PLEASING THE PALATE

Important Part Played by the Eye.

It is a curious fact that yellow butter sells more readily than white butter.

Yet most people know quite well that pure butter, as the dairyman first obtains it, is not usually very yellow. Often it is white. The yellow color is frequently an addition made, in some harmless way, to please the public eye, writes a doctor in the Edinburgh Evening despatch.

I say most people know all this, and, knowing it, still go on craving for what is, in a sense, a faked article. The idea of yellow buttercups growing in lush meadows is too much for us. At any cost, even at the cost of self-deception, we must have these buttercups on our tables.

Exactly the same thing applies to whiskey, which, as is generally realised, is a "white" spirit. Someone, I believe, once put a white whiskey on the market—that is to say, pure whiskey. It was a hopeless failure.

The Value of Charm.

The yellow fields or ripe barley seem to be in the mind's eye of every whiskey drinker. And so all whiskey is artificially colored yellow.

One feels inclined, when reflecting on these facts, to laugh at human nature. But I am not so sure that such laughter is justified. There may be more sense in this craving for color than is generally realized.

For example, it is a fact that, in the dark, port wine and sherry taste exactly alike, so that even people experienced in wine-tasting cannot tell which is which. Yet, in the light, port tastes entirely different from sherry.

Is it the color which makes the difference? And, if that is so, are we entitled to say that the sense of taste is not confined entirely to the mouth, but is spread, also, over all the other senses?

Again, it is true enough that few people like to dring beer out of a tea-cup or tea out of a beer-mug, or wine out of a tumbler. But it is difficult to understand exactly why this should be so. The tea and the beer and the wine are the same, surely, however they may be drunk.

I rather think that the truth is that pleasure, in any of its forms, is a much more complicated business than most of us suppose. There is a mental side to pleasure as well as a physical side.

Even the food we eat must, if we are to enjoy it, tempt our minds as well as our palates. We must see it is something attractive and delightful before we eat it. Then, and only then, can we, in the common phrase, "bring our minds to it."

It is the mental vision of the buttercups which makes the yellow butter so appetizing; it is the yellow barley, ripe under the autumn sun, which gives the whiskey so alluring an appearance. In the same way a pretty tea or dinner table makes the tea or dinner served on it "taste twice as good."

I think, sometimes, that we would do well to remember this oftener than we do. Trouble spent on the appearance of food, on the way it is served and the way it is "put on," is not trouble wasted. On the contrary, not to take trouble is to waste food by making it appetising. It is, I am convinced, the meal we enjoy which nourishes us most.

Every meal, indeed, should charm by its setting and by its serving, just as much as it charms by its taste. Only so can the full powers of digestion be called into play.

In saying this I am not defending the use of coloring matters in food. I dislike all coloring matters and wish they could be avoided. What I am trying to make clear is that the demand for these colorings shows how eager we all are to eat with our minds and our instincts as well as with our mouths.

Koyo-Maru, Japanese oil tanker, caught fire, following an explosion at the Yokohama dockyard, when two were killed and many injured seriously.

Lightless Lighthouses.

Experiments are now being carried out by the British Government to test the efficiency of a new wireless "lighthouse" which, if it meets with the success anticipated, will not only supersede the form of lighthouse at present in use, but will materially add to the safety of seafaring men during fogs and storms.

It consists of a revolving wireless beam which can be picked up within fifty miles radius by any vessel carrying a receiving set. By its aid, after a simple calculation, any navigating officer will be able to find out his ship's exact bearing.

Signals of varied lengths and of different tones are sent out as the loop aerial revolves on its mast, and from these those within range can judge whether it is pointing in a northerly, southerly, westerly, or easterly direction. The receiving set gets the full strength of the signal when the aerial is pointing straight towards it and the minimum when the frame is sideways to it.

The advantages of these wireless "lighthouses" over the type with which we are familiar are obvious. Foremost among them is the matter of distance. No light, however powerful, could possibly be seen for a distance of fifty miles at sea, even under fair conditions, whereas the wireless "beam" will not only cover this long distance, but will be just as effective whatever the weather conditions may happen to be.

Experiments with the new apparatus are taking place at Gosport, near Portsmouth, and are under the direction of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. Should they be fruitful, it is possible that many of these lighthouses will spring up around Britain's coasts in the near future.

The Haughty Sweep.

The chimney sweep and his helper were cleaning out a flue of a fashionable residence when the former was moved to observe just a bit loftily: "These 'ere swells, now, what d'they know about how it feels to 'ave a good wash-up?"

Color of Gold.

The real color of pure gold, metallurgists say, is a deep orange, and not yellow. Ground into a fine powder gold becomes ruby red.

ARCTIC ISLANDS POLICE PATROL

Thousands of Miles Covered by Royal Canadian Mounted Police During Winter of 1925-26.

Reports received by Commissioner Cortlandt Starnes from the posts of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police on Baffin, Devon, and Ellesmere islands in the northeastern Arctic, show that the winter of 1925-26 was one of great activity, thousands of miles having been travelled in the various patrols made.

Two of these journeys were of special note. One was a patrol made by Staff Sergeant A. H. Joy from Craig Harbor around the southern and western shores of Ellesmere Island to Grethasoer Bay fiord and across Eureka sound to Axel Heiberg, the large island lying to the west of Ellesmere; it occupied 40 days and the distance traversed was 975 miles. The other was made by Sergeant J. E. F. Wight from Pangnirtung detachment in Cumberland gulf across the interior of Baffin island to Lake Harbor on the southern coast of the island, accounting for 1,286 miles of travel between Febraury 15 and May 2, 1926.

The first of these was a notable piece of travel, Axel Heiberg hitherto having been one of the most inaccessible of the Aretic islands; Staff Sergeant Joy travelled alone, save for an Eskimo dog-driver and hunter. It is expected that the new Mounted Police post at Bache peninsula will prove useful as a base from which patrols can be made of the northern portion of Ellesmere island, of Axel Heiberg and the islands farther west. Staff Sergeant Joy discovered that the western part of Ellesmere island abounds in game.

Sergeant Wight's long patrol took him through a country so little known that the latest maps proved to be inaccurate, as to the situation of several large lakes which it contains. He had to traverse regions unknown to his Eskimo companions.

In addition, numerous other patrols were undertaken. Jones sound was crossed repeatedly, the detachments at Craig Harbour on Ellesfere island and Dundas Harbor on Devon island visiting each other. The Mounted Police now have patrolled the whole of the seacoast of the southern half of Ellesmere island—the whole of the south coast, the east coast to Kane basin, and the west coast to Grethasoer Bay fiord. They also have patrolled part of the coast of Axel Heiberg; the northern and southern coasts of Devon island; and the whole of the north and east coasts of Baffin island, as well as parts of the south and west coast. The distance travelled by the two detachments on Baffin island was over 6,000 miles, while the Craig Harbor detachment on Ellesmere island had a mileage of 3,300—these figures being exclusive of the ground traversed in hunting trips.

Many dangers were faced by the men in their journeys over ground that in many cases was unknown. Thus Staff Sergeant Joy in descending a glacier to reach the southern coast of Devon island ran into a net-work of deep crevasses masked by light snow, discovering their existence by having his dog teams break through; one trace broke and the dog was not heard of again. When on Axel Heiberg both he and his companion suffered from snow-blindness.

Sergeant Wight's long patrol was for the purpose of investigating the alleged murder of an Eskimo several years ago. During his stay on south coast of Baffin island he visited a number of small bands of Eskimo, finding a good deal of destitution among some of these bands, and relieving their distress.

The Tough.

The teacher had been commenting on Jimmie's essay work. "If you would put in more of a personal touch I am sure you could do better," she said.

Jimmie's next essay ended as follows: "And by the way, teacher, could you spare me two bits?"

Meander is Name of River.

The word meander originates from the River Meander in Asia Minor, which has a slow and tortuous course.

Perfume of Orchids Varies.

Some orchids give off different scents by day and night.

NEW ZEALANDERS TRY PROFIT-SHARING

A HIGHLY INTERESTING SCHEME EXPLAINED.

Labor to Receive Part of Revenues of Industry Under New Experiment.

A highly interesting experiment is taking place in New Zealand, a country which has in the past been the home of so much advanced social and industrial legislation. As a result of the traditional differences between the two partners in industry, capital and labor, and the wasteful effect on the community of recurring strikes, the government has placed on the statute book an act entitled the companies empowering act, 1924, which enables any limited company, on taking the necessary authority in its memorandum of associations, to issue what are known as "labor" shares to all employees.

These labor shares have no nominal value, and do not form part of the capital of the company. They entitle the holder to attend and vote at meetings of shareholders and to share in the profits of the company, or in its assets in the event of its being wound up, to such an extent and in such manner as may be determined by the memorandum or articles of association, says a New Zealand banker in "The Westminster Gazette."

No scheme for the issue of labor shares, and no alteration in any scheme, is valid until the Court of Arbitration appointed under the Conciliation and Arbitration Act takes the necessary steps to ascertain the views of the company and its employees, and certifies that the proposals are favorable to the general body of workers. Both the company and its employees can appeal to the same court if the scheme has been violated or unfairly administered, or through changing circumstances works inequitably, and the court may revoke its certificate, in which case all labor shares are deemed to have been surrendered, and the company is obliged to pay at its option in cash or in capital shares the value of the labor shares computed in accordance with its regulations.

Significantly enough, the strongest opposition to the measure arose from the extreme Socialists and the Conservative capitalists. The former saw in a possible happy rapprochement between capital and labor the cessation of the class warfare on which they exist, and the disappearance of their raison d'etre, while the latter viewed the sharing of the employees in their traditional privileges with gloomy foreboding.

The act is a monument to the indefatigable zeal of H. Valder, partner in a New Zealand timber company, and joint author with F. Harty, of a pamphlet entitled "Britain's Industrial Problem." Mr. Valder believes that the whole of our industrial ills are due to the long-existing confusion in real values, and the material frame of mind which subordinates human service to property, and he argues that a permanent solution can only be reached through adherence to moral sanctions in all our business relationships.

He claims, therefore, that capital is not morally entitled to the exclusive control of industry, to which it has been accustomed, that it should be suitably rewarded at a fixed rate for use and risk, and that after payment of wages, salaries, materials, hire of capital, and all other costs of production, the surplus profits, if any, after providing for the usual reserves, should be divided between the contributors of service, from the managing director to the office boy, in proportion to the value of the service rendered.

It is contended that under the scheme embodied in the Empowering act the great latent reservoir of potential production, that of personal incentive, will be successfully tapped through the absolute identity of the interests of the employee and the company, that the human instincts for justice will be satisfied, and that the worker will gain an insight into the control and problems of industry, the understanding of which is one of the main factors in the development of the spirit of responsibility, enlightened interest and true co-operation.

No Par Value to Shares.

Mr. Valder's ideas are, of course, the basis of most of the profit-sharing schemes in this country, with this great difference, that the New Zealand plan provides for the creation of labor shares of no par value, thus avoiding any addition to capital, and that the holders of labor shares, which are acquired not for cash payments but through the contribution of service, have a voice in the control and direction of the enterprise that employs them.

No figures have yet been published as to how many companies have applied the act, but if the scheme is widely adopted, and the rates for the use and risk of capital are sufficiently generous to attract and hold adequate supplies of money, New Zealand will have made a most important contribution to the solution of our most baffling and ever-present problem, that of industrial peace.

Prayer of a Homely Woman.

"Lord, it matters not at all
That my poor home is ill-arranged and small;
I, not the house, am straitened: Lord, 'tis I!
Enlarge my foolish heart, that by and by
I may look up with such a radiant face
Thou shalt have glory even in this place.
And when I trip, or stumble unawares
In carrying water up these awkward stairs,
Then keep me sweet, and teach me day by day
To tread with patience Thy appointed way.
As for the house. . . . Lord, let it be my part
To walk within it with a perfect heart."

—Fay Inchfawn, in "Verse Book of a Homely Woman."

Plenty of Time.

Author (waiting to accompany his wife)—"Will you be very much longer, dear?"

"She—"No, darling, I've only got to powder my nose and put my hat on."

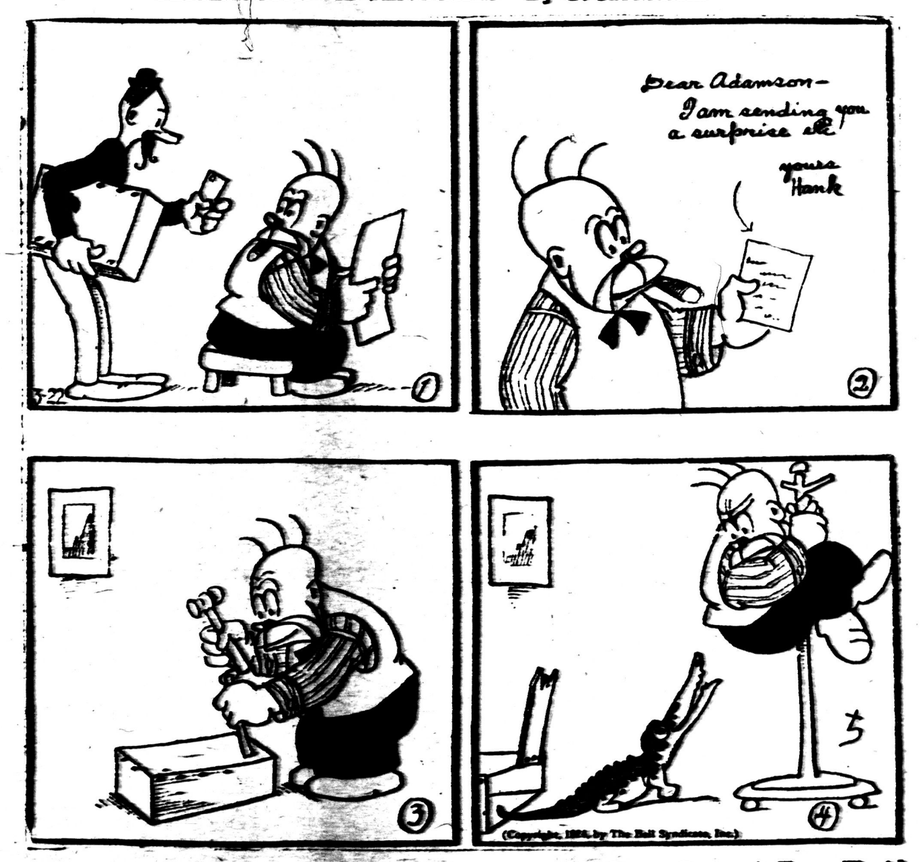
Author—"Oh, all right, I'll just write another chapter."

Long, Long Ago.

Lady Customer—"But are you sure this sugar bowl is a genuine antique?"

Salesman—"Certainly, madam. Why, it dates back to the time when sugar was twopence a pound!"

ADAMSON'S ADVENTURES—By O. Jacobsson.



He Gets a Souvenir From Florida.

Labor of Authorship.

David Livingstone said: "Those who have never carried a book through the press, can form no idea of the amount of toil it involves. The process has increased my respect for authors a thousandfold. I think I would rather cross the African continent again than undertake to write another book.

"For the statistics of the negro population of South America alone," says Robert Dale Owen, "I examined more than a hundred and fifty volumes."

Another author tells us that he wrote paragraphs and whole pages of his book as many as fifty times.

It is said of one of Longfellow's poems that it was written in four weeks, but that he spent six months in correcting and cutting it down. Bulwer declared that he had rewriten some of his briefer productions as many as eight or nine times before their publication.

One of Tennyson's pieces was rewritten fifty times. John Owen was twenty years on his "Commentary on the Epistle to the Hebrews"; Gibbon, on his "Decline and Fall," twenty years; and Adam Clark ,on his "Commentary," twenty-six years. Carlyle spent fifteen years on his "Frederick the Great."

A great deal of time is consumed in reading before some books are prepared. George Eliot read 1000 books before she wrote "Daniel Deronda."

Alison read 2000 books before he completed his history. It is said of another that he read 20,000 and wrote only two books.

Radio Has Big Influence on World Communication.

"Radio has come to have a profound influence upon the world's system of communication," declared a leading radio authority recently.

"Radio," he continued, "has swept away the physical barriers of communications. No nation now need be dependent solely upon thin strands of cable. No country need fear the strangling of the national voice through the cutting of a cable in time of war or destruction in time of peace. Radio, through the institution of broadcasting, is the first universal system of one-way mass communication developed by man. No other agency can speak with a single voice, and at the same instant, to millions of people separated by hundreds of thousands of miles. Tests already have proved the complete practicability of telephonic communication by radio across the ocean. Musical programs broadcast by powerful transmitting stations from Europe and the United States have been heard in the Antipodes."

The same authority predicts that the time is not far distant when the listener in North America will be able to hear clearaly and regularly programs broadcast from Europe and programs tansmitted by North American stations will in turn be easily audible throughout the continent of Europe.

The Countryside.

There is no country-side like the English country-side for those who have learnt to love it. . . . Picardy is pink and white and pleasant in the blossom time, Burgundy goes on with its sunshine and wide hillsides and cramped vineyards, a beautiful tune repeated and repeated; Italy gives saltas and wayside chapels and chestnuts and olive orchards, the Ardennes has its woods and gorges—Touraine and the Rhineland, the wide Campagna with its distant Apennines, and the neat prosperities and mountain backgrounds of South Germany, all clamor their especial merits at one's memory. And there are the hills and fields of Virginia, like an England grown very big and slovenly, and the woods and big river sweeps of Pennsylvania, the trim New England landscape, a little bleak and rather fine . . . and the wide rough country roads and hills and woodlands of New York State. But none of these change scene and character in three miles of wolking, nor have so mellow a sunlight nor so diversified a cloudland, nor confess the perpetual refreshment of the strong soft winds that blow from off the sea as our Mother England does.—H. G. Wells, in "The History of Mr. Polly."

In Honor of Brave Men.

South Africans in all parts of the world have subscribed to the Delville Wood memorial to the men of the South African Expeditionary Force who died in the Great War. This memorial was unveiled recently by General Hertzog.

It consists of an archway, flanked by walls that connect it with two pavilions. One of the latter will house a Book of Remembrance containing the names of the fallen.

A double avenue of oak trees, leading from the Longueval-Ginchy road to the archway, is a feature of the memorial. At present the trees are two feet high. They have been grown from acorns gathered from the oaks around Cecil Rhodes' famous house at Groote Schuur. And these trees sprang from acorns which were taken to South Africa from Holland a century and a half ago.

Too Large.

"That soprano had a large repertoire."

"Yes, but I don't think she wore it well."

Try It.

"How do you get down off a horse?"

"Can't! You have to get it off a duck."