

blacksmith, "Have you seen anything of old Sol?"

"Why, to be sure," said Mr. Clay. "Old Sol came here to-day, and told me I had made a bad job of it in putting the shoe on his right forefoot."

"What do you mean, Mr. Clay?" asked Mr. Lane. "A horse cannot talk."

"Oh, true, he did not say it in words; but he said it by acts as plainly as I can say it. He came to the forge where I stood, and then held up his foot, and looked at me, as if he would like to say, if he could, 'Mr. Clay, you are getting careless in your old age. Look at that shoe. See how it pinches my foot. Is that the way to shoe a decent old horse like me? Now, are you not ashamed of yourself? Ease that shoe at once. Take it off, and put it on in a better way.'"

"Can it be that old Sol said all that by his look?" asked Mr. Lane, laughing.

"All that and more," said Mr. Clay. "He stood still as a post while I took off the shoe. And then I put it on so it might not hurt him. And, when I had done it, he gave a merry neigh, as if to say, 'Thank you, Mr. Clay,' and off he ran. And now, if you will go back to the field, you will find him there eating his breakfast."

So Mr. Lane laughed, and bade Mr. Clay good morning, and back to the field he drove. And there he found Tim putting up the gate, and there in the field was old Sol eating grass, and as happy as could be. Was not Sol a wise old horse?—*Child's World.*

**ABOUT TADPOLES AND FROGS.**

A frog's eggs looks like a small black head. Great numbers of these are found together, surrounded by a quantity of jelly. As the sun warms the water, the eggs feel its quickening force, and development begins. In the course of a week or two the tiny tadpoles squirm free, and swim away into the pond. If taken from the water they would die as quickly as one of us would if forced to exchange places with them. Lungs

for air-breathing are fast replacing the gills which did duty in the tadpole stage. The young frog frequently pokes his nose out of the water as his lungs grow more lunglike, to try them. The mouth, too, must widen, and the eyes grow larger and more bulging. When all is complete, the tail will no longer stand in the way.

The little tadpole, or polliwog, has no family ties. He wots nothing of brothers and sisters. He goes to no school, save that of daily experience. To-day a fish may teach him how to dodge, or his own grandfather give him a lesson in deep diving, but in both cases it is to escape making a meal for his teachers that he dodges or dives. The main business of the day is eating—or being eaten. If he escapes the latter for six weeks or two months, the common frog finds himself possessed of two hind legs; later of two front ones. Then his tadpole days are over, and he enters into the state of frog-hood.—*Country Life in America.*

**TO THE COOK.**

Cook potatoes in their jackets in as little water as possible. They are better served whole.

Put sweet corn in cold water, and let it come to a boil, and cook three minutes, or just long enough to set the milk. It is best eaten from the cob. It will steam in five minutes.

Be sure the green beans are well done. Do not salt them until about done.

In making succotash cut the corn fine, and with the back of your knife scrape the cob, leaving as much of the hull on it as possible.

Tough bean skins and corn hulls should be transferred from the mough to the plate as neatly as you would remove cherry or grape seeds.

An inverted plate or saucer is a good thing in the bottom of a kettle, where vegetables or meat are cooked. Perforated sheetiron plates, made after the fashion of a pail cover, would be still better, and the rim under might be half an inch or an inch or more in depth, as you wish. There is no patent on this plate, and a tinman would make one very easily by bending the edge of the plate.—*Health Culture.*

**REST FOR THE MOTHER.**

How many babies wakes up just about the mothers' bedtime and keep her busy for a good part of the night. The mother may not see anything apparently the matter with the child, but she may depend upon it that when baby is cross and sleepless there is something wrong, and the little one is taking the only means he has of telling it. Baby's Own Tablets will make him well and cheerful right away. There are no opiates in this medicine—they send baby to sleep simply because they remove the cause of his sleeplessness and make him feel good and comfortable. The Tablets are good for children of all ages, and they cure all the minor troubles of children. If you know a neighbor who is using the Tablets for her children, ask what she thinks of them, and we are sure she will tell you they are the best medicine in the world for little ones. Mrs. James Levers, Spencerville, Ont., says: "I believe Baby's Own Tablets saved my baby's life, and I would not be without them."

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**A BUMPKIN AND A GOPHER.**  
"What's a gopher, grandpa? Cliff Scott says I'm as blind as a gopher."

Nelson threw himself down on the grass, and drew his jacket sleeve across his forehead.

Grandpa Ben leaned against the lawn-mower, and looked down into the little flushed face.

"Been running?"  
"Yes, sir. I don't think I like to play with country bumpkins. They—"

"Tut, tut!" interrupted grandpa; "don't say anything that you are going to be sorry for."

"Is a bumpkin worse than a gopher?"  
"We'll go to the dictionary and see," replied grandpa. "But, first, we'll examine some of those little hills you were telling me about yesterday."

Nelson's face clouded.  
"That's why Cliff Scott says I'm as blind as a gopher—'cause I don't know the difference between them and a hill of potatoes. Here's a big one, now!" he cried, suddenly stooping to examine a mound of loose earth in the field they were crossing.

"And here are some more," said grandpa. "The little gophers know where to find good grass, if they are almost blind."

"Do tell me what you mean, Grandpa Ben."

Nelson was down on his knees beside one of the little heaps of earth as if he expected to see a gopher then and there.

"I mean that this earth was thrown up by a little creature in its search for food. The roots of the grass are what it feeds upon. This work of heaping up the earth is generally done in the night; for, as the animal is almost blind, it can work as well then as in the daytime, and without fear of detection. The little burrower has a coat of black fur, fine and silky. It has a great many relations, among them the meadow mole. Many of the New Hampshire gophers have star-shaped noses; and their tiny mouths, full of saw-like teeth, are set back, something like a hog's mouth."

"Now, how should Cliff Scott suppose I'd know anything about New Hampshire gophers?" Nelson broke forth when Grandpa Ben had finished his story. "If he should come to Boston, I don't imagine he'd know the Subway when he saw it. He might think it was a tunnel, but I shouldn't call him—"

"A 'country bumpkin?'" quizzed Grandpa Ben.

Nelson hung his head.  
"Country boys are at home with nature," continued grandpa. "You in the city are familiar with works of art. Neither should criticize the other for his lack of knowledge."

Then they went into the house, and grandpa took his big dictionary from the table, and ran his finger down the page of B's; when he reached the word "bumpkin," he passed the book to Nelson.

"Well, grandpa," said the boy, after pondering awhile; "I think it is worse than a gopher, and I'm sorry I called Cliff Scott one."—*Helen M. Richardson in Zion's Herald.*

Bake tomatoes with the skins on and serve whole.

When beets are done, put them in cold water to remove the skins. They are very nice steamed or baked.

Steam cauliflower, if possible. If not, then stand it in water, flowerettes up, where they will cook from the steam.

**WHY CROUP IS FATAL.**

When croup attacks your child you must be ready for it. It comes as an accompaniment to an ordinary cough, or it may attack without warning. All ills of children develop quickly, and when any kind of cough appears there should be something at hand to stop it with promptness. Many a child has choked to death with croup because the right remedy was not convenient. Every one should know that the right safeguard for a child's cough or any cough is Adamson's Botanic Cough Balsam. With this soothing compound in the house, croup is always easily checked and relieved.

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