

our disposal, it was not until the spring of 1901 that our provision list was finally drawn up and the necessary orders given; the orders were distributed over a large number of firms, and deliveries were directed to be made to the East India Docks, where a shed had been placed at our disposal. At the same time, by the courtesy of the Health Office of the City of London, it was arranged that all the tinned food collected in the shed should be examined by one of their officials before it was transmitted to the 'Discovery.' The examination showed that, as far as could be seen, everything was of good quality with the exception of one delivery, and it became a question whether we should reject the whole of this delivery and seek a fresh contractor, or whether we should reject only the portion that was unsatisfactory and demand its renewal. Urgency decided in favour of the latter alternative. It must be understood that the food supplied after this rejection, and indeed all the food that actually sailed in the 'Discovery,' was examined, but such an examination has obvious limitations. The suspicious circumstance was that *anything* ordered for the 'Discovery' should have been unsatisfactory, and the inference was that if there were shortcomings in this delivery which the examination could detect, there would probably be others which it could not.

On our arrival in New Zealand we shipped a large addition to our stock of tinned food, some on a consignment from Australia, and some on purchase in the colony itself; both deliveries were excellent as far as we had any power of judging.

I have already given some idea of our routine in winter quarters with regard to meals. It will be recalled that we had seal-meat twice a week, mutton once, and tinned meat on the remaining days; the problem is, which of these gave us the scurvy?

As regards the seal-meat, I think we may at once reject the idea. The animals had to be skinned immediately after they were killed, and carcasses were thus frozen within a very short space of time.