HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

How to Banish Rats and Mice.—A French paper says that petroleum destroys all insects and banishes rats and mice. Water slightly impregnated with petroleum applied to plants infected with insects, will, it is said, destroy the latter at once.

Brown Gems.—One pint sour milk, two tablespoonfuls of brown sugar; stir in middlings or shorts until quite stiff; drop in hot gem pans previously greased and bake quick—an egg is an improvement. Gems made from white flour, in the same way, are very nice.

Ham Dressed in Claret.—Take a glass of claret, a teaspoonful of sugar, and one of chopped onion; place in a frying-pan; when the claret boils place in the rashers of ham, not cut very thick; cool well, and serve with the sauce. This is a most appetizing dish.

Cleaning Stoves.—Stove luster, when mixed with turpentine, and applied in the usual manner, is blacker and more glossy, and more durable than when mixed with any other liquid. The turpentine prevents rust, and when put on an old rusty stove, will make it look as well as new.

For Keeping Cider Sweet.—Take of ground mustard seed four ounces, new milk one quart; mix together and put it into the cider. After letting it stand two or three days rack it off through a hole the size of a gimlet; then wash the barrel clean and smoke it well with brimstone; put the cider in and stop it up air-tight.

Chapped Hands.—The simplest remedy is found in every one's kitchen closet, and is common starch. Reduce it to an impalpable powder, put it in a muslin bag, keep it in the table drawer. Whenever you take your hands out of dishwater or suds, wipe them dry with a soft towel, and while yet damp, shake the starch bag all over them and rub it in. The effect is most agreeable.

Certain Cure for a Rattlesnake Bite or Spider Sting.—A physician in Oregon writes: "Take the yolk of a good egg, put in a teacup and stir in as much salt as will make it thick enough not to run off, and spread a plaster and apply to the wound. Do this when bitten or stung, and I will insure your life for a sixpence. I have tried this remedy in a number of cases, and have never known it to fail."

Cottage Cheese.—Place thick, loppered milk on the stove, and let it heat thoroughly, not to cook, or it will be hard. Pour into a coarse cloth, and let it drain until dry; season with salt and butter. Should it be rather dry, moisten with milk or cream, and make into balls. Some prefer what is called "smearkase." Prepare the milk as stated above, but instead of making into balls, thin with sweet cream and add a little pepper.

Erasive Soap.—Recipe for making genuine erasive soap that will remove grease and stains from clothing: Two pounds of good castile soap, half pound of carbonate of potash dissolved in a half pint of hot water. Cut the soap in thin slices, boil the soap with potash until it is thick enough to mold in cakes; also add alcohol, half an ounce; camphor, half an ounce; hartshorn, half an ounce; color with half an ounce of pulverized charcoal.

Sheeps' Hearts Roasted.—Having washed the hearts, stuff each with an onion parboiled and then minced fine, two tablespoonsful of bread-crumbs, half a teaspoonful of chopped or dried sage, and sufficient black pepper and salt to season highly. Press the stuffing well into the hearts, and, if necessary, fasten a little muslin over the top to keep it in. Whilst roasting baste frequently. They may also be baked, but care must be taken not to let them get dry. Any heart that may be left is excellent hashed.

Cheap Vinegar.—Take a quantity of common Irish potatoes, wash them until they are thoroughly clean, place them in a large vessel and boil them until done. Drain off carefully the water they were cobked in, straining it, if neccessary, in order to remove every particle of the potato. Then put this potato water in a jug or keg, which set near the stove, or in some place where it will be kept warm, and add one pound of sugar to about two and one half gallons of water, some hop yeast, or a little whisky. Let it stand three or four weeks, and you will have excellent vinegar, at a cost of six or seven cents per gallon.

The Care of Oil-cloths.—An oil-cloth requires careful treatment and should never be scrubbed with a brush, but after being swept with the long-handled hair brushes that are made for the purpose it should be carefully washed with a large, soft cloth dipped into milk and water—half-and-half; or, if the milk is not obtainable, tepid water without soap. The latter ruins oil-cloth by taking off the brightness of the paint, and it should never be applied to it. Hot water is also very injurious to it; either of them—soap or hot water—being sure to injure the oil-cloth more than the wear of it. When washed over, wipe it off with a soft, dry cloth, and it will always retain a bright look. In purchasing an oil-cloth, it is very desirable to obtain one that has been made for several years, as the longer it has lain unwashed the better it will wear—the paint becoming harder and more durable. An oil cloth made within the year is hardly worth buying, as the paint will be defaced in a short time.

Judgment of Musicians.—Theodore Thomas, the distinguished founder and conductor of the famous "Thomas' Orchestra," New York, ought to know as well as any one the opinions entertained by musicians respecting musical instruments. He declares that they generally agree with him in regarding the Mason & Hamlin Cabinet Organs as much the best instruments of this class in the world. It is not, therefore, surprising that they are now largely exported to Europe, commanding higher prices there than the instruments of their best makers.—*Com.*

Spittoons are now made so rich and ornamental that it makes one feel reasonably well off to sit down and spit in one of them a few times.

The Next Congress.

The following table shows the complexion of the present house of representatives, and the changes brought about hitherto by the elections:

STATES.	43d Cong. Rep.	43d Cong. Dem	44th Cong. Rep.	44th Cong. Dem
Alabama	3	3	2	6
Arkansas	3	1	..	4
California*	3	1	..	..
Connecticut*	3	1	..	..
Delaware	1	..	..	1
Florida	2	..	2	..
Georgia	3	6	..	9
Illinois	14	5	7	12
Indiana	10	3	5	8
Iowa	9	..	8	1
Kansas	3	..	2	1
Kentucky	..	10	..	10
Louisiana	6	..	1	5
Maine	5	..	5	..
Maryland	2	4	..	6
Massachusetts	11	..	5	6
Michigan	9	..	6	3
Minnesota	3	..	3	..
Mississippi*	5	1	..	..
Missouri	4	9	..	13
Nebraska	1	..	1	..
Nevada	1	..	1	..
New Hampshire*	2	1	..	..
New Jersey	6	1	4	3
New York	23	10	13	20
North Carolina	3	5	1	7
Ohio	13	7	7	13
Oregon	..	1	..	1
Pennsylvania	22	5	11	16
Rhode Island	2	..	2	..
South Carolina	5	..	5	..
Tennessee	7	3	1	9
Texas	..	6	..	6
Vermont	3	..	3	..
Virginia	5	4	2	7
West Virginia	2	1	..	3
Wisconsin	6	2	6	2
* Democrats.	201	91	103	172

There remain but 17 members yet to elect, from the states of California, Connecticut, Mississippi and New Hampshire. Supposing the democrats make no gains whatever in these states, it would leave a democratic majority of 60.

Weeds and Dairying.

Mr. Willard, of Herkimer county, New York, the highest authority in the dairy business, says:

The curse of American dairying today is weeds. Whenever they get full possession they become so formidable that the farmer is often disheartened, and give up their eradication. Many farmers, too, have an erroneous notion in regard to the destruction of weeds on grass lands. The impression often prevails that the only way to get rid of weeds, is to break up and thoroughly cultivate the ground in hoed crops. This is not always convenient, or even desirable, for, in many cases on dairy farms, it can not be done without breaking up the herd or dairy, while some uneven surfaces can not be plowed. There is another way of killing weeds, such as the daisy and that class of plants, by the liberal use of manures and grass seeds. I have eradicated white daisy, in several instances, by applying farm-yard manure and gypsum, and strewing the ground with a heavy seeding of clover. Establish your clover upon the soil, and feed it until it is luxuriant, and in destroys the daisy and other weeds by a system of plant-garroting—strangling it and choking the life out of them. Then, some weeds may be killed by frequent cutting, and not allowing them to seed. It is always advisable to pull up or exterminate bad weeds on their first appearance in pastures, and not allow them to spread.

A Safe Tether-Pin.

The Agriculturist for October illustrates a simple device which we infer any one is at liberty to make and use without fear of infringing upon any patent. A strong iron rod, say five-eighths or half an inch in diameter, is sharpened at one end and bent into a corkscrew-like spiral. The unsharpened end is bent into a ring large enough to receive a good-sized rope. It is easy to screw such an iron into anything worthy of being called a soil, using a stick, if necessary, after the manner of an augur handle. Such a tether-pin as this will defy the efforts of the strongest animal to pull it up, and with the ring at the level of the ground it is impossible for the rope to be twisted around the pin. This device is likewise serviceable in a hundred other ways about a country-house, or, indeed, wherever the surface earth is not covered by a natural or artificial pavement of stones. It will hold guy-ropes for shears, or the lower block of hoisting tackle, or tent ropes, or, indeed, any rope which is to be firmly held at the surface of the ground, and the great beauty of it is that it does not get battered to pieces by being hammered down every time it is set in a new place.

Breathing Through the Nose.

The pernicious habit of breathing through the mouth, while sleeping or waking, is very hurtful. There are many persons who sleep with the mouth open, and do not know it. They may go to sleep with it closed, and wake with it closed; but if the mouth is dry and parched on waking it is a sign that the mouth has been open during sleep. Snoring is a certain sign. This habit should be overcome. At all times, except when eating, drinking or speaking, keeep the mouth firmly closed and breathe through the nostrils, and retire with a firm determination to conquer. The nostrils are the proper breathing apparatus—not the mouth. A man may inhale poisonous gases through the mouth without being aware of it, but not through the nose.—*Science of Health.*

Influence of the Cion.

A. S. Fuller writes the New York Tribune as follows: Every nurseryman who has had much experience in the propagation of fruit, and other kinds of trees by budding and grafting, is aware of the fact that the cion has more influence upon the stock than the reverse. That the cion which afterward becomes the top of the tree has a powerful influence in giving character to the root, is so well kuewn even among the common laborers in a nursery that they are soon able to determine the style of roots a tree has before putting a spade into the ground when about digging it up. Varieties with numerous small twiggy branches will have roots of a corresponding character, and *vice versa.* Still all may have been originally worked upon the same sort of stocks.

Can it be True?—Within the last few months a considerable number of persons have called upon Dr. Walker, the proprietor of the popular medicine known as Vinegar Bitters, and assured him that, in their belief, his preparation is an infallible antidote for rum and tobacco. The minute details which have been furnished him forbid him to doubt the accuracy of the statements. This new claim of a great remedy to the confidence of the public will give a vast and well deserved impulse to its popularity. Heretofore the Bitters have been recognized as a pure vegetable tonic and corrective, devoid of alcohol, and thoroughly adapted to the cure of stomach and bowel complaints, nervous disorders, bilious affections, muscular diseases, and, indeed, a majority of the ailments within the reach of medicine; but if it will also cure the craving for liquor and tobacco, philosophers, statesmen and theologians ought to unite their voices in its praise. Can the good news be true? It is easy to test the question.

A New Lead.—How many times does 50 go into 250,000? It goes 5,000 times. Well, that is a good per cent. Will the best "lead" ever struck pay as much? Certainly not. But there are strong probabilities that an investment of fifty dollars made in the last Grand Gift Concert, in aid of the Public Library of Kentucky, will pay that per cent. to somebody. We have only to wait till the 30th of November for the result.

The most stylish collar that is worn now is the improved Warwick. It fits better than any other on a low cut shirt. All the edges being folded, and the surface looking so much like linen, we recommend all to try it. Ask your gents' furnisher for the improved Warwick.

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How to Look Young—Sixteen.—Don't paint or use vile Hair Restorers, but simply apply Hagan's Magnolia Balm upon your face, neck and hands, and use Lyon's Kathairon upon your hair. The Balm makes your complexion pearly, soft and natural, and you can't tell what did it. It removes freckles, tan, sallowness, ring-marks, moth-patches, etc., and in place of a red, rustic face, you have the marble purity of an exquisite belle. It gives to middle age the bloom of perpetual youth. Add these effects to a splendid head of hair produced by the Kathairon, and a lady has done her best in way of adornment. Brothers will have no spinster sisters when these articles are around.

Dr. Dan'l Weaver of Boston, fell down a mining shaft near Denver, 76 feet. He was terribly bruised, limbs broken, and supposed to be dead. Mexican Mustang Liniment was freely used, consciousness restored, his life saved, and he came home in eight weeks. This is the most wonderful article for Bruises, Sprains, Rheumatism, Swellings, Spavin, Ringbone, Sores, or any flesh, bone or muscle ailment upon man or beast, ever discovered. It is humanity to animals. It has saved much suffering and many useless doctors' bills. It can be had for 5 cts. and $1.00 per bottle, in any drug store. But beware of counterfeits. The genuine is wrapped in a fine steel-plate label, signed "G. W. Westbrook, Chemist."

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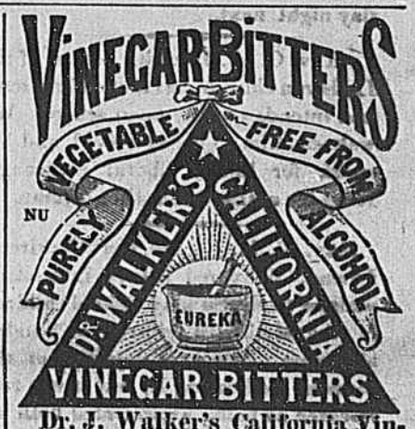

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