

DINING OUT IN ENGLAND MAY LOSE POPULARITY

Mrs. Asquith's Reminiscences Has Set a Fashion Which Has Been Widely Followed—Col. Repington Publishes a Collection of Anecdotes and Impressions—Social Diaries Regarded as a Peril.

London, Oct. 28.—Mrs. Asquith, whose claims to renown are already so numerous and curiously assorted, may live to be known as the woman who killed dining out in England. By publishing her amazingly frank and somewhat vainglorious reminiscences she has set a fashion which already shows signs of being widely followed, and threatens, as an indignant public man expresses it, "it put an end to all free and unconstructed social intercourse."

Already following the publication of Mrs. Asquith's collection of personal anecdotes and "impressions," we have had the recollection of the former military expert of the London Times, Lieut-Col. C. A. Court Repington.

Col. Repington's diary in two volumes and 1,200 pages is entitled "The First World War," but it mainly consists of the breezy gossip of a Horace Walpole or a lady Mary Wortley Montagu.

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Records of statesmanship, administration, tactics and strategy are plentifully peppered by blazing indiscretions of afternoon tea talk with charming society women and the easy gossip that ensues when coronas are aglow after a good dance—all of it so personal that one is dazed by the thought of "a certain amount omitted on the recommendation of eminent counsel."

Allured by these examples, a number of other persons who have been more or less behind the scenes of public life in England during recent years are already hard at work on their respective "reminiscences," each of them prepared to outdo the wife of the ex-Premier and the late military representative of the Times in the matter of candor and sensationalism.

Men and women who bulk largest in the public eye in England are vowing

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ing that the dinner and tea tables of their friends and acquaintances shall know them not in future—or at least until such time as they can be assured that communications made in the confidence of social intercourse shall be secure against being retailed in print.

Their attitude toward the social diarists is pungently and wittily expressed by the man of affairs, distinguished in the realm of statecraft, who writes to the aristocratic Morning Post under the pseudonym of "Diner Out." His identity is known pretty widely.

"Formerly," he says, "we took sanctuary at a friend's table from the Peeping Toms of the new journalism without the slightest fear of seeing our small talk dished up in print afterward. We could talk at our ease among our friends or even our friendly enemies, politically speaking, without troubling to conceal the little weaknesses from which nobody, not even a Geddes or a Labor member, is absolutely exempt. We could produce a complicit to please a pretty girl without being afraid it would some day turn up as an amusing anecdote, published not only in a diary but also in all the evening papers.

"Those free and happy evenings, alas! are gone forever. All your fellow guests, perhaps even your host and hostess, are taking mental notes of your personal appearance, your clothes, your conversation. If you should die before a diary is big enough to be sold to a publisher its author will put into your mouth extraordinary political opinions you never dreamed of having in your lifetime. It will be vain for your children to write to the paper, which publishes the diary as a serial shocker, to point out that you were utterly incapable of talking such idiotic nonsense.

"And it is in vain you take refuge in silence to escape notice in these many diaries. If you do the record will run in various tones: 'M—was present and was too busy eating and drinking enormously to have a word to say. We all hoped he would have an apoplectic fit before the end, but it didn't come off.'

"Seriously, we ought to make a stand against this anti-social diary habit. It is killing all the ease and pleasure of the leisurely social intercourse which in former days did so much to make life worth living. To an old fashioned person like myself it seems a tasteless, even dishonorable business to give private conversations to the public and shd up the cold remains of a friend with herbs of rhetoric, hard boiled egotism and a sauce of scandal."

If colleges really desire to help fellows up in the world, why don't they establish a chair of bricklaying?

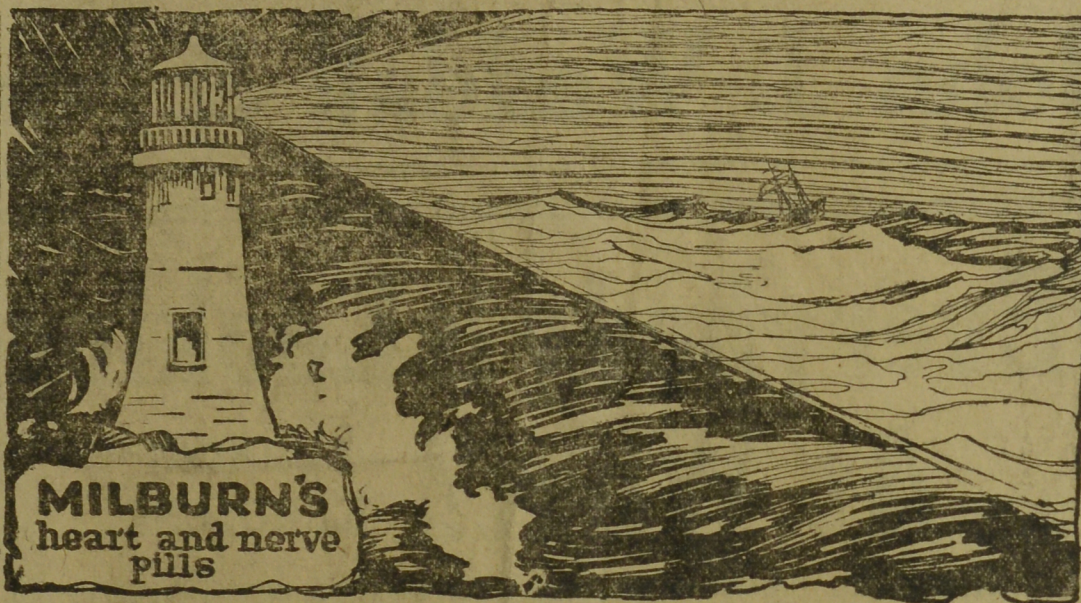
There are men who seem to enjoy nothing better than loafing around the police court to see the wages of sin collected.

With those new skirts that make the knees almost as prominent as the ankles in style a girl must feel as if she were dressing up when she goes home and puts on a long kimono.

Man can please a woman by marrying her, if he is the right sort of chap. But after marriage it is necessary to find some other method of making her life pleasant.

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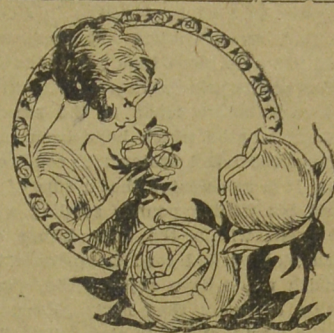
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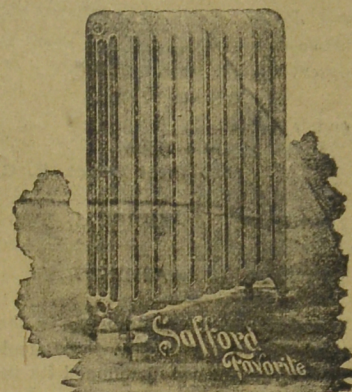
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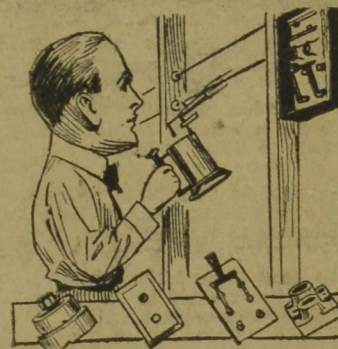
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