

stowed where salt water will not contaminate their contents. The sugar is in 2-cwt. barrels, which must not be confused with those containing salt; these latter bearing a striking resemblance to their sweeter brethren, and, in order to prevent mistakes, are stowed in a separate hold altogether.

The dry-provision hold is reserved for tinned goods—for rabbit, salmon, corned beef, mutton, tinned carrots, turnips, potatoes, and celery-seed, suet, raisins, currants, jam, marmalade, condensed milk—tons and tons of this latter—crowding upon each other in orderly rows, while the barrels of rice share the after hold with the salt.

There is one special stowage set apart for the spirit, and called the spirit store. Into this go the huge barrels of rum with their red-rimmed markings, and, so that they shall not be lonely, vinegar, in exactly the same-sized casks is stowed here also. But, to tell them apart, the vinegar casks have white rims—a mistake in opening either kind of provisions might be nearly fatal. Also, because it is inflammable, the painters' turpentine also finds a home in the spirit room—though this is "carpenters' stores," and has nothing to do with the paymaster. And, in those ships lucky enough to carry motor-boats, here, also, is stowed the petrol for driving them. The spirit store is fitted with a flooding arrangement in case of fire, exactly the same as the magazines and shell-rooms of the ship.

"Provisions," as I have said, is a term embracing many things—one needs to witness the operation termed "provisioning ship" to realise how many. Fat and flannel and figs; soap and socks and sugar; lard and lanyards and libraries—these latter for the pleasant passing away of odd hours when duty eases up a little; petrol and pickles; coffee and candles and currants; tea and tobacco and turpentine; biscuits—ships still carry them in case the bakery breaks down, or for other emergencies—and beef in tins; salmon and suet; raisins and rabbits—again tinned; the memory refuses to record the whole miscellany of foodstuffs that enter the ship on these occasions. For, not only is the paymaster responsible that Jack has a sufficiency of food, he must make sure that there is enough clothing in the ship to dress its whole company twice over if needs be; that the chaplain has a full supply of Bibles and prayer-books for ministering to the men's spiritual needs, and enough school stationery and library books to entertain and educate their minds; that there is a plenitude of tobacco—both in the raw, naked leaf and manufactured, in tins—for their delectation; and soap sufficient to cleanse themselves and their clothing, no matter the odds against personal cleanliness—which is the sailorman's one fetish.