

SOME GOOD DESSERTS.

New England Pudding, Steamed Fig Pudding and Apple Corn Starch and Some Sauces.

Mix together one cupful of pastry flour and one heaping teaspoonful of baking powder and sift them twice. Add cream together one-half of a cup of sugar and one tablespoonful of butter, and when they are smooth add one egg.

Mix one tablespoonful of cornstarch in a little cold water and stir into two cupfuls of boiling water. To this add three-quarters of a cup of sugar and beat with a spoon until the mixture becomes clear.

Put one cupful of milk and season with one saltspoonful of salt. Make a cake of butter by adding the flour and baking powder and turn into a rather deep saucer. Bake in moderate oven for 25 minutes and serve hot with the following sauce.

Chop a sufficient quantity of good, clean figs to make half a cupful and mix together thoroughly with half a cup of flour and half a cup of chopped meat. Allow two cupfuls of white breadcrumbs to soak in one-half cup of milk, and when soft add one-half cup of sugar and the yolks of four eggs.

OLD PROGNOSSES VERIFIED.

Farmer's Forecasting of Weather Accurately Fulfilled This Winter.

At the beginning of December last a correspondent of the Eagle at Hempstead reported that the old time basis of farmers in forecasting the character of the weather for the current winter from that of the first three days of December promised that the temperature of the season would be moderate.

Many persons affect to scoff at the old-time traditions of that nature, but the observant are often surprised at their coincident fulfillment. The present is a remarkable instance of the verification of the one under consideration, for there is just closing a winter season of the most moderate conditions of which there is record.

The base of the woodchuck's instinct also received unusual support this year. Upon Candlemas Day, February 2, the woodchuck, or ground hog, is said to leave his burrow to judge if winter is or is not nearly over, and should he perceive his shadow, owing to the existence of bright sunshine, he decides that spring is yet distant, and goes back to his burrow for several weeks.

Franklin's Invention.

Benjamin Franklin, as the first American heating and ventilating engineer, was remembered on the biennial of his birthday, January 17. Between 1740 and 1746 he invented what he called "the Pennsylvania fireplace," the pioneer in the American method of heating and ventilating.

Nationality in Feet.

The French foot is meager, narrow and bony. The Spanish is small and elegantly curved. The Arab foot is proverbial for its high arch—a stream can run under the hollow of it. The foot of a Scot is large and thick; the Irish foot flat and square; and the English short and fleshy.

LATE UNDERTAKING.

MANY CHANGES HAVE BEEN MADE IN THE BUSINESS.

Description of Some Up-to-Date Receptacles and Trappings for the Dead—Caskets Now Rarely Heard Of.

"There was a time," said a New York undertaker, according to the Sun, "when everything about the undertaking business was pretty solemn and somber. In those days we had no such thing as burial caskets, but everybody was buried in a coffin, and there wasn't much variety in the coffins.

"We did make them of mahogany and of oak, to be sure, as well as of pine, but a coffin was a coffin, whatever you made it of, and it was a universal symbol of death.

"It had the accumulated terror of ages about it, and it was something that the living going about their business didn't want to see.

"Now it's different. Fully three-quarters of the people that die now in cities are buried not in coffins, but in burial caskets, which are as different from the ancient coffin as it is possible for them to be. Seriously, I regard the inventor of the modern burial casket as a benefactor of his race. He has at least robbed the grave of some of its terror.

"In the old days the cabinet maker very likely combined undertaking with his cabinet business, and make coffins in his back shop. Now in cities few undertakers make their own coffins, and all caskets are made in great factories, equipped with modern machinery.

"There are carved caskets of fine wood, caskets of aluminum, caskets plush covered, or covered with embossed velvet.

"In old times coffins were sometimes made to order for individual requirements, but commonly a stock of coffins was kept on hand, and these the undertaker might keep stored on shelves or displayed standing on end in a row behind the glass doors of a tall vertical showcase along one side of his showroom. You might still find such a display as this, but not often.

"As a rule now the burial receptacles that the undertaker keeps in his show room are mostly if not altogether caskets. They might be contained in cabinets, or they might be secured, in vertical position, to the backs of panels running continuously along the side of the room, and forming, to the eye, a continuous high paneling. Each of these panels, with a casket attached to it, is so pivoted and balanced that without effort it can be pulled down into a horizontal position for the display of the casket at a convenient height from the floor.

"When the member of the family or the friend commissioned for this service comes to select a casket, the undertaker can show the caskets in various styles, and if he has not, even in his varied stock, a casket precisely such as may be required, he may sell one from the illustrated catalogue of the manufacturer, or he may take the purchaser to the warerooms of the manufacturer to select from the all but endless variety of caskets there to be found.

"All this is very different from the old-time ways.

"To come back for a moment to the undertakers' window displays of which we were speaking. We may now see occasionally in them a newer and later feature in displays of burial robes, and the robes thus shown may be both costly and beautiful. Such robes and garments have largely supplanted the old-time shroud.

Warlike African Tribe.

Curious tales are told of the Masai, one of the most warlike of the native African tribes. They have been attacking the natives in the German protectorate with great daring, driving off great herds of cattle with singular ease. Half the attacking force will sweep down on a peaceful village, engaging in a bloody fight with the inhabitants, while the other half will drive away the herds. The Masai have a wonderful knack in the management of cattle. A German writer says that a single Masai is often able to coax behind him a whole herd of cattle by lightly whistling and tapping with his spear against his huge shield. The food of the Masai consists of milk and flesh from newly-slain animals. In certain districts the Masai have driven away the peaceful inhabitants, whose settlements are now completely overrun by vegetation and almost obliterated.

Crown Prince Settles Down.

Since his marriage the German crown prince has turned over a new leaf and is settling down strenuously. He is full of plans for developing his princely estate at Oels and has promised to double the salaries of his employees if they produce the best wheat and rye in Silesia. He talks of cultivating beets and manufacturing sugar on his own land and has started building model cottages for his tenants. He says himself he "is never so happy as when he has more work than he can get through," and that without work he "begins to rust." He has no taste whatever for military life, but takes an immense interest in social questions. He is devoted to the crown princess, who exercises the greatest influence not only on him but on all the court.

NEW TRICKS OF UMBRELLAS

Many Improvements Have Been Made on Them in the Last Few Years.

Up to a few weeks ago, it is said, only seven patents on umbrellas had been issued in the United States in 100 years, this despite the fact that the annual production of umbrellas in this country is close to 15,000,000, says the American Inventor.

The ribs and stem of an umbrella are generally made in factories having a specialty of these items and are sent thence to the real manufacturer. Here, first, the man whose work it is to assemble the parts inserts a bit of wire into the small holes at the end of the ribs, draws them together about the main rod and puts on the ferrule.

In cutting the cloth 75 thicknesses or thereabouts are arranged upon a splitting table, at which skilled operators, of girls who operate hemming machines. A thousand yards of hemmed goods is but a day's work for one of these girls. The machines at which they work have a speed of some 3,000 revolutions a minute.

After hemming, the cloth is cut into triangular pieces, with a knife as before, but with a pattern laid upon the cloth. The next operation is the sewing of the triangular pieces together by machinery.

The covers and the frames are now ready to be brought together. In all there are 21 places where the cover is to be attached to the frame in the average umbrella.

The handle is next glued on and the umbrella is ready for pressing and inspection. By far the greater number of umbrellas to-day are equipped with wooden handles. A large variety of materials may be used, however, such as horn, china, bone, agate, pearl, ivory, silver and gold. Gold and silver quite naturally enter into the construction of the more expensive grades of umbrellas, some of which in price have been known to bring as high as \$150 or \$200. A wooden handle may likewise be expensive, depending upon the quality of the wood used. Ebony, petrified wood, fir, oak and elder are as well known to the umbrella man—15,000,000 umbrellas a year.

The umbrella has been developing rapidly during the last few years. We pick up even a cheap one nowadays, press a button and the top spreads itself like an eagle ready for its flight. We are going away and an ordinary umbrella is too long to put in our grip. We find among our assortment of umbrellas just such an emergency and which, in a most accommodating manner, folds up to suit the size of our traveling bag. Other new ones lock with a key. Some spread their shade over eight or nine feet of territory, and manufacturers aver that these are but a few of the improvements which we may expect.

UNBINDING CHINESE WOMEN

Foot-Freedom Brought About by Foreign Sisters in Their Country.

Missionary work of a very practical sort was begun in China when a little company of foreign women living in Shanghai formed the Tien Tzu Hui, or Natural Feet society. What they did has been concisely described by Mrs. Archibald Little, who, according to the Searchlight, says they contributed and collected little sums of money, gave prizes for essays, selected tracts and had them printed, and themselves circulated them through the vast empire—as big as Europe.

When Chinese men, numbering their tens of thousands, assembled for their annual or triennial examinations, little assortments of these tracts were given to each competitor to take back to his native village. At last the dowager empress issued an imperial edict. Then one by one the great Chinese viceroys issued proclamations against binding, generally in response to an interview or a letter from the organizing secretary of the Natural Feet society.

A recent letter from the far west of China, received by Mrs. Little, says: "China is changing in a rapid way; unbound feet is the order of the day for little girls now; foreign style of clothes for boys, and drill everywhere." From Shanghai, comes a report of the most encouraging side of the movement. The rich Shanghai officials have started a Tien Tzu Hui girls' school for the girls of good family who have either not bound their feet or have unbound them, with the hope that the girls there educated may eventually become teachers.

Although only just started, 80 young ladies are already boarding at this school, and when it finished its first term the place was packed, chiefly with Chinese gentlemen, to see the results. Thus the unbinding of the feet of the girls of China is gradually developing into a movement for their higher education. And when the 200,000,000 women of China are set upon their feet again, qualified to learn to sew, to wash, to clean their houses and their children, as well as to learn the elegant accomplishments of English and music, we may look for an extensive improvement in the whole Chinese race.

Deep.

Mrs. McCall—Putting away your old sealskin coat, eh? They're queer looking camphor balls you're stowing away with it.

Mrs. Kute—Camphor balls? Not much! There are live moths. I want them to get in their work on this old thing so my husband will have to buy me a new one next winter.—Cincinnati Commercial-Tribune.

VINE RENEWS YOUTH.

The Famous Old Hampton Court Palace Plant Which Is Known to All England.

There is every indication that the famous old Hampton Court palace grape vine, which is believed to be the largest in the world, has renewed its youthful vigor and vitality and will this year bear a superb crop. A few years ago the old veteran began to show signs of decay, notwithstanding the fact that it was still yielding heavy crops. Several distinguished viticulturists were summoned to a consultation over the illustrious patient in whose condition the whole nation, from the king to the board school boy, takes an interest. After a prolonged examination they decided that it was suffering from insuflamancy of sunlight and air, exposure to dust and draughts and lack of a proper diet suited to its advanced years. The latter need was met by spreading an ample supply of specially prepared loam about its roots, which has resulted in the addition of much fresh fibre to them, showing that the old giant has not done growing yet. To cope with the other symptoms of debility an entire new house was prescribed for it.

The new building was erected last year. It differs but little in size from the old one with which American visitors are familiar, but the superficial area of glass has been considerably increased owing to the shape of the roof, being what is technically known as "three-quarter span," instead of a simple "lean-to," as formerly. This type of house possesses the great advantage over the old one of enabling light and air to be obtained on two sides, and also permits thorough ventilation. A further important point is that the rafters are furnished with light steel fixtures, which allow the vine to be trained at a distance of two feet from the under side of the glass, a feature insisted on in all modern vinerias.

The vine is 135 years old. It was planted by Lancelot Brown, better remembered by his well merited sobriquet of "Capability" Brown, who had been appointed royal gardener at Hampton Court by King George II, and enjoyed the intimate friendship of his successor and several noblemen of high degree.

HOW LIFE IS PUMPED BACK

Agency of the organ in Restoring Action to Respiratory Organs.

Rhythmical traction of the tongue has long been one of the most effective means of reviving a person who has been drowned, says the Searchlight. Dr. Laborde, who has carried on extensive investigation on the effect of tongue traction as a means of resuscitation, maintains that often, although the organism has apparently ceased to live externally, it lives internally. That is to say, life is still latent and while there is latent life there is a hope of saving a drowned or asphyxiated person. The function which it is most necessary to revive is the respiratory.

Experimenting upon dogs, Dr. Laborde found that two or three hours after apparent death had set in it was sometimes possible to secure resuscitation. A vigorous half bulldog, weighing 35 pounds, was chloroformed to such an extent that respiration had entirely ceased. After a quarter of an hour's traction of the tongue the animal came to. The experiment was tried again a still complete asphyxiation had occurred, and traction was not resorted to till five minutes later.

The dog, which had been named Lazarus, this time appeared to be dead. One hour and two hours of traction followed, with no result, but after another half hour a respiratory cough showed that life was present. The dog soon revived. It occurred to Dr. Laborde that it would be a good idea to substitute a mechanical device for the cloth-covered hand. The first apparatus made was driven by clock work. The more improved apparatus now used is operated by an electric motor. By means of this improved instrument it is possible to subject the tongue to continuous traction for three hours, if such a period be necessary.

Now a Bronzaurus Looked.

In form and appearance the brontosaurs were quite unlike any living animals, and are remotely related to the lizard family. They had a long, thick tail like the lizards and crocodiles; a long flexible neck like the ostrich; a thick, short, slab-sided body; straight, massive, postlike limbs, suggesting the elephant, and a remarkably small head for the size of the beast. The ribs and limb and tail bones are exceptionally solid and heavy, while the vertebrae of the back, neck and tail, on the contrary, are lightly constructed. The ribs are half a foot wide, a number of them weighing more than 100 pounds each. A single footprint of the creature must have nearly covered a square yard upon the ground.—St. Nicholas.

The Model Dog.

The Boston terrier is a development of the English fighting dog known as the bull-and-terrier. The breed originated from a cross between the bulldog and terrier, but the Boston terrier is now neither a mongrel nor a freak. He seems to inherit rather the virtues than the vices of his ancestors. He possesses much of the faithfulness and tenacity of the bulldog and the activity of the terrier. He is essentially a house dog, and is as companionable, affectionate and trustworthy as any other small dog. These qualities are winning new friends for him every day.—Country Life in America.

FOR AUTOS, \$45,800,000

AMERICANS SPEND BIG SUM IN MOTOR CARS.

That Amount Was Expended During 1906—Cost Still Increases—Yankee Machines Draw \$39,000,000 of Grand Total.

New York.—The sum of \$45,800,000 was paid out by the American people for 23,996 automobiles in 1906. Of this amount \$39,000,000 went to American manufacturers for 22,970 American-made machines.

The total number of automobiles of American manufacture in 1905 was 27,840, leaving 4,870 in stock for sale on January 1.

The total number of machines made and sold in the United States during three years ending January 1 was 41,043, at a gross value of \$58,742,907.

The average selling price of American-made "autos" has increased to \$1,702, from \$1,170 in 1903, while the imported cars, figuring on all sales for three years, show an average selling price of \$6,710.

The extraordinary increase in the importation of foreign machines is indicated by the fact that in 1903 only 375 were brought in, costing \$1,300,000; in 1904 the number had jumped to 602, at an appraised value of \$2,209,492, while in 1905 we imported 1,026 cars, at a cost of \$6,700,000.

The increasing demand for commodious cars, with handsome tops and luxurious upholstery, steadily increased the average price of the imported article from \$3,465 in 1903 to \$6,710 in 1905. The average of \$1,702 per car for the home-made product does not indicate that the American manufacturer is not building cars as big and costly as his foreign rivals.

The difference is caused by the fact that while few small cars are imported, the Americans are producing great numbers of small runabouts, etc., in which the purchaser is getting more for his money every year.

An interesting feature of the year's record is that the increase in cost to the manufacturer himself is very much greater than the increased cost to the consumer, indicating that the Americans have at last come to realize that to hold their home trade and to create an export business for the future they must give a higher grade of material and of workmanship.

PRESIDENT SENDS PICTURE

Theodore Roosevelt Forster Is Youngest of Fifteen Children in Family.

Washington.—President Roosevelt has so many namesakes that he cannot recognize many of them. In fact, he made a rule some time ago not to send his photograph to any of the young "Theodore Roosevelts" whose proud parents called his attention to their existence. However, he broke his usual rule and had Secretary Loeb send his photograph and a personal letter to Theodore Roosevelt Forster, who lives on a farm near Hasket, Mich.

Theodore Roosevelt Forster is 2 1/2 years old and enjoys the distinction of being the youngest of 15 sons. The baby who in after years will proudly exhibit the president's picture, also has three sisters, so that in reality he is the youngest of 18 children. The heads of this remarkable family are Charles and Mary Forster, whose history was given to the president by Mrs. Laura A. Hasket, a wealthy lady of Hasket, Mich. She was accompanied by Representative Samuel W. Smith, who introduced her to the president. The Forster family lives on one of Mrs. Hasket's farms. Some time ago she had Mr. and Mrs. Forster, with the 15 young Forsters, arrange themselves in front of a photographer's camera, and she was able to show the president a true representation of the happy family, including Theodore Roosevelt Forster.

RESCUED BY SIOUX SQUAW

Finding Cattleman Injured on Plain, She Catches Riderless Pony and Starts Man Homeward.

Sioux City, S. D.—While "Bill" Walsh, foreman of the "72" cattle ranch in western South Dakota, was riding on the range some miles north of the frontier settlement of Leslie, his horse stepped into a hole and fell with him. When the animal struggled to its feet "Bill" found that one of his feet was caught in the stirrup with no way to get it loose.

The pony, which had by this time become frantic, was sharpshod, and kicked the cowboy three times before the unfortunate man's foot was disengaged. The last kick cut into Walsh's leg alongside of the kneecap, putting the range rider "out of business." As his horse had dashed away beyond his reach, and he was unable to walk a single foot, the cowboy resigned himself to his fate, expecting to die of exposure on the open plain before travelers or other cowboys passed that way and found him.

At this juncture a Sioux squaw chanced to drive through that locality discovered the cow-puncher. With such skill as only the Sioux Indians possess she roped the cowboy's horse. She then aided the injured man to mount and started him on his way to the nearest ranch, where he secured treatment for his injuries.

Growing a New Skull.

Nature in its own peculiar way is slowly but surely supplying James H. Elliott, of Philadelphia, with a new skull to take the place of the part of his head which was torn off in an accident at the post office last June.

STREET IS THEIR STAGE.

Former Vaudeville Artists Who Make a Living with Open-Air Shows.

Several actors who were formerly on the vaudeville stage and earning fair salaries are now playing with the asphalt pavements for a stage, the curbstones for footlights and the audience composed of those who have no alternative other than "standing room only," unless they are "box occupants" and watch the show from apartment house windows. Any one of a dozen reasons may be given for the appearance of these actors on the streets instead of in a regularly appointed theater. The fact remains, however, says the New York Press, that they make a fair living and amuse thousands in their daily travels. They frequent the upper West side section, as cabs are supposed to flow more freely there.

One "team" of four men makes more than a fair living. They give a really interesting and humorous performance. One of them is a juggler, another is an acrobat, the third is a musical comedian and the fourth acts as the orchestra and money collector.

The juggler carries a wooden box containing his juggling outfit, while the acrobat carries the stage, consisting of a large rug, rolled under his arm. The musical comedian has a large drum slung over his shoulder. On each side of the drum a drumstick is attached, while on the top are cymbals. A long rope reaching down to the man's shoes is attached to both the drumstick and the cymbals. On the end of the rope is a loop. The orchestra consists of a harmonica and accordion, both cleverly played at the same time by the fourth man.

Having selected their "theater," the acrobat spreads the rug in the middle of the roadway. The juggler opens his box and begins to toss about rubber balls, knives, forks, a lighted lamp and other articles. The acrobat does some high and lofty tumbling on his rug. The orchestra then strikes up some lively tune. The musical comedian places his heel into the loop of the rope and stands on one foot and with the other pulls the rope that sets the drum and cymbals playing.

As he goes around on one foot, like a monkey on a stick, with the drum and cymbals crashing, he makes all beholders laugh.

The team takes nearly a half hour to give their act. They never fail to draw a large and interested crowd, with much noise.

Another actor, a cornet player, makes his appearance only toward evening, because, as he confessed, he is ashamed to be seen in the daytime.

This young man was a clever cornet player a few years ago. He was on the vaudeville stage and earned a handsome salary. He fought in the Spanish-American war and lost an arm. After that he could not play his instrument as well as he once could, and engagements were hard to get.

He strolls on the streets dressed in a soldier's uniform. As he stands on a dark and nearly deserted street, an empty sleeve dangling by his side, playing "Taps" in a mournful key, he presents a pathetic picture.

Then there is a team of two negroes, both of whom were on the vaudeville stage a few years ago, when the country had the ragtime craze. When that died out they, with many others, were no longer wanted. One of them plays a banjo quite well, while the other does clog dancing and the cakewalk. They finish their act with singing once popular ragtime songs.

Save Their Powder.

Hyenas are never shot by Arabs. Not that the Arab venerates or superstitiously fears the hyena. He simply prefers to hunt it with dogs rather than waste his precious powder and shot on a beast whose cowardice he despises. For the poet Thomson was in the region of myth when he spoke of "the keen hyena, fellest of the fell," and also in describing it as "scorning all the taming arts of man"—hyenas, in fact, being quite tameable. It is a creature about which much myth has gathered. In the seventeenth century it was commonly believed to change its sex from year to year and deliberately to imitate the human voice, so that it might learn a man's name and call him out of the house to devour him. Also it was credited with having a stone in its eye which was of great value to jewelers.

West Point Religious.

The American Messenger, the organ of the Annual Tract society, says, in an account of the annual presentation of Bibles to the graduating class at the United States Military Academy at West Point, that there is a strong religious atmosphere there, that nearly all the cadets are members of the Young Men's Christian association, and that about half of them attend some 20 Bible classes, conducted by leaders chosen from among themselves, who are in turn enrolled in a normal Bible class, taught by the chaplain.