

## HOW THEY MAKE TEA IN RUSSIA.

We are all inclined to suppose that the orthodox flavoring of tea is milk and sugar (where cream is a myth); but the Russians, the greatest tea drinkers in the world, think otherwise.

There the samovar or tea urn, as we find by two recent clever letter-writers, is indispensable to a Russian household. One of them tells us that the tea itself "is brought overland from China; thus preserving, as they claim, the peculiarly delicate flavor which a sea voyage is sure to destroy. It is very dear; the finer kinds costing from five to fifteen dollars a pound. As a general rule, the black teas are preferred, although a delicate green is in high favor with many, at sixteen silver roubles, or about twelve dollars a pound. There is a yellow tea at about the same price, which has a frightful effect upon one's nerves; green tea is a sedative compared with it. The beverage, black, green or yellow, is drunk with sugar, but without cream, a slice of lemon being substituted, and the tea sipped by spoonfuls.

"My first trial of this singular mixture was on board of a Russian steamer, where an enormous quantity was consumed at the morning and evening meals. It then seemed like spoiling lemonade and tea by mixing them; but I have since learned to like it very much—especially of a hot day, when the mercury stands, as it often does in St. Petersburg, at a hundred degrees in the shade. The profuse perspiration into which three or four glasses of tea puts one, is followed by a state of composure and coolness which all the ice-cream and cold soda-water in Boston would not produce.

"In the southern provinces *kirpitolenoi*, or brick tea, a composition of tea, herb and animal substances, formed into blocks like brick, is much used. When dissolved in boiling water, with milk and butter added, it forms a nutritious as well as a pleasant beverage for the humbler classes, and large quantities are imported for their use.

"The Russians drink their tea very weak, and the tea-pot is replenished with hot water by a native until a person accustomed to what is called tea in England or America begins to find the flavor of the lemon preponderate in his glass. Indeed, the drinking of strong tea at fifteen dollars a pound is rather an expensive luxury. But the higher grades are usually reserved for special occasions. The kinds in general use among the wealthy citizens of St. Petersburg are those averaging about four roubles or three dollars a pound; in the tea-houses a still lower quality is used, and in the dwellings of the poorer classes the cheap black tea at a rouble and a half is most in favor. The samovar keeps the table well supplied with hot water. It is an urn with a charcoal fire at the bottom, the heat from which, passing through a tube in the centre, boils the water and heats the tea-pot which rests upon its top. It is as common in Russia as a tea-kettle in the United States, and is certainly an ingenious and useful contrivance.

"The tea-houses here, like the bar-rooms in America, are of high and low degree. If you enter one of the better class, on the Nevskoi Prospect, you will find a large room, or series of rooms, with little tables, and invariably a picture of the Virgin and Child, or a saint, covered with a plate of gold or silver gilt, so as to leave only the face, hands and feet visible. If your companion be a Russian, he will bow low as he uncovers his head before it, and cross himself many times. Then you take your seat at one of the windows which look upon the street, and order your 'chi.' The waiter brings a portion of tea in a small tea-pot, a plentiful supply of hot water in another vessel,

glasses instead of cups, some slices of lemon and lumps of sugar, and then a plate of rolls of paper and tobacco for cigarettes. There is an organ which goes by clockwork in the corner, six feet broad and as high as the room. The waiter winds it up, and the Russian airs come rolling forth as you sit and sip your tea and smoke your cigarette (if you choose) and look out upon the strange sights in the great street before you; see the *moujiks* wearing their sheepskins, and the officers and private gentlemen their overcoats, with the sun blazing down upon them so that you almost expect to have them melt away before your eyes; watch the queer-looking equipages that come dashing by; the little boys in the carriages, with loose robe and girle and high top-boots, and the nurses in the showy national costume, which once a year the Empress puts on, that her subjects may see the highest lady in the land dressed like a Russian, and the officers in their brilliant uniforms, each sitting in his neat droskiy, with an extra horse cantering along by the side of the trotter in harness. Every minute there is a fresh novelty, and so the time passes quickly away."

## A LIST OF ARTICLES WE CAN SUPPLY.

GODEY'S Bijou Needle-Case, containing 100 very superior Diamond Drilled Eyed Needles. Price 25 cents, and one three cent stamp to pay postage, except to California, Oregon, or the British Provinces; for either of these places a ten cent stamp must be sent.

Godey's Pattern-Book of Embroideries. Price 25 cents.

Fresh Fruits all the year round, at Summer Prices, and how you may get them. Price 12 cents.

Every Lady her own Shoemaker. With diagrams. Price 50 cents.

Thirty of the most approved Receipts for Summer Beverages. Price 12 cents.

Gallery of Splendid Engravings, from Pictures by the first Masters. Price 50 cents each; four numbers now ready.

The Book of the Toilet. Price 25 cents.

How to Make a Dress. Price 25 cents.

The Nursery Basket; or, a Help to those who Wish to Help Themselves. With engravings. Price 50 cents.

Mrs. Hale's new Cook-Book. With numerous engravings. Price \$1 00.

Mrs. Hale's 4545 Receipts for the Million. Price \$1 25.

Godey's Curl Clasps. Twelve in a box. Nos. 1, 2, and 3. Price 75 cents, which covers the postage, except to California, Oregon, or the British Provinces. The price to cover postage to either of these places is, on No. 1, \$1 20; on No. 2, \$1 30; on No. 3, \$1 50.

Godey's Hair Crimpers. Each box contains twelve, of various sizes. Price 75 cents a box, which covers the postage, except to California, Oregon, or the British Provinces. The price to cover postage to either of these places is \$1 20.

Godey's Copying Paper, for copying Patterns of Embroidery, etc. Each package contains several colors. Price 25 cents. A ten cent stamp will be required to prepay postage on this to California, Oregon, or the British Provinces.

The Song Bird Fancier. Every lady who keeps birds should have this useful book. Price 25 cents.

Patent Needle Threaders. A valuable article. Price 25 cents.

Indestructible Pleasure Books for Children, with colored plates, printed on muslin, and cannot be torn. Price 25 cents each.

Mrs. Stephens's Crochet Book. Price 75 cents.