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### HARDY FERNS.

About Forty Species Are Suited to Outdoor Culture.

Among the hardy ferns are varieties greatly differing in size and form, from a hairlike creeping stem bearing a few simple mosslike leaves to the vigorous growing plants with large leaves, attaining a height of two or three feet. Ferns are interesting and extremely beautiful, especially when grown as specimen plants or in combination with other plants. The varying conditions in which the different species succeed are remarkable. Many of them require a warm temperature, while others do well in cool and shady places.

Of the 4,000 or more species of ferns not more than about forty species are suited to outdoor culture in ordinary soils and situations. These species can be planted in beds, borders or rockeries or in the foreground of shrubbery. As most of them require a somewhat shady place, they are especially useful for filling in places where grass and other light loving plants cannot grow. Perfect drainage is required. The soil should have leaf mold in it, or decayed peat or well decayed sod will answer.

Hardy ferns are best planted in the spring, but they can be planted in the summer if the fronds or leaves are cut back, making it easier for the plants to establish themselves before the winter sets in. From his forist the amateur gardener can obtain cuttings of varieties most suitable for the soil and climate in his vicinity. In the winter the ferns should be given protection, with a covering of leaves, hay or straw.—Washington Star.

### Respected His Scruples.

In the mathematics class one day at Williams college Professor S., who was rarely made the subject of college jests, was excessively annoyed by some man "squeaking" a small rubber bladder. The noise seemed to come from near a certain Jack Hollis, and after querying each of his neighbors and receiving a negative answer Professor S. said sternly:

"Hollis, do you know who is making that unbearable noise?"

Hollis, who had been the guilty person all along, assumed an air of stolid bravery and said calmly, "I know, sir, but I prefer not to tell."

Professor S.'s angry face grew calmer, and with evident pleasure he replied: "I respect your scruples, Hollis. They do you credit and should shame the guilty man, sir."

### John Milton's Cottage.

One of the best preserved historic country houses in all England is John Milton's cottage at Chalfont St. Giles, to which the blind and aging poet fled when the great plague swooped down on London. That was in July, 1665, and Milton had just finished "Paradise Lost" and received a five pound note for it, with a promise of three more five pound notes if the poem sold four editions of 1,300 copies each. The cottage stands at the top of the village, and it is in practically the same condition as when Milton left it. Here the poet received his distinguished guests during the latter part of his life.

### Zephyr, Cipher and Zero.

"Zephyr" and "cipher" and "zero" are words that come to the English from the Arabic "sifr," which meant literally "empty" and so "nothing" and the figure that represents nothing. In mediaeval Latin this figure was called both "ciphra" and "zephyrum," the latter probably from association with "zephyrus" or something even lighter than air; hence through the Italian "zefiro" there is the word "zero" as a doublet with "cipher."

### Run In Series.

"And is this to be your last tour of America?" asked the reporter.

"I hope not," answered the mature star of the dramatic world.

"But it's advertised as a 'farewell.'"

"Yes, a mere farewell. It's not a farewell farewell, you may notice."—Philadelphia Ledger.

### Her "Alter Ego."

First Gossip—I could tell you a pretty tale about Frau Weber, but one ought not to speak evil of the absent. Second Ditto—Never mind. Go on. Her pet dog is here, you see.—Humoristische Blätter.

### The Potato.

The common potato was at the time of the discovery of America in cultivation from Chile, to which it is indigenous, along the greater part of the Andes as far north as to New Granada. It was introduced from Quito into Spain about 1580 under the name of "papa," which in Spanish it still bears. From Spain it found its way to Italy, where it became known as "tartuffalo," and thence was carried to Mons, in Belgium, by one of the attendants of the pope's legate to that country. In 1588 it was sent by Philippe de Silvy, governor of Mons, to the botanist, De L'Ecluse, professor at the University of Leyden, who in 1601 published the first good description of it under the name of "Papas peruanorum," and stated that it had then spread throughout Germany. Recommended in France by Caspar Bauhin, the culture of the tuber rapidly extended in 1592 throughout Franche Comte, the Vosges and Burgundy. But the belief becoming prevalent that it caused leprosy and fever, it underwent an ordeal of persecution from which it did not recover until three-quarters of a century afterward.

### Sailors' Side Lines.

"Every sailor has a side line," he said. "Many an old shellback makes more out of his side line than out of punching sails and chewing ropes. Watch 'em come aboard for a long voyage. Here's one with a camera, plates and developer. He'll snapshot spouting whales, icebergs, porpoises, wrecks, anything of interest that turns up, for such pictures sell to magazines and newspapers, and he'll photograph his mates at so much a head. Here's a man with \$5 worth of fine wool. He'll knit it all up into ladies' shawls during the voyage. With his skillful work he'll change it into \$50 worth of wool. The tattooed chap has a chunk of ivory. He'll carve it into little ships. He's very handy that way. The bow legged feller darns stockings and patches clothes. The cross eyed one shaves and hair cuts. As for me, I run a lottery."—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

### Colors and Seamstresses.

The seamstress, passing her needle through and through the fabric on her lap, said:

"I love to sew white. I love to sew green too. Pinks are easy. So are most of the clear, pale tints. But black! But red! But shepherd's plaid!"

She threw back her head in horror.

"Bright red, when you sew it, inflames your vision, it angers you, it makes you nervous. Black strains the eyes out of your head, the stitches in it are so hard to see. Black is a depressing color too. But worst of all is that combination of black and white called shepherd's plaid. Work on shepherd's plaid an hour or two and the black and white squares will dance under your eyes like living things. Polka dots dance, too," she ended. "They polka; hence the name."—New York Press.

### The New Wash Day.

Just as experience will prove Tuesday to be the best wash day for most modern housewives, so the newer methods of washing may be proved to be far the best for the sort of clothing we now wear. Old time fabrics were coarse and tough. They could be rubbed and pounded and pulled about without much danger to the fiber, but in these days garments must be handled with care. Soaps have been made according to recipes and formulas given by chemists to meet latter day requirements, to do away with board rubbing as much as possible, and it is nothing short of foolish to stand back and refuse to advance with the times by making use of every aid given us by science and invention.—Pictorial Review.

### Disillusioned.

"She had played in amateur theatricals, you know, and threatened to go on the stage if her parents wouldn't let her marry the duke."

"And what did her parents do?"

"They let her go on the stage, gave the duke a check for a front seat and were not at all surprised when he called her to 'save the next morning'."

### HEALTH AND BEAUTY.

When the waist is much contracted, it always means overdevelopment of the hips.

A paste of salicylic acid and witch hazel applied to moles will remove them. The paste must not touch the surrounding skin.

A woman who is noted for her beautiful white hair uses a salt shampoo. Ordinary table salt rubbed briskly into the scalp is stimulating and cleansing.

Instead of using talcum powder on the hair to remove the oily appearance try powdered orris root. It takes out the oil, does not cling to the hair as the talcum powder does and leaves a faint perfume.

A very fine mouth wash is made by combining an ounce of tincture of orris root, an ounce of essence of white rose, an ounce of alcohol and twenty drops of peppermint. Pour a few drops in a half glass of water and rinse the mouth thoroughly.

### The Sink.

All wood should be removed from a sink, according to Good Housekeeping, and replaced with a porcelain sink back and sides. That being too expensive, then use slate, zinc or copper. The materials should be absolutely impervious to moisture and without paint, which only wears off and leaves an untidy surface. Modern plumbers use iron instead of lead pipes almost everywhere, and yet by care the old lead ones may continue to serve. Frequent flushing of the sink is an absolute necessity for perfect freedom from danger. It should be done with very hot water, but followed by a little cold water, lest the heat cause a vacuum and draw the water off the trap, leaving it open for gases to escape through the outlet of the sink. The treatment should be applied to every fixture in a house after the cleaning process.

**The Wrong Things Cheap.**

I remember the despairing cry of a woman looking hopelessly through her wardrobe. "I should have been a better woman if I had been born with feathers!" How well I knew just what she meant! She was examining disconsolately a shabby white satin dress—the kind of satin that betrays its plebeian cotton origin. "I wish I were a guinea hen with respectable speckled feathers!" she cried as she gave a discouraged slam to the wardrobe door. "Then I wouldn't use up three-quarters of my intellect getting the wrong things cheap!"—Mrs. John Lane in Fortnightly Review.

### His Favorite.

"What is your favorite recitation?" asked the hostess.

"Curfew Shall Not Ring Tonight," answered Mr. Blykins, with a promptness which was almost defiant.

"Why, nobody recites that now."

"That's why I like it."

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