

SCIENCE.

NATURE'S INSTINCTS.—If a pail of water is placed within six inches of the stem of a pumpkin or vegetable marrow, in the course of a night it will approach it, and in the morning will be found with one of the leaves on the water. If a prop be placed within six inches of a convolvulus or scarlet runner, it will find it, although the prop may be shifted daily. If, after it has twined some distance up the prop, it be unwound, and twined in the opposite direction, it will return to its original position, or die in the attempt; yet notwithstanding, if two of the plants grow near each other, and have no stake around which they can entwine, one of them will alter the direction of the spiral, and they will twine around each other.

WEATHER WISDOM.—Some time ago a New Jersey man of science gave the New York Farmers' Club the following weather facts and probabilities:—

1. When the temperature falls suddenly, there is a storm forming south of you.

2. When the temperature rises suddenly, there is a storm forming north of you.

3. The wind always blows from a region of fair weather towards a region where a storm is forming.

4. Cirrus clouds always move from a region where a storm is in progress towards a region of fair weather.

5. Cumulus clouds always move from a region of fair weather towards a region where a storm is forming.

6. When cirrus clouds are moving rapidly from the north or north-west, there will be rain in less than twenty-four hours, no matter how cold it may be.

7. When cirrus clouds are moving rapidly from the south or south-east, there will be a cold rainstorm on the morrow, if it be summer; and if it be winter, there will be a snowstorm.

8. The wind always blows in a circle around a storm, and, when it blows from the north, the heaviest rain is east of you; if it blows from the east, the heaviest rain is south; if it blows from the west, the heaviest rain is north of you.

ANNEALING NAILS.—Common cut nails may be annealed and made flexible, so that they can be clinched like wrought nails, by heating them red hot and cooling them slowly in a heap of fine coal dust. This softens the iron so that it will bend without breaking. If coal dust cannot be procured, sawdust will make a very good substitute if the heap is covered with moist sand to retain the heat and the smoke of the charred wood. Small chips used in the same way may be used instead of sawdust.

CHROME INK.—This ink is of an excellent blue black, does not fade and as it contains no gum, flows freely from the pen. It does not affect steel pens. Take one ounce of extract of logwood, pour over it two quarts of boiling water, and when the extract is dissolved, add one drachm of yellow chromate of potassa. It must not be put into old ink bottles without being thoroughly cleansed as ordinary ink decomposes chrome ink. The above ink gives general satisfaction and it costs about ten cents to make the above quantity.

TO MAKE A FIRE AND WATER PROOF CEMENT.—To half a pint of vinegar add the same quantity of milk; separate the curd, and mix the whey with the whites of five eggs; beat it well together, and sift into a sufficient quantity of quicklime, to convert it to the consistency of a thick paste. Broken vessels mended with this cement never afterwards separate, for it resists the action of both fire and water. The above cement is similar to what is sold by pedlars at twenty-five cents a bottle worth about five cents.

THE USE OF AMMONIA IN BAKING POWDERS.—ITS IMPORTANCE AS A CULINARY AGENT.—The recent discoveries in science and chemistry are fast revolutionizing our daily domestic economies. Old methods are giving way to the light of modern investigation, and the habits and methods of our fathers and mothers

are stepping down and out, to be succeeded by the new ideas, with marvelous rapidity. In no department of science, however, have more rapid strides been made than in its relations to the preparation and preservation of human food. Scientists, having discovered how to traverse space, furnish heat, and beat time itself, by the application of natural forces, and to do a hundred other things promotive of the comfort and happiness of human kind, are naturally turning their attention to the development of other agencies and powers that shall add to the years during which man may enjoy the blessings set before him.

Among the recent discoveries in this direction, none is more important than the uses to which common ammonia can be properly put, as a leavening agent, and which indicate that this familiar salt is hereafter to perform an active part in the preparation of our daily food.

The carbonate of ammonia is an exceedingly volatile substance. Place a small portion of it upon a knife and hold over a flame, and it will almost immediately be entirely developed into gas and pass off into the air. The gas thus formed is a simple composition of nitrogen and hydrogen. No residue is left from the ammonia. This gives it its superiority as a leavening power over soda and cream of tartar when used alone, and has induced its use as a supplement to these articles.

A small quantity of ammonia in the dough is effective in producing bread that will be lighter, sweeter, and more wholesome than that risen by any other leavening agent. When it is acted upon by the heat of baking, the leavening gas that raises the dough is liberated. In this act, it uses itself up, as it were; the ammonia is entirely diffused, leaving no trace of residuum whatever. The light, fluffy, flaky appearance, so desirable in biscuit, etc. and so sought after by professional cooks, is said to be imparted to them only by the use of this agent.

The bakers and baking powder manufacturers, producing the finest goods, have been quick to avail themselves of this useful discovery, and the handsomest and best bread and cake are now largely risen by the aid of ammonia, combined of course with other leavening material.

Ammonia is one of the best known products of the laboratory. If the application of its properties to the purposes of cooking results in giving us lighter and more wholesome bread, biscuit, and cake, it will prove a boon to dyspeptic humanity, and will speedily force itself into general use in the new field to which science has assigned it.—Scientific American.

THE HOUSE.

DUTCH SOUP.—Take either a beef shank or the remains of a roast; put them in a kettle with about three quarts of cold water and let it heat up gradually, never letting it boil very hard; watch and skim carefully. Get it on as soon after breakfast as possible; about ten o'clock. Season with salt, black pepper, and a little red pepper, and put in two or three sliced raw onions and a good-sized carrot also sliced. At eleven, put in six or eight potatoes peeled and cut in pieces, and a half cup of rice, or if you haven't the rice make dumplings and drop in. It is very nice flavored with parsley, but it is good without it.

BEAN SOUP.—Pick over one pint of dried beans and wash them in cold water; peel and slice an onion, put in a saucepan and fry it brown, with a tablespoonful of drippings; ham or bacon-fat preferable. When brown, put the beans in with the onion, pour on three quarts of cold water and boil slowly; every fifteen minutes add one cup of cold water until a quart has been used; mix one tablespoonful each of flour and butter to smooth paste, and fry some half-inch bits of stale bread with a little butter. As soon as the beans are soft put them through a sieve with a potato masher; put them again in the saucepan with their broth stir in the paste let the soup boil once and serve with the fried bread in it.

To wash a pair of blankets, dissolve a tablespoonful of borax and

a pint of soft-soap in water enough to soak them without crowding, and let them remain in the tub over night. Then rub out and drain, not wring; rinse thoroughly in two waters and hang to dry, still without wringing.

Carbolic acid sprinkled on the pantry-shelves, etc., will rid them of red ants. As the odor is unpleasant it may be mixed with lavender-water or other perfume—a teaspoonful of crystals of carbolic acid to an ounce of the liquid.

Ants that frequent houses or gardens may be destroyed by taking flour of brimstone half a pound, and potash four ounces; set them in an iron or earthen pan over the fire until dissolved and united; afterwards beat them to a powder, and infuse a little of this powder in water; wherever you sprinkle it, the ants will die or fly the place.

Hot alum water is the best insect destroyer known. Put alum into hot water and boil until dissolved; then apply hot water with a brush to all cracks, closets, bedsteads, and other places where insects may be found. Ants, bedbugs, cockroaches, and other creeping things are killed.

Cockroaches can be destroyed by using smooth-glazed china bowls partially filled with molasses and water. Set the bowls against something by which the insects can get in; they will not be able to get out.

HEALTH HINTS

A NEW METHOD OF PRESERVING MEAT.—An animal is stunned by a blow on the head, and blood being drawn from the left jugular vein, a strong solution of boracic acid, kept at blood heat, is injected into the system. The heart of the still living animal pumps the antiseptic fluid into all parts of the system. The animal is then killed by the butcher in the usual way. The cost is a mere trifle, and meat treated in this way will keep several weeks in the heat of summer.

A person in a fainting fit should be laid down with the head lower than the body. Fainting is caused by a want of blood in the brain; the heart ceases to act with sufficient force to send the usual amount of blood to the brain, and the person loses consciousness because the function of the brain ceases. Restore the blood to the brain, and recovery instantly follows. This restoration is greatly facilitated by laying the body down so that the blood will run into the brain by mere force of gravity.

For burns, wet seleratus and spread on a cloth; bind this on the burned part, and in a few hours it will be well.

Vinegar will remove the disagreeable odor of kerosene from tinware.

No better liniment for reducing swelling and removing soreness is anywhere to be found, than that made of equal parts of alcohol, oil of wormwood and laudanum.

A wound or sore in danger of mortification, should have applied a poultice of charcoal perfectly powdered and stirred into hop yeast.

Critics must be careful. It does not help a man's reputation much to follow in the steps of a certain member of a school board in New England who, visiting a school under his jurisdiction and invited to make some remarks, said, "Well, children, you speak well and reads well; but you hain't sot still."

A recent writer says, in his advice to young women, that their mother Eve married a gardener. It might be added that the gardener, in consequence of his match, lost his situation.

Truth tells a good story of "a very intelligent dog in Wiltshire. The animal was in the habit of going every day to the railroad, and, as the train passed, the guard threw out a Standard for a clergyman who lived hard by, which the dog seized in his teeth and carried to his master. One day the dog came back to the Rectory without a newspaper. On inquiry, the guard insisted that he had acted as usual, but, upon making a search, it was found that a Daily Telegraph, and not a Standard, had been thrown out, and the dog had refused to have anything to do with it."

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