

'POSSUMS FOR SALE.

ONLY A FEW FOUND IN THE NEW YORK MARKET.

An Old Darkey Talks About the Favorite Dish that Tickles the Palate of His Folks Loving Race, and Tells How to Cook It.

A reporter was leaning against a popular stall in the Washington market recently, when a countryman came along with a small bag swung across his broad shoulders. He paused before the stall and eyed the bulky form of the ponderous marketman with a twinkle in his eye which proclaimed that he was not a stranger to the man he finally winked at. The huge butcher returned the silent greeting with the humorous stoicism of his tribe, and, after a decorous pause, remarked with a satisfied blandness he did not attempt to conceal:

"Ah! I see you've got 'em."

"Yes; I've got 'em," replied the countryman, "an' they's jes' th' purtiest critters you ever lay y'r eyes 'pon."

The countryman slowly shifted the bag from his shoulder to the floor, and then thrust his ample right hand into it, but with the measured slowness which denoted long practice in the art of subjecting haste to science. Slowly he drew his hand out of the bag and held up a large animal by a long, clean, white tail. The animal looked like a pig, and it didn't. It had iron gray hair all over it in thin patches. It was remarkably fat. The countryman repeated the operation until three of the animals lay upon the stall. The butcher gazed at them with admiration. Then turned them over and over. Then held them up, one at a time, by the long tail, and finally dumped them in the scales, one at a time. When he had finished he went to his drawer and produced a silver dollar, which he handed to the countryman, who took the coin and went his way, only a grunt of satisfaction disclosing that he was amply satisfied.

"Opossum, eh?" said the reporter.

"Yes, and mighty fine ones they are; plump as they can be, and first class in every way," said the butcher.

"Who buys them?"

"Who buys 'em?" exclaimed the butcher. "Why, my dear fellow, them 'possums won't hang on them pegs twenty minits by my watch. Every colored man what comes along this way will see them 'possums the minit he strikes the entrance, and he'll make a break for my stall. There's nothing in this market in the meat line a colored man 'll buy as long as one of them animals is around."

"You make good profits on them?"

"Well, you see, I take all that John brings; and not all the butchers care 'bout botherin' with 'em. They don't ornament a stall to kill, you know."

The reporter could not subscribe to this sentiment, but before he had time to remark he caught sight of an aged African bearing down upon the stall with all the expedition his years would allow.

"How much fur dis, boss?" he said, grabbing the largest opossum by the tail.

"Sold!" said the butcher, with emphasis.

"Sol! Great Scott!" exclaimed the African, with lamentation in his voice and consternation in his looks. "You don't sol' em, eh? Too bad! I don't set my heart on dat 'possum. Y' can't lemme have 'em!"

"No. He's sold; sold him before I got him."

"But you ain't don' sol' dis one?" said the customer, seizing the next in size with a look of defiance.

"No; that one's for sale."

Before the conversation had proceeded further another ancient representative of Ham had come upon the scene and was waiting his turn. He looked upon the second prize with a longing eye, and the reporter could see that he was anxious to compete for the possession of it.

"How much does y'r want fur it?" asked the first customer, eyeing the second comer with volumes of distrust.

"I want seventy-five American pennies with Pocahontas stamped on the back," said the butcher, with a wave of his hand.

"'Til gin y'r dollar, boss," said the second comer.

"No, y'r won't do no sich, Mr. Smartie," exclaimed the first customer. "Dat's my 'possum, an' I'm gwinter have 'im, an' y'r needn't let y'r mouff juice up ober de hopes ob gittin' 'im." The man held the opossum firmly in his strong grasp with his right hand while he skimmed in all his pockets for his money. After a while he produced the required pennies and said with lofty mien: "Dat's y'r money, sah, Pocahontas an' all."

The second customer said nothing, but ascertaining that the remaining opossum could be had for fifty cents, paid down the tariff and shuffled off, casting upon the first customer, however, a glance which looked like a razor in the sharpness of its direct view and in the bluntness of it in its sidewise sweep.

"Tell the gentleman here something about the 'possum, Uncle Jack," said the butcher.

"Cert'ly," said Uncle Jack, with a chuckle. "I's been buyin' 'possums from y'r more'n five year, an' it's I guess it am. An' mighty nice 'possums dey is, ter be sho'. But they don't hol' er candle light ter 'possums in de lan' where I was fotch up. I cums from ole Virginny, were de 'possums grow on de 'simmon trees."

"I see. Your mind goes back to the good old days before the war. You can't forget those days, even here in New York, eh?"

"Well, I mout fergit de days, but I can't fergit de 'possums," said Uncle Jack, and there was a levity in his voice which indicated that the sly old fox knew a thing or two.

"Well, tell us all about it. Tell us how you cook the opossum," said the reporter.

"How you cook 'em, boss? Dat's a fine quest'n. De people up dis way doan know nuffin 'bout cookin' er 'possum. Dey goes 'bout it like dey want de 'possum ter swim erway in grease. W'y, look at dat 'possum. Do he look like he want eny mo' grease ter cook he'self in it? An' den dey go skin de 'possum!" And Uncle Jack burst out in a fit of laughter which was simply indescribable.

"Lemme tell y'r how y'r do it. Y'r tek de 'possum an' hold 'im ober a fire mek of corn shucks till y'r dun singe all de ha'r off him. Den y'r scrape 'im wid a dull case knife; an' den y'r put 'im in hot water, jes' like y'r do er pig. By dat time he be clean an' white. Den y'r clean 'im jes' like y'r wold a pig. But now comes de pint. Ye mek y'r stuffin' in dis way: Tek er loaf ob corn pone an' brek it up fine. Den y'r cut up two red in-yuns; den cut up two red peppers; mix dis up nice an' put it inside de 'possum, careful like. Den put 'im in er big oleen and wedge 'im all round wid big sweet potatoes. Put de led on de oleen, an' put oak coals under it an' on top on it. Den let de 'possum stay dere till 'im be cooked brown all ober. When he done, L-o-r, w-at er dish!"—New York Sun.

By using soda water as a wash you can clean ceilings that have been smoked by a kerosene lamp.

Altering a note in any manner by the holder makes it void.

WHAT SHALL WE WEAR?

ENGLISH HATS FOR OUTDOOR SPORTS AND FOR TRAVELING.

Reception and Dinner Gowns—Full Dress Toilets Worn in New York—Stylish French Fashions Designed for Boys and Girls.

The costume with jacket bodies for girls of 6 to 8 years of age, here illustrated, has fronts cut in one piece with the pocket tabs. It opens like a jacket over a full waistcoat, the lining of which is 11-12 inches long, while the staff part, gathered 2 inches high at the neck, is 17-18 long and 14-15 inches wide. A box plait 12-13 inches wide is laid in front to serve as a foundation for the buttons closing the waistcoat. The turndown collar cut in one with the revers is 2-3-4 inches deep at the back. The standup collar is 2-1-4 inches high. The skirt, which is 13 inches long and 2 yards 28 inches wide, is laid in box plaits 2 inches wide and embroidered in fancy stitches like the cuffs and plait on the waistcoat. The staff sash is 12 inches wide and is tied in a bow at the back.



COSTUME FOR GIRL—SUIT FOR BOY.

The model suit for boys of 10 or 12 years of age, shown in the same cut, is of fine twilled blue cloth, trimmed with an anchor embroidered in blue and blue buttons. The trousers closed in front are buttoned on to braces; the inner leg seam is made the whole length, the outer one only downward as far as the knee, and buttoned from here. A piece of elastic is run into the lower hem of the blouse, lined with cloth to draw it in at the waist. The chemise, made of white cloth, is caught into the shoulder seam, set under the front on the left side and hooked under the same on the right one. From under the sailor collar, set into the neck opening, appear two ends of cloth, each 1-5-8 inches in width and 3-4 inches long, which are tied in a sailor's knot.

Full Dress Toilets.

Demi-trained skirts are in favor in New York this winter for afternoon reception dresses and dinner gowns. The fronts are made in Directoire style, flat from belt to foot, without hip drapery, and are laid in irregular plaits, that in the middle being broader than all the others. A broad trimming crosses the foot, and may consist of a ruche or pink flounces, but is more often a broad border woven in the three breadths of the front and sides, or else it is of very rich lace or passamenterie placed flat, with its scalloped or pointed edge turned upward. Figured fabrics, either broadened or striped, are very fashionable for the full straight breadths of the demi-train. The corsage is cut with a V point in the back of the neck, and round in U shape in front. The sleeves are slightly longer on the newest dresses of brocade or faille or velvet, and may consist of a soft long puff, or else they are plain to the elbows, and a Watteau frill falling toward the hand is added of lace or of lisse, made wider below the arm and quite short inside the elbow.

Gowns of tulle in quaint colors are worn at the balls, and are much trimmed with flowers, or else with ornaments of silver or gilt in form of leaves and vines. The skirts are made the correct dancing length, just resting on the floor. In some of these gowns the skirt is laid in wide plaits from belt to foot; in others the back breadths hang straight and full.—Harper's Bazar.

Lingerie for Tailor Gowns.

It is the correct style to wear plain linen, or fancy cambric collars and cuffs, with all the tailor made dresses and gowns of similar kinds. Nothing looks more incongruous with cloth, or materials of that class, than lace or frills of transparent materials at the throat and wrists. The lessening of the height of the upright collars, too, is a considerable help to the introduction of pretty little collars of embroidery and lace, while with dresses of velvet and other rich materials, large collars and deep cuffs, of rich embroideries or valuable laces, are being worn by several leaders of society.

English Styles in Hats.

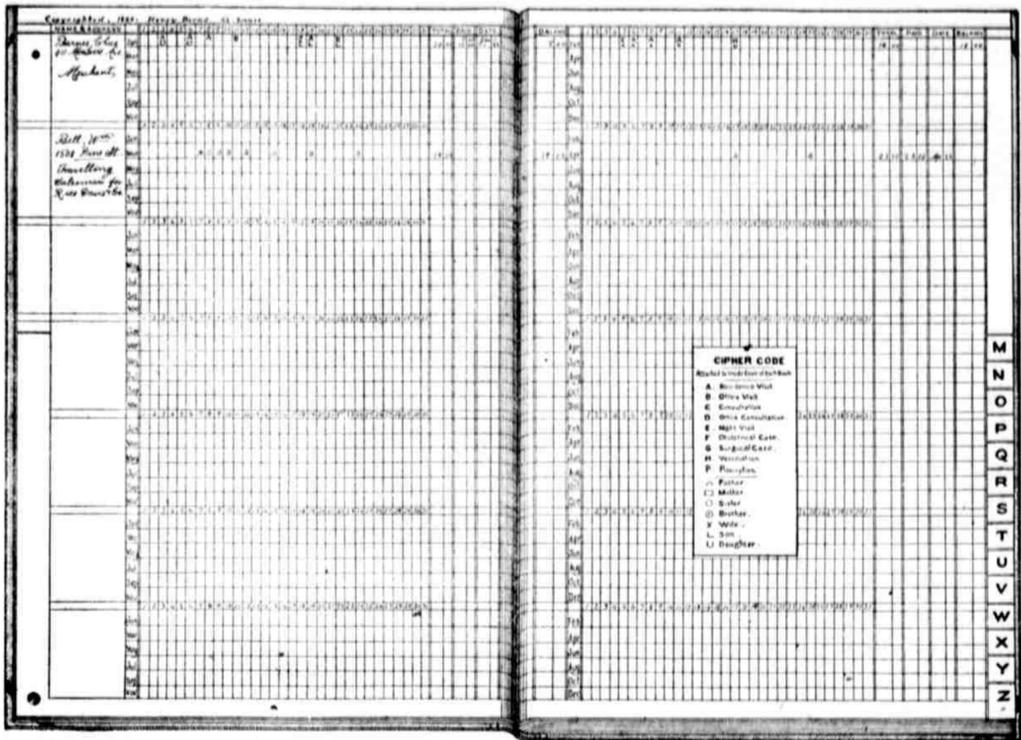
English hats, like Parisian bonnets, have many admirers, and our readers will doubtless welcome the models illustrated in the cut, for these give three entirely different fashions.



ENGLISH STYLES.

The hat at the top of the illustration represents a beaver felt, which is again popular. These beaver hats are not only appreciated on account of their exceedingly light weight, but are essentially a winter head-dress, and therefore in keeping with midwinter weather. The seal turban with feather trimming at one side, is quite a new shape and affords an admirable hat for outdoor sports as well as for wearing with a seal garment on the promenade. The third model is a soft felt traveling hat with a trimming of waterproof silk galoon. This hat is ventilated by small apertures under the garniture. It need hardly be told that it is one of the most comfortable head-dresses for the purpose designed.

A BOOM TO PHYSICIANS.
Bernd's Physician Office Register



The above cut shows Register open. The book is prepared with especial reference to improving the system of recording calls, visits, etc. It is complete, simple comprehensive, and as a labor saving method of keeping accounts, will at once commend itself to every Physician in the land. Your attention is called to the fact that the account against a patient FOR AN ENTIRE YEAR is contained within a space three inches in width.

This book is 12x17 inches; contains 100 pages; each page divided into 7 spaces, thus providing for 700 accounts, contains a condensed cash account showing (on one page) cash receipts from both "regular" and "transient" patients for each day in the year, besides 4 additional ruled pages for memoranda, such as the address of nurses, "future engagements" "private consultations," etc., etc. The book is alphabetically indexed on linen tabs, substantially bound Russia back and corners, cloth sides, spring back, and neatly finished.

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- 5th. The price is far below the cost of keeping accounts in the old style, viz: Visiting List, Journal and Ledger—this book combining all three.

This cut shows book open, with example similar to that shown above. Cipher code is embossed in gilt on inside of cover. The Register when closed is 4x7 inches, convenient size to carry in pocket.

The lines of the short leaf are adjusted to the long. When the short leaf is turned to the right, the first half year is visible. The Book is Gilt Edged, bound in Black Seal—flexible—with inside pocket and elastic tablet. Contains condensed cash account, showing at a glance Receipts from Regular and Transient Patients for entire year—besides eight Memorandum Pages, Pencil and Holder, and is closed by a Silk Elastic Band.

Extracts from a Few of the Many Letters Received,

I am gratified to say that for the first time in long years of practice, I am able to keep my accounts without having to suffer the drudgery of cumbersome book keeping.—Dr. H. Tuholse, St. Louis.

It is just the thing I want.—Dr. G. Swan, Hartford, Connecticut.

The book is a treasure to any busy Doctor, it saves an amount of tedious work at the end of the month which is particularly agreeable.—Dr. E. A. Chapoton, Detroit, Michigan.

I have lost enough this A. M. to pay for the book, having to make out an account in haste.—Dr. Jno. Boardman, Buffalo, N.Y.

It is by far the most complete work of its kind I have ever met with—shall take pleasure in recommending it to my friends in the profession.—Dr. S. H. Chester, Kansas City, Missouri.

I regard it as the only Register in use adapted to the Physician's requirements.—Dr. J. T. Kent, St. Louis, Missouri.

For the past fifteen years I have used several kinds of Registers, all very good, but none beginning to compare with that purchased from you.—Dr. W. C. Barker, Hummelstown, Pennsylvania.

I have found it useful and exceedingly convenient.—Dr. Benj. T. Shimwell, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

I must congratulate you on the introduction of such a perfect method—every member of the profession should extend to you their appreciation by adopting the same.—Dr. Wm. Bird, Chester, Pennsylvania.

I would not do without it for fifty dollars a year.—L. W. Clark, Rushville, Illinois.

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