

Domestic

BY MAUREEN.

Rhubarb Turnovers.

Make some pastry, roll it out and cut into rounds about 8in across. Put on each some sweetened rhubarb, moisten the edges and turn them over until they overlap in the centre. Brush them over with white of egg, sprinkle with castor sugar, and bake on well-greased tins in a quick oven for about 10 minutes.

Fruit Juice Pudding.

Take the juice of one quart of any fruit; put into a saucepan and heat. Mix one cupful of sugar and two heaping table-spoonfuls of cornflour, wet in a little cold water, thoroughly and gradually pour into the hot fruit juice. Stir briskly and cook five minutes. Pour into moulds and serve cold with rich cream and sugar.

Muttonettes.

Purchase mutton cut from the leg in slices about half an inch thick. On each side lay a large table-spoonful of stuffing, made with breadcrumbs, a beaten egg, butter, salt, pepper, sage, and summer savory. Roll up the slices, pinning with small wooden tooth-picks, to keep the dressing in. Put a little butter and water in a baking-pan with the mutton and cook in hot oven three-quarters of an hour. Baste often, and when done thicken the gravy, pour over the meat, garnish with parsley, and serve on hot dish.

To Cleanse a Thermos Flask.

When cleansing a thermos flask, pay particular attention to the metal rim just above the bottle neck, and keep it quite free from any liquid animal or vegetable food. The grooves in the cup and ridges on the outside of the neck should be free of stain; indeed, the cup must always be thoroughly sterilised as soon as possible after use and kept quite bright. Well swirl out the flask with hot soda water with many rinsings until all trace of soda and mustiness has gone. Dry and stand it aside uncorked in the sweet air. Well scald the cork and with the cup stand near by the flask until wanted. But before being put into use a flush out with clean water will be necessary to get rid of any dust that may have gathered while it has stood aside. Liquids should be well below the boiling point before being poured into a flask. Any one of the metal polishes sold will do for brightening up the metal exterior.

Household Hints.

Before washing lace collars, baste them closely on a piece of white cloth. They will not be stretched or torn.

Don't use soda for washing china with gilt on it. If you do the gilt will gradually disappear. Use a good yellow soap as a cleansing agent and no harm will be done.

A kitchen remedy for a burn or scald is raw egg white, and an excellent remedy it is, for it makes a sort of varnish which protects the skin from the air and soon causes the stinging and smarting to cease.

To remove the label from a jar or bottle is often rather difficult. This method is always successful: Wet the label thoroughly and then hold it near a fire for a moment. The steam thus generated immediately acts on the paste or gum.

All wearers of serge know that it has one disagreeable quality—it grows shiny with hard wear. Washing, sponging, and pressing fail to remove this shine. Wash or clean the dress or skirt thoroughly, then take a piece of very fine emery-paper and rub the goods lightly. This process lifts the slight nap and the shiny look disappears.

Never let a birdcage hang in a room where the gas is alight, unless it is exceptionally well ventilated. The air near the ceiling is always the most impure at night. Set the cage on the table, or, better still, on the floor (presuming you have no cat), and you will find the bird's health improved.

Science Siftings

By 'VOLT.'

Surgical Operations on Trees.

There is hardly a wood of any size which does not have several of its trees mere shells of bark, the heart of the trunk having been eaten away by the spread of dry rot. Outwardly they appear to be perfectly sound, but sooner or later a higher wind than usual will bring them crashing down, perhaps endangering human life, and almost certainly seriously damaging the sound trees by which they are surrounded. Now, however, a method has been discovered of preventing the spread of the dry rot fungi, and by it an affected tree may be rendered once more sound and healthy. The procedure is almost exactly similar to that followed by dentists in the case of a decaying tooth. First the decayed wood is carefully removed, and the resulting cavity entirely cleared of all foreign substances. The holes which have to be gouged out are bacteriologically cleansed by corrosive sublimate, and the walls of the cavity water-proofed to protect the wood. If necessary, the cavity is braced with steel ribs or truss rods. The hole is now ready for filling in, and it is plastered up with cement, care being taken that the filling is kept under the edge of the bark at every point, so as to allow the bark to heal over the cement. When this last stage has been accomplished the tree is as sound and healthy as ever, and shows no sign of the treatment to which it has been subjected.

People to the Square Mile.

The statistical abstract for 1900 to 1910-11 contains the latest available figures respecting the populations of Europe. Apart from the small areas of the Hanse Towns, whose figure is 3825, the densest population recorded is that of Saxony, which has 830 persons to the square mile. Similar figures for other countries are: Belgium, 652; the Netherlands, 465; United Kingdom, 372; Japan, 335; Italy, 313; Germany, 311; Austria, 246; Switzerland, 235; France, 191; Russia in Europe, 55; Norway, 19; Egypt proper, 939. Oversea possessions of United Kingdom, 33; of Germany, 14; of the Netherlands, 48; of Japan, 118; of the United States, 31. The highest national birth rates in Europe, apparently, are recorded in the Balkan peninsula and Russia—namely, per 1000: Russia, 46.8; Roumania, 43; Bulgaria, 40.3; Servia, 39; Hungary, 34.8. France has the least birth rate—namely, 10.7. Roumania's death rate was 25.7, while the healthiest three countries are those of Scandinavia: Norway, 13.2; Denmark, 13.4; Sweden, 13.8. The largest towns outside the British Empire are, inhabitants: New York, 4,767,000; Paris, 2,888,000; Tokyo, 2,186,000; Chicago, 2,185,000; Berlin, 2,071,000; Vienna, 2,031,000; St. Petersburg, 1,907,708; Philadelphia, 1,549,000.

Striking Facts About the Soil.

How far does the heat of the full summer's sun penetrate into the ground? Probably not one person in ten will give an answer that is even approximately correct. Their replies generally vary from one inch to many hundreds of feet. Actually the distance is about 3 feet. Beyond this depth the temperature of the soil does not vary appreciably from hour to hour, let the midday be ever so hot and the midnight ever so cold. At this depth the mean temperature in the summer is about 58 deg. Fahr., and in the winter about 36 deg. Fahr. And the annual difference? That is to say, the depth at which there is some difference between the summer temperature and that of the winter? Well, at a depth of 60ft it is impossible to measure any change due to the changing seasons overhead. Go down only 40ft and it is minute—barely measureable. But at 25ft to 30ft it is quite a definite amount. The surface heat takes a long while to penetrate downwards. In fact, curiously enough, the change in temperature of the ground takes just over six months to reach the end of its 25ft journey. Thus we are faced with the phenomenon of midsummer upon the surface occurring at the same time as midwinter 25ft to 30ft down, and vice versa.

N GOLD WEATHER

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