Farm and Household.

SPONGE CAKE—Three-fourths of a pound of sugar, one-third of a pound of butter, nine eggs less three of the whites, one nutmeg, one glass of brandy; beat up well and bake in a quick oven.

TEA CAKE—Take four cups of flour, two cups of sugar, one cup of butter, one cup of cream, and nutmeg according to taste; mix the flour and sugar together with one teaspoonful of soda, add the butter and cream, roll out into small cakes and bake.

FLANNEL CAKES.—Take two pounds of flour, six eggs well beaten, one wine glass of yeast, salt to taste; make into a thick batter with milk, set to rise; when light enough bake on a griddle hot enough to preserve the lightness without browning too much; butter as taken off the griddle and serve hot.

POUND CAKE.—Take one pound of sugar, half pound butter beaten to cream, one cup of milk, five cups of flour, four tablespoonsful rose water, one teaspoonful cream tartar, one half teaspoonful salaratus, two tablespoonfuls powdered cinnamon, one half tablespoonful grated nutmeg and five eggs, whites and yolks beaten separately: add the yolks to the butter and sugar, then the milk and flavoring; beat well together; add the whites and beat again, then the rest of the ingredients; beat all well and bake carefully.

PUMPKIN PIE.—Cut the pumpkin into thin slices and boil until tender in as little water as possible; watch carefully that it does not scorch; drain off all the water—mash, and rub through a sieve, adding, while warm, a small piece of butter. To every quart of the pumpkin, after mashing, add one quart of new milk and four eggs, the yolks and whites beaten separately; white sugar to taste, and cinnamon and nutmeg as desired. The oven in which they are baked must be hot or they will not brown. It is as well to heat the batter scalding hot before pouring into the pie dishes.

A DISTEMPERED COLT —Distemper in a colt takes about three weeks to run its course; all the medicine required is a light dose of Epsom salts, say four to six ounces, and good nursing. Give warm bran mashes, linseed or oatmeal gruel; keep the animal warm, and rub the legs with cloths dipped in hot water; a tablespoonful of mustard in the water would be beneficial if the legs seem to be weak and numb.

WINTER CALVES—A Wisconsin dairyman asks if there can be any profit in raising calves in winter. This question is now very pertinent since winter dairying is becoming common. Butter bears a higher price in winter, and this induces dairymen to have their calf dropped in fall. Some think the cold weather will add to the cost of keeping the calves, but this is probably a mistake, as the following considerations will show: the milk, after making butter in winter, is in better condition than in summer, as it is seldom sour, and may always be fed sweet. Calves kept in warm quarters will make more growth upon the same quantity of milk in winter than in summer, on account of its better quality, and because, being fed on hay, they seldom sour or have any trouble of the stomach.

TO DISSOLVE BONES FOR MANURE.—Break the bones into small pieces, or pulverize them; if the means are available; put them into a hole in the ground or preferably, a stone tank. Pour upon them about 40 pounds oil vitriol to 100 pounds bones. Work the mixture with a long pole until the mass is uniform.—Allow it to remain 24 hours, by which time it will be perfectly dry. A couple shovelfuls added daily to a dung heap will form a valuable compost.

Bones may also be dissolved by filling an old barrel with alternate layers of wood ashes and fresh bones, slightly wetting from time to time with hot water.

This is a more economical plan than by the use of sulphuric acid, and is said to make a more soluble compound.

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WILD BEASTS AND SNAKES IN INDIA.

It is with somewhat more than ordinary interest that we have for some years past awaited the annual records setting forth the fearful ravages wrought by tigers and other wild animals, and by snakes, throughout our Indian empire. From a brief notice which appears in the columns of a contemporary, we now learn that there has been a steady decrease, from 1876 to 1880, in the total number of wild animals destroyed throughout Hindostan, coupled, however with a proportionate increase in the number of persons killed by wild animals and snakes. Thus, whereas in the year first named there were destroyed in Hindostan no fewer than 23,459 wild beasts, in 1880 the figures diminished to 14,886; but, during this same period, the number of human beings who have lost their lives has mounted up from 19,172 to 21,990. One satisfactory feature observable in the present annual returns is that relating to the great increase in the number of snakes destroyed in the Bombay Presidency alone. Of course, it must be a matter of impossibility to suggest an antidote for the mortal injuries inflicted by a wild beast such as the tiger; but there would seem to be a good field now presented for the further prosecution of the experiments already made by Dr. De Lacerda in connection with a specific for snake-bite.

HOW COFFEE CAME TO BE USED?

It is somewhat singular to trace the manner in which arose the use of the common beverage of coffee, without which few persons, in any half or fully civilized country in the world, make breakfast. At the time Columbus discovered America, it had never been known or used. It grew only in Arabia and Upper Ethiopia. The discovery of its use as a beverage is ascribed to the Superior of a monastery in Arabia, who, desirous of preventing the monks from sleeping at their nocturnal services, made them drink the infusion of coffee upon the reports of shepherds, who observed that their flocks were more lively after browsing on the fruit of that plant. Its reputation spread through the adjacent countree, and in two hundred years it reached Paris. A single plant, brought there in 1714, became the parent stock of all the French coffee plantations in the West Indies. The Dutch introduced it into Java and the East Indies. The extent of the consumption now can scarcely be realized. The United States alone annually consume it at the cost, at its landing, of from $15,000,000 to $16,000,000.

MISTLETOE.

Apropos of an article on mistletoe which appeared in the *Pall Mall Gazette*, a correspondent writes: To those who have not looked into the matter it will be a surprise to learn that English mistletoe is rarer on oak trees than on other trees. But it may be of some interest to state that in other parts of the world oak trees are a very favorite abode for this curious parasite. When some years ago I was traveling in early April through Arcadia, on my way to visit the famous temple of Apollo at Bassæ, we passed on a rugged mountain side through what was evidently the remnant of an ancient oak forest. The trees were but dwarfs compared with our "British oak," and they were very thinly scattered. But on every tree grew one or more big bunches of mistletoe. It was a beautiful pale green verging toward yellow, and very picturesque it looked among the bare gnarled branches.

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Nothing is so conducive to a man's remaining a bachelor as stopping for one night at the house of a married friend and being kept awake for five or six hours by the crying of a cross baby. All cross and crying babies need only Hop Bitters to make them well and smiling. Young man, remember this.—*Traveller.*

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