*** The matter which this page contains is carefully selected from various sources; and we guarantee that, to any intelligent farmer or housewife, the contents of this single page, from week to week during the year, will be worth several times the subscription price of the paper.

HOUSE-CLEANING.

"O dear," murmured o'd Mother Earth,
"how annoying!
The winter has ended and spring has begun;
There's all my spring house-cleaning waiting before me,
And not a thing done.

"There'll be sweeping and scouring in every odd corner;
I will lift my brown carpets and put down the green,
Clear my ceilings of cobwebs, and wash all my woodwork,
Till everything's clean.

"My servants are willing enough, but so plodding;
My daughters are idle; I have but one son:
And he looks as if he considered my trouble
Just nothing but fun.

"There are garments to make; yes, there's the spring sewing.
Great heaps upon heaps, and I almost despair,
With the spinning and weaving, and no one to help me
Or lighten my care.

"Then think of the guests I am hourly expecting.
What bevies! and everyone's room to prepare:
Whole families of birds, flocking in all together,
No trouble will spare.

"I must worry and work in the kitchen preparing
A separate dish for each separate guest;
For their tastes always differ; what one fails to relish
The other likes best."

But the south wind brought water, and all the winds helped her,
Even her sun kindly proffered his aid;
Till, at last, every parlor and chamber made ready,
She proudly displayed.

Then the bluebirds, the blackbirds, the robins, the thrushes,
Came hurrying past in a chattering throng.
They greeted her warmly, and uttered her praises
In cheerical song.

The crickets, the frogs, and the ants, and the lizards,
The bees and the butterflies, ev'ry gray moth,
Found his place ready waiting, his dinner to suit him,
Whether bread, meat, or broth.

THE HOME.

Apple Sauce.

As usually made, is scarcely fit to eat; yet when properly prepared, it is one of the most delicious dishes that can be served for breakfast or dinner. Apples should always be stewed in a porcelain-lined kettle or granite-lined saucepan—never in a vessel made of tin. When put in the kettle they should be dusted lightly with salt, a small quantity only of water should be added, and they should not be stirred while cooking. The kettle should be covered closely, and the cooking done quickly. As soon as the apples are thoroughly cooked half the sugar required to sweeten them should be put in the bottom of an earthen or china bowl, the apples poured over it, the balance of the sugar added, and the sauce covered until served. Stewed apple that is frequently stirred while cooking is not spicy and high flavored like that which is quickly and quietly cooked; and after it has been strained and well beaten before serving, it has been robbed of most of its appetizing and nutritive qualities.

If it is desired to flavor apple sauce with lemon, the lemon should be sliced thin, put in the dish with the sugar and the hot sauce poured upon it. Cooking the lemon with the apple damages the flavor of the lemon, and does not improve that of the apple sauce. A little salt is very essential in nearly all cooked fruit, to develop the finest flavor; and to preserve the perfect flavor of stewed apples or apple sauce, great care is required in the uee of sugar and spices. As a general rule, too much suggar and cinnamon and nutmeg are used in apple sauce—so much, in fact, that the delicious apple flavor is lost in the heavy sweetness, or the inharmonious spiciness. And while speaking of spices, it may not be amiss to say that, in my judgment, nutmeg should never be used in apple sauce, cinnamon only when the apples are lacking in flavor. In cooking fruit, the object should be to develop and preserve the finest natural flavors of the fruit, and only such spices or fruit juices as have a tendency to do this can be legitimately used in apple sauce. There is a harmony between the flavor of the apple and that of the pineapple, orange and lemon; and the juices of any of these fruits may be added to apple sauce when the apples lack flavor, or the sauce, for any reason, needs additional richness.

Apple sauce and baked apples absorb odors very readily, and when they are to be served cold, should be kept closely covered, and not placed in proximity with other food.

To Drain the Dishes.

An appliance that will at once recommend itself as a useful accessory to the kitchen is a table grooved and inclined so that all the water upon it drains to an outlet at the front into a basin in which the articles have been washed, and which is placed under the outlet. A great many plates, cups, saucers, jugs, decanters and such ware can be drained at the same time. By a bar, which is fitted across the table, all the articles placed in the rack are held quite securely, without possibility of slipping. It is made entirely of wood, so that no part will rust, and the ware placed upon it is not liable to be chipped. The rack, legs and all parts can be folded up into a very small space, and quite flat, without the least trouble, so it takes up little room when not in use, and can be hung upon the wall if desired.

Household Hints.

For a bee sting, make a paste of earth and water. Cover the stung place with it, bind it on and it will soon give relief.

When a felon first begins to appear, cut of the end of a lemon, put the finger in it and keep it there as long as can be borne.

For a sore throat, try a frequent gargle of salt and water. If a little is swallowed it will allay the irritation, cleanse the throat and do no harm.

For stains on the hands nothing is better than salt moistened with lemon juice. Rub the spots well with the mixture, then wash off in clean water.

It is said that a good remedy for strengthening and clearing the voice, is to beat the white of an egg with the juice of a lemon and sweeten it well with sugar and use as needed.

THE FARM.

The Troublesome Black Knot.

The black knot of plum and cherry trees is familiar to almost everyone, as trees which are infested with the disease are conspicuous objects during the winter time. The black warty excrescences which cover the small twigs look as though they might have been caused by insect stings, and the fact that the worms are often found within the knots strengthens the belief, held by many, that insects are to blame for the disfiguration.

It is not necessary to enter into detailed arguments to show why insects are not to blame for the trouble, but it is sufficient to say that careful studies, by competent scientific men, of the disease show that it is caused by a low form of vegetable growth, or a fungus parasite. It is true that worms are often found in the knots, but only in the last stages of growth. When the knots are forming or growing, the worms are not present, but after they become old the worms find in them a convenient lodging place. The fungus is propagated by means of spores, which for convenience may be called seeds, although botanically they are not the same as seeds. These seeds are very small and light and are blown about by the winds.

When they find a convenient lodging place on a plum tree, cherry tree or choke cherry tree they germinate and grow. (In some sections there are still other species upon which the knots grow.) The fungus does not live entirely upon the outside of the branches, but sends its filaments down through the bark, into the wood, and causes a swelling of the twigs. At first these swellings have a velvety appearance and an olive green color, but later in the season turn black. After the knots turn black the outside hardens while the inner portion decays and falls away in the form of a dry powder. After this stage is reached insects of several different species take possession. The fungus produces spores, or seeds, in the summer time, and these are scattered about, forming new knots. Spores are also produced in the winter and are ready to be disseminated early in the spring.

Now it is evident that if we could stop the knots from going to seed the disease might be held in check. There are substances which will kill the young knots; linseed oil is one, but each knot must be painted with it when young, hence it is hardly a practical remedy. So far as known, not much can be accomplished by spraying, but every knot that is cut away and burned lessens the quantity of seed, and when the disease is not too plentiful this remedy is practical. Of course it is not easy to find the knots when the leaves are on the trees, but when the trees are bare the work can be done. If one desires to rid his premises of the pest let him first of all cut and burn all trees which are badly infested, as such trees will not recover, even if all the knots are removed.

Cutting a tree down will do no good unless it is burned at once. After such trees are out of the way, then begin on those that are but slightly affected, and cut off and burn all diseased branches. It may be necessary to go over the trees twice, once as soon as the leaves fall, and again before the middle of winter. This will not rid the trees of the disease, as enough spores will escape to give a crop of knots the next season, but if the work is thoroughly done there will be a gradual decrease in numbers. If this work is commenced on a young orchard and kept up, it will not be found to be a difficult matter to save the trees. It often happens, however, that one has neighbors who will not attend to the matter, and will allow old diseased trees to stand long after their days of usefulness are past, to spread the disease over the entire neighborhood.

The first thing to do is to impress every one of the unreasonableness of allowing diseased trees to stand. If we can not coax or reason with such people, then it is the duty of every good citizen to see that the law is enforced. —*Ohio Farmer.*

Some Good Features in Home-dairying.

Perhaps one of the best features of the home dairy is that the skim-milk is left to feed on the farm. One can of course have the skim milk brought back from the factory, but this involves extra expense and time, as each one must wait his turn to get the milk, as it requires considerable time to separate it. Besides this factories buy the milk outright and after skimming, sell it back to patrons or any one who will buy it, and all that is not thus sold is run into a cistern with the buttermilk and sold by the barrel.

I am well aware that some farmers place a very low estimate on the feeding value of skim-milk, and the question is frequently asked, "what is skim-milk worth to feed?"

While I have never made a careful test of the feeding value of skim-milk, yet from experience in feeding it, in connection with other feed I place a value of 20 cents per hundred pounds on it and buttermilk. While chemists are not able perhaps to locate this value in skim-milk, yet I would not sell our milk at that price.

I do not wish to be understood as saying that skim-milk can be fed alone so as to realize 20 cents per hundred pounds, but it must be fed with other feed; of itself it is not a complete ration. We have raised calves for veal that, when dressed and shipped to New York, brought the highest market prices, by simply adding oil meal to the milk before feeding it. In oil meal we have nearly a complete substitute for the fat removed in the cream.

I know of no better feed for pigs—and it will not hurt the hog—than shorts and skim-milk, but I want the milk sweet. We have no use on our farm for what to some people is an indispensible article, the slop barrel, but our milk is all fed sweet, except what my wife uses to feed the chickens.

And by the way, I know of no better feed for poultry of all kinds than milk. Wife raised and sold this year $100 worth of poultry, besides keeping about eighty choice pullets and loosing fifty ducks after they were almost full grown. This poultry was raised almost exclusively on milk and wheat bran. They were fed corn only while fattening for market. As to the quality of the poultry, the price received speaks for itself 10½ cents per pound, net.

Not long ago I asked a dairyman what he thought he realized for his skim-milk. "It is worth as much to me, the way I feed it, as the grain costs that my cows eat," was his reply. This man is a heavy grain feeder, and his estimate may seem nigh, yet I believe where one will feed out this by product of the dairy judiciously it can be made to pay a large share of the cost of keeping the cow. While, on the other hand, if it is fed as it is on many farms it is worth but very little.

I remember very well when wheat bran was considered of very little value. I have seen tons of it rotting in the basement of a mill, and saw it scooped out of the mill into the tail race to be carried off by the current. People thought it was worth nothing. Now it is known to be the best feed obtainable for all growing stock, and it is valued at only a few dollars less per ton than the entire grain. So it will be with the by products of the dairy. Instead of allowing them to go to waste, people will appreciate them for their feeding value, and they will be looked after just as carefully as the butter fat is now.—*Ohio Farmer.*

The Tree of Use.

Among the strange quests of the early Christians was the search for the tree of knowledge and the tree of good and evil. When the banana and plantain trees were first found, the former was christened Musa Paradisa and the latter Musa Sapientia. The grape-fruit or shaddock is sold to this day as the "forbidden fruit" in Parisian fruit stores. "It was a sweet orange before Eve tasted it," says the old legend, "but it has been bitter ever since," and the superstitions show marks like the print of teeth near the stem end of the fruit. The colored people at the South point out the persimmon as the forbidden tree. It was a sweet fruit before Eve tasted it, like the shaddock, but has been acrid ever since.

It would be difficult to say what tree of all trees has been the most useful to mankind. The olive tree was believed by the ancients to be the greatest gift which the gods could bestow on Athens. In the temperate zone others might urge the value and beauty of the pine tree, from which so many homes are built throughout the land. The beech tree, however, was the tree that furnished the first books. In Saxon and in Latin the words for book are the same as the words for beech, the Saxon boc being used for both, and in Latin liber has the same meaning. The smooth, silvery bark of the beech tree seems to have been popular for writing on from the earliest times. It was the vegetable paper of both the Saxons and Latins. It is a close, tough wood, and it makes strong, useful furniture, and one of the most durable floors. Probably the loss of this one species would have entailed more inconvenience on mankind than any other, as it is the tree that is depended on whenever a strong, close-grained wood is required. The plans of the carpenter and the framework of most of his tools are made of beech. A great many of the household tools, for the use of the housekeeper, are also made of this hard wood.

The Quality of Easly Pasture.

There is no doubt that available nitrogen and mineral manures affect the quality of pastures. It is because until warm weather comes the grass in spring is poor and watery and innutritious, for its roots get little nitrogen, or mineral plant food until the soil has been warmed. Grasses that have their roots near the surface find this nutriment first. We believe that liberal top dressings of nitrate of soda and a good superphosphate will make the tender grass grown in April and early May as nutritious as it usually is in June. In our boyhood an old newly cleared stump lot was always used for the first pasture of the cows in spring. They would eat the grasses close to the ground beside some half-burned stump before they would touch the larger growth in long-cultivated fields. It was not altogether the potash that the cows were after either. Where the ashes had fallen they had put the vegetable matter into just the condition to make it available as plant food, and the warm sunshine against the bank around the stump did the rest. A dressing of nitrate and phosphate early in the season will make stock graze it closely all summer.

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A MIRACLE OF TO-DAY.

THE STARTLING EXPERIENCE OF A YOUNG LADY IN ST. THOMAS.

A Constant Sufferer for More Than Five Years—Her Blood Had Turned to Water—Physicians Held Out No Hope of Her Recovery—How Her Life was Saved—A Wonderful Story.

[From the St. Thomas Journal.]

"The Angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him, and delivereth them." Such is a verse of Holy Writ made familiar to very many residents of St. Thomas by the well-known evangelist, Rev. J. E. Hunter. In letters of gold on the stained glass fanlight over the door of his residence, No. 113 Wellington street, is the text, "Psalms xxxiv, 7." Though we live in an age noted for its energetic, zealous Christian endeavor, this idea of Mr. Hunter's to impress the truths of the Scriptures upon those who read though they run, is altogether so original and so novel that it at once excites the curiosity. Those not familiar with the text make a mental note of it, and at the first opportunity look it up. This is just what was done by a representative of the *Journal*, who had occasion to visit Mr. Hunter's residence the other day. But with the object of the visit and the information obtained, the reader will be more concerned. The reporter was assigned to investigate a marvellous cure said to have been effected in the case of a young lady employed in Mr. Hunter's family, by that well-known and popular remedy, Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. And it was a wonderful story that the young lady had to tell, and is undoubtedly as true as it is wonderful. Last June the same reporter interviewed Mrs. John Cope, wife of the tollgate-keeper on the London and Port Stanley road, who had been cured by Pink Pills of running ulcers on the limbs after years of suffering, and after having been given up by a number of physicians. The old lady had entirely recovered, and could not say too much in praise of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, which had given her a new lease of life. As it was with Mrs. Cope, so was it with Miss Edna Harris, the young lady in the employ of Mr. Hunter's family who has been restored to health and strength by Pink Pills. Miss Harris has just passed her twentieth year, and is a daughter of George Harris, who lives at Yarmouth Heights, and is employed by Mr. Geo. Boucher, florist and plantsman.

"I believe Dr. Williams' Pink Pills saved my life and I am quite willing that everyone should know it," was the reply of Miss Harris when asked if she had been benefitted by Pink Pills, and if so would she make public her story. Continuing, she said, "When I was twelve or thirteen years of age I was first taken sick. The doctors said my blood had all turned to water. For five years I suffered terribly, and was so weak that I could barely keep alive. It was only my grit and strong will, the doctors said, that kept me alive at all. If I tried to stand for a short time, or if I got the least bit warm I would fall over in a faint. My eyes were white and glassy, and I was so thin and pallid that every one believed I was dying of consumption. During the five years I was ill, I was attended by five physicians in St. Thomas, two in Detroit, one in London and one in Aylmer, and none of them could do anything for me. I was so far gone that they had no hopes of my recovery. Towards the last my feet and limbs swelled so they had to be bandaged to keep them from bursting. They were bandaged for three months, and my whole body was swollen and bloated, and the doctors said their was not a pint of blood in my body, and they held out no hopes whatever. Two years ago I saw in the *Journal* about a man in Hamilton being cured by taking Pink Pills. I thought if they cured him they would help me, and I decided to try them. Before I had finished three boxes I felt relieved; the swelling went down and the bandages were removed. I continued taking Pink Pills until I had taken seven boxes, then irregularly I took three more, one of which Mr. Hunter brought back from Brockville. I am perfectly cured. I have not been ill a single day since I finished the seventh box of pills. I came to Mrs. Hunter's a year ago, and she will tell you I have never been ill a day since coming here, and I always feel strong and able to do the work. I can and do strongly recommend Dr. Williams' Pink Pills," said Miss Harris in conclusion. Her appearance is certainly that of a strong, healthy young woman.

Mrs. J. E. Hunter, wife of the evangelist, told the reporter that Miss Harris was a good, reliable and truthful girl, and that perfect reliance could be placed in her statements. "She looks like a different girl from what she was when she came here a year ago," said Mrs. Hunter.

The facts above related are important to parents, as there are many young girls just budding into womanhood whose condition is, to say the least, more critical than their parents imagine. Their complexion is pale and waxy in appearance, troubled with heart palpitation, headaches, shortness of breath on the slightest exercise, faintness and other distressing symptoms which invariably lead to a premature grave unless prompt steps are taken to bring about a natural condition of health. In this emergency no remedy yet discovered can supply the place of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, which build anew the blood, strengthen the nerves and restore the glow of health to pale and sallow cheeks. They are certain cure for all troubles peculiar to the female system, young or old. Pink Pills also cure such diseases as rheumatism, neuralgia, partial paralysis, locomotor ataxia, St. Vitus' dance, nervous headache, nervous prostration, the after effects of la grippe, and severe colds, diseases depending on humors in the blood, such as scrofula, chronic erysipelas, etc. In the case of men they effect a radical cure in all cases arising from mental worry, overwork or excesses.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are sold only in boxes bearing the firm's trade mark. They are never sold in bulk, and any dealer who offers substitutes in this form is trying to defraud and should be avoided. The public are cautioned against other so-called blood builders and nerve tonics, put up in similar form intended to deceive. Ask for Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People, and refuse all imitations and substitutes. Can be had from all dealers or by mail from the Dr. Williams' Medicine Company, Brockville, Ont., or Schenectady, N. Y., at 50 cents a box or six boxes for $2 50 —*Adet.*

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