

MANY DIE IN FIRE.

Guests of Big New York Hotel Caught in Death Trap.

SCENE OF WILD PANIC

Nearly a Score of People Are Killed and Forty-two Injured.

Fashionable Gotham Hostelry, Crowded with Guests and Sightseers, Burns—Rapid Spread of Flames Cuts Off Escape—by the Elevators and Stairways—Men and Women Leap from Windows of Upper Floors to an Awful Death.

The Windsor Hotel, occupying a square on Fifth avenue, between Forty-sixth and Forty-seventh streets, in New York, for nearly thirty years one of the most famous hotels in this country, if not in the world, was completely destroyed by fire Friday afternoon, and at least eighteen persons were burned to death, and probably more than half a hundred were injured. There were rescued by the score, some of them the most thrilling imaginable. Among the rescued were Mrs. Abner McKinley, wife of the brother of the President; their daughter, and Miss Helen McKinley, the sister of the President.

From the roof and windows, from the fire escapes and cornices, frenzied men and women threw themselves to the pavement five, six, seven stories below. Bewildered guests within the roaring furnace were carried down to death by falling walls, and all the while 50,000 human beings watched the tragedy.



THE FATEFUL WINDSOR HOTEL, NEW YORK.

Massed into solid lines, men and women filled side streets, avenues and doorsteps, here to watch the parade of the day, but lured to witness the most gruesome fire New York has ever known.

The roll of dead is long. Private homes around the place of sacrifice became field hospitals—spacious mansions, including the Jay Gould home, were made temporary morgues.

John Foy, a waiter employed at the Windsor Hotel, in a statement made after the fire to Coroner Bausch declared that the hotel was burned through the gross carelessness of a guest. The waiter was in a corridor of the second floor, walking toward 47th street, when he saw a man near the end of the corridor strike a match to light his cigar. The man threw the match to the floor and walked on without waiting to see that it had gone out. Foy noticed the action, and he also noticed that the match was still blazing when it left the man's hand. When the waiter reached the spot the lace curtains were ablaze. He tried to extinguish the flame, but it was quickly up the curtain and caught the woodwork. The carpet caught fire, and the walls seemed to burn like tinder. Foy gave the alarm and ran



WARREN F. LELAND.

Proprietor of the Burned Windsor Hotel, Made Insane by the Loss of His Wife and Daughter.

down stairs and out of the building to reach a fire-box.

An hour after the fire started the ruin was complete. At ten minutes after 3 o'clock the head of the parade reached 46th street and Fifth avenue, opposite the Windsor. An instant later a policeman saw a tiny blaze and a puff of smoke in a bow window in the drawing room on the second floor, on the 46th street side. He returned in an alarm. Before he could return to the hotel the drawing room was a sheet of flames. The room had been crowded with guests watching the parade. When the curtain ignited—for that is said to have been the start of the fire—instant panic came over all. Men and women fled to the stairways and the flames leaped after them. Up the stairs and elevators sped the guests—up air and light shafts raced the flames.

In an incredibly short time the whole building was enveloped in dull, roaring tongues of fire and heavy stifling smoke. It seems as if the fire must have been burning under the floor and in the walls, for on no other hypothesis can the suddenness of its spreading be accounted for.

The width of the corridors made it easy to run, and the guests filled them in their rush for the streets. The elevators, although they were run until aflame,

brought comparatively few down in safety. The road out of the death trap was down the splendid marble stairs. And down these stairs poured a terrified procession.

Meanwhile through the tangled mob outside the fire engines had forced their way. It was after the first wild rush that swept so many to safety down the broad staircase that the most awful events of the great fire occurred. All of the women had not sprung from their rooms with the first alarm. Some had stopped to dress, some to gather their most precious belongings. And these were doomed. Then, too, there were sick persons in the house, bedridden men and women. When these belated ones got into the corridors they were for the most part bounded by walls of fire.

Up the great central well roared the flames. Right at the stairways, the logical and accustomed avenues to the streets, were the terrible sentries, curling and swirling with threats to all who dared to pass that dread picket line. Then these belated guests took to the fire escapes, throwing open windows and reaching their arms out to the sea of people who groaned below.

Many of those who came to the windows were saved at last by daring firemen and citizens. But the fire was too swift, the time too short. While the firemen were helping some to safety, others felt the touch of the red hand upon them from behind, and threw themselves from the windows. The firemen displayed the utmost heroism and daring in saving life at the most imminent risk.

The Windsor was the resort and dwelling place of rich people, and there may have been half a million dollars' worth of jewels alone lost by the women who lived there. Among the dead are the wives of millionaires, as well as the maids, who were shut off in the top story. Abner McKinley, brother of the President of the United States, with his wife and daughter, Miss Mabel McKinley, occupied a suite of rooms on the ground floor of the hotel.

Among the dead are Mrs. Warren Leland, wife of the Windsor's proprietor, and her daughter, Miss Helen Leland, and Mrs. James S. Kirk, widow of the millionaire soap manufacturer of Chicago.

Panics Within, Panics Without.

The fire occurred in the middle of the afternoon, when Fifth avenue was jam-

med with people from curb line to house line, and from curb to curb with St. Patrick's Day paraders. To this fact is due, perhaps, some of the loss of life and a good deal of the serious injury to persons, for the crowd interfered with the police and the firemen; but so suddenly did the fire start, and so quickly did it sweep through the big hotel from floor to floor, from street to roof, from side to side, if there had been no crowd there, and nothing to hamper the work of the officials, there would still have been many accidents and some fatalities. With such awful rapidity did the fire spread, once it started, that people no higher up in the building than the floor above the street had to fly for their lives. Only by a search of the ruins will the extent of the disaster be known, and so complete was the wreck wrought by the fire that this will be a long and tedious work.

The fire started, according to the best information, in a dining room. It was due, it is almost certain, to the careless tossing of a match into a lace curtain. Before an alarm could be sent in to the fire department the building was doomed. Had it taken a tinder box the fire could not have taken hold quicker and completed the work of demolition in less time. Yet the building has been called fireproof. It was fitted, according to the building and fire officials, with all of the equipment for use in case of fire that the law requires. It had sufficient fire escapes and the halls were equipped with electric alarms and with colored globes that should have shown everybody how to reach the escapes. Yet they might almost as well not have been there, for of all the persons rescued not more than half a dozen were taken down by means of the fire escapes, while scores jumped or slid down murderous ropes and ladders, which burned their hands and compelled them to drop many feet above the street.

Within two hours of the discovery of the fire the hotel itself was a total wreck, and the walls had fallen out on every side except the eastern side, where adjoining buildings shored them up. Those two hours were as full of thrilling incidents as any that Fifth avenue ever witnessed. Over 25,000, and perhaps 50,000, people were jammed together in the smallest space that they could be jammed in, and they saw women and children and men leaping from the windows of the hotel. They saw firemen climbing up the outer walls with scaling ladders and bringing down panic-stricken and often struggling women. They saw rescues almost without number, and they cheered the firemen as they worked. For a time the mob swamped the police and surged back and forth through the streets, now rushing to see this unfortunate falling to death, now to witness another caught in the life nets by the firemen, and again to look in horror upon another impaled on the iron railings that surrounded the hotel, or dashed to death on the huge iron flower urns.

This mob was as panic-stricken almost as the people in the hotel. They screamed as unfortunate after unfortunate leaped out; they mingled their cheers now and again with the cries for aid of the people who did not jump.

The loss on the hotel is estimated at about \$1,000,000. Several adjoining buildings were damaged considerably, but the loss on these is comparatively small. All the papers and books of the hotel are believed to have been saved.

ECKER TELLS ALL.

Kills His Wife with a Hatchet and Burns Her Body.

August A. Becker, the Chicago wife murderer, made a second confession to the police Tuesday night. In a detailed statement to Inspector Hunt he told of a crime so revolting that for some time even the police officials refused to believe it.

In the presence of Chief of Police Kipley, Inspector Hunt, Captain Lavin and Assistant State's Attorney Pearson the burly sausage maker broke down and said he had killed his wife by striking her on the head with a hatchet in the kitchen of his home. He then cut the body to pieces and boiled it in a large kettle. After watching the disintegration of the remains for several hours, and when nothing was left that resembled a human body Becker says he took what remained and burned it in a red-hot stove, the fire having been prepared by him. The bones, which would not burn, he buried on the prairie near his home.

Becker asserts the crime was not premeditated, but that he quarreled with his wife, and in the heat of passion he struck her on the head with the hatchet. Only one blow was needed to cause death and after that had been struck the sausage maker says he thought of the way to dispose of the remains of his wife in order to destroy all chance of detection.

August A. Becker killed his wife Jan. 27, but was not arrested for the murder until after he had married a 17-year-old girl named Ida Sutterlin. When Becker brought his wife home it caused gossip, which reached the ears of the police, and finally led to Becker's arrest. At first Becker denied having killed his wife, stating that she had left him and gone to Milwaukee. Under pressure he finally made a false confession, in which he said that he had pushed his wife into the lake at the foot of the Randolph street pier. This was not believed, and until Tuesday night the true story of how Becker killed his wife was not known.

TOOK 400 PRISONERS.

General Wheaton Inflicts Heavy Loss on Filipinos.

Gen. Lloyd Wheaton, commanding the United States flying column, attacked and defeated a force of 2,000 Filipinos at Pasig Wednesday afternoon, inflicting a heavy loss upon them. The American loss was slight. The Americans captured 350 Filipinos. Many bodies of rebels killed in the engagement floated down the river. Gen. Wheaton's brigade continues the work of clearing out the rebels around Pasig. The Washington volunteers captured and burned Pateros, meeting with a sharp fire from the enemy while crossing the river. The fighting was like that of the last week, the insurgents occasionally making a stand, but eventually fleeing. The progress of the Americans' advance has been slow.

Three thousand insurgents moved down Tuesday night to towns of Pasig and Pateros, on shore of Laguna bay, fronting Wheaton's troops on Pasig river line. By heavy fighting Wheaton dislodged and drove them back, taking 400 prisoners and inflicting heavy loss in killed and wounded. His loss was very moderate. He now occupies these towns with sufficient force to hold them.

Officials at the War Department are gratified over the victories of Gen. Wheaton, and predict further successful advances in the near future. It is understood that the policy of Gen. Otis is to drive the insurgents without cessation into the uncultivated region before the rainy season sets in. There they will have nothing to subsist on, and it is thought they will lay down their arms. This has been prevented heretofore by a general belief among them that they would be shot or imprisoned if they surrendered.



It has been determined to withdraw all the volunteer troops from Cuba with all possible dispatch, orders to this effect having been issued by the Secretary of War. There are two reasons for this decision, one being the reorganization of the army, and the other because the unsanitary conditions which will exist in Cuba at the beginning of the rainy season. It is expected to have all the volunteers out of the island within a month and certainly by May 1. There are now about 25,000 volunteers and when these are withdrawn regulars will not be sent to relieve them at once, as the President wishes to garrison Cuba with as small a number of troops as possible on account of the health conditions. This movement will begin at once and all the volunteers will be returned as soon as transports can be supplied. When the troops reach this country they will be mustered out at the port at which they arrive, and given two months' extra pay, together with their fare home.

The customs receipts of the government are climbing daily, according to the treasury bureau of statistics. They are now coming in at the rate of \$500,000 a day, or more than half the daily expenditures of the government, as shown by the records of the last few years. During the latter part of the year 1898 the war revenue tax brought in \$55,286,831; the duty on tea amounted to \$2,770,787, and the Pacific Railroad sales totaled \$14,841,401. All told the total receipts of the year 1898 were \$442,631,251.

Senator Fairbanks of Indiana was the recipient of a Spanish sword, gilt handle, Toledo blade, the gift of a grateful soldier whose discharge he had procured.

Under the new army bill there will be 101 second lieutenants appointed, and nearly 20,000 applications are already filed.

Colonel Charles L. Jewett, former Speaker of the Indiana Legislature, recently from Manila, where he went as judge advocate, expresses the opinion that the work of reducing the recalcitrant Filipinos is an arduous one and will require considerable time.

The grand reception of the Daughters of the American Revolution at Corcoran Art Gallery was a gala event of the Washington social season. Among those present were General Miles and Admiral Schley, who received an ovation.

JOSEPH MEDILL DEAD.

Veteran Chicago Newspaper Man Expires in San Antonio.

Joseph Medill, for almost half a century editor of the Chicago Tribune and former Mayor of Chicago, died at his winter home in San Antonio, Texas, Thursday. The great journalist was 76 years old, and the cause of death is assigned simply as old age, with its attendant weaknesses.

Mr. Medill decided last fall that he could not risk the severely cold weather in Chicago and went to San Antonio. The deaths of his wife and his favorite daughter, Josie, were shocks from which, it is believed, Mr. Medill never recovered and he had been growing perceptibly weaker for the last three years.

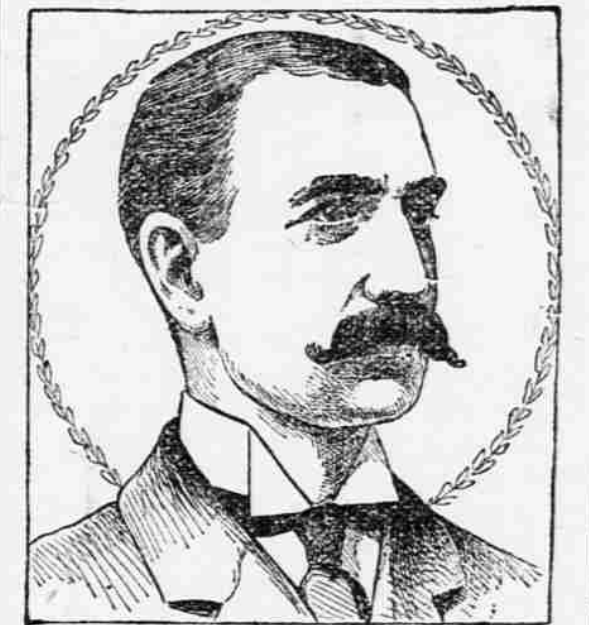
Joseph Medill was born in St. John, N. B., April 6, 1827. His parents, who were of Scotch-Irish descent, moved to Stark County, Ohio, in 1831, establishing themselves upon a small farm near Massillon. Joseph helped his father with the work and made his pocket money by getting up clubs of subscribers for the New York Weekly Tribune. In the winter and spring for several years he taught school. The law had great attractions for the young man and in 1846 he was admitted to the bar in New Philadelphia, Ohio.

Mr. Medill did not engage long in the practice of law. Becoming interested in politics and having a natural bent for writing he determined to enter journalism. In 1849 he bought the Coshocton Whig, which he renamed the Republican. It was a free-soil whig paper. In the winter of 1854-55 Mr. Medill sold his Ohio paper and, going to Chicago in May, bought a large interest in the Chicago Tribune, a paper which was then almost bankrupt. It was placed on a paying basis by the new owners. In 1874 Mr. Medill secured full control of the paper and through it made a fortune.

NEW LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS.

Herbert Putnam, Head of Boston's Public Library, Appointed.

Herbert Putnam of Boston, has been appointed congressional librarian by President McKinley. Since he became head of the Boston public library in 1895 that institution has been greatly improved—a high compliment to the librarian's merits, for Boston has always prided itself on its library. Mr. Putnam began his career as custodian of books in 1884, when he was called to Minneapolis to take charge of the Athenaeum Library in that city. When



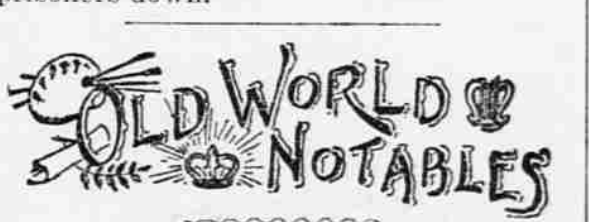
HERBERT PUTNAM.

Minneapolis created her public library the books of the Athenaeum were used as a nucleus. There were but 12,000 volumes in the collection. Seven years of labor on Mr. Putnam's part swelled the number to 50,000 choice books and lifted the new library to the fifth place in circulation among the concerns of its kind in America. The new director of the National Library is a lawyer and a man of high culture. He knows not merely the titles of books, but their contents, too. He is not yet 40 years old.

NINE NEGROES SHOT.

Bloody Work of a Masked Mob of Whites at Palmetto, Ga.

Early Thursday morning a mob of masked men stormed a little house used as a jail at Palmetto, Ga., and shot nine negroes. Four were killed outright and the other five were badly wounded. There was great excitement and Gov. Chandler was called on for troops, the militia from Atlanta arriving about 11 o'clock. Two fires of incendiary origin have lately occurred. Fourteen business houses in all were destroyed. Nine negroes were arrested on suspicion and taken to Johnson's warehouse to await preliminary trial. The mob rode into the town about 1 o'clock. The little house was near the center of the town. The guard was called upon to turn over the nine negroes held there for trial on the charge of arson. Upon his refusal he and his assistants were quickly overpowered. The negroes begged for mercy to the leaders, but the appeals were passed over, and drawing guns those of the mob who managed to get inside the building quickly shot the prisoners down.



Lord Salisbury was the first English premier to visit Australia.

Gen. Sir Arthur Cotton is one of England's oldest soldiers, being in his 97th year.

The Prince of Wales' breakfast never varies. It always consists of tea, toast and one egg.

Prof. Blumentritt, through whom Aguirre and his colleagues have been making their cause known to Europe, is a member of the faculty of an Austrian university, and has made a thirty years' study of the Philippine archipelago and its history.

Don Carlos has taken a curious and striking advantage of the foreign "post-card craze" to further his cause, having had some printed with portraits of himself and his wife, with facsimile signatures below, under which communications are written.

Count and Countess Boni de Castellane have just leased for three years, with the option of purchase, the Chateau de Marins, belonging to the Duc de Noailles. Three million dollars will be spent in restoring the estate.

Queen Victoria possesses two of the oldest watches in the world. Both have silver dials, and are about as large as half a crown, one being a blind man's watch and the other a repeater.

Mr. Hall Caine shows that carelessness permitted to genius in his dress, but London has few more handsomely gowned women than Mrs. Caine.

TWINS MURDERED BY LAW.

According to African Superstition Their Birth Proves Witchcraft.

Miss Slessor, of the United Presbyterian mission at Old Calabar, was a passenger on the Elde Dempster liner Orion, which left Liverpool recently, and had with her four black children whose case reveal a painful part of West African history. Miss Slessor has now worked for twenty-two years in Old Calabar. The children are aged, respectively, 2, 3, 5 and 16 years, and each is one of twins appointed at one time to die, in accordance with a superstitious custom prevailing in the Niger coast protectorate.

In the course of an interview Miss Slessor said that all twins born were, according to the native laws, to be put immediately to death, and it is only those who have been rescued by the missionaries and placed beyond the reach of the native power who have so far escaped. The children in the Orion were four of these. Altogether, Miss Slessor has herself saved the lives of fifty-one twins.

When the twins are born they are at once taken from the mother, and, if no one interferes, they are taken by the feet and head and have their backs broken across a native woman's knee, in the same way as one would break a stick. The bodies are then placed in an earthenware receptacle and taken to the bush, where they are devoured by the flies, insects or animals. Sometimes the little victims are put in these receptacles alive, and are then eaten alive in the same way. The mother becomes an outcast. If she does not at once take her own life, she has to flee to the bush. If she ventures near the town or village, she must see that she does not remain in the path when any other native is coming. Her presence, according to the superstition, would defile the place for others. She must not drink from the same spring, must not touch anything even belonging to her own relatives, and there is little cause for wonder that she takes away her life, which has become a living death.

Miss Slessor is accompanied on the Orion by Miss McIntosh, and together they are going to establish a home for these native twins. The natives' superstition is that the birth of twins is the result of witchcraft and devilry. Formerly the mother, as well as the children, was put to death. The intervention of the white missionaries and traders had saved her life. Miss Slessor said: "It is really impossible to at once put an end to the horrible native customs. There could be no better governors than we have at present. Sir Ralph Moor and Sir Claude Macdonald have helped us all they can. We don't want them to kill the natives, to make them abolish the shocking practice. We hope by saving the children and bringing them up like other children to show the natives that they are wrong in their belief. It is their religious belief that makes them kill their children."—London Chronicle.

LUCKY DEUCE OF SPADES.

Remarkable Run of Luck, but All for the Other Man.

One by one the old superstitions are being torn from us. People nowadays walk ostentatiously under ladders and suffer no evil consequences. Friday is quite a popular day for the commencement of a long journey, and sitting down thirteen at dinner is frequently unattended with untoward results. A deeply rooted superstition among card players is a belief in the lucky properties of the two of spades. The present writer's faith, however, was severely shaken by a phenomenal coincidence which occurred only a few days ago.

Sitting down to a game of whist, he thoroughly shuffled both packs of cards, and happened to notice that the two of spades was the bottom card of one of the two packs.

"This ought to bring me luck," he remarked to his friends.

He then took up the second pack, and was astonished to find that the two of spades was also at the bottom of that. Words failed to express his amazement when, in drawing for partners and deal—the cards had been shuffled again—he once more drew the two of spades.

The odds against this triple event occurring must be enormous, but more was to follow. The deal fell to the writer, and the turn-up card was the inevitable two of spades!

After this the dealer felt justified in believing he was in for a good evening. As a matter of fact, he lost six rubbers in succession.—London Mail.

Mr. Gladstone's Nose.

Lord Sherbrooke, when Mr. Lowe, displayed a classical clearness and brightness of speech. When he was contemptuous his sentences had teeth in them, which left their mark upon the mind. In the gray of a morning in 1868, when the Liberals had deserted Mr. Gladstone, and left him with only a majority of five on a question of state, Mr. Gladstone, with his usual high spirit, at once resigned. The alarmed deserters thought they might reassure him by a vote of confidence in him, and as Mr. Lowe emerged into the lobby they asked his opinion of the idea. His answer was, "I think, gentlemen, that you cannot unplug a man's nose," which ended that project.

He Stood Corrected.

"I sentence the prisoner to be lynch-ed," said the rural justice.

"But you can't do that, yer honor," objected the lawyer for the defense.

"Come to think of it," said the justice, "you air right; fer my balliff informs me they ain't three yards o' ropo in town!"—Atlanta Constitution.

Invention of the Ballet.

The ballet is said to have been invented by the Duchess of Maine in Paris.



How to Remove Stains.

Ink.—Dip in boiling water, rub with saits of sored and rinse well.

Blood.—Soak in cold water. For tickling and thick goods make a thick paste of starch and water. Leave till dry and brush off.

Scorch.—Dip in soapuds and lay in the sun. If fibers are not much injured, dip repeatedly in saturated solution of borax and rinse.

Paint.—Turpentine for coarse goods, benzine or naphtha for fine.

Grease.—Moisten with strong ammonia water, lay blotting paper over and iron dry. If silk, use chloroform to restore color or cover with powdered French chalk and iron.

Fruit.—Boiling water as above. If ineffectual, rub with a solution of oxalic acid and rinse in warm water.

Coffee.—Lay the stained portion of the cloth over a bowl and pour boiling water through it.

To Wash Blankets.

It is not compatible with sanitary principles to have blankets that are constantly slept under dry-cleaned; they should be washed. Cut in fine pieces some good soap and boil to a jelly with soft water. Put some of the boiled soap in warm soft water, to which add two large tablespoonfuls of borax, this being to every tub of water. This makes good lather, in which give the blankets two washings, after which rinse them in plenty of warm water, slightly blueed. Wring out thoroughly, giving a vigorous shaking and hang out to dry. Take them in if weather is inclement, place them in the clothes basket, cover with a cloth and stand in kitchen. They should be given four or five days of sunshine that they may be thoroughly dried.—Epitomisit.

Oatmeal Scones.

These are largely used by the Scotch peasantry in place of bread, and are baked on a griddle suspended over an open fire. A frying pan over a slow fire may be substituted for a griddle. Take two pounds of oatmeal, a tablespoonful of salt, a tablespoonful of lard and enough water to make a stiff dough. Rub the lard into the oatmeal and add the salt and water. In rolling, the palm of the hand should be used instead of a rolling pin. Press the dough into a round cake about a quarter of an inch thick, cut into segments and cook on the griddle until a light brown. Oatmeal scones properly prepared will keep for weeks.

Stuffed Cabbage.

Scald the cabbage until the bones lose their crispness. Open the heart to the very center. Have nearby a cupful of rice; add a cupful of chopped meat, and season with salt and pepper. Put a teaspoonful of this mixture in the center of the cabbage; fold over the first little leaves, then add another layer of the mixture and fold over the second leaves and so on. Tie in a piece of cheese cloth and throw in boiling water (with a little salt), simmer gently one hour, remove the cheese cloth, drain dish and pour over a pint of cream sauce or drain butter sauce.

Oysters a la Ponlette.

Put three dozen freshly opened oysters in a saucepan, with a pint of their own liquor carefully strained. Add one ounce of butter, half a teaspoonful of salt and the same quantity of black pepper. Parboil for three minutes, gradually stirring in a half-pint of Hollandaise sauce, and stew for two minutes, being careful not to allow it to boil. Before removing the oysters from the range, put in a teaspoonful of chopped parsley and the juice of half a lemon. Then stir slightly and serve.

Baked Prune Pudding.

Stone half a pound of prunes or dates and chop fine. Add half a cupful of almonds bleached and chopped, and the crumbs of a quarter of a loaf of bread. Beat one egg well, soften a heaping tablespoonful of butter, and add sweetening as desired. Put in a buttered pudding dish and fill it up with milk, stirring carefully. Cover and bake three-quarters of an hour, then let it brown and serve with sugar and cream, or any kind of pudding sauce.

Home Made Ginzer Ale.

A simple way of making plain ginger ale is to boil fresh ginger root in water, one ounce of the root to each gallon of water. Just as you take it from the fire, and after it is quite spicy, add the graded yellow rind of half a lemon. When cold, strain; add to each gallon a pound of sugar and the spice of two lemons. Dissolve half a yeast cake, add it to the mixture and let it ferment for about three hours. Bottle, cork, and the down the corks.—Ladies' Home Journal.

Steak Smothered with Onions.

Have ready a sufficient quantity of sliced onions, and when the steak is removed from the spider turn the onions into it at once, covering it closely to let the vegetables cook in the grease and their own juice. Set the platter of meat into the oven to keep warm. The onions will cook in five minutes and may then be turned over the meat on the platter. Send to the table at once.

Fat Spinach.

It is claimed that spinach is the most healthful of all vegetables, and possesses great medicinal and strengthening properties. The salts of potassium in it give it emollient and laxative virtues. It is said to be excellent for the liver, and freshens the complexion. Spinach is also used as a part in some of the modern popular tonics.