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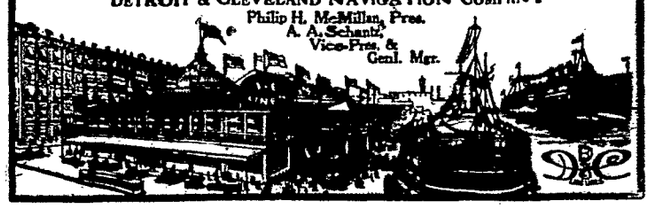

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Cookery Points

Eat Seasonable Foods.

No matter how carefully we may have lived throughout the winter, every one feels more or less the lassitude of the early spring days, and, although the inclination may be toward sulphur and molasses or some patent medicine, there is no doubt that the common sense thing to do is to change our customary food habits and introduce more seasonable foods.

Unfortunately in many sections there is a between times month, when the winter vegetables and fruits are jaded and the spring products are forced and consequently prohibitive in price. But grapefruit can be obtained almost anywhere at small cost, oranges are always inexpensive at this time, cranberries, with their wonderful acid, are still in season, and lemons, which are invaluable, can be used ad libitum. Apples, too, can be obtained, and fortunate the housewife who has been so provident as to buy her spring apples in the midwinter.

There is an old proverb which runs like this, "Eat onions in May, no doctor to pay." The apples not only to onions, but to lettuce, spinach and, in fact, all the green foods that begin to appear about March 1. If choice is to be made between a porterhouse steak for dinner and no green salad and beef stew with salad choose the latter every time. It will be argued that the nutriment is the same, and as far as the meat is concerned it is. But the porterhouse steak does not have the minerals that the salad contains, and after it is eaten the whole body will not feel so light, buoyant and as generally satisfied as when the salad accompanies the meat.

As to the salad dressing, let it be very simple, preferably of olive oil cut by lemon juice, or if olive oil is too expensive, with corn or peanut oil, which can be obtained at one-third the price. As to the desserts, it is very easy to use fruit foundation and so work in the necessary acids in a disguised manner, for the family will balk at medicinal foods if forced to eat them.

Some Odor Culprits.

Some kitchen odors are savory and appetizing. Others are not. The chief culprits are cabbages, onions, fish and "boiling over."

Cabbages will not smell if a crust of bread is laid on the top when they are boiling. Better still, for this improves the cabbages, is a piece of charcoal.

Onions, barred in so many homes on account of the odor—a great pity, for onions are blood purifiers, complexion beautifiers and disease preventers—must be met with a counter odor. Buy some powdered cedar wood and sprinkle a pinch on the range. That's all. And, by the way, if onions are peeled under water or held under a running tap they will not smell, nor will your eyes smart.

Fish are often blamed for the odor which really arises from the stale butter or bad butter. If those causes are absent, then sprinkle the top of the range within "splutterings" distance with a layer of salt. When frying is done, sweep the salt into the fire. The salt absorbs all "splutterings" of grease and there is no smell.

If you have had to clean fish, your hands naturally smell unpleasant. Rub them with a little dry mustard.

"Boiling over" might be stopped by not filling saucepans and dishes quite so full.

Dandelion Salad.

Fresh dandelion leaves make a delicious salad. Place the greens in a large pan of cold water as soon as they come from the market and wash them thoroughly. Then shake off all the moisture and set in a very cold place until ready to serve. To make the salad, place the leaves in a chilled salad bowl, cover with chopped hard boiled egg, a few shavings of young white onion, and moisten with a good French dressing.

Watercress may be used as a salad and, unlike many other greens, it will serve as an attractive garnish for many dishes. It is delicious and appetizing for a sandwich filling in place of the usual lettuce leaves. To dress a watercress salad, mix together a teaspoonful of celery salt, a saltspoonful of white pepper, a pinch of cayenne, half a teaspoonful of salt and one tablespoonful of lime juice. Then stir in gradually three tablespoonfuls of olive oil and two more tablespoonfuls of lime juice. Blend thoroughly and season with a teaspoonful of chopped chives and an equal amount of fresh tarragon leaves.

Lettuce, Endive and Romaine.

Lettuce, endive and romaine are all good salad greens. The two latter may also be cooked in several attractive forms and the lettuce may form the basis of a cream of lettuce soup or may be boiled and chopped like spinach and enriched with a highly seasoned sauce.

Every housekeeper should realize the tonic properties of these spring salads, and some variety of salad should appear at least once daily in every well planned menu in spring. This salad should be simple and composed mainly of the greens themselves, although a combination of two or three vegetables is permissible. Avoid all rich mayonnaise or boiled dressings and substitute a well made French dressing that is both refreshing and healthful.

The Job Uncle Ben Did

By SADIE OLCOTT

"Uncle," asked a little white child of a septuagenarian, aged and feeble, "were you in the war between the States?"

"Yes, honey, I war in de wah. I been always I war dar."

"Did you kill anybody, uncle?"

"No, I didn't kill nobody, but I saved somebody's life."

"How was that? Tell me about it."

"Well, honey, when de wah broke out all de niggers on de ole plantation"—

"Why do you say 'the ole plantation?'"

"Cause de plantations now ain't what day wah den. Now day all cut up, some of 'em owned by de niggers. Den dey wah big and lots o' niggers on 'em. As I wah a-sayin', honey, most all de niggers wo'kin' on de ole plantation dug out 'cept me, my mars', yo' great-grandpop, wah mighty kind to me, and I wasn't a field hand. I did jobs about de house. I wah a carpenter and could make anything dat wah needed on de premises.

"Ya' great-grandpop want off in de wah, and ya' grandpop want off in de wah. De Yankees cum down hyer and took possession. De ole plantation didn't look like it did no mo' after de Yanks cum. Dey used up de fences fo' firewood and run off all de stock.

"Yo' grandpop wah gwine to marry yo' grandma 'bout dat time. Yo' grandpop when he went to de wah let Missy Lucy what he war gwine to marry with his mudder. One day when de Yanks war hyer yo' grandpop, Marse Edward, cum through de fines fo' to visit Missy Lucy. He wah dressed in common folkes' clothes, cuz he had no business, bein' an officer in de south'n army, to be in among de Yanks. While he wah visitin' his ma and his sweetheart one o' de ole plantation hands cum in and said dat somebody tole de Yanks dat he war dah. Dey wah comin' some time in de night to take him.

"Marse Edward wah cotched like a 'possum in de trap. He doesn't light out. Yo' de Yanks had quit dat day and camped all about, and he doesn't stay where he wah. Yo' grandma sent fo' me and she says, says she:

"'Ben, Marse Edward cums hyer to see me. If de Yanks cotch him hyer day hang him fo' a spy. Can't yo' make somep'n what he kin hide in dat dey won't suspec'?'

"I scratched my head and done a lot o' thinkin'. Den I said, 'I don't know, missy, wot I kin do unless I make a double bottom to de wood box, whar he kin crawl in.'

"'De berry ting,' said missy, and I went to wo'k right off. De wood box wah in de kitchen and wah a great big un. I cut up some boa'ds and put in a bottom high enough fo' a man to lay down under, leabin' plenty o' cracks fo' breathin'. I hadn't no'n got it done when Miss Lucy seen de Yanks war roundin' de house. Marse Edward got in under de wood, and dere wah a hard rap at de do'. Missy tol' me to go to de do', and I went.

"Who dah?' I axed.

"'Open de do' right off,' said a man. I opened de do', and without makin' leave dey scattered all ober de house, lookin' fo' yo' grandpa, Marse Edward. Dey searched from de garret to de cellar, lookin' into de closets and under de beds and in de cubbard in de dinin' room. When dey cum to de kitchen I was dar, and I had de lef' hand corner ob my right eye lookin' right at 'em. De rest ob my eyes was on de wood box. Dinah wah cookin' de supper on de stove. Seein' an officer lookin' at de wood box, I went to de stove, pulled open de do' and says to Dinah:

"'Wha' fo' you let dis fire go out?' And I goes to de wood box and throwed up de lid, and I tuk out an armful o' wood and puts it in de stove.

"'If dat ossifer had any idee dat anybody war hidin' in dat wood box I put it out ob his head right off. De ossifer kep' right on a-huntin', gwine down celler. After huntin' all ober de house he comes up to me and he says:

"'Yo' nigger know yo' own folks, don't yo?'

"'Reckon,' I says, with a wink in de lef hand corner ob my right eye.

"Den tell me whar de spy is hidin'.

"I put my mout down close to he year, and I says so'ly:

"'Look in de smokehouse.'

"With dat he drawed off he men from de house, and I reckon he went out to de smokehouse, fo' I didn't heah nothin' mo' from him.

"When de Yanks had gone away we uns had a con'jilation how Marse Edward gwine to git out o' de trap. De way he done it war to rub he face with soot, and Missy Lucy she kinked he hair with her curlin' tongs, and he put on darky clothes, and he jist walked through de Yankees as of he war as much a Yankee as any ob 'em. Next day he rode into de Yankee lines under a white flag with some south'n prisoners.

"Who dy' s'pose war de fust Yankee he met?"

"I don't know, uncle; tell me."

"De ossifer wot wah huntin' fo' him de day befo'. Marse Edward had saw him through a crack and knowed him right off. Marse Edward larfed and tole him 'bout it all, but said he wasn't a spy; he only cum to see his ma and Missy Lucy.

"No, honey, I didn't kill nobody dar fo' de wah, but I did a mighty good job sabin' yo' grandpop's life. If I didn't do dat yo' wouldn't been hyer nohow."

Young Folks' Corner

Cute Customs.

We are told about the customs of the Japanese people, that they do not say "yes" or "no" when asking questions. They have a peculiar way of answering. Instead of saying "yes" they repeat the question, and "no" is answered by saying, "It is not so."

The following game is played in Japan and is very amusing. The players sit around in a circle, and the first player asks a question, the second player answers, and so on around the circle. The question may be anything, but the answer must be one word only, and it will, of course, be funny to hear the answers. For instance, the first player asks his neighbor, "Are you fond of potatoes?" and the answer is, "Yes, when they are fried." So that the amusing player has a question and an answer, and each player must be sure and bear in mind that it is his question he is asked and that answer his neighbor gives which belongs to him.

At the end of the game each gives his question and answer aloud in the following manners:

"I was asked, 'Do you like roses?' and the answer was, 'Yes, when they are fried.'"

The next player says:

"I was asked, 'Are you fond of sweets?' and the answer was 'Yes, when they are very pretty, but they don't taste well.'"

The Wasps' Lesson.

An English gentleman kindly fed a small wasps' nest, about the size of an apple, and, after grapefruit in the mornings, placed it on a large shelf outside of his house, leaving an opening for egress through the wall. Hence the nest was enlarged to a foot in diameter, holding thousands of wasps. He was able now to watch their movements, and he noted some new facts about their systematic attention to ventilation. In hot weather four, five or six wasps were continually stationed at the hole of egress, and, while leaving space for ingress or exit, they constituted a steady current of fresh air by the exceedingly rapid motion of their wings. After a long course of this vigorous exercise the ventilators were relieved by other wasps. During cool weather only two wasps at a time were usually thus engaged.

When Spiders Molt.

When a spider is preparing to molt it stops eating for several days and fastens itself by a sheet of web to one of the middle lines of its snare, which holds it firmly while it proceeds to undress. The skin crack and frees the thorax and its hind legs by the front edge. Next the abdomen is uncovered. Now comes the struggle to free the legs. It writhes and twists vigorously and seems to have very hard work. But continued perseverance for about fifteen minutes brings it out of the old dress. It awaits almost motionless and is limp and helpless four several minutes, but gradually it comes back to life and looks brighter and prettier than before. To young people this is an operation of unusual interest.

Game of Neighbors.

Arrange the chairs in a circle in one or more rows, then blindfold one-half of the company (players will either volunteer or draw lots for the bandage) and conduct them to seats, leaving a vacant chair on the left of each. In perfect silence the blindfolded now take their seats on the empty chairs. The aim of the blindfolded is to find out who his or her neighbor is. To enable this to be done a chorus is started by the nonblindfolded only, who may, if they choose, disguise their voices. Some of the blindfolded are sure to identify their neighbors, and those who succeed in doing so are entitled to recover their sight and to bandage the eyes of their neighbors, who must take their places.

Hidden Planets.

Find the name of a planet in each of the following sentences. The letters that spell it are consecutive:

1. How can you mar so beautiful a picture?
2. Uncle Ruthven uses his horse daily.
3. Thereat, turn my music for me, please.
4. You ran down like everything.

Answers.—1, Mars. 2, Venus. 3, Saturn. 4, Uranus.

Mounted Newsboys.

In Montevideo, the capital of Uruguay, many of the newsboys who deliver the afternoon papers are mounted on horseback. This city has a population of 300,000 and has extensive suburbs. It is through these suburbs that the newsboys ride. We doubt that they arrive much more rapidly than does the American boy with his bicycle.—American Boy.

My Roller Skates.

My roller skates are good as wings
To carry me about,
For kids they are the finest things
That ever were brought out.

Along the street, around the square,
On flying feet I go;
I use my good skates everywhere,
For walking is too slow.

If mamma sends me to the store
I take my skates along,
And quickly reach the grocer's door
With my swift strokes and strong.

Then back again without delay
I speed o'er stones and brick,
That often I hear mamma say,
"How could you go so quick?"

—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

For the Children

A Mystery.

Marigold lives in the country. Her father and was very [illegible] day she heard that he was to be married to [illegible] was to be married to [illegible] and that she wanted to [illegible]

One day the young [illegible] came riding by, when she [illegible] within, called [illegible] gold and "silver for [illegible] said, "I will [illegible] to [illegible] the next afternoon, to [illegible] o'clock and [illegible] [illegible] snowball blowing [illegible] how the [illegible] [illegible] request of [illegible] [illegible] Hazel her [illegible] [illegible] don't marry the [illegible] [illegible] low's bottom, and your [illegible] [illegible] ing heart." But [illegible] [illegible] marry him, and he [illegible] [illegible] give her a [illegible] [illegible] to drink [illegible] [illegible] were married [illegible] [illegible] then mounted [illegible] [illegible] a morning's [illegible] [illegible] with sweet [illegible] [illegible] moon."

The Seven Wonders of the World.

1. Egyptian pyramids. 2. [illegible] of Artemisia. 3. Temple of [illegible] Ephesus. 4. Hanging gardens [illegible] lon. 5. Colossus, or [illegible] statue of Jupiter Olympus. [illegible] Pharos, or watchtower of Alexandria.

The seven American wonders [illegible] been decreed to be as follows:

1. Niagara falls. 2. Yellowstone [illegible] 3. Mammoth cave. 4. Canyon [illegible] Garden of the Gods. 5. The [illegible] trees of California. 6. The [illegible] bridge. 7. The Yosemite valley.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Boys.

We all love manly fellows,
Boys that are brave and strong;
Boys that are helpful and [illegible]
And know just what is [illegible]

The boy who can hold his [illegible]
With her wavy [illegible]
The boy who [illegible]
And never is [illegible]

The boy with a heart is [illegible]
As a girl's, when the [illegible]
And the boy who is always [illegible]
To do that which [illegible]

Such boys may [illegible]
Our home [illegible]
And may they [illegible]