

CUPS AND SAUCERS

TABLE APPURTENANCES THAT ARE COMPARATIVELY MODERN.

Originally Cups Were Big, Flaring Affairs, While Saucers Were Small, Just the Reverse of Those of Today.

The cup and saucer is a modern invention unknown in the days of the sixteenth century. Bowls of various sizes graced the banquet boards of King Hal and Queen Bess, but cups came in only with the introduction of such drinks as tea and coffee.

The beverages of the sixteenth century were water, mead, sack and ale. In the middle of the next century came tea, and with it the Chinese or "china" teacup. Strangely enough, the men who imported it from the Orient did not themselves understand the method of its use, as possibly the conservative Britisher preferred to invent a style of his own.

The Chinese put a pinch of tea into a cup filled with boiling water, and then inverted a saucer over the receptacle, within whose rim it closely fitted. The object was partly to retain the heat, but chiefly to prevent the escape of the fragrance of the herb, which Chinese olfactories found most delicious. The infusion was permitted to stand for five minutes, when it was decanted into a second cup without a saucer and faintly sipped therefrom.

John Bull, however, emphatically declined to take his tea in Chinese fashion. He liked the appearance of the ornamental ware upon his table, but he insisted on placing the cup in the saucer, like a miniature flower pot, and used exclusively to drink from, preparing the beverage in a common instead of an individual receptacle.

In course of time England began the manufacture of cups and saucers, and pictures which have been preserved from the days of the Stuarts show big, flaring cups, four inches across the top, with saucers less than three inches in diameter. By degrees one dwindled and the other expanded, until in the middle of the nineteenth century the opposite extreme was reached and fashionable tea services had cups only an inch and a half in diameter, accompanied by five-inch saucers.

The handle of the teacup came from Mediterranean lands. Originally it was made of thick and strong earthenware and applied to heavy jars and lamps. Its decorative possibilities popularized it with Greek and Roman potters, who extended its use to small amphors and flagons; but, as the word "amphor" indicates, the handle was double, like that of the bouillon cup today. Single handles crept into use by slow degrees and were probably applied to drinking cups about the time that coffee came into vogue in southern Europe, the beverage being taken almost at the boiling point, so that some device for lifting the cup without burning the fingers was found desirable.

Traveling slowly northward, the one-handed coffee cup finally reached Great Britain, where its merits were immediately recognized. It was not long before handles were applied to drinking utensils of every description.

Sugar Cane in Arizona.

Sugar cane is being raised in Arizona for the first time to any extent. Some 1,200 acres of the Salt River valley are under cultivation, and next season this acreage will be increased to 5,000. This innovation is predicted to be the beginning of an extensive industry, as the valley lands of both Arizona and New Mexico are considered well suited for the growth of cane, and the higher lands can also be cultivated where irrigation may be had.

Up-to-Date Taxidermy.

A Philadelphia taxidermist, who is a naturalist and hunter as well, has noted the fact that hitherto little attention has been given to the expression of the eyes in the stuffed animals prepared at great expense for the large museums. He says that the same eye is as likely to be used for a camel as for a lion. He is now employing a skilled portrait painter to go to the Philadelphia zoo and make studies of the eyes of the various kinds of animals. These eyes are carefully mounted, and glass eyes will be copied from them, with the certainty of securing for each animal the eye having the distinct characteristics of its species. It is claimed that the eyes of animals differ as much in expression as those of human beings.

Period of Adjustment.

"Why do they say that the first year of married life is almost the most difficult?" "Because that's the time she has to get used to the fact that he isn't making all the money in the world, and he has to adjust himself to the discovery that his little angel has a temper and uses it at times."

OUR NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDEN



SOME OF THE HOT HOUSES

FOR several years congress has been urged to give a new lease of life to one of the most interesting institutions in Washington—the National Botanic Garden—by removing it to a 400-acre tract in Rock Creek park. One need only walk through the garden to appreciate the need for such a change.

The giant palms in the conservatories are crowding the panes of glass out of the roofs of the buildings in which they are housed. Rare trees and plants encroach upon one another, pushing and struggling in their fights for life and beauty. Exotics that have been coaxed to fruit and flower in their perfection in past years are being persuaded to do so now, under present conditions of congestion, only by the hardest kind of labor on the part of the gardeners.

In this beautiful garden, started by George Washington, one meets people from all over the United States, says the Washington Star. A mecca for school children, teachers, bridal couples and other tourists, as well as men and women of purely scientific turn of mind, each season that passes gives it some new attraction, each year adds to its collections.

Recently the garden has been particularly enriched by the successful growth and fruiting of the Carica papaya, under the loving care of the superintendent, George W. Hess. This papaya is something like the papaw of the middle West, and is also known as the melon papaw. It is, however, a tropical fruit, known in tropical countries as the melon zapote. It comes from Mexico and Central America, and the two young trees in the botanic garden bear witness to the fact that the present occasion is the first time the fruit has been produced in Washington.

Superintendent Hess explained how he happened to be able to produce the fruit here.

"These zapote trees," he said, "were mated by me. They have been in the botanic garden, I suppose, about fourteen or fifteen years, in separate places, but I found out that they were male and female of the species, and put them together, and they pollinated, with the result that they fruited for the first time."

Too Crowded to Be Seen.

Here is a garden, an exhibition of great scientific, educational and romantic interest—to say nothing of the bits of history entwined about many of its trees and plants—which is so filled with rare specimens that the average visitor cannot see them because of the way one is hidden by the other. Among the most beautiful creations of nature, the poor stunted trees and plants reach out toward the skies for their "place in the sun," their share of the air, that they may thrive and silently teach the lesson of the beautiful.

Here is to be found, really living and growing, a cedar of Lebanon, such as is spoken of in the Bible, growing and thriving only on one side because it is crowded too much on the other. Here also is to be found the euphorbia splendens, the "crown of thorns," also mentioned in the Bible. From the "sawdust" of the former is made the incense used in Greek and Roman Catholic churches, highly pleasing to the olfactory nerves. From the latter comes a milky sap said to be poisonous. It obtains its name from its principal characteristics, which are thorns and growth in circles.

The botanic garden is rich in rare foreign plants. Thousands of naturalized foreigners, as well as school teachers, their pupils and scientists interested in arboriculture, botany and the other branches of plant and tree life, constantly visit the garden to see these specimens.

The myrtus communis of southern Europe has recently been the cause of many trips to the garden by Jewish

rabbis of Washington. This plant is used by them in the synagogues during the Succoth. If a plant can be found with three leaves, something like the three-leaf clover, they cheerfully pay as much as five dollars for it. It is said at the garden that a grower in the West has found a way to produce the three-leaf variety and that he is advertising it for sale and doing a good business.

Some Rare Foreign Plants.

A walk through the conservatories shows this and many other foreign plants. One sees the greater palms pushing their way through the glass window roofs, at times, and the low height of these roofs is the cause of great trouble to the caretakers and attendants.

Here is a Washington flafiera, a gigantic California palm, the largest in the conservatory. Here is a wampee tree, from China, which attracts the Chinese of the Pennsylvania avenue colony, and which produces an edible fruit, used for preserving and also for a medicine. Here is a marimosa alba, the sensitive plant, so-called, from South America. One variety closes and shrivels, if touched, another closes at night, as a bird closes its wings and settles down, as if to sleep. Elsewhere is the gamboge, which produces the best sort of oil for artists, which is also edible and which also produces a medicine. In another place is the Arabian coffee plant, in still another the Indian breadfruit, which looks something like a grapefruit. Nearby, is a "traveler's tree" from Madagascar, which the natives tap and from which they obtain water in the desert. There are incense trees from India, Japanese plums, gorgeous, scarlet hibiscus, alligator pears, and there are, also, bananas, the fruit of the latter growing in Washington, if you please.

The conservatory is rich in the fig family, many specimens being gathered here, some of which produce rubber and some fruit. The fig of commerce belongs to the rubber family. Then there is the inga (not Inca, of course) of Peru, the most beautiful oak holly from southern Europe, wild date palms which fruit in winter, rattan palms, malacca palms, sago and tapioca.

Nearby are also to be found the nephellum longanum, so familiarly known to our childhood as the lychee or leecher nut—the Chinese Christmas nut. One finds here, too, the chocolate plant, which has a fruit like the lima bean.

There are also betels, nuts which the East Indian troops now in France fighting for England, are reported to have been furnished by the British government that they may chew them, too large a dose of which is said to produce a stupor. There is hemp, from which rope is made, and there is the Clivia, a beautiful lily from the Cape of Good Hope, named for Lord Clive, famous as one of the earlier viceroys of India.

Outside the Conservatory.

Outside of the conservatory there are hundreds of interesting plants and trees. One of these is an acacia planted by General Grant. Another is the Hottentot poison tree. It has a formidable name—no less than toxicophlaca spectabilis, or accanthera. This is the so-called "ordeal" tree of Madagascar of which suspected as well as guilty persons in times gone by have been compelled to eat. The "ordeal," to test whether suspicion was justly founded, always so proved, according to the belief of the Hottentots, for the suspected person who was obliged to eat of it always died. At the botanic gardens it is said to be the most poisonous of plants. It is said that a seed no longer than an almond suffices to kill twenty persons.

To make good use of leisure is difficult.

INSURING LIVES OF OTHERS

Practice That is Largely Prevalent. Though it is Illegal—How it is Done in the Trenches.

A recent case before the courts threw considerable light upon the penchant some people have for speculating in other people's lives. One woman held life insurances on her parents, her children, her mother-in-law, her brothers and several friends. Of course that sort of thing is illegal, but it seems to be a flourishing business nevertheless.

But hope delayed maketh the heart sick and after the insurers have kept the premiums paid up to pretty well the amount they would gain from the insurance company, they see their profit melting away and call the law to free them from their investment, claiming their premiums back on all sorts of ingenious defenses.

Rather a rotten business, but we are assured that it is much more prevalent than we have an idea of. There must be a tremendous temptation to assist fate at times, and in any case, when relatives form the chief investment on these lines, it must be rather exasperating to have them politely inform us that they are "quite well, thank you."

One recalls that scandalous "comic" song that had such a vogue a while back wherein an irritated lubby sang that he was stony broke with a wad of dough staring him in the face!

Some of the stories of the "sweepstakes" in the trenches are equally disturbing. The name of each man in the regiment going into action is put into a hat and every man puts up a franc. The money is divided between all those who drew the name of a man who is still alive or unwounded at the end of the day! A soldier can spite a chap holding his name by deliberately courting the attentions of a bullet. On the other hand, it tends to make them tenderly considerate of each others' lives and urgent admonitions to "take care!" are not necessarily disinterested.

For Another Euripides.

If some poet or dramatist as great as Euripides were to rise from the wreck of this war and write of what he had seen he could not better the denunciation in "The Trojan Women" which runs, in part, "How are ye blind, ye treaders down of cities, . . . yourselves so soon to die." Those lines were spoken when this play was presented in the new stadium of the City college. They brought home to all who heard them the sickening realization that Europe has sloughed off its veneer of civilization and is back where it was six centuries before the birth of Christ, when ancient Greece, too, believed that she had emerged from barbarism and did not see the ruin then impending. In France, in Belgium, in northern Italy and on the windy plains of ancient Troy itself the shade of Euripides might again denounce those "that cast temples to desolation and lay waste tombs, the untrodden sanctuaries where lie the ancient dead." In morals and lust for blood Europe has reverted to the days of the cave man.

Devil's Bible.

The so-called Devil's Bible is in the Royal Palace library of Stockholm, Sweden. It is a huge copy of the Scriptures, written upon 300 prepared asses' skins. One tradition declares that it took five hundred years, or from the eighth to the thirteenth century, to make the copy, which is so large that it has a table to itself. Another tradition affirms that the work was done in a single night by a monk, with the assistance of his satanic majesty, who, when the work was completed, gave the monk a picture of himself for the frontispiece, where, amid illuminated incantations, it is still to be seen; hence the name. This marvelous manuscript was carried off by the Swedes during the Thirty Years' war from a convent in Prague.

Honey Shortage in Britain.

Even the bee feels the war. Germany has always been the largest buyer of American honey, but this year has taken only \$10,000 worth. There is a honey shortage in England, however, and our bees may be happy yet. Taken altogether, according to official reports coming to the department of commerce, American bees have behaved handsomely this year. They have made an unusually large crop, the average yield being 36.2 pounds for every colony, as compared with 32.2 pounds last year.

Our ordinary crop is 50,000,000 pounds, and it will be greater than that this year. Prices are down, however, because of the shifting market and heavy yield, and also because of a very much heavier crop in the West Indies, which is handled here. This country has never sent much honey to England. Only \$4,000 worth went there last year.

Conscience Fund Grows.

The United States treasury conscience fund is growing. It now exceeds \$500,000, received from smugglers, tax dodgers and others

Most Eminent Medical Authorities Endorse It.

Dr. Eberle and Dr. Braithwaite as well as Dr. Simon—all distinguished authors—agree that whatever may be the disease, the urine seldom fails in furnishing us with a clue to the principles upon which it is to be treated, and accurate knowledge concerning the nature of disease can thus be obtained. If backache, scalding urine or frequent urination bother or distress you, or if uric acid in the blood has caused rheumatism, gout or sciatica or you suspect kidney or bladder trouble just write Dr. Pierce at the Surgical Institute, Buffalo, N.Y.; send a sample of urine and describe symptoms. You will receive free medical advice after Dr. Pierce's chemist has examined the urine—this will be carefully done without charge, and you will be under no obligation. Dr. Pierce during many years of experimentation has discovered a new remedy which he finds is thirty-seven times more powerful than lithia in removing uric acid from the system. If you are suffering from backache or the pains of rheumatism, go to your best druggist and ask for a 50-cent box of "Auric" put up by Dr. Pierce. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription for weak women and Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery for the blood have been favorably known for the past forty years and more. They are standard remedies to-day—as well as Doctor Pierce's Pleasant Pellets for the liver and bowels. You can get a sample of any one of these remedies by writing Dr. Pierce.

Doctor Pierce's Pellets are unequalled as a Liver Pill. One tiny, Sugar-coated Pellet a Dose. Cure Sick Headache, Bilious Headache, Dizziness, Constipation, Indigestion, Bilious Attacks, and all derangements of the Liver, Stomach and Bowels.

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"He has been traveling abroad. I think it was a great blow to his civic pride when he found they were not."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Thread of Interest.

"This cookbook ought to be popular."

"Why so?"
"There's a love story mixed in with the recipes."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Foolish Man.

"Can't say I like that new hat of yours."

"Yet you liked it in the store."
"Well, it did look pretty when the girl tried it on."

"Then the trouble started."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Sticks There.

The man who drops his anchor in the Slough of Despond never gets any farther.—Answers.

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Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound would cure it. It helped both the Change of Life and the tumor and when I got home I did not need the doctor. I took the Pinkham remedies until the tumor was gone, the doctor said, and I have not felt it since. I tell every one how I was cured. If this letter will help others you are welcome to use it."—Mrs. E. H. Bean, 625 Joseph Avenue, Nashville, Tenn.

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