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For a week, Antoinette Pochard haunted the morgue; but never did she find there a plump little corpse with a scar on one thumb and a mole just below one knee. The second week she gave up haunting the morgue; but her face became more careworn. At the beginning of the third week, a new regret was added to the many she felt. She wore a long scratch across one cheek, telling that Rose Drouin had kept her word. And now the tree—Papa Pochard's tree—was dying!

But Papa Pochard was far from dead. Across the *rue des Anges* from his wine-shop, Papa Pochard was in hiding in Caffiard's bachelor quarters, and with him were two great sacks of—tree food! Thence, each night when the wine-shop windows darkened, a fat little figure stole forth, two great pails in hand.

"For you understand, old friend," said Papa Pochard, "I will give Antoinette the worry of her life; but in time I shall return to her, and, devil and all, it would be a nice thing to return to a dead tree! Trouble enough getting it from this rascal of a government in the first place, hey? Not for nothing did I serve my time in the municipal nurseries, learning the care of trees and all that."

Caffiard shook his head. "I tell you, Pochard, it's no use; that tree is dying."

"It shall not die!" said Papa Pochard firmly, and he scooped great handfuls of the precious white tree-food from the sacks and mixed it with the water in the pails. But it was all for nothing. The leaves of the tree drooped, and withered and turned golden-yellow and fell.

This time there was no delay. Almost before the tree was dead the foresters came and uprooted it, bringing another tree to plant in its place; and in the crowd that gathered Papa Pochard stood close to the great hole and watched the operations.

"Caffiard," he said, "I can thank you for this. You have used your influence, hey?"

"I will not deny it, old friend," said Caffiard modestly. "I have said a word or two."

But the foresters, as they examined the roots of the tree, shook their heads and wrinkled their brows.

"Certainly strange!" they said, "abundant moisture; no mould. This tree should have lived."

"The soil is wrong, no doubt," said another, taking a handful and sniffing it. Then, he touched the clean black earth with his tongue. "Thunder!" he cried. "How do you account for that, Jean?"

"Account for what?"

"This soil. It is almost solid salt. The tree has been burned to death."

"Salt, hey?" said Papa Pochard angrily. "What do you expect from this rascal of a government?"

He turned away, and came face to face with Antoinette who was perspiringly waiting on the customers at the crowded tables.

"Just in time, Papa Pochard," she said happily. "Get your apron on; can't you see I'm swamped? Four francs, thirty, already. Hurry! I'll embrace you when they are through planting your tree."

NEW WRINKLES

WHEN SEALING fruit butters or preserves, place a circle of thin cloth on top and sprinkle this with ground cinnamon. The spice prevents mold from accumulating on the fruit—M. H. A., New Castle, Pa.

Suede shoes that are spotted from rain can be renewed by the simple method of rubbing with an emery board the spots matted together by the water.—K. D., Muncie, Ind.

When you have roast beef for dinner, save the water in which it was washed, as it is a splendid tonic for plants. Roses and geraniums especially are improved by this treatment.—Mrs. M. E. R., Muskegon, Mich.

If a small hook and eye are placed at the ends of the rubber around the knees of little boys' bloomer-suits, the rubber is easily removed when the suits are washed, and the bloomers can then be ironed out flat.—F. T., Pittsfield, Ill.

In drawing threads for hemstitching or drawn work, wet a small brush, rub it on a cake of soap and then on the threads you wish to draw, and they will come out easily and without breaking.—R. L. H., East Weymouth, Mass.

To overcome the odor of mould, which sometimes rises in a library in damp weather in spite of the best of care, scatter a few drops of oil of lavender on the shelves, and the odor will disappear.—G. C., New Castle, Pa.

In winter, when fresh roasting chickens are not obtainable, buy a chicken for stewing, steam it in a colander for three hours, or until tender; then, put it in the oven and roast it. When it is done, it will be brown and tender.—L. M. G., Winnetka, Ill.

Inexpensive water colors can be used in many ways. Used very thinly on faded roses, the flowers can be restored and made to look like new. The paints can also be used to freshen colored canvas shoes, or to color white ones.—E. C. C., Philadelphia, Pa.

Before baking potatoes, let them stand in hot water for fifteen minutes. They will require only half the time for baking, are more mealy and palatable, and if they are baked in a gas oven, the saving in gas is considerable.—L. C., Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Some people object to fried foods on account of the fat used. Fat need not be used; most foods can be fried simply by rubbing the pan with common table salt, then shaking it out and putting in the food to be fried.—E. T. L., Boyes Springs, Cal.

Baked apples are good cored, and filled with nuts, cinnamon and sugar.—B. H., St. Mary's, Ohio.

To make the crust of bread a golden brown, wet the top with milk before it is put in the oven.—Mrs. S., Madisonville, Ohio.

To take away the strong, hot taste of onions, pour boiling water over them after they have been sliced, then drain and pour cold water on them.—Mrs. E. F., Emporium, Pa.

Jam that has become hard and sugary can be made almost as good as new by placing it in the oven until the sugar melts, then taking it out and leaving it to cool.—Mrs. B. T., Dorchester, Mass.

Playing cards that are old and stick together are made to slide like new, if a little talcum powder is sprinkled on each card and they are shuffled a few times.—E. A. R., Charleston, S. C.

If, in preparing asparagus, the tough ends of the stalks, instead of being thrown away, are stripped of the hard outside skin, they will be found when cooked to be as tender and palatable as the rest.—M. P. C., Grand Rapids, Mich.

In buying material for wash house dresses, buy sufficient to make aprons of the same stuff. They look much neater and in better taste than if made of some other pattern or color.—S. T. R., Halifax, Canada.

You will find in preparing a grape fruit that the coarse center is easily removed by taking a pair of scissors and clipping the cords to make a cup-like center for the sugar.—R. S., Suisun City, Cal.

A serviceable and inexpensive cushion can be made by folding an old comfort into any size desired, and covering it with flowered brocade or white duck. These make excellent cushions for porch swing or lawn bench in summer.—C. M. B., Centralia, Ill.

In cooking a bird in the oven, roast it in the usual way until nicely browned; then, turn it back upward and let it remain so until done. This causes the gravy to run into the breast, making it deliciously soft and tender.—M. T., East Oakland, Cal.

One of the best ways to have a rich garden spot is to divide the garden into two parts, keeping chickens on one side and growing vegetables on the other, and reversing them the next year. By this plan the garden is kept fertile, and the produce is nearly as great as when the whole lot is used.—Mrs. M. G. M., Dorchester, Mass.



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