

TAKE OUT THE POISON

NEW CUCUMBERS MAY BE MADE HARMLESS

It Can Be Done Without Destroying the Flavor of the Vegetable—Will Not Hurt Delicate Stomachs

The cucumber remains the attraction of the salad, and there is no agreement as to the way in which it can be served so that it will be eaten at its best and yet not necessarily be fatal to health.

It is just as possible to restore any hardened cucumber to freshness and innocuousness with no loss of flavor, although few persons have the patience to give the salad the necessary treatment.

They soak thinly cut slices of cucumber until they are soft. These are kept for most of a day in salt water, usually parsley, and sometimes olive is cut up in the salt water.

When the cucumbers are ready for serving they are free from all poison, and they are in a measure free from taste. There is no denying, however, that they are digestible.

Some persons who have eaten these cucumbers in the German and Hungarian restaurants like them better than the ordinary cucumbers served here. They lack, however, the crispness which every American demands in a salad.

This quality is retained by putting the cut up cucumbers into ice cold water for half an hour before they are served. After they have been cut they should be soaked in salt water for at least five hours. Then the poison is gone, but the salad is soft and limp.

Put for half an hour just before they are served, into ice water, they will be white and crisp, tasteful and free from the power to disagree with the most delicate stomach. After being treated in this way they may be served very profitably on a plate in the form of the whole cucumber before it has been cut.

To do this the slices should not be separated in the salt water. A hatpin run through every cucumber after it has been sliced will keep it intact. Served in this way with a fish or as a salad, the appearance of the cucumbers is very attractive. But to suit the variations of taste, it is easier to do more to a salad when the slices are not kept together.

Cucumbers cut very thin, and, of course, soaked in advance, mix very deliciously with alligator salad, and it is best in the case of this combination to break away from the alligator pear salad rule of using lemon juice and take vinegar.

The taste of the two is not dissimilar, and there must be a pungency in the dressing which alligator pears alone do not need.

With this scallions cut lengthwise the cucumbers blend in a way that any epicure would love, and cucumbers with green peppers, cut lengthwise, are a combination that offers some novelty after the inevitable lettuce that most persons seem to think are the only salads in the market.

There are some new figs in market which have brought delight to the persons who like that fruit, but have never found it possible to make, even in imagination, the figs ordinarily sold bear any relation to the fresh fruit. These that have been stuffed and are kept damp by some artificial means are too wet and insipid to please any one in the least bit captious about figs.

Nor are those to which additional flavor has been added agreeable to the usual epicure of figs. Some of them have nuts in the heart of the dried fig and others have cherries. They may be good enough as a sweet, but to the lover of figs they are not attractive.

Nothing has come so near the real article as the figs that have recently been brought here. They are not cheap. There are only six in a box, but these six have the dewy freshness and delicate flavor of a fig that had ripened in the sun and been picked from its branch only a few minutes before. So one is almost reconciled to paying 50 cents for the delicious six.—N. Y. Sun.

A Factory Chapel.

For more than half a century the lace manufacturing firm of Messrs. Thomas Adams & Co., Nottingham, have insisted on all their workpeople who number some hundreds of both men and women attending a short service each morning prior to commencing their day's work. The firm have a large chapel underneath their warehouse, with an excellent organ, while the choir, composed of their own employees, are those that would do credit to many of our leading places of worship.

Breaking Even.

"You've lost that man who has had success in your house for so many years, haven't you?" some one asked him.

"Yes," replied the owner of the apartment building in Wisconsin. "He began getting ready to move out of the house as soon as the bill taxing bachelors was introduced into the legislature. He already rented his apartments, though, to a man who says he has got ahead of living in other states, where he has to pay tips."—Chicago Tribune.

HIS EARLY POLITICS.

How Roosevelt Once Argued for Fair Play Before a Cowboy Audience and Won His Point.

Roosevelt often pointed out the injustice of lynching, and in the round-up of 1885, as the cowboys were gathered about the camp fire at night, he delivered his first speech for better government.

"Every man," he said, turning to his strange audience, "has the constitutional right to trial by jury. He should have some opportunity of making a defense before final judgment is passed and his fate is sealed. It is neither humane nor fair to catch a man supposed to be a thief and then shoot him full of holes before you have proved it. How much better it would be to give him a hearing, a trial by jury and a verdict according to the evidence. Now, boys, the only way to bring this about is to organize a county government."

The seed of good government was sown that night, and for the harvest let the following paragraphs tell the story:

Quietly circulating among the villagers and cowboys, he sounded their sentiments and urged, with all the eloquence of his youth, the necessity of government. At many ranches he was met with the rebuff, "We've got along so far well enough without a county government, and I guess we can live on in the same way." From the cowboys came the strongest opposition. They were not used to being restrained. A local government, they feared, would be a check on their freedom and bring about radical changes in their life. They were well satisfied to associate with this tenderfoot; but to taste his reform was another thing. So they cursed and fought his proposition in the saloons and in the streets and lashed the promoter with the strongest anathemas of a cowboy's vocabulary.

Against the storm of opposition the young mariner guided the ship of state, passing the inert conservatism of the farmers and gliding by the jagged rocks of the cowboys' dislike to a harbor of civic virtue. Roosevelt returned to Medora, and called a mass meeting in the town hall for the evening of March 1, 1885. The hall was packed when he arose to address the crowd. In plain words he pointed out the necessity of government, and advised the immediate formation of a county institution. The Marquis De Mores, a French rancher, who, like himself, had gone into the cattle-raising business, seconded his remarks. The preliminary steps were taken. A committee was appointed to call an election on April 6.

Before the election the committee waited on Roosevelt, and the spokesman, a cowboy, gruff but honest, said: "We kinder thought that because you had asked us to form this here government we would like ter be one of the officers. And we just cum to know whic ye would like, sheriff, or marshal or judge."

"Boys," replied Roosevelt, delighted with the compliment, "I did not agitate this government matter to get an office, but to make life better for you. I do not expect to remain here very long and even should I accept an office I would soon be compelled to resign and go back east. I thank you for the honor. See that you nominate good men whom you trust, honest and reliable men, and you will always have good government."

The committee went away, half-dissatisfied, half-amazed, wondering "what sort of a man that feller was." The nominees were mostly representative citizens. Two of the commissioners were selected from the agricultural districts; the third was a cowboy. But the nominee for probate judge bore the reputation of a crook. Roosevelt heard of it and at once set about to defeat him.—Pearson's Magazine.

Reversing Speech.

A very curious phonographic instrument invented by Poulsen, and capable of reversing the sounds of a word or a sentence, was exhibited at the Philadelphia meeting of the American Association. A steel piano wire, carried on two spools, passes between the poles of a small electromagnet so connected with a telephone transmitter that spoken words are magnetically recorded on the moving wire and reproduced in a receiving instrument. When the motion of the wire is direct, the words are heard as in ordinary conversation, but if the motion is reversed, the sounds come to the ear in reverse order like words spelled backward. To represent the order in which the reversed sounds strike the ear, however, not only must the order of the letters composing a word be reversed, but each letter must itself be reversed from right to left, as when reflected from a mirror.—Youth's Companion.

Catskin Rug.

A lady residing near London has a hearthrug which is probably unique. It is composed entirely of the skins of her deceased feline pets. As her cats died she had the skin of each tanned and added to the rug, which is now complete, and contains the skins of 14 dead "pussies." The rug is entirely of one color—black—as the lady in question has always made a point of keeping cats of that color. On the reverse side of each skin there is an inscription recording the name of its dead owner and the period during which he (or she) was the lady's property. Thus one inscription runs: "Fairy, 1892-4," and another, "Beauty, 1900-4."

Different at Home.

The man who grumbles the most about his food while at the family table is usually the man who eats heartily at a free lunch with a fork that a hundred other men have used before him.

NEBRASKA IS RICH.

FARMERS ARE RUSHING INTO THE BANKING BUSINESS.

Nearly All Institutions in the State Started During Last Three Years Have Had Capital Furnished by Tillers of the Soil.

Lincoln, Neb.—A computation made by the state banking board the other day discloses the fact that the majority of the stockholders in the 531 state banks of Nebraska, meaning the banks in the smaller towns, are farmers. Practically all the banks started in the past three years have had their capital furnished by farmers.

The high prices that wheat and corn have brought and the bountiful character of the hay crops have made big money for most of the farmers. More of them than ever have retired from active life and turned over their farms to the boys in the past year.

At the agricultural bureau it is estimated that \$25 an acre is a fair average of production for most of the farms, and this does not take into account the money for poultry, eggs and butter fat, which is usually sufficient to maintain a family. Some of the money has gone into blooded stock, some has found its way east through being deposited in banks that have been lending their surplus to New York, Chicago and Boston, and there is a whole lot that has been hidden away.

The bank commissioner of Kansas is quoted as saying that while there is no way of getting accurate figures, he has reason to believe that there is as much money hidden in socks and under carpets or buried or carried as in on deposit, and Commissioner Royce, of Nebraska, agrees with this opinion. He has noticed that where farmers have started banks, the cash on hand or on deposit in other banks does not often show signs of decrease, and the only explanation is that the money deposited has been dug out of hiding places.

The last quarterly report showed \$107,000,000 on deposit in all of the banks of the state, including national. If as much more is in pocketbooks or buried this would give a per capita of nearly \$210 in Nebraska.

Several instances are related of how young men of ambition in Lincoln and Omaha, with training in the banking business, have gone out into some country town and induced active and retired farmers to furnish the principal portion of their capital. They were unknown in most cases to the men to whom they applied, but their recommendations, and the profitable character of the business secured for them all the money they needed.

One successful young man said that he found the farmers fairly itching to get into the banking business. One of these banks, started out in southwestern Nebraska, numbers 14 former populists in its list of stockholders. They are all republicans now, and they find nothing so reprehensible about the banking business.

Country banking has become very profitable. Six per cent dividends are the smallest reported. In one case, where the owner was manager, and combined real estate and stock buying with banking, a clear gain of 85 per cent was noted in two years. Fifteen and 20 per cent dividends are common.

INSURED AGAINST THIEVES

New York Hotel Proprietors Devise Plan to Protect Themselves on Patrons' Losses.

New York.—Proprietors of prominent hotels in Manhattan, including the Waldorf-Astoria, have hit upon a new scheme to protect themselves against the many robberies of patrons that have been committed of late and that seem to be constantly growing in number.

While the plan will not aid in the apprehension of the thieves, which has always been hard to accomplish, it will guarantee the hotel men against losses, which in several instances, it is said, have amounted to from \$10,000 to \$20,000 a year.

With the cooperation of several of the larger insurance companies a system to be known as "landlords' liability insurance" has been framed, by which, upon payment of premiums, hotelkeepers receive policies for any amount they may see fit to ask. The plan, of course, is along the lines of burglary and other insurance, except that in this case it meets a peculiar hardship by returning money that has been already paid out without consideration.

Under the existing law a hotel proprietor is responsible to each patron to the amount of \$500 when the patron has been robbed in the place, and as in a majority of cases the booty is not recovered the amount is a clear loss to the hotelkeeper.

Under the new plan the insurance will be regulated by the number of rooms in a hotel.

Prophecy of the Scorchers.

Mother Shigton's prophecy was long held to be a remarkable forecast, but it is now pointed out that Nebaum some thousands of years ago outdid her in his vision of the modern automobile. In Nahum, II., 4, appear these words: "The chariots shall rage in the streets; they shall jostle one against another in the broad ways; they shall seem like torches; they shall run like the lightnings."

Man Recover Stolen Money.

Henz at Baraboo, Wis., the other day scratched up \$1,000 in notes, bills and other negotiable paper which was stolen from the Prairie du Sac bank in a robbery two years ago. The papers had evidently been brought to Baraboo and hidden under an elevator in an old bill book, where they remained till unearthed and scratched into the street beside the elevator.

YOUR OCCUPATION.

A Few Observations Which Will Help You to Make It Other Than a Matter of Drudgery.

Do it cheerfully, even if it is not congenial. Do it in the spirit of an artist, not an artisan. Make it a stepping-stone to something higher.

Endeavor to do it better than it has ever been done before. Make perfection your aim and be satisfied with nothing less.

Do not try to do it with a part of yourself—the weaker part. Keep yourself in condition to do it as well as it can be done.

Remember that it is only through your work that you can grow to your full height.

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Remember that work well done is the highest testimonial of character you can receive.

Remember that every vocation has some advantages and disadvantages not found in any other.

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SHOWS GOOD GROWTH

ENGLAND'S TRADE WITH HER COLONIES INCREASING.

While Exports to Foreign Countries Decrease, Report Shows Those to Possessions of Empire Grow Steadily.

London.—A striking development in England's colonial trade is shown in a board of trade blue book recently issued.

Since 1900 there has been a continuous increase in the exports from the United Kingdom to the colonies, while imports have recovered in a remarkable manner from the setback encountered in 1901 and 1902, and are now £15,000,000 better than in the former year.

The total trade of the United Kingdom and the colonies was just under £232,000,000 last year, and of the increase £14,000,000 is represented by imports of articles of food and drink.

Imports from British possessions have risen in these five years to the value of £10,377,000, and England's exports to them have gone up steadily by £17,500,000.

A more striking fact is that England's export trade to the colonial part of the empire is increasing while her export trade to foreign countries is decreasing.

The volume of imports from foreign countries, as distinguished from the colonies, keeps on steadily growing. Since 1900 it has increased to £17,585,980, while British exports to foreign countries, though higher in value in 1904 than in any of the preceding three years, are still £7,983,951 below the total reached in 1900.

England has been drawing less of its raw material from the colonies since 1900, when the value was a little more than £51,000,000, while it is now less than £48,500,000.

The colonies, however, have been supplying the home country with more food and drink, the amount under this head having increased from £42,370,000 in 1900 to £56,440,000 last year.

An increase in the manufactured goods supplied in competition with home work, from £128,270,000 to £135,160,000 in five years, has gone entirely to foreign countries.

Analyzing on corresponding lines the total export of goods manufactured in the United Kingdom, an increase from £228,800,000 to £243,820,000 in five years is found, but it is the colonial consumers England has to thank for the whole of it. Colonial requirements of home manufactures have risen from £8,940,000 in 1900 to £98,370,000 last year, while the requirements of foreign countries have slightly diminished, the exact fall in value being £1,400,000, or from £146,857,000 to £145,457,000, but the value was much below the latter total in 1903, 1902 and 1901.

WAR ON PRAIRIE DOGS.

Ferrets Are Exterminating Animals Which Have Become a Pest in Kansas.

Topeka, Kan.—Residents of western counties of Kansas say that an animal known as the black-footed ferret is putting an end to the prairie dog pest. Instances are cited by D. E. Lantz, field agent of the State Agricultural college, in a recent report on Kansas mammals. The ferret made its appearance in Kansas only about two years ago, but Mr. Lantz had found instances where five or six of them drove all the prairie dogs out of a county. Mr. Lantz says of the ferret:

"It is much larger than an ordinary weasel, has a very long body and is of a soiled, yellowish-brown color, with a black patch on the forehead, including the eyes and extending downward to the tip of the nose. It is closely furred, and its feet are covered with hair above and below. The feet and legs are black, as is also about two inches of the tip of the tail. The ferret is found in the western third of Kansas and as far out as the Rocky mountains. Its food consists of rabbits and prairie dogs. It has come to be known in the western part of the state as the prairie-dog ferret."

KING OF LOBSTERS CAUGHT

Monster of the Crustacean Family Tips the Beam at More Than Twenty-Five Pounds.

Boston.—The "king of lobsters" has arrived at Commercial wharf from Denversville, Me., consigned to James A. Young & Co., wholesale lobster dealers. It is the largest ever seen in Boston, and tips the scales at 25 1/4 pounds. Lobstermen place two more pounds to this weight as an allowance for shrinkage, as the lobster has been out of water for two days. Photographed beside an ordinary-sized lobster of 2 1/2 pounds and 10 1/2 inches long, the king looks like the monarch he certainly is.

Mr. Young, who is an expert on lobsters, places the king's age at five years, as it is evident that he shed his shell last year. There are no barnacles on the lobster, showing it to be comparatively an infant of the crustacean family. It is believed that, if allowed two years more in the sea, it would have weighed 35 pounds.

King Lobster was sold to Shattuck & Jones of Faneuil Hall market, who will have him mounted at an expense of \$75.

The Supreme Test.

A European scientist has discovered that fear is caused by a germ which may be killed by inoculation. He will probably find that his theory is wrong when he inoculates a woman and then turns a mouse loose in the room.

The Only Bippie.

A shortage in the Maine spruce gum crop is reported. Otherwise the affairs of the nation seem to be going as smoothly as could be expected at this time.

AILMENTS OF THE ANIMALS.

The Elephant, the Camel and Others in a Friendly Chat About Their Health.

Out of the corner of his shifty little eye the elephant watched the small boy who was trying to feed him a plug of tobacco, and then the circus pachyderm heaved a mournful sigh.

"What's the matter?" asked the camel in the next stall. "Some kid feed you an apple loaded with cayenne pepper?"

"Say, you'd grant yourself," retorted the elephant, looking wrathfully down his ten feet of ivory tusk. "If you had the toothache in a pair of molars the size of these."

"Oh, I know just how it feels, and you have my sympathy," said the camel. "See these two humps on my back? Well, how'd you like to have the lumbago in 'em?"

"I am a candidate for sympathy, too," murmured the giraffe, rubber-necking into the conversation. "With my stretch of gullet I can assure you that there's nothing worse than tonsillitis or a sore throat."

"Tush! tush!" snarled the leopard, "what are those trivial ailments to the sufferings I have to undergo? Think of listening to people commenting on my personal appearance, would-be wits who get off bright remarks about me having the spotted fever?"

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SCARED YET ILL-TREATED.

Cattle of the Hindoos Regarded with Reverence, But Receive Rough Usage.

Few travelers in India fail to notice the part played, whether in the flesh or its representation, by the cow and the ox.

Sacred cattle wander unmolested, and unmolested through the streets of the cities, especially in the south, generally decorated with garlands of flowers.

Stone "nandis," the bulls of Siva, keep guard before his temples; they are portrayed in fresco or in carving on the walls of many rock caverns.

Oxen turn mills, plow the land, draw and carry water, and, above all, are invaluable for beasts of burden.

Cattle, as is well known, are held in superstitious reverence by Hindoos. Yet, unfortunately, the draught bull often receives very rough treatment at his driver's hands. So long as the animal's life is not taken ill-treatment counts as nothing among these people.

OUR ROMAN CATHOLICS.

Some Statistics of Interest to Those Who Are Intent Upon Religious Matters.

The Roman Catholic population of the United States and its dependencies is far larger than that of any other religious denomination. This fact is brought out, says Success Magazine, by a comparison between the statistics in the Roman Catholic directory for 1905, and those relating to other church bodies, which have been compiled by Rev. H. K. Carroll. The whole number of Roman Catholics under the protection of the United States flag is 22,127,254. Of these, 7,054,899 are in the Philippines, 1,573,862 in Cuba, 1,900,000 in Porto Rico, and 32,990 in the Sandwich Islands. It would obviously be misleading to include the Roman Catholics of the dependencies in a consideration of the comparative strength of the religious denominations in the United States. Eliminating them altogether, the Roman Catholics of the country still number 12,462,753, while the next largest church body, the Methodists have 6,256,738 members. The Baptists follow with 5,150,315, then come the Lutherans, with 1,789,766; the Presbyterians, with 1,697,697; the Episcopalians, with 807,922; the Congregationalists, with 667,951; the Unitarians, with 71,000; the Christian Scientists, with 66,022.

CANDOR IN WRONG PLACE.

Daughter of Hostess Tells Admiring Lady Guest What She Asks to Know.

Controller Grout was talking about candor, says the New York Tribune.

"Candor is all right in its place," he said, "but out of place it is unspeakably dreadful."

"This fact was impressed on me the other evening at a dinner.

"A little girl, the daughter of the hostess, at the end of this dinner was brought in for dessert, and placed beside a maiden lady of about 30.

"The maiden lady was a little sentimental. She talked in a sentimental vein to the child, and finally, leaning forward, she said:

"How pretty your eyes are, dear."

"Fank you," said the little girl.

"The lady laughed. Then she said: "Can you tell me the color of my eyes?"

"The little girl answered promptly, in a clear voice, and with a half smile: "Green, middles, yellow whites and wed wims."

New Use for the Cantaloupe.

On the night of one of last winter's blizzards a society man on his way to a wedding heard two negro coachmen chatting.

"Bad night for a weddin'," said one, stamping and thrashing about.

"Dat don't make no nevermind. Ain't dey got a cantaloupe crosst de whole sidewalk?"—N. Y. Times.

No German.

Miss Gollal—Did you attend the german last night?

Mr. Fudge—No, I can't speak the language, and I knew I should not enjoy myself.—Success Magazine.