DISCOVERIES

PRIZES GIVEN FOR ARTICLES OF INFORMATION TO OUR READERS.

We will award prizes every month for best letter of not more than 150 words on the following subjects: Household Hints, Dressmaking, Fancy Work, Hygiene, Health, Social Matters, or anything of interest to our readers. Letters must be mailed by the 5th of month previous to date of issue. The Editorial Department reserves the right to determine which two letters are entitled to prizes. "The competition is open freely to all who may desire to compete, without charge or consideration of any kind, and prospective contestants need not be subscribers in order to be entitled to compete for he prize offer."

Imported Sewing Box for best Letter. A Food Chopper for next best letter.

ONE of the safest ways to use coal oil for kindling fires is to fill tin cans about two-thirds full with fine coal or wood ashes then stir in enough of the oil to saturate the ashes and you will always have a good fire starter and one or two spoonsful is enough to start one fire. The oil moistened with the fine ashes that accumulate in stoves makes a fine polish for brass, steel and tinware and this mixture is also excellent for cleaning zinc and galvanized ironware. To freshen up gilt frames wipe with a soft cloth moistened with the oil of turpentine and then let dry without rubbing. Save all the egg shells and keep them in closely covered glass jars, and they will be good to settle coffee and fine for cleaning glass bottles, vinegar cruets and the like if they are put in the bottle with plenty of hot suds and the bottle then given a vigorous shaking and thorough rinsing. Waste fat may be utilized in the making of an excellent hard, white soap, for household use. Fry it out and strain, then to one-half pound reliable potash and a little water add three pounds of melted fat and stir for ten minutes, and then stir in one tablespoonful of borax dissolved in a little hot water and turn into pans to cool. The borax will soften the water when using the soap and the borax in it makes it good for toilet soap, and if it is to be used for the toilet, a little oil of rose added while the mixture is hot will give a pleasnt perfume. Before the soap becomes hard it can be cut into squares of the desired size. M. H.

Plaster of Paris Plaques

Take a picture clipped from magazine or a post card, place face down in a dampened dish or plate of size and shape desired; mix plaster of paris with water to make good paste, white or tinted with bluine, Venetian red, etc., cover picture with it. Do not let picture move, make plaque as thick as desired, work quickly before plaster stiffens, insert wire or ring at top to hang up, mark dish where top is before begining, let stand until dry, then slip out of dish. Ten cents' worth of plaster should make at least six plaques of medium size.

A Nice Tidy Piece

Take a piece of netting as large as is required for the back of your chair, lay it off in checks by looping the thread over five threads, working from you; then, when your checks are finished, work your letters "take a," then a "chair." In the remaining checks work a rose, beginning in the centre of the check, leaving four plain, then over and under two, then four, then six, then four, then two. Then repeat the other three sides the same until finished. Work the letters and the chair by counting the squares also.

MRS. L. L. ROBERTS,
Dawson Springs, Ky.

Dear Editor:—Now-a-days, since there are so many parties and social gatherings, it is difficult for a hostess to have a new amusement. The game of "Proposal" is enjoyable for the younger set. Cozy corners and little nooks are arranged and a young lady placed in each. Then the young men start out proposing. Five minutes is given to each girl. At the end prizes are usually awarded to the girl who refused or accepted the nicest and to the boy who proposed the best. Each to vote.

The Penny Contest

Pass sheets of paper with questions on, and plenty room for answers. Prize awarded to best one correctly. Place a penny on the table so all may see. Answers all found on it. What reptile? Copper head. What fruit? Date. What race? Indian. Which senses; Smelling (S-cent) What boundary? U. S. of A. What sees? Eye. What is given? Liberty. What emblem? Wreath.

Yours truly,
MYRTLE M. BESCH,
P. O. Box 833. Ordway, Colo.

Good Old Times

Dear Editor:—What has become of the good old-fashioned cider apple butter made in a copper kettle, scoured until it was as bright as a new penny, and twenty gallons made at a time? The stuff that is now sold for apple butter is so badly adulterated that it is not fit for the human stomach. Oh, for a generous dish of apple butter like mother used to make when I was a child! Oh, those good old days on the farm will never be forgotten! We had good times then, and good things to eat, too. Every fall when the Rainbow apples began to get ripe all hands and the cook began to prepare to make apple butter.

It took two or three days to get ready and make the apple butter, too. We had to pick up and grind about twenty bushels of sweet apples for cider. The cider had to be made the last thing the day before the apple butter was made, so it would be sweet. All day long and sometimes away into the night all hands had to peel and core apples to "fill in with." The morning of the apple butter boiling by the break of day mother had the cider on to boil. She kept it boiling continually until noon, when she began to put in the sour peeled apples. As soon as the apples cooked to a pulp she began to stir. Now perhaps this was the most difficult part of the work, for the stirring had to continue for six or more hours. And this part of the work mother never trusted to any one. Although this "stirring off" may seem like hard work to the uninitiated, it is not as laborious as it seems. Everything was so conveniently arranged that mother could sit in the shade of the summer kitchen and with a long handled paddle stir the apple butter with ease and complacency. When it would not run off the paddle, and was of a dark rich color, it was sufficiently cooked to keep. Then it was dipped out in jars, large jars that would hold three or four gallons each. When they were cold a cloth was tied over them and they were put in the cellar.

Oh, how delicious this apple butter was on our hot cakes, for breakfast! And mother put it an inch thick on corn bread when we went to school. Oh, for those good old times, and those. The dishes, are gone, never to return any more! Although I have just dined on Salisbury steak, amber pickles, potato salad, cabinet pudding and cream cake, yet I am hungry. I am hungry for a dish of old-fashioned apple butter, such as mother used to make. Although I am far from my birthplace, and mother has long since gone to dwell in the Silent City, in fancy, I can see her dear face, and ever busy hands, preparing the wholesome nourishment for her lusty sons, and fair daughters. S. E. B.

Washing New Prints

Dear Editor:—New prints should always be set before washing. The way to do it, however, depends much upon the color. Blues and greens are strengthened by vinegar in the rinsing or blueing water, allowing a teaspoonful of vinegar to each quart of water. Four ounces of alum to a tub of water is also considered efficacious. For black, black and white, deep purple and grays, salt is best. Dissolve pint in two quarts of boiling water and soak the garment in this for several hours. Then wring dry and proceed as usual. Madder tints may be soaked in a solution of sugar of lead, an ounce to a gallon of water. Strong black pepper tea in the first suds is best for setting some blacks. When in doubt it is best to try samples of the garment in each solution before going ahead. When ready to wash use clean, warm, not hot, suds, rinse thoroughly, wring dry, starch and hang in the shade. Never double a garment over the line.

HELEN HARRIGAN,
Eighty Four, Wash County, Pa.
R. F. D. No. 1.

About Eggs

The yolk of an egg well beaten can be used as cream in coffee; one egg will flavor three cups.

An egg boiled twenty minutes is more easily digested than one boiled ten. After being boiled twenty minutes they are dry and mealy and the gastric juice acts upon them readily.

The white of an egg beaten to a froth and mixed with a cup of warm sweetened water and used as a gargle will relieve hoarseness and tickling in the throat.

Mix a pint of water, a pint of milk and one egg, beat fifteen minutes, sweeten with granulated sugar, bring to a boiling point and when cold use as a drink for a cold.

Put coffee in pot, mix well with it the white of one egg before pouring in water (the yolk may be used in the same way at another time.) This makes fine morning drink.

Another old-time and good remedy for a cold is to place three unbroken eggs into very strong cider (make it stronger by boiling if necessary.) In three or four days the acid will eat the shells, then beat the mixture well and thicken with honey.

Take two coffee spoonsful before each meal. These are good tonic recipes. You need not publish my letter—only the information.

Wishing you much success, I am,
Very respectfully,
MISS ELLA M. SLOAN,
Pontoon, Ark.

Dear Editor:—For a cheap bread pan I have two dish pans, one smaller. I removed the handles from the smaller and it fits into the other nicely. A wire run in the rim allows it to hang up. To prevent odor of cabbage, onions, etc., use a tablespoon of vinegar while boiling and odor will pass. To kill bad odor on any article or in a room, smoke with burning cornmeal. Lamp chimneys baked forty-eight hours are better than to boil them as they last longer. To remove the lime from a teakettle fill with small potatoes and boil one hour. Remove lime while moist with a knife and ever after keep an oyster shell inside and the lime will not bother. Clean zinc or graniteware with coal oil. Soda will remove stain from egg spoons or teacups. Also put soda once a week in the sink pipe to cleanse it.

PHOEBE JOURNEY,
Arapahoe, Neb.

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