Food Kept Fresh by Dehydration

Three-Year-Old Eggs for Omelettes-Fresh Fish, Same Age—Banana Coffee-Vegetables and Fruits Kept Indefinitely Without Canning.

Eggs three years old but fresh enough for omelets, fish three years caught but good enough for supper is the dazzling prospect held out by A. F. Spawn, dehydrated food expert who has arrived in Montreal to give information in various quarters of his methods of preserving foods.

Housewives despondent as winter sends egg prices soaring to the dollar mark, as salmon mounts and green vegetables soar can take heart. Mr. Spawn has with him meat, fish, eggs, fruit and vegetables which have survived many winters. Three years have passed since a sheep's tongue last. helped the sheep with its vocal exercises. The onions, cabbages and carrots have not smelt of earth for many months. But all are perfectly wholesome good and ready for use, and with ordinary cooking and a preliminary soaking in water provided all the constitutents for a full-course meal.

Evaporated Food.

The secret lies in the dehydration of foods, which is synonymous with evaporation, Mr. Spawn says. His process consists of driving the water, which is such a large constitutent of most foods, out of the food in question without steaming or boiling or use of chemicals by passing hot air over the product and drawing out all the water. Under this process, the food retains all its nutritive qualities and natural flayor, and can be kept indefinitely without going bad. Meat, fish, and vegetables are just as good, three years after they were procured as they were at fish, and just as palatable and tasty when cooked. In the dehydration of fish no salt or preservative is used, and the result is superior, he claims to canning, while in addition it is much

less expensive. Vegetables like cabbages and onions when subjected to the dehydration process are sliced. One and a half ounces of these dehydrated vegetables are sufficient to make soup for five people. To cook them, the housewife must first cover them with water when they begin immediately to swell up and regain their natural freshness and color, having had restored to them the water taken from them by the dehydration process. In the case of dehydrated fruits, they must first be put in water for two or three hours, then stewed or cooked in the ordinary way.

Banana Coffee. Mr. Spawn has with him samples of dehydrated apples. Nothing has been wasted during the dehydration process, for the cores and peelings have been made by him into fine quality apple jelly. The peelings and cores of one tushel of apples will make seven. half-pint glasses of jelly, he states. In addition to dehydrating foods, . Spawn has experimented with and

perfected new foods. He recommends hanana coffee, made by dehydrating hananas, then roasting and grinding up the dehydrated substance. Banana coffee is brewed in the same way as ordinary coffee for dringing and is. Mr. Spawn declares, the most perfect imitation of coffee. It further has the advantage that one pound of banana coffee goes as far as two pounds of ordinary coffee.

Housewives who lament the fact that bread will go stale will learn with interest of sweet potato flour. If the housewife would only use 25 per cent. potato flour with her ordinary flour, she would never be bothered with stale bread, the dehydration expert says. He further points out economic advantages to be gained by the use of potato flour. In 1910 the increase in wheat production in the United States was only 12 per cent. more than in 1900, but the increase of population was 21 per cent. The demand is growing greater than the supply and unless some substitutes are discovered, there will not be sufficient for the people's needs, he maintains, hence the importance of finding substitutes. The only thing sweet potato flour will not do which ordinary flour does is to make a light loaf of bread, Mr. Syawn declares. But used as an addition to ordinary flour to the proportion of 25 per cent. it does away with staleness for potato flour will never grow stale.

Banana flour is excellent for baby's food. There is nothing better, according to Mr. Spawn. Made like porridge it is not only ideal for infants, but a good breakfast food for adults. One of Mr. Spawn's methods

making converts for dehydration is to invite people to dinner and give them nothing but dehydrated foods. The menu of one such dinner included crab cocktail, vegetable soup, shrimp, croquettes, fried smelts, boiled salmon, clam fritters, green peas, sweet potato biscuits, spinach, apple and pumpkin pies, sweet potato cakes, banana coffee and candied bananas, all made from dehydrated products.

To carry out his experiments with foods. Mr. Syawn has travelled all over the world, experimenting and studing food in each country, and setting up dehydration plants in many cities. In addition to teaching men how to take charge of them. He has visited, he states, every country cept Russia. During the war he did nuch work in dehydration of foods. A native of Albany, New York, he

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eached the advanced age of 83 years but is still young enough to traverse he world to carry on his experiments He has just returned from a 32,000 mile journey in the Pacific, where he visited Australia, the Fiji Islands and other places. He has brought back with him many samples of Australian and New Zealand food-stuffs, including fish which have been dehydrated

and remain perfectly fresh. Conservation of food and elimination of waste are the advantages of dehydration of foods, according to Mr. Spawn. No part is wasted and the expense of canning is eliminated, he declares. It is expected that a dehydration plant will shortly be set up in

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M. Coty. the head of many great perfume factories in France, ex-perienced great-difficulty in mak-ing his start toward success. When only a poor chemist he discovered a new mixture of unusual merit, but he peddled the process in vain to all the leading perfume

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(Graduate of Philadelphia Dental Col-lege, Garretson Hospital of Oral Surgery, and Philadelphia General Hospital.) feb1.f.tf

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