

# MICHIGAN FARMER AND STATE JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE.

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## THE HOUSEHOLD---Supplement.

### "THOSE DAYS."

[Poem read before the Webster Farmers' Institute, Jan. 18-19, by Miss Hallie Osgood, of Hamburg.]

Grandfather sits in his easy chair  
With the children gathered near;  
The firelight falls on his silvery hair  
And the group of children waiting there  
For the tales they love to hear.

Their constant chatter is silenced quite,  
And hushed is their noisy play,  
For they think this hour by the fireside bright  
When darkness is chasing away the light,  
Is the pleasantest part of the day;

And each one wonders while sitting there  
What the story will be to-night,  
For grandfather's face has a thoughtful air  
And his eyes the look of remembering wear  
Which the children hail with delight.

For they know he is thinking of days gone by,  
With their burden of sorrow and joy;  
The days when each moment seemed to fly,  
The days he remembers now with a sigh,  
When grandfather was a boy.

But the children are eager to hear each word,  
Be the story merry or sad,  
For surely no fairy tale ever heard  
The hearts of its hearers could so have stirred,  
Or could have made them so sorry or glad.

They love to hear of the little maid  
With curls of gold and cheeks of red,  
And how the child with grandfather played  
Until Cupid—the rascal—their hearts betrayed  
And these children resolved to wed.

And the oft-told story is ever new  
How they started across the green  
To the minister's house, thro' the morning dew,  
This bridegroom of four with his bride of two,  
A hopeful young couple, I ween.

How he stubbed his toe and they both fell down  
And homeward went with tears,  
For he bruised his head and she tore her gown  
And the wedding begun under fortune's frown  
Was delayed for several years.

They always smile when the tale is done  
With a thought half grave, half gay,  
Of the childish marriage so early begun;  
But the bride whose promise the grandfather  
won  
Was worth the waiting, they say.

Sometimes he tells how, in other days,  
The spinning-wheel went round and round,  
And the spinner fair, with the dearest grace,  
Would guide her thread and suit her pace  
To its quaint and droning sound.

The children love to picture it so,  
The spinning-wheel by the open door,  
The rolls of yarn as white as snow  
And the maiden walking to and fro  
On the sanded kitchen floor.

But grandfather always says with a sigh  
That spinning is now a forgotten art;  
The spinning wheel has been long laid by  
And the maiden who toiled so patiently  
Lives only in his heart.

But better than these they love to hear  
Of the home in the forest deep,  
The humble home of the pioneer,

Where the voice of the wild wolf prowling near  
Would waken him from his sleep.

The toll by day and the rest by night  
The good and wholesome cheer,  
When cheeks were ruddy and eyes were bright,  
When arms were strong and hearts were light,  
And trouble came never near.

The children listen with eager ears  
Lest they lose a single word,  
For whether the story bring smiles or tears  
They think the tales of those other years  
The most wonderful ever heard.

But the time will very surely be  
(For the hastening years are flying fast)  
When children will listen eagerly  
To the stories laid up in their memory,  
And their lives like his will lie in the past.

And when they are called to that other land  
And they pass away from the scenes they know  
May they leave a record worthy to stand  
Side by side with that traced by grandfather's  
hand,  
In "those days" of the long ago.

### PICKING UP CHIPS.

[Paper read at the Webster Farmers' Institute, Jan. 18-19, by Miss Julia A. Ball, of Hamburg.]

"Close the door, my son, and go and  
pick up a basket of chips."

Life is a common journey, which we are  
all traveling with conscience for a guide.  
She points out to us a straight road that  
leads to perfection; but alas, from this  
road, which is often uneven and difficult to  
tread, there are many smooth turnpikes  
that invite one to desert the main line.  
Though we may not find as many chips  
along the main line as on the turnpike, yet  
we may find some, if we will improve every  
opportunity in their gathering. I will try  
and name a few which we may gather.

The chips of Time must be carefully  
picked up, garnered, and saved. We should  
so strive that every moment shall be well  
and profitably spent, from our childhood  
to the grave. While at school it should be  
our aim to learn as much as we can, yet not  
merely how much, but how well; to rank  
first in every class that we may enter. In  
after life our aim should be the same, to be  
the best in every good work in which we  
may engage; for our entire life should be  
made a school, never graduating until this  
life is ended, and we enter that higher  
university than any built on earth.

The chips of Good Thought can be con-  
stantly carried about with us; these we  
must gather, but we should be generous,  
and give others the benefit of our labor,  
since it may do them good, and will not  
lessen the good we may have derived from  
them.

We can scarcely go anywhere but what

we may gather the chips of Opportunity;  
in fact we need not go at all to find them,  
as they will come to us; yet many will not  
even then pick them up. What presents a  
more pitiful picture than to see a poor, half  
clothed, starving child, begging for some-  
thing to eat, or the wherewith all to pur-  
chase it, at the door of one who daily throws  
away more than the child asks for; yet the  
lady wraps her costly garments more closely  
around her, and sends the child away, to  
starve may be, telling her she has nothing  
for such as she. This act may seem a little  
thing, yet it might be a turning point in that  
child's life. A word kindly spoken, and a  
deed of charity would cost the lady but little,  
yet how much it means to the child! It  
may now, utterly discouraged, receiving  
kindness from no one, lead a life only of  
sin and shame.

In the country we may not literally find  
this type of uncharitable people, but how  
many are there in this community who do  
not, when the cast-off winter clothing  
is looked over, find much that—well, it's too  
good to throw away, so is cut up for carpet  
rags, made into rugs, etc., when, if left in  
its original state, it might be made over,  
mended, and would do good service for  
some of the poor, who are always with us?

We are constantly meeting with social  
opportunities. The influence the Farmers'  
Club has had, which has been held month  
after month for the past two years at the  
different homes of those present, needs not  
to be told here. Look at the gradual in-  
crease of membership and the interest  
which is taken in the exercises; while the  
care which each takes to have  
house, barns and farm look neat, speaks  
for itself. All, too, receive benefit from  
meeting with neighbor and friend. The  
capabilities of the Club, too, are manifest,  
in this the second institute which is now in  
session.

This Club, together with the Reading Cir-  
cle and Musical Society, are things of  
which this community may justly feel proud;  
proving also, that such societies do not  
necessarily belong to the cities.

There is also another great benefit to be  
derived from such sociableness; it has an  
influence for good, which has a tendency  
to detract from the enjoyment of those  
pleasures which are wrong. Give the young  
man games, pleasures, etc., at home, and  
evenings naturally will not be spent in the  
gambling and drinking saloons, which are  
the ruination of many young men. It is  
the duty of parents to supply these pleas-  
ures at home. One of the prominent men  
of this State on being asked, "How dare



you allow your boys to play cards at home," replied, "I don't dare not to."

The chips of Physical Opportunities must all be picked up, but there are also the chips of Christian opportunities which we should gather. We, who are Christians, are apt to neglect these opportunities. We may live in the same house with those who are not Christians, years perhaps, yet in all this time not one word have we spoken to them in regard to this grandest and noblest of all subjects; outwardly it could not be told which was the Christian, and which was not. Let us then, not neglect to gather any of these chips, for blessed is he whose eyes and ears are keen in their gathering.

Fashion and Pride are chips which are found on one of the turnpikes. They appear to be good; we may kindle them, and like the meteor, they flash brightly for an instant, and like it, have soon disappeared; leaving only dead ashes to show that they ever existed. It is hard to pass them by without gathering them, even after we know that many men and women, both, are often beggared as regards property, by picking them up. Many after becoming beggared, prefer to starve if need be, provided they can wrap their gentility about them as a shroud, and be buried with it. A striking illustration of this occurred in Philadelphia, some few years since. A woman belonging to an aristocratic family occupied for years a chamber in a fashionable lodging house, paying her rent regularly. Lace curtains hung at the windows; but none knew what was inside. She was found dead on the bare floor one day, without bed or cover; dead of starvation, for she had never worked, and the costly curtains shut out her misery to the last from the outside world.

The chips of Industry and Perseverance are usually found side by side. What is there that amounts to anything, that has been accomplished other than by industry and perseverance? What was it that laid the Atlantic cable? Cyrus W. Field's industry and perseverance; not for one year only, but after many attempts and failures; it was finally accomplished after twelve years of labor and waiting.

What has built the Statute of Liberty Enlightening the World? The perseverance and industry of Bartholdi and his family; and now after many years, eighteen hundred and eighty-six saw the unveiling of that grand and wonderful structure: The pedestal which was built by this country, cost about two hundred and fifty thousand dollars. How was this amount raised? By large donations? No; by private subscriptions, many of not more than a dollar apiece. The gathering of these chips is what has made all of our great men what they have been and are. Let us all search diligently, then, for them, for surely the world is no man's debtor, until he has done something.

What presents a greater variety of chips than the literature that is constantly brought before us? We must look well and long to be sure and use nothing but the good. The bad is usually pictured out in gay, brilliant colors, both inside and out, to tempt the unlearned youth, and some older

ones. Why not, when we wish to read, read something that will be a benefit to us, and that which is worth remembering, instead of merely "passing away the time?" The cost is no excuse for not reading good literature, when reading matter is as cheap as it is at the present time. When well bound books, by good standard authors, such as Scott, Dickens, Eliot, etc., may be purchased for fifty and thirty-five cents a volume, why need we purchase the trashy novels you may find anywhere, or read the silly love stories which are found in nearly all the newspapers? both of which are worse than no reading at all, and do more harm than good.

When we read, we should read with some object in view; to receive some benefit from our labor; to remember what we read, and be able to discuss our reading with others. When we read the newspapers, read with the same aim as in other reading; those articles which might be of benefit at some future time, clip out, purchase a Mark Twain scrap book, which is always ready for use, and put them in it.

Many will, year after year, purchase expensive magazines, the reading of which is hardly worth the paper it is printed upon. If you wish to take such expensive literature, why not take one of the standards, as *Harper's*, *The Century*, etc.

I know by experience that the kind of reading we enjoy, depends upon what we read. If we read nothing but trashy, sensational reading, we have no liking for anything good; and *vice versa*, if we read only good healthy literature, we will have no desire for the other. Those of you who are parents, then, have a double duty to perform, not only to read good literature for the benefit you derive therefrom, but for the example you set before your children by reading and placing before them, only such reading as you are willing they should read.

Difficulty, Necessity and Adversity might well be called hardwood chips, but the shadow of the mountain only falls upon one side at the same time; and these chips are often needed as cleansing fires; "for as gold is tried by fire, so the heart must be tried by pain."

The gathering of the chips we have mentioned, and many others, all help to build up a character which will be more or less nearly perfect, accordingly as our chips have been picked up on the main road, or from the turnpikes.

Let us select only those from the main road, so that we may be as nearly perfect as possible; not that we can hope to be perfect, neither would we wish to find such beings in this world, for if we did,

"We could not give  
To God the reverence due, if while we live,  
We in all others did not fail to find  
The good the Trinity alone combine.  
Let God be God, and human creature human!  
Let man be man, and woman truly woman!"

#### FOR THE GIRLS.

There is a pretty and dressy fashion prevalent of finishing the neck and sleeves of a basque with ribbons. Those with looped or feathered edges are used, and are folded over not quite double, so that both the fancy edges will show above the collar

of the dress. A tiny bow is added in front or at the left side, and similar bows are on the back seams of the sleeve, just inside the cuff.

Tan-colored gloves have hitherto been worn almost exclusively with quite light dresses for parties and receptions. But pearl and gray shades are coming into universal wear at the east, and it will not be long before we shall all "follow suit." Tan-color is still the preference for evening wear with black costumes.

Some of the new dresses show a panel of the goods at the side, which is crossed by horizontal bands of ribbon velvet an inch and a half in width, and separated by a space of about the same width. These are called "ladders," and are duplicated across the front of the basque as trimming.

The very prettiest finish possible for a black silk dress, is a narrow V-shaped vest of jetted net, with a similar V in the back. This net is \$5 per yard, but an eighth of a yard, or at the most, three-sixteenths, is sufficient.

#### ADVICE TO YOUNG MEN.

The girls and women of these days certainly do not lack for advice; one can hardly take up a paper without finding an article addressed to wives, mothers, or daughters, on the unfitness of girls to be housekeepers. Most of these articles presuppose a general ignorance of every branch of domestic economy on the part of girls; but while there are undoubtedly many girls who need instruction in such matters, it is hardly fair to class the majority of farmers' daughters in this category, for there are few of them who are not competent to perform all the necessary work of the family.

I have thought I would keep silent, and say nothing on the matter, but when I hear those like "Young-Man-Afraid-of-the-Girls" express such poor opinions of womankind I am inclined to whisper, "Young man, take care;" it is those who are so hard to please who get just such wives as he describes. No doubt he has heard the story of the young man who went through the woods only to take up with a crooked stick at last. But I agree that young men are justified in being careful what sort of girls they choose. Above all, they should be careful not to choose a wife who has no other recommendation than a pretty face or white hands, or a high-flyer at fashion. Too many now-days select a wife as they would a piece of furniture; alas, we all know too well the result of such marriages; we see all around us miserable homes caused by hasty marriages, yet if these young people had been told the probable result of their union, they would have requested their advisers to mind their own business.

Young man, when you go into ladies' society keep your eyes open, and you may find them not altogether disagreeable; some of them may be better than they look. In my opinion a scolding wife is close kin to a fault-finding husband.

I think Anti-Over's remarks are rather severe. I believe it a man's duty to respect woman, until she forfeits her right to respect; not because one errs, judge all the rest by her. As well might you say be



cause one man steals a horse, all men are horse thieves, or because one woman is insane all should be confined in a lunatic asylum. Anti-Over speaks of the wife's mean actions driving the husband to the saloon. I am sorry he is so uncharitable. Kind words and loving attention may seem small things, but they sink into a woman's heart and rivet her affection. She doubtless has faults, for none are perfect, but her faults are of the head, not of the heart; and when her love and devotion are placed in the scale, how greatly they outweigh the faults.

I side with Uncle Bott, and wish that all might feel that it is far nobler to protect the weak than to oppress them. If there were less of censure and more of encouragement, how much more pleasant life would be.

OLD HUNDRED.

#### MOURNING DRESSES.

Possibly some of our readers may be glad to know something about the style for mourning costumes, that sober garb into which nearly all women, at some time in their lives, have occasion to robe themselves.

Henrietta cloth remains the material most in favor for first mourning dresses; but French bombazine, camel's hair, imperial serge and jet black cashmere are also suitable and appropriate. The simple tailor designs are used in making up such goods. The foundation skirt is two and a half yards wide, and has a deep flounce or fall, which is trimmed with a crape fold set on three inches above the edge, and which may vary in width according to the depth of the affliction experienced. The very long overskirt has a deep apron bunched up on the sides; with lengthwise pleats at the back after being caught up in folds near the top. The basque is a plain-postilion, the pleats in the back forming a narrow square, and narrow crape vest, revers, high crape collar and narrow crape cuffs complete it. A bias piping fold of crape is sometimes used as a finish to the edge of the basque. The wrap is either a jacket or mantle of the dress goods, with trimmings of crape and border of fur; for elderly ladies the long cloaks with square sleeves, made of camel's hair, with wadded lining and fur borders, are elegant. Ladies, in mourning wear on dress occasions costumes of dull dead black silk, trimmed with cord gimps or dull jet passementeries.

For light mourning, that moderate degree of grief for death of distant relatives we express in our clothing, all black suits without crape are worn, and these have sometimes a vest, cuffs and collar of white wool goods, which are ornamented with feather-stitching in black silk.

Bonnets are of doubled English crape, with a crape veil which nearly reaches the feet in front, and half that length in the back. Crape bonnets worn without veils are trimmed in front with high loops of crape mixed with loops of gros-grain ribbon. Better than crape, and coming into more general use through its wearing qualities, and the ease with which it drapes, is the very fine sheer nun's veiling, used now a great deal for veils, and also for bonnets. It is lighter and more wholesome than the crape stiffened with poisonous dyes, and

which also requires constant care to keep it in presentable condition.

About the neck are worn black lisse and crape ruches, but even widows are now permitted to wear the puff of white crape. A black ribbon is sometimes tied about the throat, the ends forming a bow at the left. New ribbons in black and black-and-white are very pretty, in stripes, diamonds, dots, etc., and make a pretty finish to a severely plain dress.

BEATRIX.

#### CANDIED FRUITS.

The favorite confections, which bring the highest prices and are most delicious *bonne bouches*, are the fruits preserved in sugar, so they seem like bits of translucent jelly, morsels of sweetness with ever so slight a zest of fruit flavor. They are prepared in the following manner: Take the firm whole halves of preserved peaches, or pears, cherries, or strawberries; let them drain from the syrup a few moments on a plate, then pass them quickly through boiling water, lay on a cloth and with a napkin gently "dab" them dry, then lay them in a sieve, on a napkin covered with powdered sugar, and place in a warm oven. To prepare from the fresh fruit, boil it in a syrup made of one pint of sugar to a quart of water, till you can run a straw through it. Take out the fruit, add a pint of sugar to the syrup and boil till it is thick; skimming well; put the fruit back and boil till very rich and clear, but be careful not to let it begin to break, let stand in the syrup over night. Drain the fruit and pass through boiling water as above directed and dry. The second day dip the fruit into a syrup of one pint of sugar to a gill of water, boiled to a thread, stir till it begins to look milky, dip the fruit in it, drain, and put to dry on a sieve, on a napkin thickly covered with powdered sugar, turning often. When dry the fruit is equal to the best French confections.

#### A SANDWICH ISLAND DELICACY.

I am now living in the "Golden State"—California—and as I used to write a little for the *HOUSEHOLD* when I lived in Michigan, I thought I would come from my new, far away home. Now, Jan. 19, it seems just like summer here; flowers are blooming, birds are singing, and the weather is beautiful.

A long time ago I read in a paper about a favorite dish of the natives of the Sandwich Islands, called *poi*, (pronounced poy), and what an American who went there and ate of it, thought about it. Now, here on Senator Miller's ranche, where I am engaged, is a Sandwich Islander, who told me how to make it and I took down the recipe for the benefit of the readers of the *HOUSEHOLD*:

Take a quart of boiling water, and stir into it while it is still boiling on the stove, as much wheat flour as it will take; then set it back on the stove where it will not burn, and stir in flour until it is dry; then add boiling water and keep stirring all the time with a wooden ladle, until it is of the consistency of good paste; cover half an inch deep with boiling water, and let it stand over night, in the morning stir in the cold

water until it is a good paste. Then you may eat it, clear, or with salt, or sugar, or sugar and milk, or any way you prefer. I like it best with plenty of sugar.

It is cheap, easy to make, will keep good; and is a hearty food, easy to digest and good for a lunch; in short is good for every one and everything.

I used to sign my name Firefly, but now it is

B. K. KNAPP.

NAPA CITY, Cal.

#### FARMERS' CLUBS.

Mrs. C. S. King, of Thornton, St. Clair Co., asks the addresses of one or more of the secretaries of Michigan's Farmers' Clubs, saying the Kimball and Wales Farmers' Club, organized in September last, desires to establish fraternal relations with other clubs, certainly a most commendable purpose. The secretary of the Webster Farmers' Club is Mr. C. M. Starks, whose postoffice address we believe is Dexter; L. H. Ives is secretary of the Ingham County Club, with headquarters at Mason; Mrs. C. R. Woodin, of Burton, is we believe secretary of the Burton Farmers' Club, while if A. C. Glidden is not still the scribe of the Antwerp and Paw Paw Farmers' Association, a letter addressed to him at Paw Paw will reach the present secretary. The officers of the Kimball and Wales Club are C. S. King, president; S. Caswell, vice president, J. Terney, secretary; Mrs. M. Caswell, treasurer, Mrs. C. S. King, corresponding secretary.

#### "STAR" STITCH.

For the benefit of the lady who wished information about the "star" stitch used in toboggan caps, I enclose a sample of the work, and will try to describe it, although like many other things, it would be much easier to show one how it is done, than to write a description of it. Perhaps by raveling a part of a sample which I enclose, she can get the idea more clearly. Make a chain the required length and join. First round: Make a chain of one, put the hook through the same loop and draw the yarn up, making two stitches on the hook, put the hook through the back of the next stitch, and draw the yarn through as before, making the third stitch, then two stitches in the next two of the chain. Now you have five stitches on your hook, throw the yarn over the hook, and draw it through the entire five stitches, leaving one on the hook; then make a chain of one and proceed as before. Second round: Make chain of one, draw yarn through the same loop for second stitch, through the back of next for the third stitch, through the centre of the star for fourth stitch, in the next stitch for the fifth, draw the yarn through the entire five stitches, leaving one on the hook, chain of one and repeat.

I wonder if some of the writers for the *HOUSEHOLD* can tell me how to treat a *Eupatorium* so that it will not grow quite so tall. Ours is in blossom but the space between the leaves is so great, that it mars the beauty of the plant. Perhaps Mrs. M. A. Fuller can tell me how to make it grow more like a shrub.

PINCKNEY.

AUNT FANNE.



## A WARM HOUSE.

We think the furnace question has been thoroughly discussed, but would advise L. M. R. to build a good warm house, if it is of wood. Sheet upon both sides of the studing, and then put on sheeting paper under the siding, and it will not require twenty cords of wood to heat it, unless an unusually large house. We use about twelve cords. Some furnaces send a good deal of heat up the chimney; our smoke pipe is never so warm but you can put your hand on it. We use one of Fuller & Warren's furnaces.

We would second Old School Teacher's advice in regard to a creamer. We have used one of the Cooley creamers for over seven years; we use it summer and winter, and it saves half or three-quarters of the labor in butter dairy. You have sweet milk to feed to calves, and they grow finely; ours this winter made from one and a half to two and a half pounds per day each, and your butter won't go begging for a customer.

Would like to know what is the matter with M. E. F.'s Cooley creamer that it is not used in winter.

MONTEITH.

A. B. &amp; Co.

## HOUSEHOLD SUGGESTIONS.

A neat apron for holding clothespins may be made of linen, or any stout cloth, bound with a contrasting color; it will be pretty too. Cut a small round apron double, cut out a circular piece on each side at the top and bind around for the hands; fasten to a belt or strings to tie around you. Keep your pins in it and they will always be handy.

A few drops of sulphuric acid in your wash water, will remove blacking or any stains from the hands.

While there are plenty of apples in the cellar fill your empty cans with apple sauce, which will relish next summer.

When you butcher the winter's beef, make up a lot of mince meat while you have apples, and can for future use.

To be economical is to buy the best and pay the cash. Debts and interest make us poor. These are my sentiments, but then we all have different ideas of economy; as for instance, a neighborhood woman said she always washed her dishes in as little water as possible, so as to have the swill good and rich for the pigs.

VICKSBURG.

C. B. R.

## FOR LOVERS OF FANCY WORK.

Here is a pretty lily of the valley pattern for tidies, bags, etc.: Use macrame cord, linen thread or Saxony yarn, needles to suit materials of course. If thread is used you will need 126 stitches on a needle; if cord is used, 108 stitches will be plenty, or cast on any number of stitches divisible by 18.

1st row: Seam one, slip one, knit one, pull slipped stitch over, knit three, thread over, narrow, over, knit three, over, slip one, knit one, pull slipped stitch over, over, knit three, narrow; repeat.

2d, 4th, 6th and 8th rows seamed or purled.

3d row: Purl one, slip one, k 1, pull slip over, k 2, o, k 2, o, k 1, slip 1, narrow,

pull slip over, k 1, o, k 2, o, k 2, n; repeat.

5th row: Purl 1, s 1, k 1, pull slip over, k 1, o, k 3, o, k 1, slip 1, n, pull slip over, k 1, o, k 3, o, k 1, n; repeat.

7th row: Purl 1, slip 1, k 1, pull slip over, o, k 2, n, o, k 1, o, slip 1, n, pull slip over, o, k 1, o, slip 1, k 1, pull slip over, k 2, o, n; repeat.

8th row: Purl.

Abbreviations: P means purl or seam; k, knit; s, slip; n, narrow; o, over, etc.

Knit long as required and finish with any pretty edge, or knitted is extremely pretty.

I prefer to put the tidy over a piece of blue or red cambric, or silesia, as it brings out the work better. The above pattern makes lovely Afghans for baby cabs, if made of white elder down wool. Crochet an edge to run ribbon through, and finish with a bow on corner.

FOREST LODGE.

MILL MIMIE.

## BAKED SALT PORK.

When milk is abundant, cover a piece of meat with it and soak over night. Three hours before dinner time, drain the pork; cut the rind in opposite directions, so the surface is covered with scores half an inch square; run a sharp knife into the piece here and there; moisten some stale bread with some of the milk in which the meat was soaked, season with pepper and sage and stuff into the cuts made by the knife in the pork. Bake in a pan with a little milk—that in which it was soaked—and plenty of pepper; bake slowly, baste occasionally and dredge with flour. Pare some potatoes and put them in the pan with the pork to bake.

JULIET CORSON.

## HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

THE rubber ring is the weak point in canning fruit. Wax is better than rubber, and is the most perfect means of sealing yet discovered. Putty can be used instead of wax, and fruit thus sealed has been kept three years.

THE washwomen of Holland, who are famous for their beautifully white linen, use borax plentifully, a large handful of the powder to ten gallons of water. Borax is a neutral salt and cannot injure the most delicate fabric.

EVERY housekeeper knows how unpleasant it is to use cistern-water after it begins to smell bad. To prevent, keep as free from leaves or any kind of vegetable matter as possible; to remedy, dissolve two ounces of saltpetre in a quart of boiling water and stir into the water.

WHEN you are coloring cotton carpet rags with aniline dyes, it is a good plan to arrange to let them remain in the dye over night. If you wish to color purple, add a lump of indigo to the red aniline dye, and it will make good fast color. If you use copperas, be careful to rinse the rags or warp, whichever it may be, very thoroughly, or the strong acid will rot the materials.

WHEN you plan your house, be sure to provide a room, which if not reserved for the purpose, can be if necessary, set apart

for a sick room. It should be on the ground floor, for thus many weary trips up and down stairs will be saved. It should have windows that let down from the top, and an outside door, and it is well to arrange for a grate, which is a wonderful aid to ventilation. Let the outlook from its windows be a pleasant one, and the interior furnishings simple but pretty.

MRS. M. S. TRINE, of Adrian, read a paper on bread-making before the January meeting of the Lenawee County Horticultural Society, in which she said the important element in making good bread was good yeast. She makes hers by using two cups of flour, the same quantity of potato, a tablespoonful each of sugar and salt. Wet up quite soft with the water the potatoes were boiled in, using it boiling hot, and when sufficiently cool put in a cake of dry yeast which has been dissolved in a little warm water. Mrs. Trine does not believe in using sour milk, soda and molasses in Graham bread, "making a mongrel; half pudding, half cake;" she uses no sugar or sweetening of any kind, and makes raised Graham bread with a thin batter of fine flour raised with quick yeast, into which she stirs Graham flour enough to handle, puts into pans, and lets rise and bakes like other bread.

MOLLIE MOONSHINE desires the address of some reliable dyeing establishment in this city. L. Brossey's French dye-house, Randolph St., does good work and is responsible.

A NEW SUBSCRIBER, of Bloomingdale, forgot, or perhaps was not aware of, our rule which requires all articles designed for publication to be accompanied by the name as well as nom-de-plume of the author. Names are never published unless by permission, but it is our invariable rule to require them.

SOME of our contributors should have more consideration for the Editor's time, temper and eyes, than to write with a hard lead pencil which leaves barely a mark upon the paper. Such copy must almost always be entirely re-written before it can go to the compositor, and is pretty apt to get tossed into the waste-basket on this account. No objection to articles written in pencil if they are legibly written with a black pencil. Remember the compositor must read his copy on his case at a distance of nearly three feet from his eyes, and that printers are not owls.

## Contributed Recipes.

CORN BREAD.—Thoroughly scald one quart of fine sifted meal; salt and sweeten to taste. Add one quart white bread sponge,  $\frac{1}{2}$  pt. warm water, teaspoonful of soda, if molasses or sorghum are used. Stir quite stiff with wheat flour; put in deep baking tins; let rise; bak as other bread.

HICKORY-NUT CAKE.—One cup sugar; one egg; tablespoonful butter; three-fourths cup milk; two cups flour; two teaspoonfuls baking powder. Bake in layers.—Icing:—One cup sour cream, one of sugar, one of chopped hickory-nutmeats. Boil until it hairs; let cool; spread between layers and over the top.

SALINE.

M. M.