

Household Matters

To Clean Indian Matting.

Take up the matting and lay it on the table, a yard at a time, and scrub it with some very good soap, using rather a stiff brush, then draw it through water, and finally swirl it with plenty of cold water, adding a little ammonia; or, if preferred, use strong salt and water. Bran water is an excellent thing, too, for this. If this matting is of really good quality, the water will not hurt it, as it is, or should be, impervious to damp.

Anti Destroyer.

Heat together in an earthenware vessel till dissolved half a pound of flowers of sulphur and four ounces of potash. Allow the mixture to get cold, then infuse with water, and apply to the infested place. Not many ants will survive a dose of this solution. If you wish to set a trap only, get a common sponge with large holes in it, wet it, and sprinkle sugar over it. The ants will collect in this. The sponge should be thrown into hot water, and all the ants will be destroyed.

To Boil Fish.

Sprinkle the well cleaned fish thoroughly with salt, wrap in a piece of cheesecloth and boil, preferably in a fish kettle. The water should be scalding when the fish goes in, then let it simmer gently until the fish flakes. If preferred, the water in which the fish is cooked may be highly seasoned with celery, onion, bay leaf and parsley, or the fish may be boiled in a rich bouillon instead of water; serve with a thick drawn butter sauce made rich with chopped hard boiled eggs, pickles and capers.

Purification, Etc., of Kitchen Grease.

If the "grease" be in the form of mutton or beef suet, fat ham, etc., it should be cut in small pieces, and put over the fire to cook very slowly. Half a cup of water may be added for each pint or pound of fat. Let cook until the fat is extracted and the bits of grease quite brown. Pour off the fat, pressing the piece until quite dry. If the fat has been used for frying and contains carbonized sediment, remove the sediment from the bottom of the cake of cold fat. If the fat is not now clean enough, melt and strain it through several folds of cloth laid over a colander.—Boston Cooking School Magazine.

Washing Lace Curtains.

First dust the curtains gently and thoroughly. Put them to soak about noon in clear lukewarm water to which has been added a teaspoonful of borax to each two gallons of water. In the evening squeeze them as dry as possible with the hands and put into clean warm soapuds. Let soak over night; then squeeze and work with the hands until clean. Rinse thoroughly in borax water (½ teaspoonful borax to 2 gallons of water), blue and starch a very little. Spread two clean sheets on the carpet, pin the curtains at every scallop through both sheet and carpet, taking care to keep them perfectly straight and allow them to dry. Two alike can be pinned at once. Wash on a warm day so the doors and windows can be open. They will dry in a short time and will be as nice as new. If they are wanted cream color add strong coffee to the starch.—Mrs. John Now.

Nourishing Drinks For Invalids.

Oriental Sherbet—Take two tablespoonfuls of rather tart jelly, preferably currant, grape, cranberry or apple, dissolve in a glass of cold water, then set on the ice until thoroughly chilled. Unless absolutely certain of the purity of your ice supply, it is not safe to use it in solution. Have all drinks chilled by standing against the ice, but take no chances of giving typhoid or other malignant germs lodgment in the body already weakened by disease.

Apple Water—Slice a half-dozen sour, juicy apples into an earthen pitcher, add a tablespoonful of sugar and pour over all a quart of boiling water. Cover closely and when cold strain and chill.

Tamarind Water—Mix preserved tamarinds with boiling water, cover and stand aside for half an hour. Strain, sweeten to taste and chill.

Pineapple Egg-nog—Beat an egg slightly with a silver fork, add three tablespoonfuls pineapple juice freshly expressed, a little sugar and as much water as is needed to fill the glass. Strain and chill.

Barley Water—Barley water is both refreshing and wholesome. Put a scant quarter cup of barley into an earthen bowl and cover with two quarts boiling water. When cold, strain, sweeten, add lemon juice to taste and chill.

Oatmeal Water—Put a quarter cup oatmeal in an earthen bowl, with a half cup sugar and the juice and thin yellow rind of a lemon. Cover with two quarts boiling water, let it stand covered until the sugar is dissolved, strain and chill. Fruit vinegars may be used in place of the lemon.

Rice Water—Cover two tablespoonfuls of well-washed rice with a quart of boiling water, add a few raisins and simmer gently for two or three hours. Strain, add a pinch of salt, sugar and lemon to season, chill and serve.

Irish Moss Lemonade—This is especially excellent in case of any throat irritation. Wash thoroughly one-quarter cup Irish moss and soak an hour in cold water to cover. Pour over it one pint boiling water and let it stand on the back of the range for half an hour. Strain, sweeten, add the juice of a lemon and chill.

MORTIMER PRESUMED.

But Grazella Brought Matter to a Focus With True Feminine Strategy.

"Mortimer Jarvis, I hate you!" It struck him squarely between the eyes, and he reeled as if from an actual blow.

The young woman who spoke these words sat in a Gibson girl attitude, with her elbows on the table, and glared at the masculine person who faced her from the opposite side of the table.

"You—you hate me?" he said, recovering his equilibrium with an effort. "And hatred is 'n't in—to—well, never mind what it's akin to," he added, as no available relationship seemed to suggest itself. "Is this a new emotion, Grazella, or is it one you had left in stock when you invoiced last?"

"My name is Miss Twigg." "Yes; Grazella Q. Twigg. Of course I do."

"Do what, sir?" "Twigg. Do you continue to hate me, Miss Twigg?"

The stony glare with which she still regarded him appeared to indicate that she did.

"Do you hate me, Miss Grazella—Twigg—as much as you did a minute ago?"

The curling irony of her lip, so to speak, was sufficient answer to this question, likewise.

"I will ask you now, Miss Twigg," he said, after the manner of a young Gibson lawyer conducting his first important case, "why you detest, abominate and regard with abhorrence the individual who now presumes—"

"That is the reason, sir," she interrupted. "You are presumptuous."

"Pardon me, Miss Twigg. Remember you are not on oath. Do I understand you to say I am presumptuous?" "I think that is the word I used, sir."

"I will ask you now Miss Twigg, if you are aware that 'presumptuous' is derived from the Latin word 'presumere,' meaning 'to take beforehand?'"

"I presume it is." "Ha! Then you yourself presume?"

Hastily making a note of it on the margin of a newspaper that lay on the table, he proceeded:

"Waiving that point for the moment, however, may I ask you in what respect I have been presumptuous, in the sense of taking before—"

"You take too much for granted." "For instance?"

"For instance, Mortimer Jarvis, you take it for granted that I can't know why you have been devoting yourself to me for the last three years."

"Oh, do I?" "Yes, sir; you do. You presume to think I am going to be surprised and do the 'this is so sudden' act when you—"

"When I what?" "Oh, you think you've been so sly about it that I never suspected—"

"Suspected what?" "As if my girl didn't—didn't know—"

"Know what?" "Then, all at once, her self-possession deserted her, and a horrible suspicion took its place. Had she been unduly presumptuous herself?"

Her lips moved, but no sound came from them.

The young man presently assumed control of the situation.

"Grazella," he said, in a voice which, by every rule of accepted dramatic art, should have had an accompaniment of low, tremulous music. "I plead not guilty to the main charge, but I am going to take something for granted now."

By executing a rapid flank movement he took possession of her hand.

In her agitation she had neglected to place it out of the reach of possible danger.

She tried to withdraw it, but it was too late. Apparently it was there to stay.

"And you thought me presumptuous," he continued, with a desperate attempt to pull out the flute stop in his vocal organ. "Why, bless your dear little heart, I am the shyest, timidest, most self-deprecatory mortal on earth! Been devoting myself to you for three years, have I? Grazella—"

Here he thrust the table aside with a masterly flank movement of his free hand, as being easier than stepping around it.

"If I hadn't been the biggest coward alive I would have spoken two years, eleven months and twenty-nine days ago. That's the way they do nowadays in all the—"

"Oh, Mortimer, what must you think?" she wailed, still struggling, but with less desperation, to withdraw her hand.

"I think you did perfectly right, dear, to bring me to—I mean you did right to give me a chance—hold your head still, will you? . . . Presumptuous?"

. . . Well, I like that . . . and that . . . and that!"

"That's just what you are!" she pointed, half an hour later.

But he took a similar advantage of the point.—Chicago Tribune.

Bachelors' Ridge.

There is a place in Webster Township known as "Bachelors' Ridge." Seven unmarried men keep "back" in as many different houses within a radius of two miles, and within this distance there is not a woman living. One of the bachelors, Israh Brown, has a small tract of land, but has no live stock, not even a chicken, and does scarcely any work. He refuses help from neighbors, who sometimes offer to give him something to eat, saying he has no use for their provisions. Last winter he dug a hole under his house four feet square, and placed his bed in this hole and slept in it, pulling the lid down on it. He says he kept very warm in his bunk all the time.—Corydon correspondence Indianapolis News.

With the Funny Fellows



Hypothetical.
When the captain remarked to the boat swain:
"Suppose your Creator had chotswain
To create you a cow, sir?"
Merely hitching his trousers,
The boatswain replied: "Well, s'poab swain?" —Puck.

Lost Weight.
Yeast—"You didn't seem to gain any weight while you were down south."
Crimsonbeak—"How could I? Why, my nose pecked three times"—Yonkers Statesman.

Preliminary Profit.
Mrs. Giub-dub—"Did your daughter marry well?"
Mrs. Flim-Flam—"Yes, indeed; she had a trip all over Europe before the divorce."—Life.

Nothing to Hope For.
Cholly—"I am poor, but very ambitious. Will you marry me?"
Mabel—"Yes, I'll marry you. I'm not at all ambitious myself."—Philadelphia Bulletin.

Such is Fame.
BeJinks—"Punston is certainly a witty chap, isn't he?"
LeBlinks—"Yes. Every time he opens his mouth a funny crack is noticeable."—Chicago News.

Would See Him There First.
Mistress—"What made you angry with the doctor and tell him not to come any more?"
Bridget—"Because he said he thought he would stand me to a warmer climate and I'm on ter him."—Life.

Better Than Usual.
"Those are pretty good biscuits you made to-day."
"I didn't make any biscuits to-day."
"Who did? I just ate half a dozen in the pantry."
"Why, those must have been the dog biscuits I bought for Fido."—Houston Post.

Johnny's Idea.
What he thought "a school of her ting" looked like.



Her Feet, Too.
"That new saleslady," said the blonde at the ribbon counter, "has false hair and teeth."
"Yes," replied the brunette, who condescends to sell handkerchiefs occasionally, "and it seems that's not the only thing. I heard her complaining that she hadn't a chance to get off her feet all day."

Overheard at the Garage.
"Yes," said the polite demonstrator, "here is an automobile intended for long tours. Why, here is even a place for knives and forks."
"Ah, indeed," said the caller. "And what would you call that little machine over there just built for two?"
"Oh, that's a place for spoons."—Chicago News.

A Nicer's Wish.
Greedylet, who is rather miserly, was recovering from a long illness. "How was it, doctor," he asked one day, "that I was able to live so many weeks without eating?"
"Why, you were fed by the fever."
"Are you sure?" Then, after a moment's reflection, "I wish I could give it to my servants."

Dead in a Hospital.
Patient (to pretty nurse)—"Will you be my wife when I recover?"
Pretty Nurse—"Certainly."
Patient—"Then you love me?"
Pretty Nurse—"Oh, no; that's merely a part of the treatment. I must keep my patients cheerful. I promised this morning to run away with a married man who had lost both his legs."—Maui American.

Devotion to an Idea.
Watt Gozup—"Isn't it something startling for old Hunks to be dropping into extravagant habits at his time of life?"
Muskum Downe—"Yes; he has just found out that there is an inheritance tax, and he's opposed to it on principle. He says he is going to see to it that his heirs don't have to pay any such tax."—Chicago Tribune.

The Kitchen Autocrat.
"Yes, ma'am, an' now that I'm goin' to take hold here, I'll settle the permit business first of all. You see I carry me own fountain pen. There, take that an' don't lose it."
"What is this?"
"That's a permit, ma'am, for you to visit th' kitchen. It entitles you to one visit a week. If you come oftener th' permit will be taken up—an' don't you forgit it."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Popular Science

Dr. Thomas C. Chamberlain, head of the University of Chicago's department of geology, declares the earth will be habitable for at least 100,000,000 years longer.

Gold is one of the most difficult metals to vaporize, but by the use of the electric furnace it can readily be set boiling at the temperature of about 4100 degrees Fahrenheit.

Made voiceless by the cutting out of his larynx in an operation for cancer, an ingenious Viennese has fitted a rubber tube with vocal chords, and by means of this novel speaking apparatus, inserted in his throat, he is said to be able to produce a high falsetto voice.

The use of yellow glass for weak eyes is recommended by Dr. Metals, of Angers. The yellow tint is very restful and has a calming influence on the most sensitive eyes. Such glasses have been prescribed during fifteen years in this oculist's own practice, yielding excellent results.

The Pintsch incandescent gaslight in railway carriages has proved a great success in Victoria, thirty-three per cent. more light having been obtained at a cost of thirty-three per cent. less gas, according to the Sydney Herald. Consequently it is to be extensively introduced. The Sydney express will be fitted with it.

A new type of railway cars of two stories, specially for use in transporting troops, has been invented by a Russian engineer, M. Rykovski. Each wagon can carry 180 men, or an entire company, and under healthy conditions as to fresh air. These new wagons are about to be tested on the new line from St. Petersburg to Volozda.

Still another chemist is in the field with an artificial gutta-percha. Herr Gentsch, of Vienna, has produced an artificial gutta-percha from a mixture of caoutchouc and palm resin; it is claimed that its elastic resistance is superior to that of the natural products, but that it consolidates less easily and is more glutinous, while its cost would be only two-thirds of that of the natural product.

An extension of the wireless telegraphy system of Lower California is reported by Consul Kaiser, at Mazatlan. The machinery installation will be made at San Jose del Cabo, at the end of the peninsula, and at the port of La Paz, in Sinaloa, by a German company, which secured the contract, and will install benzine motors with cooling machinery, continuous current dynamos, storage batteries, etc.

MICROBES WAR ON ONE ANOTHER

Sewage System of Saratoga Likely to Be Adopted by Burlington, Vt.

Professor O. H. Landreth, of the State Board of Health, and F. O. Sinclair, city engineer of Burlington, Vt., visited the sewage disposal plant at Saratoga with a view to the adoption of a similar disposal system for Burlington. At the conclusion of the inspection Mr. Sinclair announced that he would recommend a plant similar to that at Saratoga for his city.

The process of sewage disposal adopted by Saratoga is simple and inexpensive. It can be described as a process of nature, or likened into a "battle of the microbes." The sewage flows into a large tank or basin, which is covered to expel the light. As soon as this tank fills up, microbes, which can develop and live only in the dark, begin to eat the sewage to prepare themselves for the struggle which they will meet in the next tank. They fatten and consume all there is to be consumed, and cry for more. They crawl through holes left for the purpose and emerge into the other tank. Waiting there is the enemy, or opposing microbes, and as wolves would pounce on a flock of calves, they meet and destroy this advancing enemy. The result is the liquefaction of all the forces, a clear and pure (nearly) effluent, and a half per cent. of purity effluent, or stream of water, which can be drunk with more impunity than the average drinking water.

Burlington is the first of the Vermont towns to act on the recent order of the Vermont State Board of Health to purify water supplies. The State Board gave the cities until June 1 next to take the proper steps, and threatened, if they did not, to condemn the supply and order the discontinuance of its use. Mayor Burke at once appointed a committee to act in accordance with the order of the State Board. Similar action by all the towns will result in the purification of the waters of Lake Champlain.—New York Post.

How Bees Embalm.

Bees can embalm as well as any undertaker. All intruders on their lives are slain and embalmed carefully. If a worm, or a roach, or any insect blunders into a hive the bees will fall upon him and slay him with their stings. To get the corpse out would be a difficulty; therefore, embalming it, they let it remain.

The embalming process of the bees is simple. It consists in covering the corpse with a hermetic coat of pure wax. Within this airtight envelope the body remains fresh. It cannot in any way contaminate the hive.

When a small blunderer in among the bees they cannot kill him on account of the protection of his shell. So they embalm him alive. They cover him shell and all, with snowy wax. He is a prisoner whom only death releases.—Minneapolis Journal.

SOUTHERN FARM NOTES.

TOPICS OF INTEREST TO THE PLANTER, STOCKMAN AND TRUCK GROWER.

Using the Cowpea.

Whenever possible the cowpea should be cut, fed or utilized as hay and the resulting excrement returned to the soil. This has been shown to be the most profitable way of handling the crop by direct experiment. An acre of cowpeas will maintain a cow for 140 days while producing two gallons of milk a day, which at fifteen cents a gallon would be worth \$42, while the droppings and refuse left on the ground would be almost if not quite as valuable to the succeeding crop as if the whole crop had been plowed under. There are many poor farms that are clearly unprofitable to cultivate, and on those farms where barnyard manure or live stock are not available, it will be better to plow under the cowpeas as a means of soil improvement, using in conjunction liberal applications of phosphates and potash. In certain investigations made with wheat where cowpeas were plowed under, they increased the yield nine bushels per acre in two years.

Thus it appears that the cowpea furnishes the cheapest form of nitrogen the farmer can use. For example, if his wheat crop yielded twenty bushels to the acre, it would require thirty-four pounds of nitrogen to supply that removed from the land by the crop. If he had to buy this at the present price of nitrates of soda, it would cost him about \$5 per acre, whereas, a good "second crop" of cowpeas would furnish him from fifty to seventy-five pounds and enable the land to produce hay worth from \$20 to \$30 an acre the same year. A good average crop of cowpeas yields about two tons of hay per acre; it would cost about \$7.50 per ton to produce the hay, bale it and put it on the market, giving the two tons a farm price of \$5 and a market price of about \$20. The plowing under of the second crop of cowpeas should furnish enough nitrogen for two twenty-bushel crops of wheat, which if purchased in the form of nitrate of soda would cost \$10 per acre, an amount no farmer could think of applying in a commercial way. The aftermath of the cowpeas would furnish it for much less than this, so that by growing the pea under the two crop system, a sufficient nitrogen and humus supply can be obtained for the soil and a satisfactory crop made from the land the same year.

1. The area devoted to the cultivation of cowpeas increased 275.2 per cent in the last decade.

2. The peculiar value of the cowpea is due to the nodules which grow on its roots and in which certain forms of bacteria live which have the power of assimilating atmospheric nitrogen.

3. As the cowpea is a tap-rooted plant it is very important that the land be deeply plowed and subsoiled if clayey in nature; otherwise the root growth will be seriously restricted.

4. The cowpea is best sown in drills twenty-four inches apart.

5. While the cowpea can supply itself with nitrogen, it also requires large amounts of phosphates and potash; these it can only obtain from the soil, hence they must be liberally supplied in artificial forms.

6. A good mixture for cowpeas on clay soils would be about 250 to 300 pounds of acid phosphate and 100 pounds of nitrate of potash; where kaint is used 350 to 400 pounds should be substituted for the muriate; on sandy soils the amount should be increased one-third to one-half.

7. Some of the best varieties of cowpeas for hay are: Whipoorwill, Clay and Unknown, Black, Whipoorwill and Clay; for pasture, Unknown, Black and Red Ripper.

8. Cowpea hay can be made for \$4 per ton where the ground is plowed and the fertilizer used charged up to the first crop. As two tons per acre can be produced on fair soil and the market price is \$10 to \$15 a ton, it is a profitable crop to grow for use on the farm for sale.

9. The cowpea is usually valuable as a green manure because it decays so readily. No difficulty will be experienced in plowing it under if it is done in a rational manner.

10. The cowpea is particularly valuable as a grazing crop for hogs and cattle; drilled peas having produced from 300 to 600 pounds of pork per acre, worth \$15 to \$25.

11. The cowpea combines admirably with corn, sorghum, etc., for production of silage or forage. When seeded with these crops from ten to fifteen per cent. of the total yield may be composed of peas, which balances the food up and vastly improves its feeding quality.

12. Either the grain or hay from cowpeas is very rich in protein, and experiments that have been made show that it can be substituted to advantage for a portion of the grain ration in feeding either beef or dairy cattle.

13. The wide adaptability of the cowpea makes it the most valuable legume cultivated at the present time.

Soils Especially Suited to Alfalfa.

As with all other crops alfalfa will succeed in some soils better than in others. Well-drained alluvial soils, such as some of our creek bottoms that are not subject to overflow and are well above water, which will permit the long roots of alfalfa to go down into it and get nourishment from far below the reach of the roots of ordinary crops, are ideal soils for alfalfa, while soils with "hard pan" will not usually grow it successfully. These alluvial soils must be elevated, well drained, and free from acidity. Of course a great deal of alfalfa is grown on soils that do not belong to the alluvial class. Each grower can experiment and find out for himself the adaptability of his own soil to the crop.

Remember these things: Alfalfa can be grown either in spring or in the fall. I consider fall sowing preferable in the cotton belt proper, and spring sowing best in the more elevated and cooler sections. For fall sowing the seed should be in by the 15th of September, and in many instances earlier seeding would be better. For spring sowing the land would be better if prepared in the fall or early winter and the seed put in the first of April. The land must be prepared thoroughly by deep plowing, liberal manuring and liming. Of course, the land must be well drained, for alfalfa cannot stand a wet soil. It is a waste of time and money to sow alfalfa in poor land, or on land not well prepared. If one succeeds the crop will well repay for all the time and money spent in preparing the land.

For experimental purposes an acre is enough for any one to begin with. If one can grow an acre successfully he can then enlarge as circumstances permit. If a person does not wish to risk an acre, a half acre, or a quarter of an acre will suffice.

I prefer heavy seeding, not less than thirty pounds per acre, though many successful growers contend that twenty pounds of seed are sufficient. The seed should not be covered too deep. From a half inch to an inch is plenty deep to cover.—T. B. Parker, in the Progressive Farmer.

How to Sell Pigs or Cows.

There are lots of people in the country who want to buy pigs or cows. There are also plenty of farmers who have such things to sell. They put out the news "by word of mouth" that they have cows or pigs for sale. The chances are, however, that some of their nearest neighbors will not hear about it. Right here is where the value of printers' ink would come in. For fifteen or twenty cents an advertisement can be inserted in the business local column to let the public know what you have for sale. The rural mail carriers deliver the papers quickly to the patrons and in this way the "news" gets out without delay. It brings buyers and seller together and a sale is made. Without the advertising the cow may stay with you a month before a buyer is found, and she will eat enough every day to pay for a small advertisement. Can't you see that it's good business economy to use printers' ink to let the public know what you have for sale? Now, suppose you try it and watch the result.—Marshallville Home.

A Good Example.

The Warrenton Record tells how the Warren County farmers in session a few days ago, offered prizes for certain products in Warren County as follows: "For the largest yield of corn from one acre of high-land, \$10, and low-grounds, \$10. For the largest yield of cotton from one acre of land, \$10. For the largest yield of tobacco from one acre of land, \$10. Mr. H. T. Macon offered a prize of \$10 for the largest yield of hay from one acre of land in 1908. Mr. John Graham added \$5 to this offer and the association agreed to give \$10, making in all for the best acre of hay, \$25. Millet and cowpeas are not to be counted in the contest."

Late Pruning.

Some authorities claim that better results are obtained if fruit trees are pruned in late spring or early summer than if done when the tree is in the dormant state. If the necessary pruning has not yet been done, it is not too late to do it. Summer pruning is less likely to be followed by water sprouts.—Southern Fruit Grower.

News Notes.

The item in the Sundry Civil bill appropriating \$25,000 for the President's traveling expenses was again under discussion in the Senate.

The Senate amendment providing that the type, displacement and tonnage of the proposed 20,000-ton battleship shall be reported to Congress before bids for construction are approved was accepted by the House.

Current Events.

At the Interstate Commerce Commission hearing in Washington, Jno. B. Thayer, fourth vice-president of the Pennsylvania Railroad, asserted that railroads should confine themselves strictly to the transportation business and not own stock in coal companies.

In the House of Representatives Mr. Mann, of Illinois, made an interesting speech on the Pure Food bill.