggs which are to be broken into water should not be broken into boiling water, as the motion destroys their shape, but let the water be as hot as possible without boiling, and let them stand several minutes on the back of the stove. They will then be soft but firm all through.

To keep varnished wood looking fresh and bright rub it thoroughly with oil from time to time. Only a little oil must be used, and that should be carefully rubbed in till it seems to be all rubbed off. Otherwise it will catch dust, and the last state of the wood will be worse than the first.

When white marble slabs and mantels get discolored, take very strong soap-lees and mix it in quicklime till it is about like milk, and spread the mixture on the marble; clean it off with soap and water after twenty-four hours' time, and rub the marble with fine putty powder and olive oil.

Watch the drain-pipes, in hot weather especially. At least once a week put down a strong solution of washing soda, say a cup of soda to a quart of water, or strong potash or lye. This is good for all the pipes, often clearing them of obstruction, and it does not corrode like chloride of lime.

Flannel should be put into a good, warm lather, that is, into soapy water, only a little warm; but on no account into cold water. As much as possible rubbing should be avoided with them, because to rub flannel makes it thick. Wringing also is harmful to them, and it is better to squeeze and press the water out of them than to wring them.

Glass articles can be so annealed by being boiled in water mixed with common salt that they will not easily break from sudden changes of temperature. They should be put into cold water, and, after being well boiled, the water should be allowed to cool slowly before taking them out. Crockery, porcelain and stone-ware can be made more durable by the same process.

Chemists say that it takes more than twice as much sugar to sweeten preserves, sauces, etc., if put in when they begin to cook as it does to sweeten after the fruit is cooked.

He who looks upon his labor as an irksome road which he must tread in order to gain money, or ease, or self-indulgence, or fame, will never be more than a third-class worker. On the other hand, the toiler in any sphere who commands our profoundest homage, is he who recognizing the dignity and importance of his labor, puts his whole soul into it, and strives to make it as excellent and as worthy as possible—he who does not work that he may rest, but rests that he may work, and does not concern himself so much with what he is going to have as with what he is going to do.—*Once a Week*.

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