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AS SEEN FROM LONDON

John Bull Changes His Habits in Selection of Food

LONDON, Sept. 10.—To enter into the spirit of their surroundings, many American visitors to the British Isles, and to London in particular, regale themselves with chophouse fare supposed to have been popular with the political and literary worthies of the seventeenth century, but which most Britons of today certainly try to avoid in a heat wave. In the great changes which have occurred in this country in recent years not even the breakfast table or the dinner table has escaped. Naturally this revolution in matters dietary has affected most eating establishments, even those in the chophouse category which for generations remained loyal to the dishes which were essentially hearty.

Public health education and varied diet propaganda have struck a heavy blow at what was once regarded as typical John Bull fare, which, if popular at all, is so only in the winter months. Of course the change in eating habits is deplored by the lads of the bulldog breed, largely on the assumption that fruit and tomato juice milk and cream, salads and spinach were not John Bull's chief reliance in crises in times past. Then it was beef and beer and ample portions of meat puddings and pies. These apostles of the hearty school of eating say, too, that the revolution in diet has Americanized or "Frenchified" even the menus of seaside boarding houses and, what is more disastrous, has encouraged many housewives to neglect the kitchen and the culinary arts for food in tin cans and cardboard boxes which can easily be prepared for consumption. Yet to the mind of the mass of the King's subjects it is "all to the good" that most homes, as well as most eating establishments, are acquainted with a much wider range of dishes than was the case only a few years ago.

Recently the Minister of Agriculture asserted that the average amount of meat eaten by each person in Great Britain was now about sixty pounds a year, or a decrease of about seven pounds in the last few years. This decline has, however, complicated the trade with some of the country's best customers, particularly New Zealand, which supplies so much of the mutton and lamb for the British table. In New Zealand, Australia and the Argentine the meat consumption is, according to the Imperial Economic Committee, 200 pounds per head. Slightly more than 50 per cent of the meat eaten by John Bull is mutton and lamb, which is not surprising in view of the continued partiality for chops and cutlets. The old-style chophouse was once the place most favored when a nicely grilled chop was desired. But today the average good restaurant grills a chop equally well. It is contended by government spokesmen, and not altogether because an election is in the offing, that the people of Britain are eating more and better food while those of some other countries are, because of economic difficulties, eating less. Here the consumption of butter has increased 50 per cent, and the fruit from seventy-nine pounds per capita to 95.6 pounds. Americans who have visited England this summer for the first time in a decade or so have been struck by the abundance of imported fruit. But it is not surprising to those who have been here to watch the change, which has been influenced partly by public health education and partly by reciprocal trade agreements with Empire countries and with several others outside the Empire. Of apple imports Canada supplies over \$377,000,000 pounds, Australia 220,600,000 pounds and the United States 153,500,000 pounds. Of oranges Spain leads with 740,000,000 pounds, Palestine and Trans-Jordan 216,900,000, the Union of South Africa 131,500,000 and the United States from 30,000,000 to 40,000,000. Most of the 16,000,000 bunches of bananas imported come from British possessions. The United States, however, continues to supply the greater portion of canned pears, peaches and apricots.

In the opinion of some Britons the eating habits of their countrymen have been influenced much more by things American than Continental. At any rate, even King George's sailors and soldiers are encouraged to eat ice cream. The diet of the fighting men has in recent months come in for much intensive study by medical officers, with the result that the fare afloat as well as ashore would appear "fussy" to the old timers used to stodgy victuals. It is insisted that the sailor and the soldier are all the better for variety and for good cooking and service. While Britons have never been as milk-minded as Americans, they are now being urged by the government to become so in the interest of their own health and to assist the hard-hit agricultural industry, which also benefits from the growing interest in salads. For a long time persons of middle age, especially those using automobiles to any great extent, have been made unpleasantly conscious about the acquisition of a middle-age "spread" through shirking of exercise and injudicious dining. It is being emphasized by certain dietitians that the John Bull of today is not the paunchy individual of the cartoons or of the popular imagination, but a cricketer, golfer and lawn tennis "composite" with an athletic girth. It is argued that the portly John Bull is a memory of the days of gout, not the national figure in these days of exceptional interest in all forms of outdoor sport.

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RADIUM CAPSULE FOUND IN PIG

Tiny Capsule Worth \$3000 Is Recovered Through Doctor's Detective Work.

MINNEAPOLIS, Sept. 10.—An amazing story of how two university sleuths went searching for a tiny radium capsule and recovered it from the stomach of a pig was revealed today.

The "detectives" were J. W. Butcha of the Physics Department and Dr. H. H. Barber of the Chemistry Department, both of the University of Minnesota. The scene of their discovery was Sioux Falls, S. D.

The radium, valued at \$3,000, was in a tiny capsule three quarters of an inch long and barely one-sixteenth of an inch in diameter. It was used by physicians at Moe Hospital in Sioux Falls for treatment of cancer. A nurse unknowingly discarded a piece of adhesive tape to which the capsule clung.

Hospital authorities, when they discovered the capsule gone, easily learned how it had become lost but from there they could go no further, so they called Dr. Barber and Dr. Butcha.

The "detectives" went immediately to Sioux Falls. Their equipment consisted of an ashecan in which was built an upright rod. A gold leaf was suspended from the bottom of the rod. Electricity in the rod made the leaf stand out at right angles. The presence of radium would flatten the leaf against the rod.

Like true detectives, the two professors started at the beginning and learned that rubbish from Moe Hospital was taken to a pig farm operated by F. L. Tibbles.

At the farm they set up their instrument. There was no quiver from the leaf, so they moved it around over various rubbish piles. Suddenly the leaf shook and flattened against the rod. Radium, the detectives knew, was near.

A moment later, without the instrument having been moved, the leaf showed no reaction. This puzzled the sleuths until one of them observed that a herd of swine had been walking past. Then Tibbles took an interest. He divided his 500 pigs into five groups and the test was repeated near each group. One of them caused the leaf to flutter. Again they divided the pigs into groups and by elimination one solitary porker, when held near the reaction.

The professors concluded they had found their pig.

A butcher was called. The radium was recovered.

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