Board Works

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MIRAMICHI ADVANCE

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The Home

CANNED GOODS.

An experienced packer and dealer, writing of canned goods, says that many more will be consumed when the women folkr thoroughly understand that one-half of the people now using this class of goods use them ignorantly, and fail to derive satisfaction possible from them.

As to the safety in the use of canned goods, hundreds of millions of cans of food are consumed yearly, and there never has been an authenticated case of poisoning proved against them that cannot be traced and attributed to the carelessness of the consumer.

Nine-tenths of all the cans made today are sealed by being revolved in a bed of molten solder, which seals them on the outside—not the inside—as can be seen by examining the line of solder about a quarter of an inch from the rim.

Before using canned goods see that the ends of each are sunk in. If such is the case, the contents are good and wholesome, and there need be no hesitation in using the fruit. If the ends of the can are springy or bulged outward do not open it but throw it away. A swelled or bulged can means fermented contents, and spoiled goods should under no consideration be used.

After the can has been opened, pour contents immediately into a porcelain or glass dish. Never leave them in a can, as this act is often the innocent cause of sickness, owing to the natural chemical action of the air upon the tin and fruit. First-class goods cannot be purchased at the price of second-class goods.

Always bear in mind that all canned goods have received a cooking varying in length of time from five minutes to even hours, according to the character of the goods, and that but little further cooking is necessary.

Canned fruits of all kinds should be emptied from the can several hours before being served, poured into an open porcelain or glass dish, and then chilled in a refrigerator. Served cold they are most delicious and refreshing, and taste totally different from what they did when first taken from the can.

As a general rule, peas, lima beans and string beans prove unsatisfactory, owing to the fact that two-thirds of the housewives serve them in the brine that is in the can. They should be prepared as follows, and it will then be difficult to distinguish between the canned and the freshly picked:

Pour off the brine, throw it away, then place the vegetables in cold water, washing well, and let stand a few minutes to freshen. Cook but a few minutes and season to taste. Many use milk instead of water with these vegetables. A small piece of pork added to string beans improves their flavor. Corn should be only thoroughly heated, as it has been sufficiently cooked in cans. Add butter, milk, salt and pepper as desired.

To retain the natural flavor of tomatoes they should be cooked quickly over a hot fire; allowing tomatoes to simmer long tends to extract the bitter taste from the seed and give dissatisfaction. Pumpkins as now packed have been run through a fine sieve and are sufficiently cooked in the hot processing of the cans and simply require spicing.

Asparagus is best cooked in the can before it is opened, by immersing the can in boiling water for from twenty to thirty minutes, then open the can and slide the contents carefully into a dish, taking care not to break the delicate tips. Always lay asparagus cans on the side, never upright, as the latter is apt to break the tips.

Canned meat should be kept in a cool place. It will then, when turned out of can, slice evenly and present a better appearance on the table. In order to prevent tearing out the contents of cans of meat or plum pudding, open them as follows: Cut away the larger end of the can first, then puncture a hole in the smaller end, to admit air, tap can lightly and then contents will drop out whole. Plum pudding cans should be immersed in boiling water for from one-half to one hour, according to size, then open in the same manner as canned meat.

There are many grades of canned soups on the market. Buy only the best, which are skillfully and scientifically made. To serve they simply need raising to the boiling point. Be careful not to scorch them. Use a double boiler if possible, or immerse the cans in boiling water for half an hour to thoroughly heat the contents, and then serve.

The finest Columbia river salmon steaks are delicious in cans. They are of a handsome pink color, flaky in texture, rich in oil, and the flesh is solid. A delicious salad can be made with salmon, lettuce and mayonnaise dressing.

SEASONABLE RECIPES.

Rhubarb Fritters.—Cut some sticks of young rhubarb into pieces about an inch long and boil them in water ten minutes; drain and place them in cold water. When cold, drain, lay on a dish, and strew finely crushed sugar over them. Moisten with a few tablespoonfuls of brandy, and allow them to stand for a couple of hours. Dip the pieces of rhubarb into some frying-batter, drop into boiling lard and fry to a nice color. Drain on paper for a few seconds to absorb the fat, then place on a dish that has been spread with a folded napkin and serve.

Strawberry Shortcake.— Three gills flour, one gill milk, generous measure; one tablespoonful sugar, one-fourth teaspoonful salt, two heaped tablespoonfuls butter, one heaped tablespoonful baking powder. Mix together the dry ingredients and rub twice through a sieve. Rub the butter through this mixture; then wet with the milk. Butter a large, deep pie plate. Divide the dough into two parts and roll out the size of the plate. Lay them in the plate, one on top of the other, and bake in a quick oven. Take from the oven and tear gently apart; place the under one on a warm plate, butter well and cover with slightly crushed and sweetened strawberries. Put the top on the cake and serve immediately with whipped cream.

Potatoes a la Brabanconne. — Take two coffee cups of hot mashed potato; add two tablespoonfuls of melted butter and half a cup of thin, hot cream, one-third of an onion grated; one tablespoonful of chopped parsley, six tablespoonfuls of chopped ham two salt spoons of salt. Mix thoroughly, and beat light. Pour into a buttered pudding dish; cover the top with a half cup of cracker crumbs, and moisten with a quarter cup of melted butter; put in a hot oven for fifteen minutes, then remove and make five or six, as is needed, depressions with the back of a spoon, drop in each a raw egg. Add a slight shake of salt and pepper, and return to the oven until the eggs are set. Serve hot.

Scalloped Finnan Haddie.—Melt two tablespoonfuls of butter in a saucepan add one-half cup of chopped mushrooms, canned, one teaspoonful of chopped onion, and one tablespoonful of chopped parsley. Fry a light brown, Take from the fire and mix in one cup of bread crumbs. Have ready two cups of flaked finnan haddie previously soaked well in scalding water and freed from skin. Place alternately, fish and prepared bread crumbs in a buttered dish, having crumbs for the last layer. Pour over the top a half cup of sweet cream, and bake twenty minutes in a hot oven.

Orange Roll.—Peel, slice and seed three large oranges. Roll them in powdered sugar, and lay on a paste made from a pint of flour, three teaspoonfuls of baking powder, one egg, beaten light, two tablespoonfuls of melted butter, one half teaspoonful salt and sweet milk to make a paste easily handled. Roll as a jelly roll, tie in a pudding cloth, and boil rapidly in sweetened salted water thirty minutes. Serve with thin lemon sauce.

BRITISH MEDICAL FORTUNES.

A Few Physicians Are Rich, But Almost All of Them Die Poor.

The large fortune left by Sir William Jenner has led to much writing in the lay press, but owing to imperfect information as to the source of some of Sir William Jenner's wealth much excellent moralizing has been made upon unsound deductions, says the Lancet. Sir William Jenner was for many years at the top of the medical profession, having risen there by his genius, and having been maintained there by scientific acclamation every whit as much as by popular favor. During these years he undoubtedly made a very large income, but not an income that would have enabled him to save such a sum as £375,000, and, as a matter of fact, a certain portion of his fortune was derived from trade and bequeathed to him by a brother. But undoubtedly Sir William Jenner earned a great sum of money by the practice of his profession and the fact may legitimately act as a stimulus to young medical men to observe keenly and work hard.

That a few medical men have made large fortunes is well known. For instance Sir Andrew Clark left £203,576, Sir Oscar Clayton left £146,746, Dr. Rhodes Armitage left £217,420, Dr. L. T. Cumberbatch left £107,000, Sir Richard Quain left £116,820, Mr. Henry Horsfall left £105,780, Dr. G. D. Longstaff left £107,000, Dr. Henry Danson left £119,290 and Dr. J. H. Paul left £100,052. But all these fortunes several of which were certainly inherited and not made by professional practice, are thrown into the shade by the estate of Sir William Gull, whose personalty was valued at £344,023. Sir William Gull, like Sir William Jenner, made an enormous professional income though fortunate investments, perhaps, played the part in swelling the total of his fortune that family bequests played in the case of Sir William Jenner. The above names have been taken from lists compiled by the Daily Telegraph and the Westminster Gazette and cover a period extending over the last ten years.

On the strength of them the medical profession cannot be said to abound in pecuniary prizes. Only eleven persons, whether shining in the front rank of the medical profession, or engaged in one of its notoriously lucrative branches, or blessed by accident with pecuniary advantages, have died during ten years in possession of more than £100,000, while a first-class brewer's fortune would be expected to amount to more than the aggregate total of the eleven medical fortunes or the brewer would be accounted a comparative failure. We are not setting up a wail that medical men do not make more money, but the fortune of Sir William Jenner or Sir Willaim Gull ought not to lead the public to mistake the facts as to the average earnings of the medical profession. The profession in Great Britain numbers some 28,000 persons, and although now and again one man dies rich the vast majority die otherwise.

MODERN CAVE DWELLERS.

Cave dwellers, or, to be exact, earth or rock dwellers, are not yet extinct. A traveller who visited the prehistoric cave dwellings near Halberstadt, in the Harz Mountains, found in the nearby village of Langenstein ten caves hewn in the rock and occupied by forty persons. This little settlement is built on the slope of a rocky hill near the village. The fronts of the dwellings were made by cutting a vertical face in the rock. Each "house" has a door and one window. The first house was constructed only forty years ago by a young married couple who were too poor to pay their rent in the village. The rock houses are warm in winter and cool in summer. They are quite healthful, according to the testimony of their inhabitants, whose stout limbs and red cheeks vouch for the truth of their statements.

LONG LIVED BALLET DANCERS.

A statistician has been devoting himself to a study of ballet dancers, and his investigation seems to establish the fact that they are an unusually long-lived lot. The famous Carlotta Grisi is lliving now at the age of 77, and one of the ballet dancers at the Opera in Paris, is 70, but he is a man. Amalia Ferraris is still teaching at the age of 78, in Paris, and seems likely to continue that work for some time to come, Fanny Ellsler was 74 when she died, and Taglioni has passed her eightieth year. Rosita Mauri, the popular premiere at the Opera in Paris, is over 50, and has begun to talk of retiring.

ODD FURNITURE.

Perhaps the oddest suit of furniture is owned by Joseph Berger, a hotel keeper in Budapest. For many years he has made it his business to collect matchboxes from factories of various countries. His collection aggregates 4,000 boxes. He ordered a skilled cabinet maker to equip a room with furniture made of these boxes. The outfit consists of a writing table with smoking apparatus, a fire screen, a cabinet, a chair and other smaller articles. Though the boxes are empty, they are adjusted so ingeniously that the pieces are fully as strong as the ordinary furniture.

OLDEST MEDICAL RECIPE.

The oldest medical recipe is said by a French medical journal to be that of a hair tonic for an Egyptian Queen. It is dated 400 B. C.

The Will of Siva.

Soli was a Hindoo maiden of 15 summers, who lived next door to the King of Behar, at Garden Beach, between two and three miles down the Hugli River from Calcutta.

From this it must not be inferred that she was in any sense an important personage, being but a dhobin, or wash girl of the lowest caste of Hindoos; while her neighbour was a great Indian Prince, for political reasons living in magnificent semi-captivity, on his parole to the British Government not to leave the neighbourhood of Calcutta.

So while his Majesty of Behar resided in a fine palace, facing the river, and surrounded by a lordly park in which the most beautiful flowers were grown for his pleasure, and a snake mound, together with a menagerie of wild beasts kept for his amusement, Soli lived with her father and ten little brothers and sisters in a dilapidated thatched hut just outside the King's northern gate, and in the midst of a two-acre compound rank with overgrown vegetation. Two other creatures of widely different characteristics made up Soli's family circle—a lean, humble cow, for the greater part tethered out in the compound; and a monster cobra snake, that, uninvited had taken up his abode in the thatched roof of the hut, and who being regarded by the family, as the incarnate spirit of Siva, the terrible god of the lowest caste of Hindoos, was fed on milk and eggs at all costs, even when the rest of the household were nigh upon starvation.

Often had Soli gazed with awe upon their great neighbor, the King of Behar, as he occasionally drove forth, a blaze of jewels, for a turn in the Calcutta maidan, but only once had the eyes of the King fallen upon Soli.

"Doab, who is that girl?" demanded the King of Behar of a handsome harkara, footman, standing upon the splashboard of the equipage, as it swept past the hut on the occasion. "Who is that girl over yonder?"

The harkara purposely looked in the wrong direction, and replied that he did not know, butthat he was as dust under the feet of the great king to do his bidding.

"Then find out," peremptorily ordered the king, for the girl's slender form and graceful pose had pleased his royal fancy. "Find out," said the king. "D'you hear me, Doab?"

Doab at once intimated that the king's command should be obeyed; but as he did so a frown clouded the brow of his usually placid countenance. For some minutes Soli stood watching her royal neighbor's progress, until as he passed out of view she turned to enter the hut, when a voice at hand stayed her footsteps.

"Soli! Hullo, Soli, there!"

"Ah, sahib," quickly responded the girl, as she caught sight of the captain's steward of one of the ships lying at Garden Beach, who had approached the hut unobserved.

"How about that washing that was to have been on board to-day?" demanded the steward. "We sail at noon to-morrow, and it is now 5 o'clock."

"It shall be ready in time, sahib."

"Not ready yet?"

"I will see," replied the girl, turning sharply toward the door of the hut. Then she gave vent to a little cry and started back; for with a loud hiss a long, dark object glided away from under her feet and coiled itself in an attitude of aggressive defense.

"My God, a cobra!" exclaimed the steward, as he dashed forward, and aimed a blow with his cane at the serpent's uplifted head.

The blow fell, but not where it was intended, for the girl threw out her arms and interposing her own person received it instead, while the snake made off unharmed.

"Why! What did you do that for?" asked the steward, as he stared with the utmost astonishment at the trembling Hindoo maid.

"Oh, you must not strike him," she cried in terror. "You must not, indeed. He is Siva, the terrible god. If you had struck him he would have killed us all. He lives up in the thatch of the roof."

"Do you mean to say you let that reptile hang round your house?" asked the amazed steward.

"He was only waiting for his milk," replied the girl, as if making an apology for the cobra's act. "I had forgotten to give it him. If you had struck Siva it would have been terrible."

"I hope I didn't hurt you," said the steward in a tone of real concern.

"Oh, no," replied the girl, as she thereupon ran inside, and shortly returned to say—that the captain sahib's clothes would surely be on board the ship early the next morning.

"All right, Soli," replied the steward. "But look here, you take my advice and kill that snake, god or no god, the next time you see him, or he'll kill you, that's truth."

In return Soli looked gravely out through her large dark eyes, but said nothing.

"Well I'm hanged," soliloquized the steward, as he cautiously picked his way out through the rank grass, of the little compound. "Whoever would have thought of keeping a pet cobra on the estate? These 'Indoos are a rum lot. I'll be hanged if they ain't."

Two or three hours later the King of Behar again passed by Soli's hut, as he approached his own domain.

"Mind, Doab," said he to the harkara. "Mind you see about that girl yonder."

Doab intimated that the will of the Light of the Universe should be in that, as in all other respects, promptly obeyed. But the same dark look crossed his face as he sprang down to run before the horses and open the gate for the King's carriage to pass through.

By this time night had fallen upon the land, and darkness set in save for the brilliant illumination of the heavens, and those fairy lanterns of the East—the fireflies dancing in the void from tree to tree.

In a little, Soli again stood at the door of the hut, her hair decked with a wreath of stephanotis—the delicate perfume of which filled the air about her.

She was watching for some one.

Soon a figure was seen moving across the little compound from the direction of the King's palace, while a familiar voice called out in tender accents—Soli!"

"Ah, Doab, Doab," the girl responded with delight. "I feared you would not come!" Then as she ran quickly forward to greet the King's harkara, there came again a loud hiss, immediately followed by a cry of mingled pain and terror, and Soli fell into her lover's arms, exclaiming:

"Doab, I am bitten. It is Siva. I had forgotten. He has not been fed."

* * * * * * *

"Did you find out who that girl is?" asked the King of Behar of his harkara the next morning.

"I did, your Majesty," Doab sadly replied.

"Who is she, then?" Tell me, quickly, for I liked her looks," said the King.

"She was only Soli, the dhobin girl," replied the harkara.

"Was only a dhobin. Well, who is she now, then?"

"Siva alone knows," replied the harkara "She died last night."

"Died last night!" replied the King, with as much emotion as his ease-loving nature would permit. "Of cholera?"

"No, your Majesty—a cobra."

"A cobra!—a pity," remarked the King. "A pity, for I liked her looks."

"It was the will of Siva," said the harkara, as he humbly bowed his head.

Note.—In this story the character of the King of Behar is drawn from the King of Oudh, residing in semi-captivity at Garden Beach, near Calcutta. The main incident of the story came under my personal observation during one of two visits to Calcutta.

A LESSON FOR BUMPS.

"Yes," said Bumps, "poor Banx is a confirmed invalid."

"Why, John, how you talk—a 'confirmed invalid'—how very bad!" said his wife.

"Yes; it is pretty bad for Banx—"

"No, I wasn't thinking about him, its your language, John. Do you think that is a good expression? If he is an invalid, isn't that enough? Confirmed, means strengthened; now what kind of a combination do you get out of 'confirmed invalid?'"

Banx looked up in a helpless kind of way. He didn't like the language lessons his wife administered to him periodically, but he knew he needed them, and took them like any other medicine.

"Well, anyway," he went on "Bumps is a fine fellow and I'm sorry he's sick—used to like to hear him talk. He's one of the finest conversationalists I ever——"

"What! Why, John, you don't mean that; you mean 'conversationist.'"

"Yes, I know, but I disremember—"

"No, John dear, you never do any thing so improper, I am sure."

"Well, then, as the tramp said in the show, 'I remember, but I forget!'"

"John!"

"Well, Miranda dear, I doubt if you will ever be able to make me over. Now you look wild again, and I suppose I have said something wrong. What in the world can it be?"

"Two things, John dear. One is that you can learn to speak properly if you will only think of the words you use; and the other is that you made another mistake. You should have said 'I doubt whether you will be able to make me over instead of 'I doubt if.'"

"Well, what kind of a banker would I make if I spent all of my time thinking about these little fine points of speech? Why, some ignoramus would beat me out of all I had while I was running up a column of figures."

"No, dear, you'd learn to speak as quickly and as well as you now run up a column of figures.

"What's the reason you haven't corrected me on that last remark? It can't be possible that I didn't make a mistake."

"No—you made two. You should not have said 'what kind of a banker' but 'what kind of banker;' then you should not have used the word 'ignoramus'—it is not sanctioned by the best usage."

"Now, Maranda, I'm going to make one more trial. I say let's change the subject, put on our hats and deaprt for the theater. Is that all right?"

"Oh, no, John, dear—"

"Oh, very well, then I'll go alone!"

"That's right—go and not depart."

"I can't—it's contrary to one of the laws of natural philosophy."

"I mean it is proper for you to say, 'I will go.'"

"Oh, it is, is it? Then you'll stay at home?"

"Oh, no! I want to go too!"

"Ha! ha! It's hard to please a woman."

Miranda was about to substitute "difficult" for "hard," but womanly instinct sealed her lips.

STRAW HORSESHOES.

In Japan most of the horses are shod with straw. Even the clumsiest of cart horses wear straw shoes, which, in their cases, are tied round the ankle with straw rope, and are made of the ordinary rice straw, braided so as to form a sole for the foot about half an inch thick. These soles cost about one cent a pair.

SO UNWOMANLY.

My dear, said Mrs. Pitt to her daughter, I am surprised to hear you say that Miss Penn is unladylike. What do you mean?

Why, mamma, replied Miss Pitt, she never adds a postscript to her letters.

MILES OF READING.

A French statistician has calculated that the human eye travels over 2,000 yards in reading an ordinary sized novel. The average human being is supposed to get through 2,500 miles of reading in a lifetime.

UNGENEROUS.

I wouldn't have refused that young man if I'd been you, said a maiden aunt to a young and frisky niece.

I don't think I would either if I'd been you, retorted the saucy maiden.

A MUNICIPAL WASHROOM.

In Islington one of the poorest parishes of London there is a vestry washroom, where a poor woman can take her basket of clothes and do her family washing with every convenience. The clothes are dried very rapidly by steam and the fee is only five cents.

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