

Co-operative

Home

M A G A Z I N E

APRIL 1956



TITYRUS RESTORED TO HIS PATRIMONY by Samuel Palmer

By Courtesy of the Birmingham City Art Gallery

Issued by TAMWORTH INDUSTRIAL CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD.



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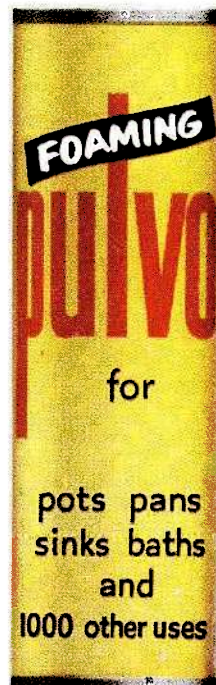
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OUR FRONT COVER

Precocity in art is no guarantee of Academic recognition, and though Samuel Palmer was an exhibitor at the Royal Academy, as well as at the British Institution, at the age of 14, he never became an Academician. Born in 1805, he early showed a taste for art, and in 1819 exhibited two pictures at the Institution and three at the Academy.

On the advice of John Linnell, who was later to become his father-in-law, he underwent a course of figure drawing at the British Museum, during which time he was introduced to Varley, Mulready, and William Blake. The last-named, particularly, had a profound influence on Palmer's painting.

In 1839, Palmer married, and for his wedding tour spent two years in Italy, afterwards returning to London and settling in Kensington.

The death of his elder son in 1860 was a blow from which he was long in recovering, but eventually he threw off the gloom and self-recrimination into which his loss had plunged him, and removed to Furze Hill, near Reigate, where he lived until his death in 1881.

His last appearance at the Royal Academy was in 1842. He was elected an Associate of the Water Colour Society in 1843 and became a full member in 1855. In 1853 he was also chosen a member of the Etching Club.

The poetry of Virgil and Milton motivated much of Palmer's painting, and TITURUS RESTORED TO HIS PATRIMONY was inspired by the conversation between Meliboeus and Tityrus in the first of the Virgil Eclogues.

It was one of two pictures exhibited by Palmer in 1877.

A translation by Palmer of the Eclogues, with plates designed and partly etched by him, was published posthumously.

THANK YOU!

We deeply regret that owing to the national printing dispute, which affected all C.W.S. printing works, it was impossible to publish our usual March number.

It is hoped that, with the publication of this issue, our monthly editions will be normally continued.

We thank readers for their many expressions of sympathy with the difficulties recently experienced, and apologise for any inconvenience caused by this unfortunate lapse in regular monthly publication.

THE EDITOR

Co-operative Home MAGAZINE

VOLUME 61 No. 3

APRIL, 1956

THEY are painting the bandstand in the park a tasteful lime green. Electricians are stringing fairy lamps among the trees. Very soon, on the park notice boards, on the buses and trams, and in the local paper, will appear an announcement headed "Bands in the Park."

Once again, the old game that is ever new will be played along the terraces with their newly-planted spring flowers. And memories will linger in the slowly fading light, the heavy perfume of wall-flowers, the music, and the laughter of young folk amongst the crowd parading round and round the broad asphalt walks.

I shall dream again of a girl in a cream Merry Widow hat and a summery frock. Her dark brown eyes softly shaded by the longest eyelashes I have ever seen; her jet black hair hanging in a wavy cloud over her shoulders.

Somebody says, "This is my friend So-and-so." She smiles at me, and I am tongue-tied for the first time in my life. She is sixteen; I am seventeen.

We were properly introduced. That was the first rule of the game. If at all possible there must be a formal introduction.

In some City main streets on Saturday nights the "pick-up" system was practised here and there, as it still is. This "improper behaviour" once prompted a well-meaning cleric to refer to a local thoroughfare as the "Devil's mile," but he raised such a hornet's nest that he later recanted.

Actually, of course, picking up always has been mainly confined to cruises in luxury liners, road-house bars, continental casinos, and similar haunts of the "upper" and "middle" classes.

An introduction in the park sometimes blossomed into romance.

The first sign was an appointment for the next band night. Now here was involved a most stringent rule. With a view to discouraging the rowdies, there was an admission charge of twopence. It was vital that the stricken Lothario should make the proposed venue outside the park gates. Otherwise, he might well see the girl who had promised to meet him by the bandstand sail by, head in air, with a lad who had brought her through the turnstile.

Naturally, one introduction led to another. Parents, forgetting their own youth, sometimes looked askance at such chance meetings. In many a home ten o'clock was zero hour, and many a brave teenage "man of the world" knew the indignity of scurrying from the park before "God save the King," with unkind thoughts of a tyrannical father.

Often, you might see a frightened girl, half-walking, half-running along the gas-lit streets at five minutes to ten, knowing that romance might have to stand a serious test when she arrived home.

But where was the harm? Youth has called to youth since the world began. You might just as well try to stop the sap rising in the trees, or the lighting of the evening star, as try to deflect the course of youthful human nature.

So I shall sit under the colonnade of the Art Gallery and recall days gone by without the slightest fear for the present-day boys and girls who parade round and round the bandstand in the park. We elders did that once. And we have not done so badly after all.

THE EDITOR

THIS ENGLAND...

A striking vista of the picturesque town of Knaresborough, Yorks, as seen from the Castle grounds



Use **WAVECREST** Knitting 4ply wool
for this

Sports Jumper

MATERIALS.—10 ozs. Wavecrest Knitting 4-ply. A pair of size 10 and size 12 knitting needles. A zip fastener 16 inches long (open end).

MEASUREMENTS.—Bust, 35-36 inches; length, 21½ inches; sleeve seam, 4½ inches.

TENSION.—7 sts. and 9 rows to an inch.

ABBREVIATIONS.—k., knit; p., purl; tog., together; incr., increase; dec., decrease; beg., beginning; alt., alternate; rep., repeat; patt., pattern; ins., inches; st., stitch.

FRONTS

Left: With No. 10 needles cast on 65 sts. loosely and work as follows:—1st row: k.39, (p.1, k.1) 13 times, knitting into the back of every knit stitch. 2nd row: (p.1, k.1) 13 times, knitting into the back of every knit stitch, p.39. Repeat these 2 rows 7 times more. Make a hem on next row by taking 1 st. from needle together with one from cast-on edge. Continue in stocking-stitch and twisted rib until piece measures 4½ ins. ending with the right side facing.

Change to No. 12 needles and work 4 ins. twisted rib over all sts. With right side facing, change back to No. 10 needles and continue in stocking-stitch and rib as before, and shaping the side edge by increasing 1 st. at beg. of 5th and every following 6th row, 6 times (71 sts.). Work straight until front measures 14 ins. at centre.

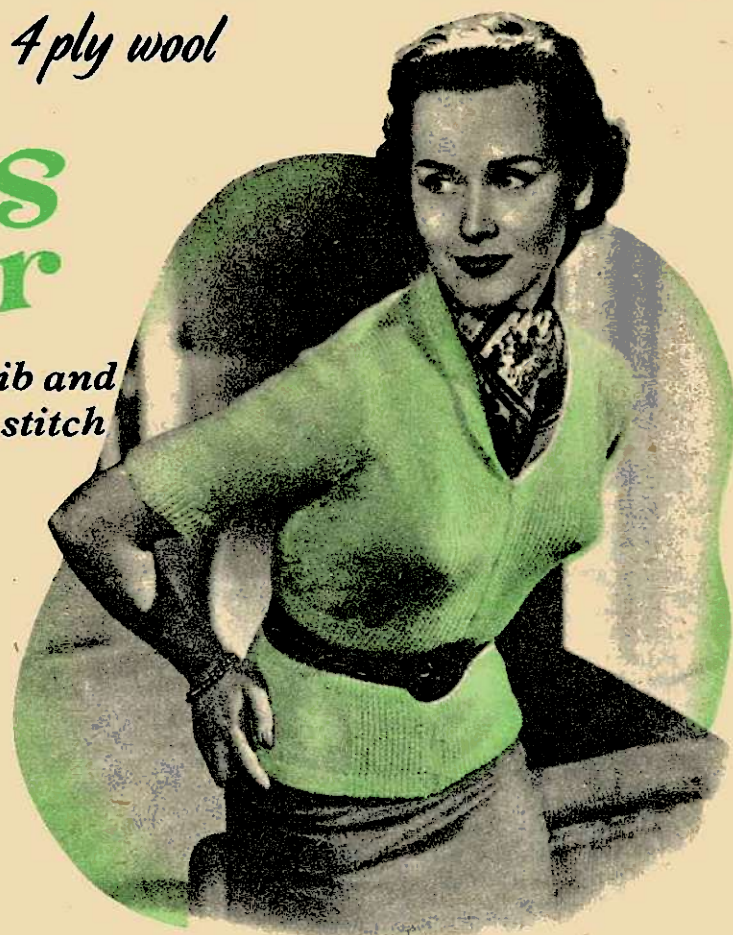
Shape armholes: with right side facing, cast off 6 sts. at beg. of next row, pattern to end. Pattern back. Next row: k.2 tog., pattern to last st., increase in last st. Pattern back. Continue shaping armhole by k.2 tog. on next and following 4 alternate rows, then keep this edge straight, and at the same time increase 1 st. at neck edge on next and every alternate row until there are 67 sts., taking increased sts. into rib. Pattern back.

Introduce point yoke in twisted rib: Next row: right side facing, k.15, p.1, k.1, p.1, k.15, rib 33, increase in last st. Next row: rib 35, p.15, rib 3, p.15. Next row: k.13, rib 7, k.13, rib 34, increase in last st. Continue in this manner taking 4 more sts. into twisted rib on every alternate row until all sts. are in rib, and at the same time, continue increasing 1 st. at neck edge on every alternate row until there are 71 sts. When all sts. are in rib continue straight until front measures 21 inches.

Buy **WAVECREST** knitting wools from your Co-operative Society

in twist rib and stocking stitch

HOME
MAGAZINE
KNITTING
PATTERN
No. 7



Shape shoulder: with right side facing, cast off 11 sts. at beg. of next and following 2 alternate rows, armhole edge. Leave remaining sts. on a spare needle.

Right: Work to correspond with the left front, reversing shapings. Your first row will read: (k.1, p.1) 13 times, k. to end.

BACK

With No. 10 needles cast on 109 sts. and work 16 rows stocking-stitch starting with a knit row, then make hem as before. Continue in stocking-stitch until piece measures 4½ ins. ending with right side facing. Change to No. 12 needles and work 4 ins. twisted rib over all sts. ending with right side facing. Change back to No. 10 needles and continue in stocking-stitch, shaping sides by increasing 1 st. at each end of 5th and every following 6th row until there are 121 sts. Work straight until back measures 14 ins. at centre.

Shape armholes: with right side facing, cast off 6 sts. at beg. of next 2 rows, then k.2 tog. at each end of every k. row until 97 sts. remain. Work straight until back measures 18½ ins. ending with right side facing.

Change to twisted rib over all sts. until back measures 21 ins.

Shape shoulders: with right side facing, cast off 11 sts. at beg. of next 6 rows; cast off remaining sts. loosely.

SLEEVES

With No. 10 needles cast on 73 sts. and work 1 inch twisted rib, rows on right side having a k.1 at each end. With right side facing, work as follows:—Next row: increase in 1st st., k.20, rib 31, k.20, incr. in last st. Next row: p.22, rib 31, p.22. Next row: k.24, rib 27, k.24. Next row: p.24, rib 27, p.24. Next row: incr. in 1st st., k.25, rib 23, k.25, incr. in last st. Next row: p.27, rib 23, p.27. Continue in this way taking 4 more sts. into stocking-stitch on next and every alternate row until 3 rib sts. remain in centre, then work over all sts. in stocking-stitch, and at the same time continue increasing at each end of every 4th row until there are 87 sts. Work straight until sleeve measures 4½ ins.

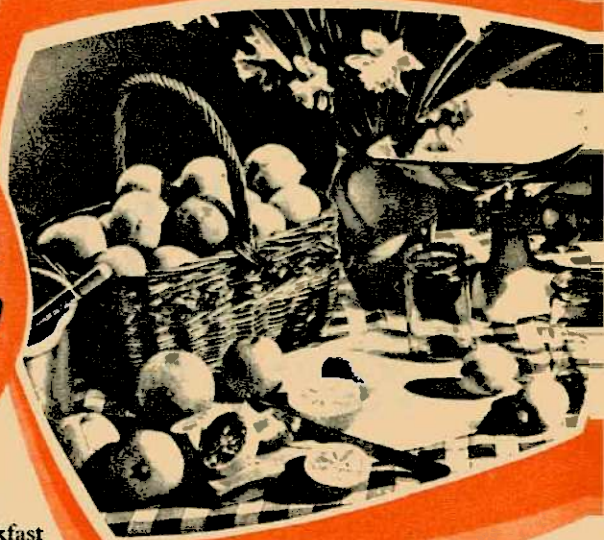
Shape top: with right side facing, cast off 6 sts. at beg. of next 2 rows, then k.2 tog. at each end of next and every alternate row until 40 sts. remain, then at each end of every row until 20 sts. remain. Cast off.

TO MAKE UP

Join the seams of the shoulders. With No. 10 needles continue in rib on sts. for left side of collar for a further 2½ ins.; cast off in rib. Work right side in the same way. Press work under a damp cloth, avoiding ribbing. Join collar and sew to back of neck. Join side and sleeve seams, insert sleeves. Insert zip fastener. Press all seams.

Mary Langham's Cookery Page

Bitter Sweet



WHAT could be more delicious than home-made preserve at breakfast time? The season for Seville oranges is a short one, but sweet oranges can be used in their place for making marmalade. To test when the marmalade is ready, put a teaspoonful on to a saucer, leave a minute, then push the edge, and if it wrinkles it is ready for potting. I am also including my favourite lemon curd recipe.

OLD ENGLISH BREAKFAST MARMALADE

Yield: about 8 lbs.

6 Seville oranges, 2 large lemons, 6 lbs. sugar, 4 pints water.

Wash the oranges and lemons well. Cut into quarters; remove centre pith. Cut the fruit into thin slices, taking care to catch all the juice. Put the fruit into a large bowl. Put pith and pips into bag. Pour 3½ pints water over the fruit and ½ pint over the pips. Leave to stand 24 hours. Pour the fruit and water into a preserving pan, and tie the bag of pips to the handle so it is suspended in the liquid. Simmer until the liquid is reduced by half. Take out the pips. Add the heated sugar to the fruit and stir until dissolved. Bring quickly to the boil and boil quickly for 10 minutes. Test for setting point (thermometer 220 F). When ready, allow to stand for about 16 minutes, stir well, and pour into hot dry jars.

APRICOT AND PINEAPPLE MARMALADE

Yield: about 5 lbs.

1 lb. dried apricots, 1 large tin crushed pineapple 4 teacups cold water, 3 lbs. sugar, ½ teaspoon salt.

Soak the apricots overnight. Add the pineapple and cook until the apricots are tender (about 1 hour). Add sugar and salt, stir over a low heat until dissolved, then until boiling. Pour into hot, dry jars. When cold, seal.

GINGER MARMALADE

Yield: about 5 lbs.

3 lbs. cooking apples, 1 quart water, sugar as required, 1½ lbs. preserved ginger.

Wash the apples carefully. Cut into thick slices without peeling and coring. Place in a saucepan with the water. Simmer gently until the fruit is well pulped; then strain through a jelly bag. Allow to drip for several hours. When the juice has all run through, measure and allow 1 lb. sugar to 1 pint juice. Put into a preserving pan and stir until the sugar is dissolved. Add the ginger, cut into small pieces. Bring to the boil. Boil quickly for 8-10 minutes. Pot and cover while hot.

LEMON CURD

Yield: about 2½ lbs.

4 lemons, 6 ozs. C.W.S. Avondale butter, 1 lb. granulated sugar, 4 eggs.

Wash and dry lemons, and grate rind being careful not to grate any pith. Squeeze out the juice and strain. Put the rind, juice, sugar, and fat into top of a double saucepan. Cook until fat has melted and sugar dissolved; then remove pan from boiling water. Beat the eggs

well together, and stir into the mixture in the pan, using a wooden spoon. Return the pan to the hot water, which should be simmering. Cook very gently, stirring until the mixture has thickened sufficiently to coat the back of the wooden spoon. It will take 8-10 minutes. Pour into hot, clean, dry jars. Label and store in dry airy cupboards.

MIXED FRUIT MARMALADE

Yield: about 10 lbs.

2 grapefruits, 4 lemons, 2 bitter oranges, 2 tangerines, 6 pints water, 6 lbs. sugar. Total weight of fruit should be about 3 lbs.

Wash fruit, and peel off rind thinly. Cut into shreds. Take pith off the fruit and put into a muslin bag. Cut up flesh, removing any coarse skin. Put skin and pips into bag with pith. Put fruit, peel, and bag into a large bowl and pour in the water. Leave for 12 hours. Turn into a preserving pan. Simmer gently for about 2 hours, or until the rind of the bitter oranges is tender. Take out the bag of pips, etc. Bring to the boil. Stir in the sugar and continue to stir until the sugar is dissolved; then boil rapidly till the marmalade sets when tested.

RHUBARB MARMALADE

Yield: 6-7 lbs.

3 sweet oranges, 4 lbs. loaf sugar, 2 lbs. rhubarb.

Wash oranges. Peel thinly, then shred peel. Remove pith from the oranges. Slice fruit and throw away any pips. Place peel and pulp in a preserving pan. Wipe, trim, and cut rhubarb into inches. Add with sugar to the pan. Stir until the sugar is dissolved, then until boiling. Boil quickly till marmalade sets when tested.

FREE KITCHEN SERVICE

Advice on any cookery problem is offered free of charge to "Home Magazine" readers. Address questions to Mary Langham, "Co-operative HOME Magazine," P.O. Box 53, 1 Balloon Street, Manchester 4, and enclose a stamped addressed envelope

Shoppers

UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

By G. L. BOLTON

The field interviewers of the Consumer Research Section are carefully selected. They are in the front line of the fact-finding army and must be capable of conducting accurate interviews, often in trying climatic conditions. Honesty, intelligence, adaptability, and smartness of appearance are qualities which are sought for in this new-style female occupation. Clarity of speech is important, too. A pronounced Lancashire accent might not create a sympathetic doorstep audience in Birmingham or London!

Great care is taken in framing the questions which the girls reel off from an open folder. They should not be leading questions (i.e. hinting at the answer). They should not give rise to ambiguous answers. A factual question, on the other hand, receives a factual reply.

Every day the head office of the Consumer Research Section in Manchester receives the replies obtained by interviewers, in different parts of England and Wales, during the previous twenty-four hours. The information is then tabulated and analysed, and your opinions are soon dressed up into a concise report that is passed to the executives responsible for the manufacture of the product.

Swift action follows the "thumbs down" sign from any large section of consumers. During the first year that "Spel" was marketed consumer tests showed that the vast majority of housewives liked its perfume content. A minority, however, did not like the amount of perfume in the product. As soon as this was known extensive tests were carried out, using many different quantities of perfume, until the ideal perfume level to please nearly everybody was found.



walks of life—the manufacturer gets a picture of the reaction of all women to his own goods, to his competitors' products, or to those which he intends to produce in the future. Then he takes action to suit his product to your needs.

Market research is the modern science of fact finding on which progressive industry and commerce bases its production and sales. In the old days you would go along to a shoemaker and be measured for a pair of shoes that he would then proceed to make. Mass production methods, which result in lower costs to the consumer, necessitate production ahead of demand. And it is market research which passes back direct to the manufacturer what you think of his wares.

The C.W.S., of which you are a part-owner through your local co-operative society, was one of the first major firms in the country to establish its own Market Research Department. Staffed by university-trained economists and Co-operative specialists, the Department is an invaluable "nerve centre" through which your likes and dislikes are flashed to C.W.S. factory managers.

The work of the Consumer Research Section of the Department is backed by trade enquiries of retailers and officials and economic research based both on original information and published sources.

A passer by in the street is pleased to answer the questions of a market research interviewer. Below: A housewife member of the C.W.S. Consumer Testing Panel receives an unmarked packet of soap powder on which she will be afterwards asked to comment

Last year the C.W.S. had plans for a new baby soap. Should the soap be pink or white? The mothers who were interviewed answered in unmistakable terms. "A baby soap should be white," they said, "And the perfume content should be low." That survey helped the C.W.S. to gear its production of baby soap to your exact requirements.



A questionnaire is carefully completed as different brands of jam are tested

In the last eight years the C.W.S. has conducted more than 200,000 interviews to check your shopping habits and to find out what you are thinking. Surveys into grocery buying are conducted at frequent intervals to ensure that the factories keep up with changing habits. "Single shot" surveys into (say) the kind of washing machine you prefer are also a feature of the Consumer Research Section's work.

When a survey requires replies from men and younger women the interviewers will forsake the doorstep for the passer-by in a busy street. A survey on the use of cosmetics by the younger generation, or on C.W.S. pipe tobacco, would be obvious choices for pavement interviewing.

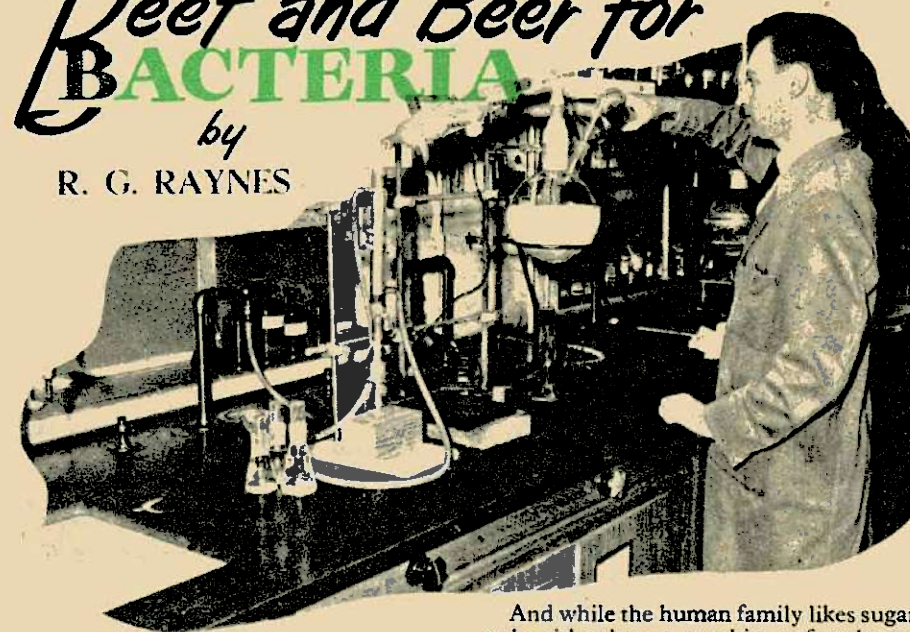
More than 700 co-operative housewives play a special part in C.W.S. research activities. They form a Consumer Testing Panel which operates through the post. The Consumer Research Section would, for instance, send each housewife member of the Panel two plain-covered packets of soap powder or two unmarked tins of shoe polish. In one packet or tin is the current C.W.S. product. In the other there will be an alternative brand or some new formula the C.W.S. is considering. The housewife's report, after using both brands, is highly significant to those who plan C.W.S. productions.

Consumer research puts shoppers under a microscope and, like the efforts of the laboratory scientist, is for the common good. That the C.W.S. is gently probing, all the time, ways and means of satisfying your shopping wants is a firm guarantee in itself.

When next you go to your local co-op shop take another look at the stacked tins of Waveney vegetables, the jars of C.W.S. jams, or at any other C.W.S.-made commodity. They're what you asked for—so why not take them home?

Beef and Beer for BACTERIA

by R. G. RAYNES



And while the human family likes sugar to be either brown or white, soft or lump, the world of germs needs a choice of thirty-two varieties of sugars.

Some, even choosier, prefer starch! If this wide choice of menu makes life complicated for the bacteria's chef—and it does, as I soon found—then it has the compensation of making the doctor's job easier. By being fussy over food, the bacteria aid the doctor to discover which of their many varieties is causing the illness.

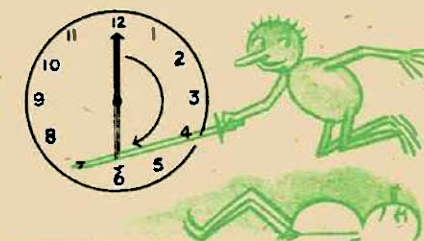
Germs from your sore throat will be a very mixed bag, but when the doctor puts minute spots of them on to different types of food he can see within a few hours exactly which harmful bacteria are making trouble round your tonsils.

Many of the deadliest germs are even more helpful. They grow in technicolour!

For an exhibition, I once grew a whole lot of germs to make a rainbow. They were all there—red, orange, green, yellow, blue, mauve, as well as black ones and white.

But despite their greed for good food, and their pretty colours, some can withstand boiling and baking for short periods!

You need not envy the luxury life of these pampered germs, however, for they live only from twenty to thirty minutes!



DON'T ever go behind the scenes of a hospital. The appetising amount of food you'll see apparently going to waste to feed disease germs will take away your appetite. Best beef—fresh milk—dairy eggs—ox hearts—meat extract—clear jelly—sugar—and a score of other tasty tit-bits that would make a huge hole in anyone's weekly housekeeping budget.

For a long time it was part of my job to prepare the food for the germs that cause illness. And the chief lesson was that every single item had to be scrupulously clean. Sterilised, free from all other germs, in fact.

Where your wife may toss together a chancey stew of meat and veg in whatever proportions come handiest, I had to weigh and measure each lump and drop to one-hundredth part of an ounce! Yes, and then skim off the fat and ensure that the final mixture was neither too acid nor too alkaline, neither too sweet nor too salt for the picky preferences of the microscopic creatures the human eye cannot see!

The reason for all this is that bacteria are far more choosy over their food than the folk they infect.

They like beef, but not mutton, pork, or even chicken. Some will thrive on slices of potato, but none eat cauliflower, cabbage, or carrots. You can rear a delicate germ on either the white or yolk of an egg. But all turn up their noses when offered liver, bacon, or fish.

Beer is best for some bacteria. Others take to milk, broth, or a soft sweet drink. But the "beer bugs" won't drink milk any more than the milk lovers will live on beer.



TOWER OF STRENGTH

By ARTHUR TURNER

He is believed to have got the idea for the Eiffel Tower from America, where an even higher structure of the same type was projected for the Philadelphia Fair of 1874. That was never built, but the scheme fired Eiffel's imagination, and he put forward a similar plan for the Paris Exhibition of 1889.

His idea by no means received unanimous support. In point of fact, not only did he come to doubt whether it would ever mature, but when at last he succeeded in proving his plan feasible, he did not expect the Tower to last more than twenty years!

Its survival is all the more astonishing because no high-tensile steel was available in 1889, and only iron could be used for the numerous girders. Yet Eiffel worked out the strains and stresses so accurately, and allowed so generous a safety margin, that his work has stood securely for more than three times the lifetime originally expected.

Despite the immense weight of the structure, the four feet cover such an expanse of ground that the pressure per square inch is no greater than that exerted by many ordinary buildings. The city authorities of Paris are so certain of the Tower's continued popularity, notwithstanding occasional scares about its safety, that in 1950 they signed an agreement to safeguard it from demolition until at least 1980.

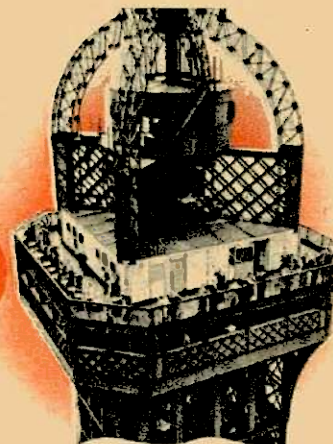
Cafes and restaurants on the first platform are among the attractions. On the second platform, 500 feet above the ground, a Paris newspaper once had its

It has been the scene of daredevil exhibitions, such as the feat of Georges Labric, an intrepid cyclist, in 1926. He rode down the steps without once dismounting or injuring himself. Another stunt artist once parachuted from the topmost platform, but a tightrope walker was refused permission to slide down a cable attached to the summit.

Every year 40 tons of paint are applied to the girders, and all the rivets are inspected regularly. Risks to visitors are covered by special insurances, one clause providing indemnity against passersby who might be injured by articles dropped from the platforms.

Damages were once successfully claimed by a Parisian who was struck on the nose by a lump of sugar which a cafe patron threw overboard. Dropped from such a height, this small missile was big enough to cause considerable injury. But tales of suicidal jumps are reported to be much exaggerated. In fact, during a period of more than 20 years there was only one deliberate death-fall.

Today it is astonishing to learn that, when the Eiffel Tower was first projected, several prominent men made strong efforts to have the scheme vetoed.



The top platform and lantern of the Eiffel Tower. Above, a general view of the Tower.

[Photos by courtesy of French Gov. Tourist Office]

printing works, and at the very top Eiffel himself occupied a flat, secure in the knowledge that his calculations allowed for twice the maximum wind force ever likely to hit the structure.

By living there he also gave the best answer to "experts" who forecast that the Tower would collapse in a gale.

His dream tower has been put to various uses other than sightseeing. It has been the scene of scientific experiments at the summit, to determine what kind of microbes live at high altitudes, and of course it has long been used for radio and meteorological purposes.

FRENCH visitors to London may soon be wondering whether they have been miraculously whisked back to Paris. For London is to have an "Eiffel" Tower! It is to be built for the B.B.C. television transmitter at the Crystal Palace, and while it will be only two-thirds as high as its Parisian counter-part, it will nevertheless be the tallest structure of its kind in the United Kingdom.

On the other hand, whether it will detract from the fame and popularity of its Continental rival seems doubtful. Admiration for M. Eiffel's masterpiece is as strong today as ever, and proposals to demolish that Tower in recent years have been strenuously resisted.

Even allegations that it is unsafe have failed to arouse public support for its destruction. The bolts holding the lattice-work are said to be bursting away at the rate of more than 200 a day, and continually replacing them is an ever-increasing burden; yet an average of 750 sightseers ascend the structure every day and the annual takings exceed £300,000.

The Eiffel Tower defied Hitler in 1940 when he planned to raze it and use its 7,000 tons of metal for munitions. French indignation at this proposal was so heated that he had to reverse his order.

He was thwarted also in his wish to ascend the Tower himself and survey Paris under the Nazi heel. Officials told him that the lifts were in a dangerous state and that the stairway was unsafe, owing to neglect during the early stages of the War.

It is more than 66 years since this marvel of structural engineering was first opened to the public, and it has immortalised its designer.

The hole in the fence

A SHORT STORY by L. C. BURTON

JOHNNY LESTER strode beligerently down the weedy path and lifted his front gate on its one good hinge. Passing through, he paused to kick a loose slat into position and to hoist the fishing rods and bag on to his shoulder. Then, with a final contemptuous glance at the parlour window, he was off down the lane leaving a cloud of tobacco smoke behind him.

Women were all the same! Not an ounce of reason in any of them! They bullied when they could and pandered when they couldn't, and it seemed the married ones were a sight worse than those who were single! Not only had he won four out of five fishing matches this season already, but he had successfully backed himself to win two hundred pounds in the bargain! Out of that Joan had got her new curtains and carpet as well as her winter coat! Heavens, what more did she want? Possessiveness and greed! Yes, that was it! She had never willingly let him out of her sight for more than ten minutes in the whole of their ten years of married life.

A chink of milk bottles sounded behind him. "There 'e goes—a fool at one end and a worm at t'other!"

"Yes, and I know a few others as well!" Johnny snapped back without so much as bothering to turn round.

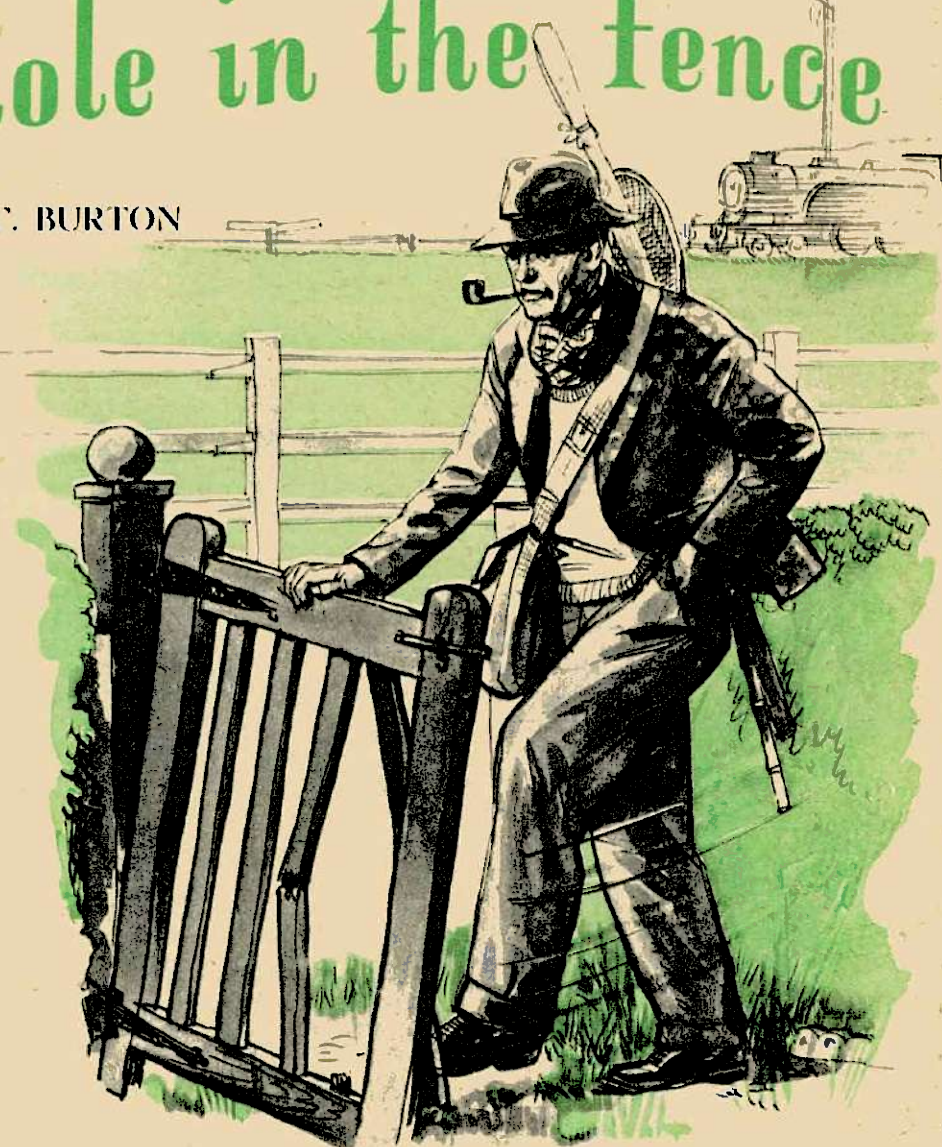
The interruption dealt with, Johnny continued his lament. For ten years he had played the game with Joan, and now, with nothing else to fault, she had trotted out the well-worn one about the home falling to pieces, the garden being a thorough disgrace, and the kid virtually fatherless—all because of fishing! That had been the last straw, and he had told her so; the slam of the door, in fact, still echoed in his ears.

Johnny turned into the station yard to join his club-mates, and a wry groan greeted his appearance.

"That's done it! Might as well go 'ome before we start!"

"Yus! 'E's only got to call for a two pounder and one 'ooks itself on 'is line!"

Johnny forced a grin and gave as good as he got. Soon, with the train speeding on its way, Johnny immersed in fish and fishermen had forgotten Johnny the erring husband.



By ten o'clock he was surveying a scene now very familiar to him. The river wound its silvery way into the distance, little numbered pegs, each with its attendant angler, tracing its course every few yards. A tufty little man with a black bowler hat pulled well down over his cherubic countenance scuttled up and down the bank clutching a bulging leather satchel tightly to him. Having placed his bet Johnny moved on to the swim which he had drawn, knowing that by his skill and the hand of Lady Luck he stood to enrich or deplete the family fortunes still further. A blast of the whistle and the match was on.

Most match anglers go for the tiddlers as they are easier to catch. The heaviest bag wins the day, and they reason it

the better proposition to fill a net with a lot of little fish rather than wait half the day for a big one which might not come along.

Johnny had other ideas. Go for the big chaps first! They are often lurking under your very nose, so get them before they are scared away! It was this sort of reasoning that had made Johnny the angler he was, although the less successful usually called him just lucky.

Johnny missed his first bite, but was soon playing a "rod-bender" which proved to be a fine three-pound chub.

"'E's off blokes! Golden boy's up to 'is tricks again!"

Johnny ignored the ribald remarks of his neighbours and concentrated on his job. By lunchtime his keep-net was

filling nicely and he put the rod in the rest while he helped himself to a sandwich.

As so often happens when an angler is eating his lunch, a fish took the bait. But this was no ordinary fish. Johnny grabbed the rod just in time and felt it arch in his hands. Straining every muscle he played the captive with all he knew, giving line grudgingly, and steering his quarry away from the willow roots downstream which, once gained, would have meant the end of the struggle. Slowly he gained mastery, and brought the fish nearer and nearer. Inch by inch he recovered line, and after ten minutes Johnny, in a dream, unhooked a superbly-conditioned barbel of ten pounds. "A match-winner if ever I saw one!" he gasped.

There were no ribald remarks now. These had given way to feelings of envy, admiration, sheer wonderment, and resignation. Carefully, as if he were handling a time-bomb, Johnny put his prize in the keep-net with the other products of the morning.

"Bless you, my beauty! I think you're worth a hundred pounds to me today!"

The muttered words had hardly died on his lips when an urgent shout from upstream caused him to look up sharply. Bert Vines was waving frantically, and Johnny was just in time to see a little two-legged bundle of blue stumble down



the opposite bank into the swiftly-flowing water. People react differently in emergency; some are quick, some are slow, and some are plain useless. Not having previously been put to the test, Johnny did not know his category, but those around him were soon to find out.

"For Pete's sake, Johnny boy!" The voice had a note of terror in it!

The deadly current carried its intended victim swiftly out to midstream and swept it down to where Johnny stood, poised and ready to make the cast of his life! He hesitated for a moment, and then the rod whipped over in a smooth flash, and the lead weight sped unerringly to just beyond its target. Johnny reeled his line in rapidly, and, tight-lipped, felt the drag as the hook took what he prayed was a firm hold in the water-logged clothes.

The steely split-cane bent down to the cork rod-grip, and the reel screeched in protest at the tension, as slowly the angler brought the catch of his life across the river. The strain on the fine tackle was tremendous, the force of the stream adding to the considerable weight on the end of the line. But the Big Fisherman was with Johnny today. The child reached the safety of the bank twenty yards further down, where willing hands were waiting.

Johnny didn't remember much about the next few minutes. Through the melee of hand-shaking and back-slapping, he recalled the moving sight of a saturated bundle of tiny humanity which, thank God, still breathed. He heard the sobbing of a distraught woman. Then it was peace once more.

Two hours to go! Alone with his thoughts, the angler thanked his lucky stars that the line had held with that kid on the end—a kid so much like his own little Johnny too! It had been touch and go and could easily have gone the other way! How had the youngster got to the water's edge anyway? Somebody had been very lax somewhere! Of course children will wander, but that fence over there was a downright scandal!

He looked across at the hole through which the babe had scrambled, and then

down at the river where he had fallen in. At that point he noted it was about as wide as the railway cutting just beyond his own back garden. The railway cutting!

Johnny's hand floated absently up to his chin! For several moments he eyed the hole again. Then quietly but purposefully he emptied the contents of his keep-net back into the water and began to take his rod to pieces.



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TORQUAY Queen's Court Hotel
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This is Yours—No. 13

THE following report of the half-yearly meeting is as much yours and just as important as any of the property that you have seen in the previous 12 instalments of "This is Yours," so this report is published under the same heading.

Remember, co-operative societies are democratically owned and controlled by the members. You, as a member, jointly own the society and you help to keep the society going and make your dividend by the amount of trade that you do. You can help to manage and control the affairs of the society by attending the half-yearly meetings. Now read how those members who did go to the last meeting exercised their rights as members.

The half-yearly meeting was held on March 7th, 1956. All members of the board were present except Mr. Stafford, who was away on the society's business. The minutes of the previous meeting were

read and confirmed.

The chairman Mr. J. Hinds, moving the report of the committee, drew the attention of members to the comparative figures as printed:—

	This Half-year	Last Half-year	Last Year
Membership—Joined 428, Left 195	16,795	16,562	16,297
Sales to Members	£674,921	£621,202	£601,488
Share Capital	£713,803	£697,818	£678,477
Small Savings	£13,177	£14,179	£12,863
Loan Capital	£432,819	£451,648	£455,788
Trade Purchases	£531,610	£464,340	£467,277
Purchased from—C.W.S. Limited	£374,750	£327,589	£346,103
Private Traders	£138,242	£118,906	£104,705
Local Traders	£9,487	£8,368	£6,327
Productive Societies	£9,131	£9,477	£10,009
Reserve Fund	—	£48,000	£43,120
Bread Output (Stones)	210,692	219,277	222,307
Dairy Sales (Gallons)	391,478	383,794	357,117
Investments	£1,163,664	£1,142,575	£1,150,605
Collective Life Claims Paid	£1,176	£1,416	£1,458
Total Members' Purchases—Weekly Average	£1 10 10½	£1 8 10½	£1 8 4½
Actual Trading Members	15,590	15,064	14,638
Weekly Average	£1 12 8	£1 11 8½	£1 11 7½

"The money side," he said, "is very satisfactory really. Loan capital does not increase so much because you can now have £500 in a share account.

"Bread sales are slightly down. We have gone into this on various occasions, but we cannot find the reason for it. It may be competitors coming into the district or it may be because other foods are now available. There has been a steady decline. We cannot afford to lose this trade, and I appeal to you to see what you can do about it.

"You will see the average trade has gone up to £1. 12s. 8d. With a little more co-operation we can make that £2 and that would mean another £300,000 per year. It is not much to ask of each member. Such an increase in sales would reduce greatly the cost of selling.

"You will see below the percentages of co-operative purchases. We should like these to be higher, but we have got to get what the members want. The dividend is an all-time record of £46.112, and will be paid, as usual, at these premises to-morrow, Friday, and Saturday.

Wages Up

"The chief increase in expenses is in wages—£5,141. Of course, as the cost of living increases our staff must of necessity have their wages increased to maintain their standard of life. The last national wage award operated on December 5th, 1955, and therefore the full effect of this was not felt in the half-year under review. To offset this increase in expenses, more trade is required if the rate of dividend is to be maintained, and we trust this will be forthcoming.

"There again, it only means an extra 7s. 6d. or so per member per week trade. The autumn supplementary budget had the effect of increasing purchase tax on household equipment and goods sold in the dry goods departments.

"You will have noticed that the demolition of our old cottage property in Church Street has taken place. Consideration will be given to the erection of suitable buildings on this site to meet the trade requirements of the members. Shortage of building operatives and materials will no doubt

delay the erection of the premises a little, but they will be proceeded with as circumstances permit.

"You will also have seen that alterations are taking place in the front of the Baths and Institute building in Church Street.

"We are endeavouring to meet the needs of our members by this extra accommodation, particularly for the sale of baby linen, &c., and this department will be an adjunct to our drapery central.

"We deeply regret the death of Mr. Harry Blood, the radio and television technician, which took place on January 30th, and also the death of one of our arbitrators, Major C. C. Poole, on February 2nd."

The report was seconded by Mr. B. Brookes and carried.

A lady member said they were very congested at Glascoate, and she hoped we could soon get on with the alteration.

Mr. M. Sutton: The weekly average of purchases is not good enough and we ought to be doing much more. High dividend is not the answer to it. The society should sell goods of the finest quality at the lowest possible rate. Regarding Church Street premises, I do not know whether this committee will be as bold as committees of 60 years ago, but I hope you will be and keep the members informed and the town informed. It is good advertising.

"There has been no voting at this and other meetings and no competition among members. This is becoming a serious question. Members of management committees are getting older and there are no young members coming forward. I do not know what the answer is. I think the committee should reconsider their decision of years ago regarding the employment of relatives and membership of committees. There are many very interested people who cannot stand for committee because they are relatives of employees of the society. I think it is possibly the only way to get continued interest from people who serve the movement."

Mr. Titterton asked whether higher retail prices accounted for the increase in members' purchases.

Secretary: Our trade has increased by 12.2 per cent. Retail co-operative trade has increased by 7.5 per cent in all departments. We are, therefore, getting on for 5 per cent more than the rest of the country; 6.79 to 7.37 per cent is the increase in food sales.

Mr. Walker asked whether the time had not arrived for an increase in the amount of 20-week clubs to say £10.

Another lady member suggested £12 maximum.

Regarding building, the chairman said it would take time and would have to be done in sections. There were quite a lot of things to go into which would delay it some considerable time.

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He continued: "As regards being competitive, we, as a board, do not want to sell at prices in excess of our competitors. If any member does find anything where we are overcharging, bring it to the notice of the committee and we will get it put right. Regarding a £12 limit for clubs, the committee will consider this at a later date."

A member asked for a bread delivery on Monday instead of Tuesday.

Mr. Langtry asked for details of rolling stock and fixtures purchased, and whether these were extras or replacements. The secretary gave the details required.

Employee's Retiring Allowances

Mr. M. Sutton: Employees' retiring allowances £22. 10s. I think it is time these were reviewed and that we give old employees more than £22. 10s. Mr. Sutton also questioned the investment written off £500 on Staffordshire Shoemakers, and asked whether we traded with this productive society.

Chairman: If we invest in these productive societies there seems to be a reason for giving them some of the trade which otherwise goes to private traders. I think the managers do give trade to these people; anyway the committee will take note of the points raised.

Mr. Langtry asked about the pension fund.

Secretary: We have been discussing this in the pension committee. We have been trying to get the valuation through. There is a new actuary to the fund. We wrote to him as far back as July last year, again in August, pointing out that we were anxiously awaiting the result of the 1955 valuation to see whether there was a surplus which could be used to improve the benefits. We wrote again on January 23rd and received a reply on February 8th, saying that it would be a further four months before we could expect the report.

The general committee recently considered the 23 pensioners and decided to supplement their pensions by 5s. per week each (no exceptions), and this will go into the next balance sheet.

Mr. Langtry: I hope you will consider your retired employees; the fund has increased and I think it is possible.

The balance sheet was moved by Mr. A. E. Langtry, seconded by Mrs. Wood, and carried.

On the education statement, Mr. Collins asked for details of payments to choir and drama sections, and why the difference. Mr. M. Sutton replied.

The report and statement of accounts of Tamworth Co-operative Party were submitted by the chairman, Mr. F. Egan, and duly approved on the proposition of Mr. M. Sutton, seconded Mr. G. Lane.

Mr. A. Heathcote moved, Mr. C. Brown seconded (5) Recommendations of Committee: (a) That £4. 4s. be donated to the Stafford District of the Co-operative Union Limited; (b) £25 to the Tamworth Society Co-operative Party. These were duly approved.

Mr. C. Doakin moved, Mr. F. Wood seconded, and the following donations and subscriptions:—

	£	s.	d.
British Baking Industry Research Association	32	0	0
Midland Co-operative Convalescent Fund	69	0	2
Employees' Football Club	5	5	0
British Empire Leprosy Assoc.	5	0	0
Stafford District Co-op Party	10	0	
Tamworth College Prize Fund	2	2	0
Employee in H.M. Forces (Christmas gift)	1	0	0
Stafford District Hours and Wages Board	1	1	0
Necessitous Members, &c.	71	11	4

Mr. C. Brown was elected members' representative to C.W.S. divisional meetings on the proposal of Mr. F. Wood, seconded Mr. A. E. Young.

Messrs. J. Hinds, F. Wood, and H. Upton were declared elected to the education committee, to serve 18 months.

Messrs. F. Wood, A. Heathcote, and F. Egan were elected to serve on the local Co-operative Party.

Mr. H. Tomson was elected to serve as scrutineer. Mr. Julian Snow, M.P., having agreed to serve as arbitrator in the place of Major C. C. Poole (deceased), Mr. J. Hinds moved, Mr. M. Sutton seconded, and it was resolved that he be elected.

The following nominations were received in respect of the education committee:—

Mrs. O. Waine, proposed by Mrs. Davis, seconded by Mrs. Egan; Mr. C. Brown, proposed by Mr. M. Sutton, seconded by Mr. F. Wood; Mr. R. J. Longden, proposed by Mr. A. E. Langtry, seconded by Mr. A. E. Young; Mrs. A. Sherriff, proposed by Miss Redmile, seconded by Mrs. Egan; Mrs. K. M. Johnson, proposed by Mrs. Chapman, seconded by Mrs. Hincks.

Mr. C. Brown reported on the C.W.S. divisional meeting at Nottingham, and his report was duly accepted.

The secretary reported receipt of a letter from the C.W.S. regarding tobacco and cigarettes, setting us a target of 15 lb. of tobacco and 10,000 C.W.S. cigarettes.

Mr. F. Day commented on time lags in delivery from C.W.S. works and departments, and said that he thought there ought to be closer liaison between the C.W.S. and local societies. They were far from satisfied with our percentage of purchases from the C.W.S., but there has got to be efficient service by the C.W.S. Mr. Titterton suggested transfers of goods between societies from low demand areas to other areas where goods would sell.

The chairman declared Messrs. E. Collins, F. Day, and F. Egan duly elected to serve on the general committee for two years.

Mr. C. Brown complimented the funeral department on the most efficient way everything was carried out at a recent funeral, and his remarks were supplemented by Mr. Langtry. The chairman thanked him and said they had heard that our service was second to none in the district.

Interment

The funeral of Mr. Harry Herbert Blood took place at the Baptist Church, Tamworth, on Friday, February 3rd, and the following members of the committee represented the management: Mr. J. W. Stafford, Mr. J. Wrench, Mr. C. W. Deakin, Mr. F. Egan, Mr. K. Mugleston, together with the secretary and executive officer, Mr. G. A. Stock, assistant secretary, Mr. F. C. Bennett, Mr. T. Sellers, cashier and chief clerk, Mr. H. Baker, office staff, Mr. Ball, manager furnishing department, Mr. Leadbeater, chemist manager, Mr. Beeson, footwear manager, and several other members of the staff.

Mr. Blood passed away on January 31st after an illness of fairly short duration. He was employed as radio and television technician for some years and first entered the employ of the society as a boy on May 1st, 1922, and until April, 1929, served in the wheelwright section of our works department.

Afterwards he held several other positions in the society's departments, until in February, 1938, when he was employed in the furnishing department. He served in the forces from May 14th, 1941, until July 22nd, 1946.

The sympathy of the members will be extended to his wife and daughter in their sad bereavement, and also to the other members of his family.

Golden Weddings

It is with pleasure we record the wedding anniversaries of the following members, to whom we have forwarded a special cake, with congratulations from the society.

Mr. and Mrs. F. Young, 7, Colliery Row, Hall End, February 27th; Mr. and Mrs. Thawley, 18, Croft Street, Tamworth, March 8th; Mr. and Mrs. F. Haskey, 9, Tamworth Road, Two Gates, April 25th.

IS 1956 TO BE
YOUR WEDDING
YEAR?

The Society's Cars,
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TAMWORTH

Welcome Guests



Who else in Tamworth except those connected with the co-operative movement could have had three Members of Parliament as their guests at the same function. The three M.P.s, Mr. Julian Snow, Mr. Reginald Moss, and Mr. Walter Padley, attended the annual dinner and dance of our employees' trade union branch on Wednesday, January 18th. It was a most enjoyable evening, perhaps the most enjoyable part being those few minutes

when long-service presentations were being made to those employees who had earned them by their long membership and service to the union. It is to such employees that we members owe much for the way in which they have helped to build our society.

The photograph shows the three Members of Parliament, Mr. R. Moss, Mr. W. Padley, Mr. Julian Snow, together with local branch and visiting officials of the union.

Obituary

You will have heard of the lamented death of Major C. C. Poole of Four Oaks, who for many years was nominated as one of the five arbitrators for this society, and although he was never called upon to act, he would always have been willing to serve should the necessity have arisen.

We deeply regret Major Poole's death and tender to his wife and members of his family our deepest sympathy in their loss.

Goodwill Tractor

America's No. 1 farmer, President Eisenhower, was presented with a \$3,400 red and yellow tractor and a \$600 plough by Farm Bureau co-ops in Indiana, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.

President Eisenhower gave out a pleased "my golly" when he saw the tractor, which came equipped with a cigarette lighter (he doesn't smoke) and a push-button radio. Co-op leaders who made the presentation said politics had nothing to do with the gift. "We just wanted him to have the tractor," said one.

OBITUARY

We regret to announce the deaths of the following members, and offer our sympathy to the bereaved relatives.

- Francis William Birch, Tamworth, January 11th.
- Louisa Jane Cope, Orton-on-the-Hill, January 12th.
- Harriet Jane Jenkins, Mile Oak, January 13th.
- Frederick George Cole, Tamworth, January 13th.
- Harry Herbert Blood, Tamworth, January 13th.
- Ernest Bayley, Dordon, January 13th.
- George Salmon, Polesworth, January 16th.
- Annie Sophia Pratt, Birchmoor, January 16th.
- John Walker, Fazeley, January 16th.
- William Carte, Newton Regis, January 16th.
- Lucy Boulstridge, Dordon, January 19th.
- Lilian Clare Walsh Hobbs, Wigginton, January 20th.
- Isabella Statham, Tamworth, January 21st.
- Sarah Jane Wright, Tamworth, January 22nd.
- Thomas Birch, Tamworth, January 24th.
- Joseph Stephens, Tamworth, January 25th.
- Ernest Wakelin, Tamworth, January 25th.
- Henry Westbury, Tamworth, January 25th.
- Marjorie Walker, Tamworth, January 25th.
- William Thomas Baxter, Dordon, January 26th.
- Emily Sarah Leeson, Glascote, January 27th.
- Lucy Price, Bonehill, January 27th.
- Walter Thomas Wright, Doshill, January 29th.
- Joseph Tomson, Tamworth, February 2nd.
- Ralph Winter, Harlaston, February 4th.
- James Wall, Polesworth, February 7th.
- Arthur Lewis Cooper, Dordon, February 8th.
- James William Cotton, Glascote, February 9th.
- John Matthews, Hopwas, February 9th.
- Edith Priest, Tamworth, February 10th.
- Albert Harris, Tamworth, February 11th.
- Sarah Jane Coates, Tamworth, February 14th.
- Emily Pegg, Tamworth, February 15th.
- William Thomas Henry Wileman, Dordon, February 17th.
- Clara Smith, Fazeley, February 18th.
- William Bealey, Two Gates, February 19th.
- William Arthur Sutton, Tamworth, February 19th.
- Annie Litherland, Two Gates, February 20th.
- Charles Joseph Gilbert, Hopwas, February 20th.
- Ada Deakin, Polesworth, February 22nd.
- Herbert Harold Andrews, Fazeley, February 22nd.
- Annie Leedham, Amington, February 23rd.
- Walter James Wright, Tamworth, February 23rd.
- John Smith, Shuttlington, February 23rd.
- Hilda May Aucott, Glascote, February 25th.
- Emily Poole, Kettlebrook, February 25th.
- William Ebrey, Wood End, February 27th.
- George French, Two Gates, February 27th.
- Walter Wheatley, Mile Oak, February 28th.
- Phoebe Gladwin, Tamworth, February 29th.
- Sarah Ann Nicholls, Kettlebrook, February 29th.
- James Baxter, Dordon, March 3rd.

FRUIT, VEGETABLES and FLOWERS!

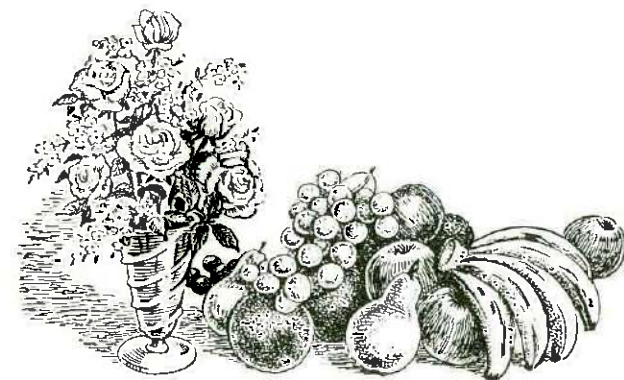
We shall be pleased to deliver your fruit and vegetables. Orders may be added to your weekly grocery order.

The following are available at Competitive Prices —

Good King Edward Potatoes	Special Large Lemons
English Bramley Apples (for Cooking)	Choice South African Pears
Pineapples	Special South African Grapes
Sweet Oranges	Large Jaffa Grapefruit
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	Boiled Beetroot, &c. (Cellophane Wrapped)

BOUQUETS, POSIES, BUTTONHOLES
WREATHS, CROSSES, SPRAYS, &c.
All to individual requirements

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OPERATIVE HOME MAGAZINE, April, 1956

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IT'S NEW!

the **MOPOL** plastic all purpose mop

Polishes floors, lino, walls, and can be used for
many other household jobs. 4/11

Spare Covers for Mopol 3/9.

All those jobs around the house
that call for a brush
are given a far better finish
when the brush is C.W.S. made.
Whether it's for scrubbing a floor,
whitening a ceiling,
or painting window sashes a
C.W.S. INVINCIBLE BRUSH
is made specially to
help you make a better job.
And you can expect long,
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Pure bristle, plastic
set, twin coloured
stocks. 8/6 & 11/6



**HOUSEHOLD
BROOMS**
Best black
durable fibre,
twin coloured
stocks. 5/3



LAUNDRY SCRUBS
Best union. 1/3



**ECLIPSE
WHITENERS**
Pure bristle,
rubber set, coloured
handles. 4 in. to 6 in.
7/- to 10/6



SCRUBS
Single winged, best
union, tufted.
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Pure bristle, plastic
set, twin coloured
stocks. 5/3 & 6/6

**BROOM HANDLES ARE
NOT INCLUDED IN PRICES
GIVEN BUT ARE EXTRA**



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Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower, present First Lady of America. What were her thoughts as the decision whether or not to run for President again was considered by her husband? Now this decision is made, and she may remain as First Lady

THE whiffs of election smoke are being wafted across the Atlantic. Over there the candidates are lining up for the battle, which takes place every four years, to select the next President of the U.S.A., one of the most powerful positions in the world.

What do the wives of the would-be candidates think as the menfolk daily try to crash the headlines with stirring exhortations to the faithful and the waverers? The prize for the wife is the position of First Lady of America and mistress of the White House, where American Presidents live.

At present the First Lady is Mamie Geneva Eisenhower, 60 year old daughter of the State of Iowa. She met her famous husband, the general who was to lead the allied armies in Europe and be the first Republican President for twenty years, when he was a lieutenant in the infantry.

What Mrs. Eisenhower thinks of the White House is not on record. More than a century has passed since one American politician—with his eye on cutting taxes and gaining the popular vote—said the White House was "a Palace as splendid as that of the Cæsars and as richly adorned as the proudest Asiatic mansion."

In fact the White House was designed by an Irish-born architect who used the Dublin seat of the Duke of Leinster as his model. The architect triumphed in open competition against a large field of entries, including one entry by future President Thomas Jefferson himself.

George Washington, the first President, never occupied the White House. It was being built (on swampy land in Washington) during his time as Chief Executive. When the second President, James

First Ladies of America

By LOUIS LANCASTER

Adams, arrived to take up residence he found the house lacked water, drainage, and main entrance steps. His wife Abigail, who had suffered social slights when her husband was the first American Minister at the Court of St. James's, and who was known for her rasping criticisms of anyone who opposed her husband politically, was for once dismayed. "Not a single apartment is furnished," she said. "The great unfinished audience room I made a drying room to hang up clothes," she wrote in her journal.

Jefferson, who came next at the White House, preferred to sleep in a lodging house until his private staff had arrived in Washington. Seventeen years after work on building the White House had begun, it was still incomplete.

Tragedy, in the shape of British troops who set fire to the White House after capturing Washington in 1814, nearly upset the apperec for Mrs. Dolly Madison, wife of the next President. But the fire was beaten and gallons of white paint were used to cover up the marks of fire. From its new appearance everyone started to call the building "The White House." Not until the twentieth century, however, was the house officially styled by that name.

Mrs. Dolly Madison, incidentally, became the first social leader to occupy the White House. Daughter of a Quaker, she was a leading social light in Washington many years after her husband's death.

The only President's wife, incidentally, not to be born in America was Mrs. Louisa Adams. She was born in London of an American father and married the man who was to be sixth President of the U.S.A.

One First Lady was forced, temporarily, to enter a mental hospital. She was Mary Todd Lincoln. Her married life was stormy and she was accused of undue extravagance in the White House. That this was an unjust accusation may be inferred from the fact that the estate of her husband, President Abraham Lincoln, was declared to be, after four years of office, a little more than four times the annual value of his presidential salary! And it was stated at the time that his estate had mostly been acquired

by savings during his period as President.

Mary Lincoln's husband was killed by an assassin while attending a Washington theatre in 1865. Two other Presidents' wives had the misfortune to lose their husbands by assassination.

One was farmer's daughter Mrs. Lucretia Garfield who had first met President-to-be James A. Garfield when they were schoolmates together. The second was the wife of President William McKinley. He was assassinated by an anarchist terrorist in 1901 while welcoming citizens to an international exhibition. His wife was with him as he died. He hated violence of any kind and



Anna Eleanor Roosevelt, the only wife of a U.S. President to make any personal impression in the political sphere

his last words were, "It is God's way. His will, not ours, be done."

That the office of President is no sinecure and is a great strain on the physical strength of man was suddenly brought home last year with the serious illness of President Eisenhower. Perhaps the worst case was that of President Harrison. His wife knew him as President for only 31 days, her husband having caught pneumonia at his inauguration ceremony.

Four Presidents have died in office. If these are added to the three who were assassinated, this means that seven wives

of Vice-Presidents (regarded very much as an also-ran position) have overnight become the President's spouse and First Lady of America.

Only one First Lady has made any impression in the political sphere. She is Mrs. Franklin Delano Roosevelt, whose husband broke all records for service in the White House. Mrs. Roosevelt was herself for four years chairman of the New York Democratic State Committee. She became the United States representative in the General Assembly of the United Nations and was, for a time, chairman of the Human Rights Commission. She devoted herself to a career of social reforms.

The First Ladies have had a varied background. Daughters of planters, university presidents, judges, ministers, bankers, farmers, steamboat inspectors, and hardware merchants, they have all tried to live up to an exacting role. Some were invalids, and nieces, daughters, or daughters-in-law acted as White House hostesses for them. The solitary bachelor President, James Buchanan, recruited his niece to run his household.

Next November another President will be elected and another President's wife may be taking up the burden. (Now Eisenhower has decided to stand, Mrs. Mamie Eisenhower may, of course, retain her position.)

Who will be the wife of the 34th President of the U.S.A.? In Virginia they are not so much concerned with Presidents' wives, but they will root for any candidate who was born in the state. Eight Presidents have been born there. No wonder they call Virginia the "Mother of Presidents!"



Mary Todd Lincoln, wife of one of the greatest of American Presidents

(Photos by courtesy of United States Information Service)



SINCE the end of the war *Reynolds News* has paid out a fortune—a £100,000 fortune—in prizes for competitions that appear every Sunday in this family newspaper.

Thousands of *Reynolds News* readers would not miss the competitions for anything. They are a regular source of entertainment and a challenge to skill.

But for hundreds of families they have provided something more—a small fortune when, in many cases, it has been most wanted.

"You need a good holiday to make you better," the doctor told Mrs. Margaret Edwards, of Liverpool, when she came out of hospital in 1953 after a month's illness. But he did not tell her how she was to pay for the holiday.

The answer came, a few days later, in a message telling Mrs. Edwards and her husband that she had won the first prize in *Reynolds News* Holiday competition. And the prize? A holiday for two in sunny Capri.

For Robert William Hall, ex-miner of Horden, Co. Durham, his £200 prize in another *Reynolds News* competition meant even greater happiness.

"This is a Godsend. You see, since I got silicosis and had to give up mining, I've needed to count every penny," he said, when he was given the happy news.

Looking back over the years, it seems that *Reynolds News* competition prizes

have brought a harvest of happiness to a lot of deserving folk.

In 1953 a £200 prize helped a St. Helens widow, Mrs. Mary Alice Edgerton, to pay off her house mortgage.

A Darby and Joan, Mr. and Mrs. Conway, of Gainsborough, Lincs., won enough furniture to fill a house in a Home-Lovers competition, a few days after they had celebrated their golden wedding.

With five children and eight grandchildren to think about, Mrs. Ethel Mary Phipps, of Cheshunt, Herts., had no worries about making use of her £200 prize. She gave presents to all the family.

Reynolds News will go on distributing happiness through its competitions this year, with £500 to be won every month in simple competitions featuring popular C.W.S. products.

In April there will be an entertaining test of your judgment of C.W.S. paints; in May the subject will be C.W.S. self-raising flour; in June it will be C.W.S. fruit squashes.

And for every competition there will be a £400 first prize and 100 consolation prizes of £1—in all, a load of happiness, pleasure, and comfort for hundreds of *Reynolds News* readers.

Order "*Reynolds News*" from your newsagent. Every Sunday, price 3d.

Holidays by Air



A typical holiday hotel in the Swiss Alps



San Remo—a lovely spot on the Italian Riviera
(Photo: Azienda di Soggiorno, San Remo)



Nice—the magnificent Promenade des Anglais
(Photo: Gilletta, Nice)



A HOLIDAY flight to the French Riviera, Switzerland, or Italy! Your own booked seat in a specially chartered plane! Flying time from London to Basle 2 hours 25 mins, Nice 3 hours, Pisa 5 hours. The essence of luxurious travel, and a big saving in precious vacation time.

And the cost? No more than making the long tiring journey by boat and train.

This is one of the new holiday offers being made this season by the Co-operative Travel Service. In order to bring this cheap, speedy travel within the reach of every purse, the C.T.S. has made its own special charter arrangements with Eagle Aviation. Every reservation, therefore, can be fixed with the utmost convenience and economy. Holidays from seven to fifteen days at a wide variety of holiday resorts are included in these C.T.S. "sun flights".

The very reasonable all-in terms cover air travel from

London to the nearest Continental airport, and from the appropriate termini to your final destination. You, and your luggage, will also be driven from the arrival station to your hotel.

Really good, comfortable hotels, by the way, are carefully chosen by the C.T.S. after thorough, on-the-spot, selection.

Light refreshments are served in all aircraft during the flight.

The total charge for these holidays includes full board and accommodation, meals consisting of continental breakfast, table d'hôte lunch, and dinner.

It might be that difficulties anticipated from a strange language sometimes deter some people who would like to enjoy the novelty and exciting pleasures of a continental holiday. Today, in all popular resorts, English is widely spoken. In any case, the C.T.S. provides at every centre specially appointed hostesses or local agents who are always ready to assist, if it should be required.

Readers are invited to obtain details of these delightful holidays by air from any local Co-operative Society Travel Bureau. Or, if required, full information will be supplied on request to Co-operative Travel Service, P.O. Box No. 178, 4/10 Regency Street, London, S.W.1 (Please mention "Home Magazine").



A chair lift in Grindelwald
(Photo: Van Allmen, Bern)

Birds nest in curious places

By CLIVE BEECH

NOT long ago house sparrows built a nest in an electricity power station in a London suburb. Straw from their untidy structure blew across the switch contacts and caused a major short circuit. As a result, this and five other power stations were put out of action for nearly an hour, 265,000 people had no current during that time, cinemas could not operate, hospitals had to go over to emergency supplies, street trolley-buses stopped, and many workers had to walk home.

It is not often, fortunately, that birds' nests cause so much trouble, but the switch-box of a power plant is no stranger than many of the sites chosen for nests.

Song thrushes have several times built nests on top of the springs of railway wagons lying idle in goods yards, and more than one bird has accompanied her brood during the shuntings and journeyings of such a wagon. Thrushes, too, seem to favour railway surroundings, even if moveable trucks are not used. One pair nested successfully high on the steel gables supporting electric overhead cables at Old Trafford station, Manchester, ignoring the fifty steam and many electric trains that ran beneath each day. Robins often build nests inside garaged cars, usually in one of the dashboard pockets, and the hen bird stays with the nest when the car is taken out. An American robin once effected a compromise between moving and stationary surroundings by raising a brood on the rotating metal top of a Cleveland, Ohio, merry-go-round!

Electricity pylons in open country have long provided useful nesting-sites for carrion crows, and the occasional kestrel or heron, but birds now build increasingly on similar installations in built-up areas. A few years ago a pair of crows built a huge nest at the top of the jib of a

135-ft. high excavator in the Midlands. The machine was in daily use, its pulley wheel revolving right alongside the nest. The birds built early in the morning, and after working hours.

A wood-pigeon built her flimsy nest of twigs on the side of a giant coal-conveyor on the quayside at Sunderland. Every time a coal truck was emptied the nest and eggs travelled 80 ft. off the ground and back again, and the hen bird could only reach her eggs at night.

In the Middle East, where oil pipelines run for hundreds of miles across deserts, the telegraph-lines alongside the pipes are the only substitute for trees, and countless hawks and other birds use their cross-bars for nest-sites. Often metal wire used for detonating the explosives that blasted out the original trenches is made into nests, as are bits of welding rods and even discarded detonators. Many hundreds of such nests have to be removed every year, since they are plainly dangerous to the pipelines.

Equally dangerous, but happily discovered in time, was the nest of an American bluejay inside an air-cowl a few inches beneath the propeller of a small civil aircraft standing on a Minnesota airport. The kindly authorities there put up a striking notice on the plane: *This plane must not be flown until bird's eggs are hatched.*

Perhaps the strangest site of all for any bird's nest was that chosen some years ago by a pair of common wrens. They constructed their domed nest inside the decaying body of a sparrowhawk that hung from a gamekeeper's gibbet. The young were successfully reared, and the cadaverous nursery is preserved intact in Chester Museum. Wrens are matched only by blue tits in the strangeness of the holes they select for building nests: tits in letter boxes, church pulpits, street-lamps, and the like are reported widely every year, but there is a record extant of a pair making a nest inside the decaying skull of an eighteenth-century malefactor as he hung from a hilltop gibbet!

Two or three years ago two oystercatchers made their apology for a nest on some gravel near the Kentish coast. Instead of choosing a quiet patch of sea-shore, however, the birds nested only three feet from a main line railway track, over which 130 trains, many of them expresses, roared daily. The hen hatched out her two eggs.



The shoulder of a churchyard cross and (below, left) the wheel of an agricultural vehicle are two of the strange places chosen by birds to build their nests

Swallows once nested on top of a large ornamental mirror inside an upstairs bedroom of a house, and failing to make their mud structure secure there, built another above the curtain rail in the same room.

As is well known, robins use more unorthodox sites than almost any other species, and this is partly due to their remarkable trust in man and liking for his surroundings. Even so, the robins that nested inside the mouth of a stuffed crocodile in a living-room must be awarded the palm for originality. Second to that bizarre case, perhaps, is the weird choice of two Sussex robins. They built a normal nest on top of a steel trap set to catch a rat, and reared the young without ever setting off the trap.

The moorhen's eight-egg nest in the stern-sheets of a riverside rowing-boat, the rooks that built on top of a church spire weather-vane, the thrush's nest in a geranium-filled hanging flower-basket, and the thrush's twice-built nest in the rubber suction pipe of a road roller, the magpie's nest in a low gooseberry bush, the wren's in a broccoli head, the 4 ft. wide eagle's eyrie in the "crow's-nest" of a laid-up freighter, the four young chaffinches inside the top of a constantly-used petrol pump—these and many more examples of unusual birds' nests make us marvel at the adaptability and the ingenuity of birds.



**For Regal
Residence**



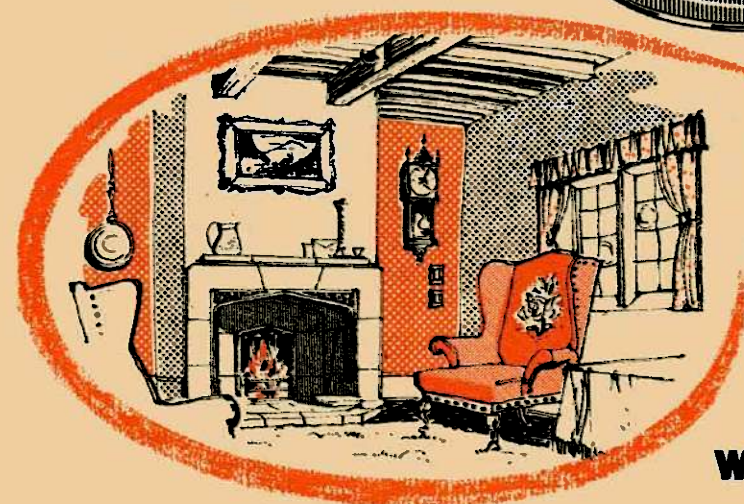
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FROM CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES EVERYWHERE

In your **GARDEN**

IN APRIL

By W. E. SHEWELL-COOPER
M.B.E., N.D.H., F.L.S., F.R.S.A.



**SQUASHES ON
A FENCE**

a Luxury crop

ASPARAGUS is usually regarded as a luxury, but a bed costs very little to maintain, and all gardeners should grow this delicious crop. Dig a strip of land 3 feet wide right across your allotment or garden and bury a bucketful of compost to each yard run. Fork a good fish manure, which should contain 10 per cent potash, at 4 to 5 ounces to the yard run into the top 2 or 3 inches. Lastly apply hydrated lime at 6 to 7 ounces to the yard run over the same strip.

Now for planting. Draw out flat-bottomed drills 7 inches deep and spread the spidery roots evenly in the bottom of this trench. Set each plant on a little mound of soil; it is easier to get the roots in position and ensure that the crowns or the growing bud parts of the flower are about 4 inches below soil level after covering in.

Plant three feet apart in the rows, and never expose the young plants to the dry winds. They should always be covered with a damp sack until they are put in the soil. It is quicker for two people than one to plant asparagus. One holds the plant in position and spreads out the roots; the other puts the soil over the top so that this can be trodden down carefully. Put a strong stake at either end of the row before covering in so you know exactly where the row is. If any blank spaces appear towards mid-June, further plants should be put in immediately, this time watering them in.

Do not cut any crop the first year. You should be able to have some sticks next spring, and after that you will be cutting as much asparagus as you wish.

WHY not grow squashes—a most delicious vegetable? The fruits keep throughout the winter and I had some delicious Hubbard squashes right through until the end of February this year. I think this type is the most useful, but if you prefer, and can get the seed, you can grow the Golden Scallop squash. I make mine climb up a fence; that way they crop very heavily.

AMONG THE FLOWERS

THE majority of people love red hot poker, but many forget to plant them at the right time of the year. Now is the time to divide torch lilies as they are sometimes called, and to plant them in the border. There are varieties which flower early in the summer and others which flower late. There are brilliant orange-red kinds as well as those of bright yellow.

To keep pansies and violas flowering pick off the flowers the moment they die. If you allow them to go to seed, the plants stop blooming.

Go over the perennial flower border and hoe it thoroughly to keep down the little weeds. Shrubberies need a good hoeing, too, and then a mulch of sedge peat or leaf mould to a depth of at least an inch.

If you raised some sweet peas in the greenhouse the plants should be of a good height now and by the second week of this month you should be able to plant them out in rows in the open.

Hollyhocks are liable to get the disease known as rust if left out in the ground year after year. Always replant each season. Now is a good time to put out young hollyhock plants in a sunny spot. They make a good screen if planted at



14-day rule

In order to get a constant supply of radishes it is a good idea to make a sowing every fourteen days. Try the varieties C.W.S. Early Scarlet and C.W.S. Early White which quickly reach maturity.

Sow also some round beet, variety C.W.S. King of the Globe, in lines one foot apart; there will be very little thinning to do if you sow the capsules an inch apart.

the bottom of the garden. Double hollyhocks are very pretty indeed. Don't simply buy hollyhocks; choose them by colour and plan accordingly.

Another interesting flower is the violet; April is a good month for planting out, in a partially shaded corner, runners which have been struck in frames. Mine grow on a north border and do very well. The variety Governor Herrick is the most free from pests but unfortunately has no scent; if you must have scent, choose Princess of Wales.

For a shady border

HAVE you ever thought of planting ferns? There are many hardy types which will do well in a shady position. I had a very narrow border behind the garage, in almost complete shade all the year, and I tried out all kinds of plants there. I never really succeeded until I planted a collection of ferns; now that narrow border looks delightfully verdant all the summer. Ferns like a mulch at this time of the year; give them a dressing of sedge peat.

For the JUNIORS

PUZZLE CORNER

1. Hidden Countries

Can you find the names of four countries hidden in these sentences?

"Yes, I am in great pain,"

said Tom. Tom's pain was in his knee. There were no longer many doubts in the minds of Sam, Eric, and John that Tom ought to see a doctor.

2. In Code

Here's a well-known proverb in a simple code. Can you decode it?

PDANA'O IWJU W
OHEL 'PSETP PDA
YQL WJZ PDA HEL.

LITTLE OLIVER

By L. R. BRIGHTWELL

We left L.O., Jane, and Chips adrift last month on a raft.



"Fancy saying you wish there was a helicopter handy—with two eagles on board!"



L.O.'s braces stood up to it all the way back to the Co-op.



But Jane's cape tore and the eagle dropped her through the fanlight of the Mayor's cabin!

By PAMPHILON

DEAR JUNIORS,—April is traditionally a showery month; it provides the moisture which helps plants to grow. And when May's flowers come along, we feel that the showers have been well worth while. Did you catch any April Fools this year? If you'd lived in France you'd have called them April Fishes (Poissons d'Avril). In Scotland they're April Gowks (Cuckoos). Your friend, BILL

HOWLERS

Britain's climate is a healthy one, but on account of our insolent position we suffer from fogs.

An example of a collective noun is a vacuum cleaner.

Milk is chiefly bought in bottles, but it also grows in cows, coconuts, and goats.

A stethoscope is a thing for looking into people's chests with your ears.

WHAT IS IT?



You'll find this fearsome looking contraption in mummy's kitchen. Can you say what it is? (Answer in column 1)

THIS MONTH'S COMPETITION FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

What is your favourite game? Write and tell the Editor, in not more than 400 words, what it is and why you like it.

TWO GRAND PRIZES

will be awarded for the best letters received—a STORY BOOK for competitors aged 9 or over; a CUT-OUT MODEL BOOK for the under-nines.

Your letter must be all your own work, and must not contain more than 400 words, not counting your address and signature.

Give your full name, age, and address.

Post your letter as soon as possible to the Editor, "Co-operative HOME Magazine," C.W.S. Ltd., P.O. Box 53, 1 Balloon Street, Manchester 4.

(Put 2½d. stamp on the envelope.)

January Competition Winners:

WILLIAM FREDERICK SMITH,
47 Rugby Place, Brighton, Sussex

GORDON ARTHUR WHITE,
27 Shelton Street, Wilnecote,
Tamworth

Puzzle Solutions

At your Co-op Shop: It's a packet of Paddy Soap Powder, the Wonder Washer made by the C.W.S.

What is it? A mincing machine.

Puzzle Corner: 1. Siam, Spain, Germany, America. 2. There's many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip. 3. Parsnip. 4. Picture, berry, sheet or ghost, needle, gold.

Laugh - lines

"Your honour," said the Irish foreman of the jury, "We find the man who stole the potatoes was not guilty."

"My worst experience in the jungle," said the visitor, "was when I was attacked by a 20-foot snake."

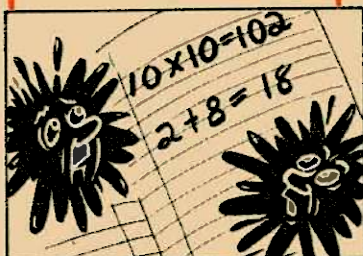
"Gosh," exclaimed Tommy, "I didn't know snakes had feet!"

"John has a cold and won't be coming to school to-day," said the voice on the telephone.

"Oh!" replied the headmaster, "Who's speaking?"

"My mother."

THE INK BLOTS

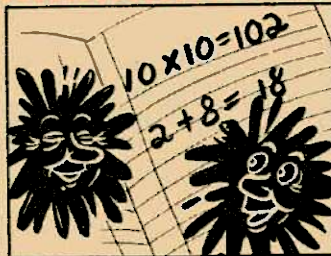


"Oh, look! Mary's got her sums wrong!" "Yes let's help her, but how?"

AT YOUR CO-OP SHOP



Here is another packet you'll find on the shelves of your co-operative grocery shop. Can you say what it contains? (Answer in column 1)



"I know! We'll alter the numbers. You head for the number eight, and I'll make for the number two."



Off zoomed the two blots and altered the numbers as you can see. So Mary got her sums right after all.

Housewives' Choice

Be kitchen-clever — with C.W.S. BIRTLEY WARE. Food is kept fresh and clean, there's a place for everything — and everything's right to hand!

BIRTLEY WARE means "picture kitchens" to delight house-proud housewives.

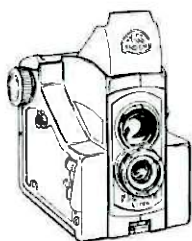


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