

Miscellaneous.

Errors in Cooking

Dr. Drake of Cincinnati, in a late treatise on the principal diseases of the interior valley of North America, gives the following enumeration of the vicious modes of cooking which prevail in the valley:

1. With the mass of our population, bread of every kind is apt to be baked too soon after the flour or meal has been wetted—that is, before there has been sufficient maceration. But what is still worse, it is scarcely ever baked enough.

2. Biscuits, as they are called, are baked in close ovens, by which process the fat they contain is rendered empyreumatic and indigestible.

3. When the dough for leavened bread, by excess of panary fermentation, has been charged with acetic acid, that product is not in general neutralized by the carbonate of potash or soda, but the bread is eaten sour.

4. Pastry, instead of being flaky and tender, is often tough and hard, sometimes almost horny.

5. Meats are often baked and fried, instead of being roasted or broiled, whereby they become impregnated with empyreumatic oil, and not unfrequently charred on the outside. In general, they are overcooked.

6. Fresh Meat, and especially poultry, are commonly cooked too soon after death.

7. Soup is often prepared from parts deficient in gelatine, and abounding in fat, which swims upon the surface, and is much more indigestible than the meat would have been, if eaten in the solid form.

8. Eggs are generally boiled so hard as to render them tough, and many are often fried in fat, to a still greater degree of induration.—Fried bacon and eggs eaten with hot unleavened biscuit, containing lard, and then buttered, is a favorite breakfast in many parts of the valley.

9. Vegetables, abounding in fecula, such as potatoes, rice and pulse, are often boiled so little, that all the starch grams are not burst open; while those containing albumen, as cabbage, are boiled until that element is firmly coagulated and deposited in the structure of the leaf.

Mr. Ewbank.

A correspondent to the Journal of Commerce mentions Mr. Ewbank as among those whose nominations will probably be rejected by the Senate. We think this is a mistake, and we are certain it ought to be. Mr. Ewbank is undoubtedly one of the very best men in the country for the place which he holds. His report has been more generally read and has better deserved reading, than any other which has come from that office, and his plans for the interests of inventors, and for the encouragement of ingenuity and the application of scientific knowledge to practical life, have received universal commendation. Mr. Ewbank has incurred the hostility of a class of men at Washington who have long been in the habit of preying upon inventors, and who are indignant towards him for stepping between them and their accustomed victims. We do not believe, that these men can influence the Senate to the rejection of an officer so able and so faithful as Mr. Ewbank.

[The above is from the "Farmers and Manufacturers Journal," Providence, R. I. Those journals which charge Mr. Ewbank falsely for any thing whatever, are guilty of a great sin, and so are those which charge others falsely for any purpose whatever.]

Commonplace Talk.

Fuseli, the painter, had a great dislike to commonplace observations. After sitting perfectly silent for a long time, in his own room, during the "bald disjointed chat" of some idle callers-in, who were gabbling with one another about the weather and other topics of as interesting a nature, he suddenly exclaimed, "We had pork for dinner to-day!" "Dear! Mr. Fuseli, what an odd remark!" "Why, it is as good as anything you have been saying for the last hour."

The Danger of Giving the Wrong Medicine.

Two weeks ago Mr. James Hall, of this city, was poisoned by taking a dose of *corrosive sublimate*, put up by an apothecary in mistake for calomel. Had Mr. Hall, or any other person, known in season that he had taken corrosive sublimate, he could have been cured by administering the white of eggs. Many have been poisoned by oxalic acid for epsom salts, which resemble one another. The antidote for oxalic acid is magnesia or chalk. It is very wrong for apothecaries to have their bottles and drawers labelled with nonsensical Therapeutic terms of Tinc. Schilla, Arsenic Oxidi—and so on. Boys who are not chemists may very readily make mistakes in putting up prescriptions, for doctors deal more in poisons than puddings, excepting in their own families. There used to be a great deal of *hoc shoc, hocus pocus*, in the administration of medicines in olden times, and the doctors wrap up the same *mysterious* knowledge in the same *mysterious* words now, all to give an air of deep learning to a dose of salts or a gargle of alum.

Espy's Theories.

A correspondent of the Philadelphia Ledger mentions a fact, which he himself observed, and which corroborates the theory of Prof. Espy, that a very large fire will invariably, by a rapid rarefaction of atmosphere, cause an upward current, which must necessarily draw in from the surrounding atmosphere near the surface. He says:

"From 3 until 9 o'clock, and later, the strong southeast wind carried the flakes of fire and flame to neighboring buildings, and then it appeared as though all the northern part of the city must be destroyed. At half-past ten o'clock I noticed the sparks ascending more perpendicularly and to a greater height; many assuming a spiral motion; and then I immediately made a circuit of the fire, and found the wind blowing strongly in from every side; and one hour after the fire was under control; but not under the firemen's control. Nature accomplished what all the firemen in the Union could not do."

Site of Paradise.

Col. Chesney, who commanded an expedition, sent a few years back, by the British government, to explore the Euphrate's, has introduced into his narrative, recently published, speculations on the probable site of Paradise, which he believes he has satisfactorily ascertained to be Central Armenia; and "the Land of Eden" is there actually laid down on the index map. He identifies the Halys and Araxes, whose source exist within a short distance of the Euphrates and Tigris, with the Pison and Gihon of Scripture, while he considers the country within the Halys as the land Havilah, and that which borders on the Araxes, as the remarkable and much disputed territory of Cush.

Rejoice not at Misfortune.

Never rejoice at another's misfortune because it may turn out to your advantage. In some parts of Germany they make use of the saying "my corn is ripening," which a person will repeat who has the prospect of something profitable occurring to him. Once while a surgeon and carpenter were taking a walk together, they observed at some distance a small village, known to them both, on fire. The carpenter pointed to it, and said to his companion, "my corn is ripening," for he concluded that if the old houses were burned new ones would require to be built; but, as he looked intently at the conflagration and not at the road, immediately after saying this he fell into a ditch and broke his arm. "Ah!" said the surgeon, "it appears to me that my corn is already ripe."

A High Authority.

Mr. Curran was once engaged in a legal argument; behind him stood his colleague, a gentleman whose person was remarkably tall and slender, and who had originally intended to take orders. The Judge observing that the case under discussion involved a question of ecclesiastical law, "Then," said Curran, "I refer your lordship to a high authority behind me, who was once intended for the Church, though in my opinion he was fitter for the steeple."

Artificial Legs.

We have received a communication from a correspondent, on this subject, relating his own experience in the matter, which we here insert to speak for itself:—

"In an engagement at Cherubusco, Mexico, on the 20th August, 1847, I had the misfortune to lose a leg, amputated within four and a half inches of my hip joint. Soon after my limb got well I returned to Philadelphia, where I purchased an artificial leg made upon the Skeleton plan, of iron and steel. With it I was enabled to go (though I can hardly say walk), and, for a time, confess that I supposed it to be the best false limb I could get.

I had never seen an artificial leg of any approved make up to this time. This leg, the manufacturers said, was much lighter and better than any other, and they not only said to me, but published it, that the leg made for me weighed only 43 ounces. After returning home, thinking it must be heavier than they said, as well as uncouth, I weighed it and found it to be 85 ounces. Notwithstanding its great weight it was continually breaking, causing much expense to keep it in repair; it costing me some sixty dollars for the thirteen months I had it. Just as I had become fully satisfied that it was a perfect failure, a friend procured one of Palmer's Patent Legs, and surprised me by walking in the most perfect manner with it on. I immediately ordered one from the establishment of Messrs. Palmer & Co., Springfield, Mass., and now take great pleasure in stating that I now wear it, and find it all I had hoped in the Skeleton Leg. And while I recommend Palmer's Leg in the strongest terms, a sense of the duty I owe to the unfortunate constrains me to condemn the Metallic Skeleton Leg. The leg I now wear weighs less than four pounds, and is the acme of perfection: in short it is nothing less than Palmer's ingenious mechanism, which is too well known to need further praise.

JACOB T. SMITH,
Fort Keeper,—Fort Knox, Bucksport, Me.

Passengers over the Hungerford Suspension Bridge

Mr. Stephenson, in the late parliamentary discussion in reference to the site of the exhibition of 1851, took occasion to state that, in fine weather, fifteen thousand persons passed every day over Hungerford suspension bridge (the narrowest and least easily accessible bridge in the metropolis,) and through a turnstile, paying toll, without producing any inconvenience, and, in addition, twenty-five thousand passengers per day departed from or arrived at one of the piers of that bridge, in connection with the steamboat, on the river. A free passage was thus given on the narrow bridge without inconvenience to forty thousand persons daily.

Velocity of Electricity.

M. M. H. Fizeau and E. Gousselle, of Paris, have recently been making experiments by a new method to determine the velocity of the propagation of electricity.

Their experiments were made upon the wires of the electric telegraph, from Paris to Rouen, and from Paris to Amiens. The former 175 and the latter 195 miles in length. The following were their results:—

In an iron wire sixteen hundredths of an inch in diameter, electricity is propagated with a velocity of 82,159 miles per second.

In a copper wire one tenth of an inch in diameter, the velocity was 111,886 miles per second.

Every Man his own Physician.

A young gentleman of studious habits named Hind, died in London, recently, from the effects of a dose of turpentine and quicksilver, which he had taken from a prescription in a pamphlet entitled "Every Man his own Physician," as he laboured under a hallucination that he had a tapeworm, which gnawed at his liver.

Oil Cloth Manufacture.

There is a factory now in full operation at Cleveland, Ohio, which turns out five hundred yards of oil cloth per day. The article is said to be of the most durable quality and beautiful texture.

Mechanics' Fair.

The Second Annual Fair of the South Carolina Institute for the promotion of Art, Mechanical Ingenuity, &c., will open on the 18th of November next, at Charleston, continuing during the week. Selections are to be made from the best specimens of mechanism, arts, cotton, rice, sugar, tobacco, corn, wheat, flour, rosin and turpentine—to be sent to the World's Fair, to be held in London next spring. Communications should be addressed to James H. Taylor. All articles must be directed to L. M. Hatch.

Patent Suit—Parker's Water Wheel.

A correspondent writing us from Illinois, under date of the 29th ult., says "that an important suit was decided in the United States Circuit Court, last week, at Chicago, for an infringement of a patent right, Parker vs. Hoyt, in favor of the defendant, which tests the principle of his invention." He adds that the experiments made by Parker, at the time, were not satisfactory.

American Scientific Association.

The next meeting of the American Association for the advancement of science, will be held in New Haven, Conn., commencing on Monday, August 19th, 1850, at 2½ o'clock P. M., and will continue through the week. The general sessions will be held in the College Chapel; the section meetings in lecture rooms of the cabinet buildings.

Diamonds.

The Washington Globe is incorrigible in the matter of artificial diamonds. It is quite skeptical about inventions, and sticks to the opinion of old Solomon, "there is nothing new under the sun," with an orthodox tenacity that is perfectly refreshing during this hot weather. Well, we like the man *wot* has an opinion of his own.

Thunder Storms.

When overtaken out of doors, by a thunder storm, never resort to a tree for shelter; better take a wet skin and a safe retreat to the open field. Do not have any metal, nor metallic implements about you while exposed to electricity. We saw an account of a youth who was killed while whittling a stick beneath a tree while his companion at his side escaped uninjured. The lightning always seeks the nearest road to the best conductor. A bright pitchfork, spade, or manure fork carried tine upwards is certain to attract electricity during a thunder storm.

Soda and Chloride of Lime.

A party of Germans have erected in Steubenville, Ohio, an establishment for the manufacture of Soda Ash and Chloride of Lime. It is the only one of the kind in the United States; it is estimated that during the first year it will produce between \$40,000 and \$50,000 worth of Soda Ash, and nearly \$20,000 in value of Chloride of Lime. It is supposed that the amount of manufacture will be doubled the second year.

Consumption of Gas in England.

In Great Britain and Ireland there are 730 public gas establishments, beside 45 private ones. More than fifty millions of dollars are invested; nine thousand millions of cubic feet of gas is consumed, and 1,125,000 tons of coal are required to produce this vast amount.

East Tennessee Mining and Manufacturing Company.

A company is organized to build up a manufacturing town near where the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad will cross the Tennessee River. A factory of 10,000 spindles, the machinery to be driven by steampower, is about to be erected. Two coal mines are opened there, and fuel, therefore, will be cheap.

Honor to an American Historian.

The University of Oxford, as we learn from the British papers, has conferred the honorary degree of Doctor in Civil Law on Mr. Prescott, the well known American historian.

The Citizens of Charleston, S. C., are discussing the feasibility of introducing into the city a supply of water from the Edisto river, fifty miles distant. The estimated cost of the work will be only half a million of dollars.