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HOUSEHOLD

MOLASSES CANDY.

One cup molasses, 1 pound brown sugar, 1-2 pint water, 3 tablespoons vinegar, 1-4 pound butter, pinch soda, 1-2 teaspoon cream of tartar. Put molasses, sugar, water and vinegar into a saucepan and stir until it boils. Add cream of tartar and boil until brittle when dropped in cold water. Watch to prevent burning. Add butter and soda. Pour on a buttered platter; cool and pull. When rolled in long, thin strips the center can be filled with cream candy, then two strips rolled together and cut with scissors into buttercups.

PEANUT BRITTLE.

One cup sugar, 1 cup peanuts. Chop peanuts slightly and place on a buttered platter. Put sugar in frying pan or kettle and heat slowly and carefully until it caramelizes (melts and turns a golden brown). Pour quickly over peanuts.

FONDANT.

One pound of sugar (2 cups), 1-2 cup water, 1-2 saltspoonful cream of tartar. Put all in a saucepan and stir until the sugar is dissolved, but not a minute longer, do not even shake the saucepan while the syrup is boiling. Have at hand a bowl of ice water containing ice, and also a small piece of cheesecloth. Dip cloth in cold water, wring out and wipe down granules which form on the sides of the saucepan during the boiling. Do this two or three times. When syrup seems thick and the bubbles do not break quickly, put two fingers into ice water, hold until cold, plunge into syrup, then quickly back into ice water. If the syrup which adheres to the fingers rolls into a soft ball, take the syrup from the fire and pour on a slightly oiled platter or slab. Keep the edges pushed into the syrup so that these do not get too cool. When the mass is lukewarm, or will dent with the pressure of the finger, stir quickly until it forms a soft white mass. Knead a moment, put into a bowl, and cover with a damp cloth. If, by any chance, the fondant is soft, it can be used for dipping; if it is too brittle, put in a few drops of flavoring or hot water. Keep this in a cool, dry place 24 hours. This should be made on a cool, dry day. Make 1 pound at a time.

DATE BALLS.

Stone and chop 3 cups dates, 1 cup black walnut meats, 1 tablespoon preserved ginger. Run through meat chopper; add 1 tablespoon ginger syrup. Make into balls; roll in cocoanut. Put in paper cases.

STUFFED DATES

Wash dates by putting them into a colander and dipping them up and down in boiling water two or three times. Cook; slit lengthwise to remove stone. Fill cavity with a ball of flavored fondant, English walnuts, peanuts or neufchatel cheese. Roll in granulated sugar or very dry powdered sugar.

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Be Brave

It was a principle with one of England's great modern artists never to reveal the frequent moods of sorrow to which his sensitive temperament made him the victim but rather always to display a brave and hopeful temper—"to ease life for everybody," as he said. It is a chivalrous way in which to bear one's self for the encouragement which even the forced attitude of good cheer may bring.

There is a very subtle danger in sorrow; it tends to magnify itself and to induce selfishness. It pushes into the inner circle of all occasions and declares its presence. We must reckon with this, and not permit the thrusting forward of gloom or grief. Life does not need to be made easier for everybody, for there is so much in it that is disheartening at the best. We all need to be heartened, and it is the gracious ministry of many who feel the sorrow of the world most keenly to bear themselves so brave that their very presence brings blessing.

In the process of encouraging others we ourselves become braver. One way in which to prevent despair is to make life easier for others by the assertion of what little bravery we have at the moment. This act induces courage. It also helps the battle for our friends.—"Zon's Herald."

WHALE'S NOT FAST SWIMMER.

The whale's progress through the water is limited to ten or twelve miles an hour.

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SHORTHAND WRITING.

"Stenography" Not the Only Name by Which It is Known.

Shorthand writing is known by other names than "stenography." "Tachygraphy" is only one of them. Its second part, of course, comes from the same root as the latter end of "stenography"—that is, from the Greek "grapho," meaning to write. "Tachy" is derived from the Greek "tachys," meaning swift; so only the shorthand writer who has the ability to take down rapid speech and transcribe it quickly has the right to call himself or himself a "tachygrapher." (The "ch" sound is like that of "k.")

"Stenography" comes from "grapho" combined with "stenos," which means "narrow" in Greek. So a "stenographer" is either a narrow writer or she or he practices "narrow writing."

Not so many years ago we heard a good deal about "phonography" as a name for shorthand writing, but the term seems to have gone out of use. It comes from that same useful root "grapho," combined with "phono," the latter word means "sound," so that a phonographer is one who writes down sound as he hears it. The phonograph is, of course, an instrument for writing or recording sound.

Then there are "brachygraphy" "steganography" and "logography" as other names for what we generally call stenography. In the order given they are derived from "grapho" combined with "brachys," meaning "short;" "steganos," meaning "covered;" "secret" (a stenographer is one who writes in cryptic or mysterious writing, not to be read by the uninitiated) and "logos," meaning "speech."—New York Times.

FIREFLIES IN JAPAN.

Large and Brilliant and Numerous and Not Afraid of Man.

In Japan fireflies are more than mere beetles. They are Cupid's light to guide lovers, souls of ancient soldiers, the devil's snare to tempt wanderers to death. In their light of magic gold with a tint of emerald green the Japanese see stars of hope, sorrows of broken hearts, the everlasting spirits of warriors, but, most of all, the joys of love and lovers.

Whenever they see the glimmering faint green light of fireflies hovering over the stream running into the darkness of night the Japanese dream of love and loving hearts. The light of fireflies is the guide of lovers going along the narrow paths to meet their sweethearts.

The Japanese fireflies are much larger and give brighter and more steady

light than those seen in Europe or America. In old days many poor Japanese students, unable to buy candles, were not to gather fireflies in a bag and read their books by their light. The Japanese kago (firefly cage), made of two pieces, placed on the veranda gives almost as bright a light as the large stone lantern, but much more quaint and dreamy.

Fireflies are plentiful everywhere in Japan. They are not at all afraid of human beings and will often alight upon the dress and even on the hair or hands. It is not seldom that fireflies fly into one's pockets or sleeves.—Mock Joya in Strand.

Giant Sharks.

While the whale is regarded as the largest of creatures that haunt the sea, there are some sharks that can be compared in size with the former animals. These giant sharks, however, are very rare and are known under the name of the great whale shark and the basking shark. The former, which attains a length of fifty feet, is found off the coast of India, Peru and Lower California. The latter's most favorite haunts are the Arctic ocean, but it is also found near the great whale shark. These monsters, curiously enough, are quite harmless. Their teeth are very small, and they feed on tiny matter that floats on the surface of the sea. This matter the fish strains through its enormous gill rakers.

First Man Dressmaker.

One day in 1730 a beautiful carriage appeared on the boulevard of Paris with an escutcheon in the shape of a pair of corsets and an open pair of scissors painted on the panel of each door. This was the coat of arms of Rhombert, the first man who made a name as a woman's dressmaker. Rhombert, who was the son of a Bavarian peasant from the neighborhood of Munich, owed his rapid success to his genius for concealing and remedying defects of figure. He left an annual income of 50,000 francs to his heirs.

Took the Hint.

"This seems like a dream," he rapturously remarked as he lingered with her at the door step.
"It doesn't seem like a dream to me," she replied, "for a dream soon vanishes, you know."
He vanished.

Her Luck.

"Too bad Mrs. Smartleigh always has such abominable weather for her afternoon teas."
"Yes; she never rains but it rains,"—Judge.