

Preparing the Eggs for Easter

HOME-MADE Easter eggs frequently fall in effect because they are not properly prepared.

Look over each egg carefully to see that it is not cracked or all work is wasted, then wash off with warm water to remove soil. Put aside such eggs as are to be boiled hard and colored and in a separate mound put those with most perfect surface for painting or other decorations. Make very sure there is no mixing, as a broken raw egg is not pleasing.

Colored eggs can be made any tint with special dyes, or if these are unobtainable cheap ribbon can be boiled in a little water and the boiled egg submerged in it until the right tone is acquired.

The old-fashioned calico egg will be pleasing to this generation of youngsters. Tie each egg in a piece of cheap figured chintz of high color and it will leave its design on the egg when put in boiling water.

If you have nothing else for coloring boil the egg after tying up in the red skins of onions.

Quaint designs can be boiled into the egg by tracing figures on the shell of the raw egg with a hard tallow candle to make a white surface, then color the rest of the egg in dyed water.

When eggs are to be painted for place cards or caricatures, they need more careful treatment. Wipe the washed egg in powdered pumice to remove gloss of shell and make painting take better.

The blowing must be carefully done or the shell will crack. Prick both ends with a coarse needle. The hole should be just large enough to permit the contents being expelled. Too large an opening is disfiguring, besides making a crack more probable.

Put the egg to the mouth and blow gently at first, then hard and steadily until nothing more comes. Rinse with warm water and blow out several times again. Dry carefully so all water will run out.

To paint the egg trace the outlines with a hard pencil, then color with good water colors, as they dry most quickly. If the egg is to be filled with candy one hole may be made big enough to hold tiny candied drops. When the shell is filled paste the hole with thin paper.

Any one can paint some sort of face on an egg shell, and if further decorations in the way of hat, hair, or stock are added great delight will be given.

A girl with artistic ability can make fascinating place cards from egg shells in the forms of rabbits, owls, pigs, cupid heads, old ladies, or gay belles. These are pasted to flat cards on which a name or Easter greeting is written in gilt letters.

When the egg represents an entire figure the feet are painted on the card; when only the head, it can be set on a short tube to represent a neck, and this can be draped with stock or collar.

Use a good glue in pasting the eggs to the card, as paste or mucilage will not hold well.

Great fun for an Easter party is to supply the blank cards, blown egg shells, scissors, paints, and colored papers and set the guests to evolving their own egg ornaments. Prizes can be offered for the most successful.

Glorious Easter Atmosphere.

Eternal life no longer signifies a mere continuance of being, but a noble expansion of human nature to fit conditions which surround and surpass the boundaries of our little earthly life. The Easter atmosphere is one of faith, hope and charity, with suggestions of a spring such as never yet bloomed upon earthly soil.—The Christian Register.

Easter.

Out of the dusk a shadow,
Then a spark,
Out of cloud a silence,
Then a lark,
Out of the heart a rapture,
Then a pain,
Out of the dead, cold ashes
Life again.

MOTHER'S EASTER HAT.



WHEN THEY HARVEST COFFEE

Guatemalan Pickers Are Paid Little, but Make Attractive Scene on the Plantation.

The harvest season on a large coffee finca in Guatemala is the busiest time of the year. At the first hint of dawn a great bell calls the Indians to work, and men, women and children, laden with wide, flat baskets, start for the fields; where all day long they pick the bright red berries. The result of a good day's work for each picker is about three bushels of berries. At sunset the great baskets, piled high with the crimson fruit, are brought to the weighing house, where the contents are weighed, each picker receiving a check for the amount due him. The Southern Workman says the wages are 7 or 8 cents a day, paid in full every Saturday night. There is no more beautiful or attractive scene in the world than a vast coffee field in this country when the harvesting is in full swing, for the costume of the Guatemalan Indian is the most effective and picturesque in all Central America. The woman's dress usually consists of three pieces; a long cloth (generally of many hues, red and yellow predominating) wound several times around the lower limbs; the jupil, or shirt, richly embroidered with curious designs—birds, animals, arrow patterns or geometrical figures in many colors; and a gaudy belt or sash holding the two garments together. The hair is worn in two heavy braids, often intertwined with gay ribbons. In the north the women wear curiously woven head bands several yards in length, wound around and around the head and tied in a double knot over the forehead. They are made of silk, richly colored, ending in heavy tassels of silver, and are very effective.



EASTER MORNING

HORSE TAILS ARE IMPORTED

They Come From Many Lands and Are Used in Making Brushes and Cloth.

An item that seemed odd in the manifest of a steamer lately arrived from Japanese and Chinese ports was this in the list of her cargo from Tientsin: Fifty-five cases of horse tails.

As a matter of fact horse tails, or the hair thereof, are a common article of importation into this country from China and from pretty much every other country on earth. The American market gets large quantities of them from China, but more from Russia; and horse tails are imported here from every other European country and from South America, from Australia, from all round the world. On the other hand there are more or less American horse tails exported.

From various causes the supply of horse tails, like that of anything else, may in one country and another vary from year to year, and there may be years when the world's supply is short and years when it is plentiful, with corresponding changes in the range of prices. Horse tails have sold as low as 20 cents a pound and they have sold for as much as \$2. If stocks are scarce and high in London, and ample at lower prices here, New York importers ship horse tails to London; in the contrary circumstances London importers might ship horse tails here.

Horsetail hairs are sorted for length and colors and they are used either alone or mixed with other fibers in the manufacture of various sorts of brushes and mixed with other materials in the manufacture of hair-cloth.

Tuning Bells.

When bells in a chime produce discord they can be tuned. The tone of a bell may be raised or lowered by cutting off a little metal in the proper places. To lower the tone the bell tuner puts the bell in his lathe and reams it out from the point where the swell begins, nearly down to the rim. As the work proceeds he frequently tests the note with a tuning fork, and the moment the right tone is reached he stops reaming. To raise the tone, on the contrary, he shaves off the lower edge of the bell, gradually lessening or flattening the bevel, in order to shorten the bell, for of two bells of equal diameter and thickness the shorter will give the higher note. A noteworthy instance of bell-tuning was at Lausanne, where twelve bells, in three neighboring steeples, produced only seven distinct notes, and gave out a most curious discord.

Wear of Traffic on Roads.

A machine that measures the wear caused by traffic upon public highways is among the scientific instruments on show at the exhibition of the Physical Society of London at the Imperial College of Science, South Kensington.

In speaking about this machine an official of the road board referred to the wear on the various main roads of London. "Wood pavement," he said, "wears down one inch in about six years, except in places where the traffic is particularly intense. The asphalt pavement in the city wears down about half an inch in ten years. The ordinary country highway wears down two inches in from three to ten years, according to the amount of traffic."

How He Knew.

"How do you know that man is a parlor fisherman?"
"No man could find time to do any real fishing and at the same time learn the names of so large a collection of trout flies."

World-Wide Observance of Easter

By HELEN BRUCE WALLACE

THIS day of Christian joy is world-wide in its observance. From sea to sea, from the frozen North to the equally frozen South,

"The world itself keeps Easter Day, And Easter larks are singing, And Easter flowers are blooming gay, And Easter birds are springing, Alleluia, Alleluia."

Sometimes that observance falls short in the true meaning of the season that symbolizes to the Christian a risen Lord, and hope of immortality. Like our Christmas celebrations, the religious side of Eastertide is overshadowed by the social.

The change from the solemn penitential week just past to the joyousness and light and color of Easter morn has for most of us too little of religious element.

Even though we join the throngs surging the churches and revel in the Easter flowers that bank the altars, and join in the Easter carols of praise, we fall far short of realizing what a lack of Easter would have meant to civilization.

The world is a better place to live in because of Eastertide. Though the spiritual side of us be but poorly developed the material should rejoice in the blessings and comforts bestowed by the ages-old belief in the risen Lord.

What the world would have been without Easter; what women would have been we can but faintly imagine. Without the hope that sprang from that open grave in far-away Judea, life would lack a high incentive to purity, truth and love for our neighbor.

If this were all; if with the ebbing of life there were no hope of a "beyond;" then would selfishness and pleasure reign supreme, the law of might would prevail, and this world be a worse place than it is for the poor, the sick, and the lowly.

If we cannot wholly approve of the world's method of observing Easter and the days immediately preceding it, the Easter festival with its curious observances have an interest in that however feeble, they draw universal attention to the day of the risen Lord.

Odd points of resemblance may be seen in many of these observances, and like many of the great days of the church, the customs associated with it have been drawn from pagan worship.

Easter is a time of joy and gladness, for it comes in the spring, when, according to pagan belief, Nature awoke from the winter death sleep and everything breathed of life and hope.

Therefore there is a common note of joy in Easter celebrations, whether it be among the cool-headed Anglo-Saxon, the undemonstrative Scandinavian, or the intense, passionate Latin races.

But perhaps nowhere is the spirit of the day more emphasized than in Russia, where when at the stroke of midnight on Easter Eve, the priest announces to the kneeling multitude "He is risen," the congregation bursts into unanimous response, "He is risen, indeed," and joy in the blessed

thought is expressed in warm embraces among friends.

During all of Easter Day, the Russian peasants visit among their friends, exchanging the joyous greeting with each acquaintance, "Christ is risen," to which the other responds, "He is risen, indeed!" followed by the triple kiss on either cheek and forehead.

Yet even here is the trace of paganism in the use of the Easter egg, which was the symbol to the pagan of a new life. On the round of visits each guest presents a colored egg to the hostess, receiving one in return, with refreshments thrown in.

In most Christian countries the joy of Eastertide is shown in music and flowers. Every church makes special preparation for the great day, but probably nowhere in the world is such music heard as in St. Peter's, in Rome, of which Mrs. Humphry Ward has given us so impressive a description in Eleanor.

Besides the flower-banked churches the newer custom of marking Eastertide with flowers in the window of each house is one of much beauty and symbolism. When in palace and tenement alike there is a common bond of commemorative Easter flowers to greet the passer-by, the classes cannot be so far apart as the pessimist thinks.

In Catholic countries the joy of Easter is less impressive than the solemn observances of Good Friday. The churches are thronged with reverent worshippers, the procession commemorative of the Crucifixion, the burning of Judas in effigy, so common a practice in Portugal, Greece, Mexico and South American countries, all bear witness that despite scoffers the story of The Cross with the joyous Resurrection is not deemed a myth.

It is said that Portuguese sailors in whatever port they may be on Good Friday at sundown commit Judas to the waves as the sailors sing the Angelus. And there are those who say Christianity is passing.

Less religious in its symbolism is the universal Easter-egg, beloved of children.

Young America with his Easter basket or Easter hunt this morning, does not think that the Parsee children have eggs distributed to them at their spring festival; that the small Hungarians sprinkle their girl friends with rosewater and in return receive gifts of eggs; that French children in country districts will today make a round of visits begging for red eggs; while the little Russians will, for every gift of a red egg, set free a caged canary.

The Easter bunny is another custom borrowed from Pagan times, as the hare was associated with the moon and new life.

It may be from the firm belief of small Germans that if they are very good the white hare will steal into the house on Easter Eve, and hide beautiful colored eggs, that young Americans feel their Easter celebration is incomplete without their bunnies, toy or real, candied or painted.

A curious, but less common belief is that the sun dances with joy as it rises on the day of Resurrection. Our forefathers utilizing pagan worship of the sun taught that in it was seen an emblem of the Sun of Righteousness risen on Eastern morn. There are certain parts of Europe, where today the people rise early to climb the hill to watch for this phenomenon.

However, it may be kept, whether with heartfelt worship or perfunctory following of long custom, this Easter morning finds the world united in celebration of that great day that brought joy and hope to a small band of men and women, weeping for a lost leader whom they called The Christ—until their faith was tested by the dire tragedy of the Cross.

The joy of that long gone Easter morn has grown with the ages, until its radiance is felt the world over, even by those who do not call themselves believers in the "Risen Lord."

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