

SIDE TALKS.

By Ruth Cameron.

THE JOYS OF SHEDS.

It is my ambition to own an old house some day because I love old houses. I love their quaintness and their unexpectedness. I love their old gardens and the big trees that grow with them and which all the money you may put into imitating an old house will not buy for you. And I believe in the fine saying "An old house harbors peace better than a new one."

The Authorman, on the other hand, one of those people who claim that it is better to produce the old lines in a new house. He claims that old houses are likely to be musty and that they always calling out for the services of a plumber or a mason or carpenter when you need the money for something important—as for instance, new car.

You Get So Many Sheds.

But on one count he does lean slightly toward the old house idea. He would never guess what it is, because you are likely to get a shed thrown in with an old house. The Authorman loves sheds. He says they fascinate him. I think it is partly because he has had experience in building one or two small buildings. He says that the present price of lumber and the cost of all these little buildings that would cost so much now being thrown in with the house appeals to his joy in a bargain. And then he probably remembers the sheds of his youth, and has a sentimental tenderness for them because of the memories of old games and good times that cluster around the shed.

Sheds and Attics Are Disappearing. "Even as you and I," that is if you are old enough to have lived in a

house with a real shed. Along with the attic of our childhood the shed has rapidly been disappearing. Sacrificed on the altar of the God of Expensive Building and Scarcity of Space.

We had a most fascinating shed on the house where I was brought up, and just because it was falling to pieces and the family council decided it would be less expensive to tear it down than to have it repaired, it was done away with. I can remember how badly I felt though. I was almost grown up at the time. It was not a large shed, but large enough to have two doors, a small cobwebby window and many shelves littered with tools and other more valuable odds and ends.

The Usages of Sheds.

It is a wonderful place to use when playing hide and seek—one shot out one door when the hunter looked in the opposite. When Constance de Beverly, my cat (acquired as you may gather while studying "Marmion" at school) had kittens, they were always kept in the shed. When one from the ice cream one sat on the steps that led down to the shed and sang "John Brown's Body" (four more verses before I change hands) and turned the crank. When one was given a bicycle the shed became its stable. When one played old witch, the old witch always lived in the shed, when one plotted any specially thrilling mischief, the shed was the scene of the plot. Of course if we had had a barn that would have been an even more appropriate setting for most of these joys. But we were town children and for town children the shed was the nearest substitute for a barn. And now the average child knows neither barn nor shed nor attic. No wonder they get bored and sophisticated so soon.

I hope I shall find that old house some day and that it will have not one but three or four sheds.

French Predictions of War.

Many friends of France are asking why that country which suffered so much and fought so bravely in the last war, should be in bad odor in English speaking countries at the present time. The answer was unambiguously given the other day in a newspaper interview with Count Lesseps de Lesseps, who is at present in Canada and whose connections with his country are well known. Count Lesseps' words were undoubtedly representative of a large mass of French opinion, and as such justify the criticism to which France is being subjected in Great Britain and the United States. He speaks of war as a possibility of the near future, as though it would not be undesirable, and holds that the Armistice of 1918, which put an abrupt stop to a weekly toll in dead and wounded running far into thousands, was a mistake.

Such convictions reveal a cleavage between English thought and French thought that cannot be bridged. British Imperial opinion and such American opinion as takes international questions under consideration, are deeply and overwhelmingly resolved that there shall be no more wars with their consent. The deeply rooted conviction of all men of real intellectual capacity in Canada and other countries where the Anglo-Saxon tradition is, that war as a solution of international disputes is the ghastliest human failure; and that aspirations toward military grandeur constitute a disease which brings disaster to the nation which cherishes them. If the war did not teach France that then the case of France is hopeless, and her ultimate doom certain. The nations which continued to fight in the three and a half years that have intervened since the armistice are those which stand lowest in the scale of average intelligence.

Russia, Turkey and Greece. China's civil war, arising from a bogus republicanism, may be left out of the question, for nobody in Europe can be blamed for that conflict. Even Russia is discerning the error of her ways; and Greece has lost her appetite for war since the Allies left her to stew in her own juice. It is quite unlikely that there is going to be another war, although the surest way to produce one is to constantly predict it as Frenchmen are doing. But one truth is absolutely certain: If it happens it will be a war in which neither Great Britain nor the United States will take part or willingly countenance. With the greatest Empire and the greatest Republic that the world has ever known equally resolved on a course of abstention, the chances are small that France will deliberately precipitate a conflict; and it is pretty obvious that Germany has no such desire. So long as the English speaking peoples are for peace, the peace of the world is relatively safe, even without the Anglo-American Alliance. The present agitation with France is due to the fact that her military leaders and demagogic politicians insist on preaching solutions that the late war has shown to be pernicious folly; the blind leading the blind.—Saturday Night, Toronto.

Massive Star.

80,000 TIMES BRIGHTER THAN THE SUN.

Professor Plaskett, the director of the new observatory in British Columbia, has made an interesting communication on a star that he has been observing. It is in the constellation Monoceros, the Unicorn, just to the left of the well-known Orion, and lies in the middle of the Milky Way. It is a sixth magnitude star, which means that it is just visible to the acute eye.

Nothing remarkable was noticed about it till the spectroscopic was applied; this instrument spreads out the light of the sun and stars into a long rainbow-tinted ribbon, crossed by dark lines due to absorption of light by the gases in the solar or stellar atmospheres. The spectrum of this star showed the various lines double, whereas in the sun they are single; this is known to indicate that the star consists of two components in rapid motion round each other.

In the present case Professor Plaskett finds that the two stars are 56 million miles apart, while they round each other in a fortnight, body going round the sun at the same distance would require six months for the circuit, and it is calculated that the two components of the Plaskett star are respectively ninety and seventy times the mass of the sun, making the pair the most massive star system known.

So far the results are pretty certain; what follows is more speculative. The diameters of the two stars are given as 18 million and 16 million miles, and each square mile of their surface is estimated to give 40 times

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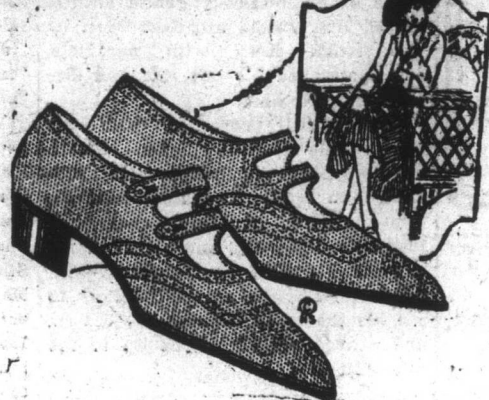
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Some Special Summer Savouries.

(By "Betty" in Glasgow Weekly Herald.)

Although their work of catering for the family table is all important, housekeepers are naturally desirous in the summertime of being relieved, as far as possible, of the heavier kinds of cooking. To this end attention should be directed to the making of savouries. These savouries, both cold and hot, are an excellent change from the meat dishes ordinarily in use. To help my readers a number of suitable recipes are dealt with which will be found most tempting in hot weather. Some of these can be prepared beforehand, and although light, are very nourishing and satisfying.

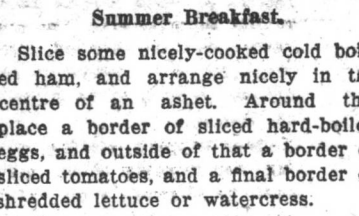
Eggs in Tomatoes.
Allow one egg and one tomato for each person. Cut a thick slice off the top of each tomato, and remove most of the pulp. Sprinkle each tomato shell with a grating of cheese and pepper and salt. Break an egg into a wetted cup, and gently pour it into the hollowed tomato, and sprinkle with a little more seasoning and a grating of cheese. Put a tiny pat of butter on each, set into a roasting tin, and bake in rather a quick oven until the whites of the eggs are just set. Place each tomato on hot buttered toast and serve very hot.

Tomato Custard.
To use up the pulp of the tomatoes the following makes an excellent tit-bit:—Mix the pulp with two beaten eggs, adding a teaspoonful of finely-chopped parsley, a teaspoonful of butter, pepper and salt to season, and a breakfastcupful of boiling milk. Pour the custard into a pie-dish, and bake in a gentle oven for one hour. Before serving sprinkle with some grated cheese.



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Mr. and Mrs. Phelps had come to that all-important part of naming their new-born baby. Mr. Phelps, who, by the way, detested work, and liked nothing better than to sit in front of the fire and watch other people do it, wanted the baby named plain "Bill."

"I shall name the baby William Oliver Robert Kenneth," she asserted. "But why all these names?" asked her husband.

"Because," replied Mrs. Phelps bitterly, "if you look at the initials you will find that they spell W.O.R.K." so perhaps when baby grows up he will take to it better than his father."

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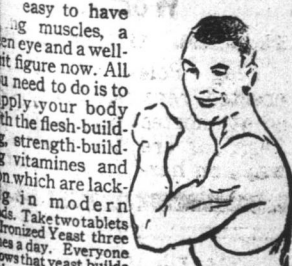
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