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CARE OF PLANTS IN HOME

Methods to Be Followed If One Would Keep Them Always Looking Their Best.

The housewife need have no more withered house plants, if she will exercise a moderate amount of judgment in their care.

The best plan to follow in watering a plant is to wait until the surface is dry to the depth of half an inch. Then pour water over it, until it reaches the saucer. Do not water again until the surface is dry.

To keep ferns fresh and growing, set the fern dish in a pan of water coming about half an inch above the top of the dish. The plants should be kept in the water for about twenty minutes every other day. Sprinkle the foliage profusely with tepid water and drain thoroughly.

A remedy for the plant louse and the red spider is a tablespoonful of extract of nicotine added to a gallon of water. The aphis and mealie bug are destroyed by dipping the foliage in strong soap suds. Fir-tree oil is the best remedy for scale, which attacks such smooth-leaved plants as ivy and palms.

PIANO REPAYS PROPER CARE

Extremes of Heat and Cold Must Be Avoided, Also Both Dryness and Humidity.

A piano should be carefully guarded against extremes of heat and cold, dryness and humidity. Never place a piano on the exposed outer wall of the house. In winter keep it away from radiators, and in summer from open windows, where the sunshine will crack the varnish.

Remove the footboards and rub a very soft lead pencil over the place where the friction occurs, to stop squeaking.

In cleaning the keys, care should be taken that the cloth is not too wet, and only a few keys should be cleaned at a time, drying them at once. Use a toothpick with a piece of soft linen over it to remove the dust at the back of the keys.

The most opportune time to have the instrument tuned is in the spring after the furnace is out and soon after the fires are started in the fall, because the change in temperature will put it out of tune. The piano should not be left silent too long, as disuse will have a harmful effect on the tone.

Sea Water for Salt.

The use of salt for seasoning and preserving food is so ancient that the earliest written records refer to it. For many centuries practically all the salt used by the human race was procured by the evaporation of sea water. This method of obtaining salt is still employed in many localities where the conditions are favorable. A flat stretch of sea coast and a hot and dry climate are necessary if salt is to be gotten from sea water. An ideal locality for this industry is the coast on the Bay of Cadiz, Spain. The sea water is allowed to collect in shallow basins. As the water evaporates the various salts crystallize out and form a crust. The edible salt crystallizes out first and is drained from the other salts, which are gathered in large piles where the occasional rains and the sun help to wash and dry out the impurities. A considerable part of the crude salt is used locally for curing and pickling and the remainder is shipped to refineries.

The Fish Was Drowned.

The yarn of the frozen fish which came to life when placed in the cooking pot by the V. A. D. was told to a naval officer, who promptly capped the tale with the following: "An interesting experiment was tried some little time ago," he said, "with an ordinary herring. The fish was put into a large bowl of salt water, and every day a small quantity of the water was removed, and an equal quantity of 'fresh' was substituted, until eventually the fish lived and thrived in purely fresh water. The owner was so pleased with the success of his experiment that he then tried removing a very small quantity of water daily until the bowl was empty, and found that the herring did excellently entirely without water, and as he was so lively in the empty bowl, he had to put him in a cage. Here he lived happily, hopping from perch to perch, just like a bird, until one day some sudden noise startled him, and he fell into his water trough and—was drowned."

Choose the Beautiful Way.

Thrice blessed are they who are pleasant to live with. They are a blessing to themselves, to those with whom they live, and to the world at large. Along this line a thoughtful writer has said most truly: "There is a beautiful and an ugly way in which to say almost everything, and happiness depends on which way we take. You can upset a person for a whole day by the harsh way in which you may call him in the morning, or you may give him a beautiful start by the cheeriness of your greeting. So not only in the words, but in all the little common courtesies and duties of life, think of the beautiful way of doing each."

He Had the Dough.

Mr. Blinks—Here's a $75 millinery bill I've just paid, another instance that a fool and his money soon part.

Mrs. Blinks—I know, dear, but just think how fortunate it is that you are one of those who have money.—Boston Transcript.

Londonderry Streets Swept by Bullets

Londonderry.—Civil war conditions prevail in Londonderry and the authorities are powerless, it is declared in an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Londonderry. Several additional persons were killed in Monday morning's rioting there, according to this message. The firing is being maintained with desperate intensity. Business is suspended and the postmen are declining to deliver mail. When the troops stop the fighting in one zone, the dispatch adds, firing breaks out in another.

Increase in Japan's Coal Output.

Shipping and Engineering notes with interest that the output of coal in Japan during the first 11 months of 1919 was put at 25,825,000 tons, showing an increase of 2,740,000 tons, or about 10 per cent, as compared with the corresponding period of the previous year, in spite of the pessimistic reports made from time to time of the gradual exhaustion of the mines. This was attributed to the revival of old mines and the increase in the number of new mines, owing to the profitable prices obtaining, although the output in Kyushu, which constitutes 60 per cent of the total output, did not materially change.

Making a Hit.

I had an engagement one evening with a young woman friend, with whom I was endeavoring to make a big hit, writes a correspondent. We went to the theater; I walked up to the box office and asked for two tickets. Thinking I had them, my companion walked in ahead. I put my hand into my pocket, and, holy smoke I had forgotten to take any money with me! I turned red and white, but that was nothing compared to how I felt when the usher gently broke the news and escorted my girl to a door marked "exit." Did I make a hit? I've got the chills yet.

Identifying the Nickel.

James evidently had a buffalo nickel of the first vintage, for he was having trouble with central. In reply to his "I did drop a nickel," central demanded, "Well, what kind of a nickel are you trying to use?" "I dunno what kind it is," he replied, "but it's got a little bull on it."

Appearances.

Rafferty," said Mr. Dolan, "I hear overalls are to become fashionable."

"I hope not. They'll put cuffs on the bottoms, make 'em narrow waisted, with belts in the back, and completely ruin their appearance."

Emaciated Bride Considered Beautiful.

Javanese marriage customs include a period of religious instruction for both the bride and the groom. The young man starts his instruction by paying daily visits to the priest of the village, and learning all the complicated phrases which he will have to utter on the day of his wedding. The pupil is placed in a tank of cold water and stays there submerged up to his chin while the priest bends over him and reads the Koran, the performance taking place in front of the church.

The girl begins her preparations for the great day by several weeks of semi-starvation during which time she takes only sufficient rice and hot water to sustain life. Because of this hunger strike enforced by custom, she loses considerable weight, an emaciated bride being considered a thing of beauty on the island of Java.—Detroit News.

Where the Shah Sits.

The throne of the Shah of Persia is the most valuable one in the whole world, and its enormous dimensions and exquisite decorations would inspire a multimillionaire with awe.

It is of pure white marble, and is no less than 18 feet in depth by 10 feet wide. The actual seat is mounted on a large platform of the same material, and is upheld by fourteen spotless ivory pillars, carved in the shape of men and women; while the whole is covered with pictures worked in the purest gold leaf. Ascending to the platform is a staircase of solid gold.

One Millionth of an Inch.

Steel gauges accurate to the incredible fineness of a millionth part of an inch are now being made in quantities at the United States bureau of standards. So extraordinarily precise is the method of manufacture, simple as it is, that in one instance 32 finished gauges out of a lot of 33 were absolutely accurate to .000,001 inch, and the balance all within .000,002 inch of precision, says Popular Mechanics Magazine. The guages are steel discs.

New Leader of Marines.

Washington.—Appointment of Major General John A. Lejeune as major general commandant of the marine corps, to succeed Major General George Barnett, was announced by Secretary Daniels. General Lejeune commanded the famous second division when it broke the German line in the Meuse-Argonne offensive.

Oregon Restores Capital Punishment.

Salem.—Capital punishment was restored in Oregon by official proclamation by Governor Olcott, immediately upon completion of the official canvass by Secretary of State Kozer of the vote cast in the special election of May 21.

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Closely Related.

Rob was born the same day as his cousin, Helen. Both children started to public school at the same time and the teacher was a family friend of Helen's, but did not know Rob. On asking Helen if Rob were her cousin, she replied: "Yes, ma'am; Rob and I are twins."

Nearly All Water.

Mushrooms generally consist of 90 per cent water, but the remaining 10 per cent is more nutritious than bread.

Life Made Up of Surprises.

Life is a series of surprises. We do not guess today the power of tomorrow.—Emerson

Official Tattooing.

In some countries tattooing is adopted for several purposes. For example, in Samoa, when a woman is married several tattoo marks are placed on her, and each in Fiji and Samoa the birth of each child is registered in this way on the mother's hand.

Jefferson and Van Buren.

Thomas Jefferson and Martin Van Buren have been the only men in the history of the United States who have served as governors of states, foreign ministers, heads of cabinets, vice presidents and presidents.

De Medici Had First Fold Fan.

Catherine de Medici carried the first fold fan ever seen in France.

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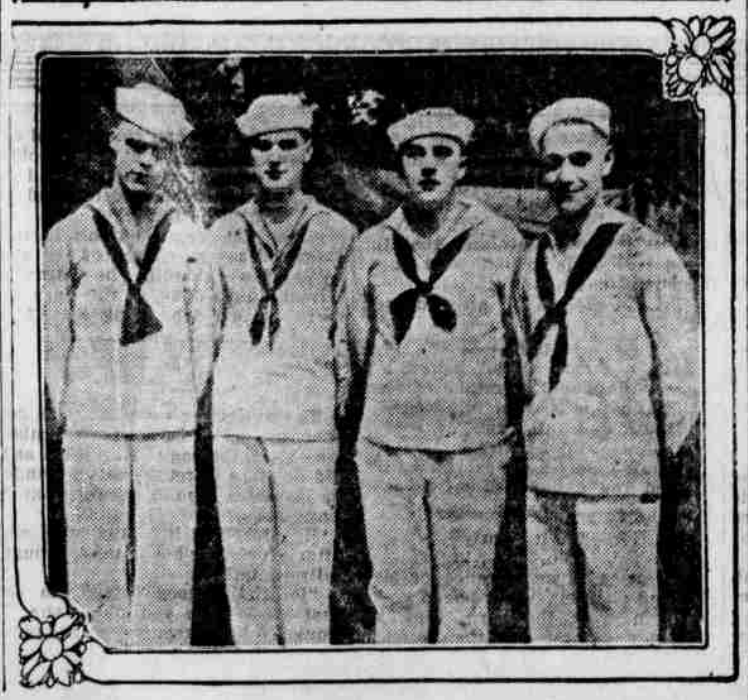

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