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A LECTURE ON FRYING.

Rules a Famous Epicure Laid Down For His Cook's Guidance.

Brillat-Savarin in his book "Physiologie du Gout" relates that one day he called his cook up to the dining room and gave her a lecture on frying.

What he told her was that food of any sort is dropped into boiling oil or fat in order that the intense heat of this may instantly char the surface of the food, thereby forming a thin but impermeable crust which prevents any of the juice of the food from escaping, and also prevents any of the grease from penetrating.

Only fat that is boiling will accomplish this. Fat that has not reached the boiling-point or that has cooled down will soak into the food before this has had a chance to cook. The result will be a greasy mess, unpalatable and indigestible. It is because of this melted grease that soaks so much fried stuff that this is generally condemned by physicians. Food properly fried is just as digestible as when cooked in any other way.

Brillat-Savarin also told his cook that food must not be allowed to stand in the grease in which it has been fried, for as soon as it begins to cool the grease begins to soak through the crust. Nor can it be fried properly unless completely covered by the boiling oil. As soon as it is cooked it must be taken out of the fat—with a wire skimmer—and placed on a pad of absorbent paper—blotting paper is best, but almost any clean unsized paper will serve—in order that any grease remaining on it may drain off.

If these instructions be carried out the oil in which food has been fried may be used over and over again, for it does not absorb any of the flavor of what has been cooked in it. The writer stood once beside a famous chef and watched him fry successively in the same pot of boiling olive oil onions, fish, apple fritters and eggs, merely straining the

oil through a hair sieve after each cooking. And when he had finished he put the oil aside for use on another occasion.

The Bite of the Sea Lion.

The bite of the sea lion is poisonous; besides, it is an ugly wound from the manner in which it is inflicted. Although the creature moves painfully and slowly on land, the motion of its head and neck is extremely quick. The neck seems to have an almost elastic quality. One is surprised at its reach. The sea lion is like a bulldog. When he has caught hold he does not let go at once, but sets his teeth firmly in the flesh. Then he twists his head, the teeth being still imbedded in the flesh, and without relinquishing his grip he gives a quick jerk. The result is to pull out a ragged piece of flesh if the animal has taken a deep hold.—London Standard.

Ants and Colors.

It was proved long ago that ants have the power of seeing the—us—invisible rays of the ultra violet portion of the spectrum. They fear the light for their larvae and when allowed choice between different degrees of light always carry them to the darkest place accessible. When given the choice between a compartment lighted with yellow light and one dark to our eyes, but under the actinic ray, the ants unhesitatingly chose the yellow light, showing that to their eyes it was darker than the other, to man invisible.—Argonaut.

A Moment of Suspense.

Visitor—Goodness! How quiet it is around your house today! Is anybody dead? Willie—No, but pa's standing on tiptoe on the dictionary on top of the three legged chair putting on a gas mantle, and baby's leaning against the chair, joggling it, and ma's sitting on the floor hugging pa's hair whisks and busting the mantle, so she'll have a chance to say, "I told you so."—London Tit-Bits.

WEATHERCOCKS.

They Were Known Before Our Era and Were Then Called Tritons.

The weathercock had its origin at a very early date. Marcus Virtruvius Pollis, a noted Roman architect and engineer, who was born about 80 B. C., in his works calls a vane a triton, probably because in his time it had the form of a triton. The usual form on towers, castles and secular buildings was that of a banner, but on ecclesiastical buildings it was a representation of the male of the barnyard fowl.

There have been other forms of vane. The one over St. Peter's, Cornhill, London, is in the shape of a key; that over St. Mildred's church is a gilt ship under full sail. The grasshopper of the Royal Exchange, London, is the vane that formerly surmounted the former exchange. The dragon on the spire of Bow church, Chesapeake, is another celebrated vane.

One of Mother Shipton's prophecies was that when the dragon of Bow church and the grasshopper of the Royal Exchange should meet the streets of London would be deluged with blood. In what way they should meet the old dame did not explain, but it is known that at one time these two vane were side by side in the yard of a stonemason in Old Street road, yet there was no shedding of blood.—London Answers.

SAVED BY POETRY.

Plaintive Plea That Moved Lyaander to Spare Athens.

When, B. C. 404, after a heroic struggle, Athens, the "City of the Violet Crown," was captured by Lyaander there were not wanting clamorous voices to urge that the city whose lust for empire had brought such woes on Greece ought to be laid level with the ground.

The Spartan general at first lent a willing ear to his powerful allies, but while the council was still debating this momentous issue a plaintive voice was heard from the city walls chanting those noble lines from the "Electra" of Euripides, that most human of the poets of Greece, in which the heroine contrasts her fallen lot with the splendid exploits of her father, who had dismantled the towers of Troy.

Lyaander bent his head and pondered on fortune's cruel reverses. Triumphant as Agamemnon, who could tell but that he might be reserved for a fate as cruel? The lesson of moderation was accepted. Athens was saved.

Milton has immortalized this dramatic event in one of his best known sonnets.

The repeated air Of sad Electra's post had the power To save the Athenian walls from ruin bare.

An East Indian Crime. The occidental reader who shrugs his shoulders deploringly over the evils of Indian caste has little conception of what suffering the custom involves. Its tragedies extend even to the humble, commonplace matters of everyday life. A little incident witnessed by Prince Boidjar Karageorgievitch and chronicled in his "Enchanted India" needs no comment.

Stones and flying sticks were thrown at a little pariah girl whose shadow as she passed defiled the food of a Brahman.

He merely threw away the rice, which the dogs soon finished. But the bystanders who witnessed the girl's insolence in going so near a holy man—she, so base and unworthy—flew at the unhappy creature, who ran away screaming and dropping the load of wood she was carrying on her back.

Holland's Colonies.

Holland, with a population numbering only a little more than 6,000,000 and with an area only about one-fourth the size of the state of New York, ranks third among the countries of the earth in the number of its colonies and fifth among them in the area of its colonies. Only Great Britain and France have greater colonial populations, and only Great Britain, France, Germany and Portugal have greater colonial areas. The Dutch rule six times as many people—33,000,000—outside of Holland as there are within its boundaries.—Argonaut.

The Spinal Column.

The spinal column, or backbone, is the most ingenious engineering structure ever constructed. It contains within its center the spinal canal, injury to which would produce in us immediate paralysis or death. The separate bones of the spinal column are fitted and adjusted so nicely that there is little danger of this, and, besides being provided with cushions, it is elastic and strong.

Making Progress.

"Is the girl you love beginning to smile on you?" "Well, no," replied Cholly Litebrane veraciously. "She hasn't gone quite that far, but every time I say anything she smiles at me."—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Unanswered.

"Say, pop, may I ask you a question?" "Yes, Teddy. What is it?" "When a man's finished milkin' a cow, how does he turn off the milk?"

Success in Fiction.

Crawford—How can he make money out of short stories if he never sold one?

Cambshaw—Why, man, he's teaching others how to write them.—Life.

MILLET AND BARBIZON.

The Great Painter's "Visit" to the Hamlet He Immortalized.

In an article on Millet in "Sketches of Great Painters," by Edwin Watts Chubb, there is an interesting account of how this famous French painter happened to be forever associated with the hamlet of Barbizon.

"In 1849 a Norman peasant," writes Mr. Chubb, "with his wife and three children, drove to a footpath leading to the little hamlet of Barbizon. They were near the great and beautiful forest of Fontainebleau, but at this moment they had little interest in the magnificent forest, for it was raining, and they had to abandon the highway and their vehicle to enter the pathway that led to the hamlet. The man was well built and with a good and notable head. His shoulders were the strong shoulders of a man of thirty-five, so he placed thereon his two little girls, while his wife followed with an infant in her arms. By her side walked a servant carrying a basket of provisions. Together the little party trudged through the rain, the mother raising her skirt to protect the little one from the rain. A peasant woman thought a band of strolling players was arriving.

"The sturdy father of the family was Millet, the man destined to immortalize the little village of Barbizon. He had come down from Paris the day before with his friend Jacques to find a quiet little hamlet on the edge of the forest. Jacques had learned of this ideal spot, but had forgotten the name, except that it ended in 'son.' They had found it at last, and there Millet intended to remain 'for a time.' He remained for twenty-seven years—that is, to the end of his life."

JUST TAKING A NAP.

Never Lie Down Dressed Without a Covering Over You.

When dropping down on a couch for a nap during the day many persons seem to feel that, because they are fully dressed, it is not at all necessary to add extra covering.

While we are awake we are constantly in motion of some sort. Every movement, no matter how slight it is, brings into action some muscles. Every time an effort is made the blood rushes forward to deluge those moving muscles. The heart beats more quickly following effort, and the air streams in greater abundance into the lungs.

All of this means that action, and the consequent effort creates and keeps up what we call normal bodily heat.

Now during what we call sleep all these conditions are changed. The muscles rest as well as the brain. The heart beats more slowly, and the breathing is, in consequence, more quietly done—all of which tends to bring about the lowering of the body's temperature, and the sleeping person loses some of this heat. His senses or feels this loss readily and often, if he has lain uncovered, such a person is heard to complain of feeling cold upon awakening.

Therefore to enable one to keep in or regain the normal bodily heat while sleeping, even if the sleeping is done in a warm room, one should not fail to have a covering of some sort ready at hand.—St. Louis Post Dispatch.

Rules on the Clermont.

At the head of regulations for Fulton's "North river steamboat" (Clermont) was this paragraph: "The rules which are made for order and neatness in the boat, are not to be abused. Judgment shall be according to the letter of the law. Gentlemen trifling well to be public and useful an establishment, will fee the propriety of strict justice, and the impropriety of the least imposition on the purse or feelings of any individual."

One of the rules on the Clermont read: "It is not permitted for any person to lie down in a berth with their boots or shoes on under a penalty of one dollar and a half and half a dollar for every half hour they may offend against this rule."

Frohman's Shyness.

When David Belasco and Charles Frohman made their joint production of "A Celebrated Case" they sat together among the audience the first night. After the third act the audience called for them.

"You take the call," said C. F., shrinking back.

"Not without you," was Belasco's reply.

"But I have never gone before the curtain in my life."

"But I can't without you."

"I am the proprietor of this theater," returned Mr. Frohman, "and you must do as I tell you."—New York World.

Doing Her Best.

Mrs. Lambert laid down the evening paper, looked across the library table at her husband and remarked:

"Really, some of the things you read seem almost incredible. After all, one-half the world doesn't know how the other half lives."

"Never mind," replied the brute, "that's certainly no fault of yours."—New York Times.

Lofty Expectations.

"Is your husband all you thought he was?"

"Just about. But he doesn't come close to being all he thought he was."

Mean Hint.

Well—I could tell you of a lot of men who wanted my hand. Belle—You must have fared well in the deal.—Baltimore American.

Winter finds out what summer lays up.—Anderson.

JUSTICE VERSUS LAW.

And a Judge Who Had No Patience With Legal Quibbling.

The Central Law Journal says that Theophilus Harrington, a Vermont judge in the early part of the last century, was a man who loved the right and cared little for mere legal quibbling. "If justice controls your verdict," he would often say to the jury, "you will not miss the general principles of the law." At one trial when the possession of a farm was in question the defendant offered a deed of the premises to which the plaintiff's lawyer, Daniel Chipman, objected because it had no seal.

"But your client sold the land, was paid for it and signed the deed, did he not?" asked the judge.

"That makes no difference," said Chipman. "The deed has no seal and cannot be admitted to evidence."

"Is anything else the matter with the deed?" asked the judge.

"I don't know that there is."

"Mr. Clerk," said the judge, "give me a wafer and a three cornered piece of paper."

The clerk obeyed, and the judge deliberately made and affixed the seal.

"There, Brother Chipman," said he, "the deed is all right now. It may be put in evidence. A man is not going to be cheated out of his farm in this court when there is a whole box of wafers on the clerk's desk."

ORIENTAL MENDACITY.

A Little Thing Like the Truth is of No Account in Egypt.

If orientals have one fault more than another it is a disregard for truth. In the early days of the English occupation of India, the English judges were astounded at the conflicting stories told by witnesses, and they soon learned to set them all down as unworthy of credence.

In American courts it is also well known that the Chinese are very penurious of the truth, and that no oath will prevent them from giving false witness. In Egypt it is also very easy to get native witnesses to swear to anything, true or untrue.

For instance: Ahmed, a native of Cairo, had a slave who peeped over a wall into Suleiman's harem, and the ladies considered themselves insulted. Suleiman wanted revenge, but he could not bring his wives into court to testify, so it was agreed that Suleiman should accuse Ahmed's camel of walking on Suleiman's land. A crowd of witnesses came forward and for two days testified about the camel and the land, until the English judge decided in favor of Suleiman.

It was not until a week afterward that the judge discovered to his great surprise that Suleiman had no ground and Ahmed had no camel.—Exchange.

Shakespeare's House.

The house in which the master bard was born is located in Henley street, Stratford-on-Avon, England. Washington Irving said of this famous abode of genius: "It is a small, mean looking edifice of wood and plaster, a nest nesting place of genius, which seems to delight in hatching its offspring in bycorners. The walls of its squallid chambers are covered with names and inscriptions in every language of pilgrims of all nations, ranks and conditions, from the prince to the peasant, and present a simple but

striking instance of the spontaneous and universal homage of mankind to the great poet of nature."

Several years ago the house was purchased by subscription with a view to the careful preservation of it and of its contents for the inspection of future generations.

Where Nature Cooks the Food.

In certain parts of New Zealand both native and white women use the natural hot springs to do their cooking. In the Rotorua region it matters not whether the cook wishes to roast a piece of meat, boil potatoes or steam pudding, all she has to do is to stop out of doors and place the cooking utensil in a steam hole. The cover is then put on, and a piece of coarse sack over the whole completes the operation. In a short time dinner is ready. At Whakarewera the entire earth just beneath the surface is a mass of boiling springs. Millions of gallons of hot water hiss and steam, sending vapors skyward in great white clouds. Strike the ground almost anywhere with a stick and the hole thus formed fills with hot water.

Longest English Lawsuit.

The longest lawsuit ever heard in England was that between the heirs of Thomas Talbot, Viscount Lisle, and the heirs of Lord Berkeley respecting certain lands and possessions not far from Wootton-under-Edge, in the county of Gloucester. It commenced at the end of the reign of Edward IV, and was pending till the reign of James I., when a compromise took place after it had lasted about 130 years.—London Answers.

Dandelions.

The dandelion is an efficient plant. It is most excellently adapted to its job of keepings alive and spreading itself over the face of the earth. Except in early spring its leaves are too bitter to be eaten by man or by animals. They lie flat on the earth so that grazing beasts may tread on them without killing the plant. The roots take strong hold. The length of the elastic stem which bears up the blossom is determined by the height of the other vegetation in which the dandelion finds itself. On a close cropped lawn the dandelion's stem is stubby; in tall grass it reaches up toward the sun. Its seeds fly lightly and far on every breeze. The dandelion will raise a series of seed crops extending up almost to the first snowfall.—Detroit News.

The Gypsies.

The origin of the people known as gypsies remains largely a mystery. Egypt, India, Persia and Arabia have in turn been pointed out as their original country, but there is little definite knowledge on the subject. The weight of evidence is in favor of their having originated in India. They first appeared in Europe about 1400 and from the Danube region spread all over the continent, appearing in England about 1520.

Open to Any Offer.

Young Man—So Miss Ethel is your eldest sister. Who comes after her? Small Brother—Nobody ain't come yet, but pa says the first fellow that comes can have her.—Stray Stories.

The bee that gets the honey doesn't leaf around the hive.—Chicago News.

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