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PREPARING RAW SILK.

The Washing Process is an Important and Delicate Operation.

Raw silk is of three kinds, known to the trade as organzine, tram and souple. The organzine is used for the warp or woven materials, and the tram for the weft. Before these are dyed and prepared for weaving, the silkworm gum must be washed out by a process called "stripping." The souple silk is used for the manufacturing of the soft fabrics, such as messaline, chiffon, etc., and in order that these materials may retain their softness and pliability and admit of being crushed in the hand without showing any signs of creasing the souple silk must first undergo a process known as softening.

This process is a very delicate operation, and the quality of the silk depends very much upon the care with which the softening is done. In this case the silk is not stripped off the silkworm gum, but is immediately placed in a bath of pure olive oil soap. This bath is made up of about fifty parts of pure water to one of strong liquid soap. The silk is suspended in this bath on wooden rods and is moved back and forth by two operatives, who frequently turn it and keep it in constant motion. The bath is heated to 30 degrees R., and owing to the continuous agitation of the silk in the bath the silkworm gum, while not washed out, is made to permeate uniformly through the silk.

After being treated in this manner for about an hour the silk is removed and placed in another bath of lukewarm water, where it is again treated in the same way. This process continues for about fifteen minutes and is intended only to cleanse the silk. The skeins are then removed from the bath and placed in another consisting of about sixty parts of pure water to one of concentrated sulphuric acid heated to 60 degrees R. Here it is worked back and forth and frequently turned very slowly for about two hours or until it yields very readily to a pressure of the finger. It is then removed and given two thorough washings in cold water. It is then ready for the dyeing. —Scientific American.

Edible Flowers of India.

Many edible flowers, it appears, are to be found in India. One of the most appreciated grows on a tree about which we have very little information, but which in the country itself is named, the "mhowad." The natives consume an enormous number of these flowers, whose pale yellow corollae are pulpy and thick, and they prepare them in various ways. When they are fresh they are put in cakes, to which they give a sweet flavor, but they are more especially used for making bread after they have been dried and reduced to flour. By allowing them to ferment a kind of wine is produced, and by distilling them a brandy is obtained of which the Hindus are very fond.

George IV.'s Hearings.

One of the most inveterate hoarders on record was George IV. Not only was he averse to destroying books and papers, but he preferred everything that could possibly be kept. When he died all the suits of clothes he had worn for twenty years were discovered and sold by public auction. His executors also found secreted in various desks, drawers and cupboards numerous purses and pocketbooks crammed full of money to the extent, it is said, of £20,000, together with more sentimental treasures in the form of locks of hair from the tresses of forgotten beauties of the court. —London Graphic.

A Slow Horse.

One time when he was quite a young man Lincoln hired a livery stable horse to attend a convention where he expected to be nominated for some office. The horse went so slowly that when he reached there the convention was over and the other fellow nominated. On his return he irately asked the stable keeper if the horse was good for anything at all. "Yes, for drawing the hearse to funerals," was the reply. Lincoln advised him earnestly never to send that horse to a funeral, for if he did judgment day would arrive before the corpse reached the grave.

What's in a Name?

"Papa," asked little Tommy, looking up from his book, "is a Mohammedan stronger than other men?"

Papa laid down his newspaper, adjusted his gold rimmed spectacles and settled himself for a comfortable talk.

"Not necessarily, my boy," replied his father. "Why do you ask?"

"Then why," demanded logical Tommy—"why do they call a Mohammedan a muscle-man?"

QUEER INSANITY REMEDY.

In India They Think Tead Soup Banishes the Evil Spirit.

In India there are many curious beliefs in regard to insanity and its cure, and Mr. O'Malley, who superintended the census taking in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, says that the lower classes think that insanity is due to an excess of bile in the system, or to worms in the head. "Neglect of the worship of the gods or the curse of a yogi, sadha or other holy man may produce it," he says. "It is especially liable to attack those who practice Tantric arts, but fail to control the spirits which they evoke. Generally, however, it is attributed to demoniacal possession.

"The spirit which is most commonly thought to produce madness is Brahmadaitya, the spirit of a Brahman who has died an unnatural death. Madness being due to possession by an evil spirit, every attempt is made to appease or exorcise it. The exorcists hold smoking chillies to the nostrils of the patient and chant mantras, addressing the spirit in filthy and obscene language, all with the idea of driving it away.

"When these means prove futile they prescribe a diet calculated to force the spirit to leave his victim in fear of losing his caste, for Brahmadaitya is the spirit of a high caste Brahman. The unfortunate patient has therefore to consume soup made of toads, etc. When these abominable nostrums fail the use of medicated oils and of indigenous herbs and drugs is resorted to.

"The medical treatment of the insane prescribed by the Kavirajes sometimes takes the following forms: The mud taken from putrid tanks is plastered on the patient's head, or aloe pulp is mixed with water and applied in the form of an emulsion. A favorite remedy is soup made from a particular kind of frog."—London Cor. St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

The Wedding Ring.

There are several theories as to the origin of the wedding ring. Here is one of them: Before the time of mints and coinage the gold money in Egypt was made in the form of a ring, usually worn on the finger as a convenient method of carrying and safe keeping. The men and women therefore had all their gold or wealth made into rings, and for the majority of people these rings were no larger than the plain gold bands of today. Thus when the groom placed the ring on the bride's finger he meant exactly what the modern service makes him say—he did actually endow his bride with all his worldly goods.

An Apology?

A London journal says that a lively discussion once took place in a town council in the north of England. One thing led to another till one of the disputants gave another the lie direct. The insulted party rushed forward, and the pair clinched. At that moment the first man exclaimed, "I reiterate that you are a liar!" To the astonishment of every one, the aggrieved party let go his hold. "Oh, well," he said, "in that case I accept the apology. If a man says he reiterates, that is all any gentleman can ask." He did not understand why the bystanders laughed, but the fight was off.

A Financial Shock.

A man went to a local bank with a check which there was no cash on deposit to meet. When the paying teller declined to respond the applicant loudly demanded to see the cashier.

"We have no 'cash here' for you," quietly responded the teller.

The man with the check saw the point. He moved in circles till he found his way out, tobogganed down the front steps and was led a block by a policeman before sufficiently recovered to make explanation. —Detroit Free Press.

Sinkers and Floaters.

The gentle art of determining the age of eggs has been explained to the heads of all state institutions. Hen fruit that sinks in a 10 per cent salt solution is fresh; if it remains suspended it is at least three days old, and if it floats is five or more days old. After that it is only a matter of cracking the shell and giving the bird a chance to fly. The salt solution differs from the market in that the lower the eggs the higher the price. —San Francisco Bulletin.

Puritan Names.

In the time of the Puritans it was common to hear such names as Weep Not Billing, Kill Sin Pimple, Fight the Good Fight White, Meek Brewer, Earth Adams, Stand Fast on High Stringer, More Fruit Fowler, Good Gift Gynnings, Fear Not Rhodes, Be Courteous French and Seek Wisdom Hadley.

HIS HEAVY CROSS.

It Was Only a Chalk Mark, but Was Too Cumbersome to Carry.

There is a story of an envious tailor current with the French peasantry. He fancied that his neighbor, who received a pension for the loss of an arm incurred while fighting for his country, was better off than himself. Both men went to pay their rent on the same day.

"That's a lucky man," said the tailor to the landlord. "He gets well paid for his arm."

"But who would be willing to part with an arm, even if he were paid for it?" said the landlord.

"I would," declared the tailor.

"You!" cried the landlord. "Why, man, you wouldn't be willing to bear anything of the sort, no matter how much you were paid for it."

"I wish some one would try me."

"Now, see here," said the landlord, who had studied human nature. "I'll tell you what—if you'll wear even so much as a chalk mark on your back I'll remit your rent as long as you wear it on your coat so it can be seen, the condition being that you tell no one why it is there."

"Agreed," said the tailor eagerly. "That's an easy way to pay rent."

So the chalk mark in the form of a cross was made on the back of his coat, and the delighted tailor sallied forth upon the street.

Strangers and acquaintances hailed him to tell him of the mark on his back. Jokes were made at his expense, children laughed and pointed at him, and his wife annoyed him with questions and with conjugal familiarity told him he was a fool. The usually amiable man grew surly and morose. He shunned men, women and children and frequented back streets. Before the week was up the tailor found himself embroiled in a quarrel with his best friend, his wife had threatened to leave his house, and he considered himself miserable and ill used.

Finally one night he took off his coat and rubbed out the chalk mark and said: "There! I would not wear that cross on my back another week, no, not if I could have all the money there is in Paris!"

Legal Lore.

His teacher was having a hard time explaining the geography lesson.

"Tommy, you can learn this if you make up your mind. It's not one bit smart to appear dull. I know that you are just as bright as any boy in the class. Remember, Tommy, where there's a will there's a way."

"Aw," broke in Tommy, "I know all dat, I do! Me fadder's a lawyer, an' I've heard him say it lots o' times."

"You should not have interrupted me, but I am glad that your father has taught you the old adage. Can you repeat it?"

"Sure. Me fadder says dat where dere's a will dere's always a bunch of poor relatives." —Pittsburgh Dispatch.

An Ugly Looking Lizard.

Among the lizards of Australia the "thorny devil" (Moloch horridus) is unrivaled in its ugliness. From the tip of its nose to the end of its tail this lizard is covered with tubercles and spines, but in spite of its dangerous appearance it is quite harmless. It measures about seven inches in length. It has a flat body, a small head and a cylindrical tail. It frequents sandy places, feeds largely on ants and is more or less diurnal in habits. Its powerful limbs are furnished with strong claws, which it uses in digging the sand, in which it often lies wholly or partially buried.

In the Hanging Days.

Coke, in the time of Queen Elizabeth, remarks on the large number of persons hanged in England. In 1750 a great increase of crime occurred, and in the following year sixty-three persons were hanged in the small London of those days. But many more were sentenced than were actually hanged. In England in 1785 there were 243 sentenced, and 103 actually suffered. Townsend, the Bow street runner, said that between 1781 and 1787 he had seen as many as twelve, sixteen or twenty hanged at one execution. Twice he had seen forty hanged at one time.

Part of the Treatment.

After being treated by a specialist for a month the stout personage anxious to reduce his bulk received his bill. He gasped, hastened to the doctor and arrived in great perspiration.

"Doctor, doctor!" he exclaimed breathlessly. "this bill is as big as I am. I haven't lost an ounce."

"Tut, tut," replied the specialist affably. "the bill is part of the treatment. I see it has made you perspire."

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