

The Home Circle.

MRS HARRIOT T. CLARKE, Editor

CHOICE RECIPES.

YEAST.—The foundation of good bread is good yeast. We have tried many receipts for yeast, but have found none equal to the one we now give: Put a handful of hops, tied in a small bag, in two quarts of water, and boil for half an hour; pare and grate half a dozen raw potatoes of medium size; pour the water in which the hops have been boiled, having squeezed out the bag, over the potatoes; add half a cupful of sugar and a little less quantity of salt; let it stand until it becomes tepid; add a pint of good yeast; let it rise, stirring frequently; put in a crock, and keep it in a cool place. With good flour and this yeast, I never fail to have good bread.

MILK SOUP.—Four potatoes, two onions, two ounces of butter, quarter of an ounce of salt, pepper to taste, one pint of milk, three tablespoonfuls of tapioca. Boil slowly all the vegetables with two quarts of water. Strain through the colander. Add milk and tapioca. Boil slowly and stir constantly for twenty minutes.

GRAVY FOR BOILED MEAT.—Take a half-pint of the water in which the meat has been boiled, thicken it with a little flour and butter, adding for a flavor a tablespoonful of pickled cucumbers and a sprig or two of parsley, both finely minced. A little mustard and vinegar may be added if liked. Serve in a tureen.

CREAM PIE.—First bake a puff paste in a pie-plate; then make a custard of the yolks of four eggs, a little more than a pint of milk, one tablespoonful of corn starch, six tablespoonfuls of sugar. Save out two spoonfuls of sugar and beat to a stiff froth with the whites of the eggs. Flavor the custard with vanilla, put it into the crust, spread the whites over the tops, and put them into the oven to brown.

BOILED CUSTARD.—Put two tablespoonfuls of water in the kettle first, to keep the custard from sticking. Then add one quart of milk, two tablespoonfuls of sugar, two eggs (the eggs and sugar beaten together) and two slices of bread. If hard, dry bread is used, it should be soaked in water awhile before making the custard. After putting it on the stove, watch it closely, for as soon as it boils it is done.

BUTTERED PARSNIPS.—Wash and boil in cold salted water from three-quarters to an hour. Skin and cut into round, thick slices. Have ready in a sauce pan a tablespoonful of butter and one teaspoonful of flour, previously rubbed together, and two tablespoonfuls of milk. When it boils up, put in the parsnips and shake over the fire until smoking hot. Serve hot in a covered dish.

COFFEE CAKE.—Pour one cup of boiling hot, strong coffee on one cup of lard or pork fat, add one cup of molasses, one cup of brown sugar, three well beaten eggs, one teaspoonful each of cloves, cinnamon, allspice, one-half of nutmeg, one teaspoonful of soda dissolved in a little warm water, flour enough to make a stiff batter. Bake in sheet iron pans one hour and a half in a slow oven.

TRUE HOSPITALITY.

The announcement of the coming of a visitor into the family for a few days or weeks, as it may be, is generally followed by a great deal of worry and anxiety on the part of the housekeeper for fear everything will not be right. She must go all over the house with broom and duster in hand, to be sure everything is clean and nice for the coming guest. Even the attic, used only as a receptacle for discarded furniture and clothes, must be visited and put to rights. Why she should think a guest would want to rummage in this place, or poke into store closets, which they never do, is a strange idea, but it does appear as though that is her thought, or why does she go into every hole and corner, afraid something would be left undone. Should the expected visitor be a slight acquaintance, never having been her guest before, to be sure it is but natural she should be a little nervous about his or her coming, and like that her home should make a good impression on him.

But when the coming guest is an old friend or acquaintance, it does seem absurd that she should go through the same routine as for an almost entire stranger, yet that is exactly what she does, giving the impression that the person expected is coming with the expres-

purpose of picking out any mistakes that she has made in her housekeeping. She is so tired out from work and worry that when the guest does arrive she is not prepared to greet her as cordially as she should, and the welcome is forced and strained. The visitor, if she is a sensitive person, quickly notices the lack of warmth, that element which is the pulse of a hearty greeting, and wonders could she have made a mistake in coming. The guest, though an old friend, is shown to her room with as much ceremony as though she were a stranger, and the busy housekeeper excuses herself and hurries to the kitchen to see that the dinner or tea, whichever it may be, is served on time. The best silver and china must be used at every meal, and the rarest viands that the hostess can afford are on the table. The visitor, who has looked forward to having the company of her friend, for months, expecting to be treated as one of the family, feels out of place as an honored guest, and at the close of her stay leaves with a keen feeling that her visit had been a failure both to herself and her hostess. She would have preferred, had she the choice, more of her friends company and less of her china and delicacies.

It is a grave mistake to treat friends in such a way, though it is done with the best intentions. True hospitality in relation to guests consists in making them feel thoroughly at home, and for this end only should the housekeeper work. No person can feel at home in the house of a friend who feels that his or her stay is the source of anxiety and worry to any of the family, and if of a susceptible nature he will assuredly close his visit as soon as possible. Do not make strangers of friends but let them enter into the home life. It will be less worry and care for the housekeeper and more enjoyable to the guest. Should the visitor be a woman, and you do not keep hired help, let her assist you in the housework if she so desires, and she will be better pleased than if you had provided the finest entertainment which you could for her. A woman is never so much at home as when she is doing housework, and you will be surprised to see how quickly your guest merges into a member of the family when assisting you in your labors. When she departs she will take with her, and paradoxical as it may seem, leave behind, the remembrance of a home-like, enjoyable visit.

A Hairpin Cushion.

A pretty accessories to the dressing-table is made by getting a small round box, like those in which thimbles comes in the thimbles, or, if this is difficult to obtain, a small round collar box cut down to about half its depth will do nicely. Fasten across the open top some coarse netting and cover the bottom with some pretty paper. Treble crochet a cover to the rim of the bottom, then crochet a row or two of shells, according to the depth of the box, around the bottom so that when on the box they will lie flat. The ribbon of the same shade as the cover, and fasten in a neat bow, or a bow with long ends. This makes a very pretty miniature sailor hat the top of the crown being used as a cushion for hairpins.

Narrow Lace.

Cast on 7 stitches and knit across plain. 1st row—knit 3, over, narrow, over 2, knit 2. 2d row—knit 3, seam 1, knit 2, over, narrow, knit 1. 3d row—slip 1, knit 2, over, narrow, knit 4. 4th row—bind off 2, knit 3, over, narrow, knit 1.

Fluted Lace.

Cast on 18 stitches and knit across plain. 1st row—knit plain. 2d row—seam 14; pay no attention to the remaining stitches but turn. 3d row—Slip off the first stitch of the fourteenth stitches on the right handed needle with the 4 left, knit 9, narrow, over 2, knit 2. 4th row—seam 14, making but 1 stitch of the loops. 5th row—slip 1, knit 13. 6th row—knit 18. 7th row—knit 4, seam 14. 8th row—knit 1, narrow, over twice, knit 11. 9th row—slip 1, seam 13. 10th row—knit 18; begin at first row to repeat.

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The current serials in Harper's Magazine are very strong. The May number contains the fourth part of Mr. Howell's Boston society novel, "April Hopes," and the fifth part of Kathleen O'Meara's Russian novel, "Narka."

For The Children.

OUR LETTER BOX.

Last week there were no letters left over, the last one was sent to the printer, and we felt rather discouraged for fear there would be none for this week. But before many days the mail brought enough to fill the space we have. Only once have the young folks failed to write. There was a time when there would be twenty or thirty letters on hand. One reason that we have so few now is that so few write regularly. Many more write but the first one.

Lee tells of a horse twenty-five years old. Is not that wonderful? It is said that a horse would live to be very old if only treated well, but they are not capable of standing rough usage, and it is very uncommon to see one even twelve years old. It is a good, kind man that can show so aged an animal. There is no domestic animal that is so useful and so necessary to man as the horse, and yet how cruelly they are abused by overwork and neglect. The care of bees is a very interesting study. They have curious ways and habits. When a little girl, we used to sit by the bee hives and watch them. If a strange bee comes to the hive they will drive it away. Sometimes one colony will steal the honey from another, and think, it is usual for the workers to kill the drones, or those who will not work. It is said the average age of a working bee is only six months. It is interesting to read about the bee. They are a symbol of industry and forethought, in providing for winter food. It is said that bees that are taken to a warm climate after a while lose that name, and do not lay up honey. Lee must tell us more of these bees.

Nellie writes a nice letter. May Day was not sunny or warm, so Nellie did not get many flowers, we guess. Spring has there been so wet and cold a spring. Aunt Hetty's flower seeds have not come up well, but the weeds grow well enough. It is nice to have friends come so far to visit. Nellie must try and do her part in making the visit pleasant. A little girl can do a great deal toward making a pleasant, cheerful home, in trying to be helpful, useful, and with a cheerful way doing all she can of the household duties—anything to make things smooth. A cross, selfish girl can make a house uncomfortable.

MARION, Or., May 2, 1887.

Editor Home Circle:

As I have never written to the Circle, I thought I would write. I am a little boy eleven years old. I went to school six months this winter, but school is out now. I studied in the elementary arithmetic, and read in the fourth reader, and spelling, and the elementary geography. My papa takes the FARMER, and I like to read the young folks' letters. My brother Charles had a swarm of bees the 28th of April, this year. We have six head of horses. We have a mare 25 years old, and she has a colt that is eight months old. Little boys, can any of you beat that for an old mare? She is of Morgan stock. Yours truly,

LEE MORGAN.

McMINNVILLE, May 1, 1887.

Editor Home Circle:

As I have not written to the Circle for some time, I will do so now. It has been raining all day. Our school will be out in six weeks. I study fifth reader, arithmetic, geography, spelling, and writing. I am piecing a quilt. I will answer Lou Morgan's riddle; it is an egg. I went to pick flowers yesterday. My uncle and aunt Hembree are here from Missouri. They expect to spend the summer with us. We have eight little chickens and seven little calves. Your friend,

NELLIE HEMBREE.

In this age of progress, what a wonderful amount of skill and ingenuity is expended in the construction, improvement and preservation of the costly and intricate machinery used in the manufacture of the various articles so necessary to our comfort. How much more important is it that we watch with rigid care this most wonderful machine, the human body. Adjusting all its parts with nicest care, each to the other, that all may perform their allotted duty. There is nothing better calculated to do this thoroughly and efficiently than Freese's Hamburg Tea; a simple vegetable remedy, yet powerful in its ability to build up and restore the wasted energies, and to give tone and vigor to all its powers.

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