And Finds Old London a Place of Impressive Barber Shops

Didn't Get to the Tower or the British Museum-Had to Buy * Soap Instead-Rude Customs Men Refused to Admire His Pyjamas.

By STEPHEN LEACOCK.

England has washed upon the shores of our North American continent. proposal), I went at my own expense. The purpose of each one of them is to make a new discovery of America. They come over to us traveling in the equipment of English lecturers great simplicity, and they return in in America, included a complete set the ducal suite of the Aquitania. of clothes, a dress shirt for lecturing disturbed.

This irregular, one-sided traffic, in fact, has now assumed such great proportions that we are compelled to ask whether it is right to allow these people to carry away from us impressions of the very highest commercial value without giving us any pecuniary compensation whatever. British lecturers have been known to land in New York, pass the customs, drive untown in a closed taxi, and then forward to England from the closed taxi itself, ten dollars' worth of impressions of American national

I myself have seen an English literary man-the biggest, I believe; he had at least the appearance of it-sit in the corridor of a fashionable New York hotel, and look gloomily into his hat, and then from his very hat produce an estimate of the genius of America at twenty cents a word. The nice question as to whose twenty cents that was never seems to have occurred to him.

Some Sample Impressions.

Here are some of the impressions of New York, gathered from visitors' discoveries of America and reproduced, not perhaps word for word. but as closely as I can remember them: "New York." writes one. "nestling at the foot of the Hudson gave me an impression of cosiness of tiny graciousness: in short, of weeness." But compare this-"New York," according to another discoverer of America, "gave me an impression of size, of vastness; there seemed a bigness about it not found in smaller places."

A third visitor writes "New York struck me as hard, cruel, almost inhuman." This, I think, was because his taxi driver had charged him three dollars. "The first thing that struck me in New York," writes another, "was the Statue of Liberty." But, after all, that was only natural: it was the first thing that could reach

"I took from Pittsburg." says as English visitor, "an impression of something that I could hardly define-an atmosphere, rather than ar

All very well. But, after all, had he the right to take it? Granted that Pittsburg has an atmosphere rather than an idea, the attempt to carry away this atmosphere surely borders on rapacity.

That Optimism

"New Orleans," writes another upon me the bestowed soft and langourous kiss of the Caribbean." This statement may or may not be true; but in any case, it hardly seems the fair thing to men-

"Chicago," according to another book of discovery, "struck me as a large city. Situated as it is and where it is, it seems destined to be a place of importance."

Or here, again, is a form of "impression" that recurs again and again: "At Cleveland I felt a distinct note of optimism in the air." This same note of optimism is found also at Toledo, at Toronto in short, I believe it indicates nothing more than that someone gave the

visitor a cigar. It is a part of the system also that we have to submit to being lectured by our talented visitors. It is now quite understood that as soon as ar English literary man finishes a book he is rushed across America to tell the people of the United States and Canada all about it, and how he came to write it. At home, in his own country, they don't care how he came to write it. But in America it is different.

Botticelli-Man and Boy. One month after the distinguished author's book on "The Boyhood of Botticelli" has appeared in London he is seen to land in New York very quietly out of one of the back portholes of the Olympic. That same afternoon you will find him in an armchair in one of the big hotels giving his impressions of America to a group of reporters. After which notices appear in all the papers to the effect that he will lecture in Carnegie Hall on "Botticelli the Boy." Then he turns around, labels his lecture "Botticelli the Man," and rakes it all back again. All the way across the continent and back he emits impressions, estimates of national character, and surveys of American genius. He sails from New York in a blaze of publicity, with his cordon of reporters around him, and a month later publishes his book. "America As I Saw It," It is widely

read-in America. In the course of time a very con siderable public feeling was aroused in the United States and Canada over this state of affairs. The lack of reciprocity in it seemed unfair. It was felt (or at least I felt) that the time had come when someone ought to go over and take some impressions off England. The choice of such a person (my choice) fell upon myself. By an arrangement with me a

the Geographical Society of America For some years past a rising tide acting in conjunction with the Royal of lecturers and literary men from Geographical Society of England (to both of whom I communicated my

> Outfitting. My outfit, which was modeled or

They carry away with them their in, a fountain pen and a silk hat, impressions of America, and when The dress shirt, I may say for the they reach England they sell them. benefit of other travelers, This export of impressions has now proved invaluable. The silk hat, been going on so long that the bal- however, is no longer used in Engance of trade in impressions is all land except perhaps for scrambling

> Landing at Liverpool. The two trunks that I brought with me were dragged brutally into an open shed, the strap of one of them was rudely unbuckled, while the lid of the other was actually lifted at least four inches. The trunks were then roughly scrawled with chalk the lids slammed to, and that was all Not one of the officials seemed to care to look at my things or to have the politeness to pretend to want to. I had arranged my dress suit and my pyjamas so as to make as effective a display as possible; a New York customs officer would have been delighted with it. Here they simply passed it over. "Do open this trunk," I asked one of the officials, "and see my pyjamas." "I don't think it is necessary, sir," the man answered. There was a coldness about it that cut me to the quick.

The English Passenger.

fact that England is a small country; react on it at once. it contains only 50,000 square miles. one knows, contains three and a half fully situated on the River Thames, English fellow passenger on the with much the same breadth and mafrom his traveling flask, and sank excellent water supply. into a state resembling death. I contented myself with jotting

down an impression of incivility, and paid no further attention to my fellow traveler other than to read the anything on the other side of the labels on his luggage and to peruse Atlantic. On the bank of the Thames the headings of his newspaper by itself rises the powerhouse of the peeping over his shoulder.

It was my first experience of traveling with a fellow passenger in a the later Japanese style. Close by compartment of an English train, are the commodious premises of the course, that I must on no account

Failing this again, I could have hall opens into the majestic and clown rings of smoke at him or spacious Trafalgar Square. stepped on his feet under the pre- Here are grouped in imposing blades and almost to find the National he is lost.

London Impressions.

Before setting down my impressions of the great English metropois-a phrase which I have thought out as a designation for London-I think it proper to offer an initial apology. I find that I receive impressions with great difficulty, and have nothing of that easy facility in picking them up which is shown by British writers on America. I remember Hugh Walpole telling me that he could hardly walk down Broadway without getting at least hree dollars' worth, and on Fifth Avenue five dollars' worth; and I recollect that St. John Ervine came up to my house in Montreal, drank a cup of tea, borrowed some tobacco, worth of impressions of Canadian life and character.

But I have since pieced together my impressions as conscientiously as years. could, and I present them here. If they seem to be a little bit modeled



He encounters a fellow-traveler in an English compartment train and contents himself "with jotting down

London, the name of which is altrain, together with a provisional jesty as the St. Jo River at South estimate of the American corn crop Bend, Indiana. London, like South

> Imposing Barber Shops. The city is able to boast of many handsome public buildings and offices which compare favorably with Westminster Electric Supply Corporation, a handsome modern edifice in

and I admit now that I was as yet Imperial Tobacco Company, while at ignorant of the proper method of no great distance the Chelsea Gas knows the kind of little list that I belongs rather to the technique of asconduct. I should have known, of Works add a striking feature of rotundity. Passing northward, one obspeak to the man. But I should have serves Westminster Bridge, notable let down the window a little bit in as a principal station of the underuch a way as to make a strong ground railway. This station and the draught on his ear. Had this failed one next above it, the Charing Cross to break down his reserve, I should one, are connected by a wide thorhave placed a heavy valise in the oughfare called Whitehall. One of rack over his head so balanced that the best American drug stores is here it might fall on him at any moment. situated. The upper end of White-

tence of looking out of the window. proximity the offices of the Canadian Under the English rule, as long as Pacific and other railways, the Inhe bears this in silence you are not ternational Sleeping Car Company, supposed to know him. In fact, he the Montreal Star, and the Anglois not supposed to be there. You and Dutch Bank. Two of the best Amerhe each presume the other to be a ican barber shops are conveniently mere piece of empty space. But let grouped near the Square, while the him once be driven to say: "Oh, I beg existence of a tall stone monument your pardon. I wonder if you would in the middle of the Square itself mind my closing the window," and enables the American visitor to find them without difficulty.

A little further on one finds oneself in the heart of financial London, that strange and mysterious thing called "the City." Here all the great financial institutions of America—the Frist National Bank of Milwaukee, the Planters National Bank of St. Louis, the Montana Farmers Trust Company, and many others-have either their offices or their agents. Fas Bank of England-which acts as the London agent of the Montana Farmers Trust Company-and the London County Bank, which represents the People's Deposit Company of Yonkers, N.Y., are said to be in the neighborhood.

Visit to the Tower. A little beyond the city, and further down the river, the visitor finds this and got away with sixty dollars' district terminating in the gloomy and forbidding Tower, the principal penitentiary of the city. Here Queen Victoria was imprisoned for many

> Excellent gasoline can be had at the American Garage, immediately north



A CRUEL DISAPPOINTMENT.

"My kind of reporter could have taken me out in a Ford car and shown

admit at once that the influence is all kinds are also carried on. The journey from Liverpool to there. We writers all act and react These, however, are but the super-

whereas the United States, as every- ready known to readers, is beauti- city. The principal ones of these are turns into soup, and comes down on the Tower of London (just mentioned), billion. I mentioned this fact to an which here sweeps in a wide curve the British Museum and Westminster for 1922; but he only drew his rug Bend itself, is a city of clean streets unless he has seen them. I speak are a little sensitive on the point, an about his knees, took a sip of brandy and admirable sidewalks and has an strongly on the point because I feel flatter their atmosphere by calling it a

something about the grim fascination of tion that no sunlight ever gets through, the historic Tower, the cloistered quiet and that in the London winter people of the Museum, and the majesty of the never see the sun, is, of course, a Abbey, which will make it the regret of ridiculous error, circulated, no doubt, my life that I didn't see any one of the by the jealousy of foreign nations. I

The Tower of London I most cerafter the fashion of every tourist, I in the afternoon, I saw the sun diswrote for myself a little list of things tinctly appear through the clouds. to do, and I always put the Tower of mean It runs

1. To to bank. 2. Buy a shirt.

6. Soap.

3. National Picture Gallery. 4. Razor blades. 5. Tower of London

This itinerary, I regret to say, was never carried out in full. I was able at times both to go to the bank and Picture Gallery Meanwhile I was urged on all sides by my London acquaintances not to fail to see the Tower. "There's a grim fascination about the place," they said; "you mustn't miss it." I am quite certain that in due course of time I should have made my way to the Tower but for the fact that made a fatal discovery.

When a Londoner says, "Have you seen the Tower of London?" the answer is, "No, and neither have you."

The Museum.

relics to be found upon the earth. It can be called writing; indeed, one can here see the actual evolution (I am quoting from a work of reference, or at least from my recollection of it) from least from my recollection my recolle tually stopped the taxi. "Is that the the mind of London. The two placed British Museum?" I asked the driver. side by side make an interesting piece of "I think it is something of the sort, psychological analysis. They read as sir," he said. I hesitated. "Drive me," razor blades."

The Abbey, I admit, is indeed majestic. I did not intend to miss going into it. But I felt, as so many tourists have, that I wanted to enter it in the proper frame of mind. But by bad luck I never struck both the frame of mind and the Abbey at the same time.

But the Londoners, after all, in not seeing their own wonders, are only like the rest of the world. The people who live in Buffalo never go to see Niagara Falls; people in Cleveland don't know which is Mr. Rockefeller's house; and people live, and even die, in New York without going up to the top of the Woolworth Building.

And the Climate.

complete without a reference, however brief, to the singular salubrity and

don, and indeed of England generally, is due to the influence of the Gulf London, like all other English jour- on one another; and when I see a ficial pictures of London, gathered by Stream. The way it works is thus: neys, is short. This is due to the good thing in another man's book I the eye of the tourist. A far deeper The Gulf Stream, as it nears the shores meaning is found in the examination of of the British Isles and feels the prothe great historic monuments of the pinquity of Ireland, rises into the air,

At times the soup is thin, and is, in Abbey. No visitor to London should fact, little more than a mist; at other fail to see these. Indeed, he ought to times it has the consistency of a thick feel that his visit to England is wasted Potage St. Germain. London people strongly on it. To my mind there is fog, but it is not; it is soup. The nohave myself seen the sun plainly visible in London, without the aid of glasses. on a November day, in broad daylight; tainly intended to inspect. Each day, and again one night, about four o'clock

The whole subject of daylight in the tronomy than to a book of description. In practice, daylight is but little used. Electric lights are burned all the time in all houses, buildings, railway stations and clubs. This practice, which is now universally observed, is called Daylight Saving.

I have neglected, so far, to say anything about the Mind of London. This is a thing that is always put into any today: "The Ontario Racing Association, said real sick person shortly. At first you today: "The Ontario Jockey Club will feel a dull misery in the kidney buy a shirt in a single morning; at is a thing that is always put into any cussed it sooner. I am quite familiar with other people's chapters on "The Mind of America," and "The Chinese Mind," and so forth. Indeed, so far as I know, it has turned out that as I know, it has turned out that almost everybody, all over the world, has a mind. Nobody nowadays travels, even in Central America or Tibet, without bringing back a chapter on "The Mind of Costa Rica," or on the "Psychology of the Mongolian."

It is quite obvious, then, that there is such a thing as the mind of London; Take the parallel case of the British and it is all the more culpable in me Museum. Here is a place that is a to have neglected it, inasmuch as my veritable treasure house. A repository editorial friend in New York had exof some of the most priceless historical pressly mentioned it to me before I sailed. "What," said he, leaning far contains, for instance, the famous over his desk, after his massive fashion, Papyrus Manuscript of Thotmes II. of and reaching out into the air, "what the first Egyptian dynasty, a thing is in the minds of these people? Are knows to scholars all over the world they," he added, half to himself, though as the oldest extant specimen of what I heard him, "are they thinking? And

etic syllabic script. Every time I have this study I brought with me a careread about that manuscript and have fully selected list of the things that New happened to be in Orillia (Ontario) or York was thinking about at the mo-Schenectady (N. Y.), or any such place, ment. These I selected from the curtake a whole trip to England to have the amount of space allotted to each five minutes at the British Museum, topic and the size of the heading that just five, to look at that papyrus. The announced it. Having thus a working first time I went by it in a taxi, I felt idea of what I may call the mind of quite a thrill. "Inside those walls," I New York, I was able to collect and set thought to myself, "Is the manuscript beside it a list of similar topics taken of Thotmes II." The next time I ac- from the London press to represent

follows: said, "to where I can buy safety THE MIND OF THE MIND OF NEW YORK. LONDON. What is it think- What is it think-1. Do chorus girls ing?
make good 1. Do chorus girls ing? marry well? Is red hair a 2. What is red hair sign of tempera- a sign of? Can a woman 3. Can a man be in

4. Is fat a sign of 4. Is genius a sign

Literary Repartee. Looking over these lists, I think it is better to present them without comment. I feel sure that somewhere or No description of London would be the two lists look to me terribly like "the mind of Costa Rica."

The same editor also advised me to charm of the London climate. This is mingle, at his expense, in the brilliant seen at its best during the autumn and intellectual life of England. "There," ment with the Metropolitan News. winter months. The climate of Lon- be said, "is a noterie of man probably paper Service.)

Urges Anglicans To Concen-R. H. Halbert, M.P., Alleges trate in Prayer To Save Civilization.

We are still far from the peace rescribed in the Book, warned Ver Rev. Dean Tucker last night, address ing the united Anglican prayer meet

By reference to the march of th French troops through the Ruhr Valley, the speaker illustrated his contention, and urged his hearers to concentrate in prayer this year for the dawn of a peaceful era.

Dean Tucker urged his congregation not to dissipate all their energies in many enterprises, but to concentrate rather upon the essentials.

Overcome the besetting sins, he said; study the Bible and attend the house of God, he directed, pointing out that the attendance in the churches was far below the record of past years. of past years.

He also urged greater activity in connection with the different social phases of the church work.

The troubles in the Far East, as well as in Europe, clearly indicated, he said, that compare the standing on the brink of the abyss, and it was

incumbent upon the people of the churches to rescue the world from this state of affairs with prayer to God.
The meeting was largely attended. Rev. J. H. Versey, president of the London Ministerial Alliance, presid-ed, while Rev. A. A. Burgess con-ducted the opening prayer. Reading of the Scriptures was undertaken by Rev. H. B. Storey.

During the service the choir rendered the beautiful anthem, "Bless the Lord, Oh My Soul," while a solo by Mr. Edwards, "Open Thine Eyes," was much appreciated.

MAY CLOSE TRACKS ON ACCOUNT OF TAX

George M. Hendrie, Owner of Border Track, Confers With Ontario Treasurer.

Canadian Press Despatch. Toronto, Jan. 13 .- Because of th ax inaugurated on race track wagers, here are likely to be fewer tracks in peration in Ontario this year.

It was reported yesterday from the Parliament Buildings that George M. Hendrie, president of the Windsor Jockey Club, called on Hon, Peter Smith, provincial treasurer, and after showing a statement of losses for the oldest track at the border point, inoldest track at the border point, in-timated that the club would not operate this year. There is another story current that

the Windsor Club is after the Devon-shire track at Windsor for future Kenilworth another Windsor track,

may be idle this year.
"Unless the license fee is reduced," A. M. Orpen said today "I will not operate Kenilworth this year. We lost \$39,000 in 1922, and I don't propose to make that mistake this year."
Hamilton, which also lost money, last year, has not asked for dates this year. H. J. MacIntyre, vice-president of the Hamilton Jockey Club, this afternoon intimated that racing was not to be put on by his racing was not to be put on by his W. P. Fraser, secretary of the On-

tario Jockey Club and

Dail Eireann Appoints Controller and Auditor-General of Free State.

Associated Press Despatch. Dublin, Jan. 13 .- The Dail Eireann yesterday unanimously adopted the committee report recommending the appointment for life of George Mcrath as controller and audit eral. In this position he would keep account of all the finances of the Free State.

The Laborite, Johnson, criticized the appointment, on the ground that McGrath was a brother of Joseph

Dail, in reply, paid tribute to McGrath's valuable services in America. Kevin O'Higgins, minister of home affairs, and Patrick J. Hogan, minister of agriculture, repudiated, on behalf of their departments, the sug-I have felt that I would be willing to rent newspapers in the proportions to gestion of favoritism in making ap-

MRS. HART, ALDBOROUGH. KILLS SELF WITH POISON Special to The Advertiser.

West Lorne, Jan. 13.—Mrs. Albert Hart of concession 10, Aldborough, while in an alleged fit of temporary while in an alleged nt of temporary insanity, committed suicide by drinking carbolic acid this evening. The deceased was being watched, but managed to secure the bottle of acid which she had hidden some days ago.

the most brilliant group east of the Mississippi (I think he said the Mississippi). You will find them," he said to me, "brilliant, witty, filled with repartee." He suggested that I should send him back, as far as words could express it, some of this brilliance. I was very glad to be able to do this, although I fear that the results were not at all what he had anticipated. Still, I held conversations with these people, and I gave him, in all truthful-

ness, the result. Sir James Barrie said, "This is really very exceptional weather for this time other in them one should detect the of year." Cyril Maude said, "And so a heart-throbs, the pulsations of two great Martini cocktail is merely gin and verpeoples. But I don't get it. In fact, mouth." Ian Hay said, "You'll find the underground ever so handy once you

(Copyright. Printed by arrange

Attempts To Influence Legislation For Personal Ends.

Special to The Advertiser. Galt, Jan. 13.—R. H. Halbert, M.P., of Uxbridge, speaking before the Central Dumfries Farmers' Club at Central Dumfries Farmers' Club at the home of William Elliott, M.P., declared that there were fourteen M.P.'s interested in large financial, commercial and manufacturing organizations who were selfishly striving for their own special interests and endeavoring to influence legislation for their own ends. He agreed with the broadening-out policy of the Progressives.

AND KHEUMAISM

Mr. F. M. Blaquiere, Morinville, Alta., writes:—"After three years service overseas I returned to Canada almost a complete wreck. I had been gassed, and was suffering from shell

Progressives.

There are now 110 names on the list of men wanting employment in the city, of whom 30 are unmarried and the balance married, one of them having a family of 10.

Last night's fall of snow here measured seven and a balf in the

measured seven and a half inches, the heaviest this winter. Alarmed over the recent epidemic of robberies in their town, the for consideration at the meeting on Monday night.

The Hespeler Horticultural Society

The Hespeler Horticultural Society has reorganized for 1923, with the following officers: President, James Moreland; first vice-president, O. M. Wachsmuth; second vice-president, F. I. Scott; directors, W. Mussen, Mrs. J. J. Lowe, A. A. Panabaker, John Stark and G. E. Hudson.

FINDS MOTHER DEAD IN BED AT INGERSOL

Mrs. D. Gerrie Expires Suddenly After Telling Son

She Was Better. Special to The Advertiser. Ingersoll, Jan. 13.-Death came with startling suddenness at an early hour yesterday morning to Mrs.

David Gerrie at her home in North Oxford. About two o'clock she called her son George into her room, as she was suffering from a weak spell. She had had similar at-tacks before, and when she seemed somewhat improved her son left the room. Later when he returned he She had been a resident of the

She had been a resident of the district for many years and was very highly esteemed. Her husband died fourteen years ago. She is survived by four sons and two daughers.
The annual show of the Ingersoll

and South Oxford Poultry Associa-

FLUSH KIDNEYS

Eat Less Meat, Also Take Glass of Salts Before Breakfast Occasionally.

Too much meat may form uric acid. which excites the kidneys; they become overworked; get sluggish, ache cents. Millions keep it handy. Drugand feel like lumps of lead. The gists recommend it.—Advt. urine becomes cloudy; the bladder is irritated, and you may be obliged to seek relief two or three times during the night. When the kidneys clog you must help them flush off the body's urinous waste or you'll be a real sick person shortly. At first you other times I was able to buy razor blades and almost to find the National Learning that is always put into any book of discovery and observation, and to race this year. The club will continue region; you suffer from backache, to race at Woodbine as long as it is sick headache, dizziness, stomach gets sour, tongue coated and you feel rheumatic twinges when the weather

Drink lots of water; also get from any pharmacist four ounces of Jad Salts; take a tablespoonful in a glass of water before breakfast for a few days and your kidneys may then act fine. This famous salts is made from the acid of grapes and lemon juice, combined with lithia, and has been sed for generations to clean clogged kidneys and stimulate them to nor mal activity, also to help neutralize the acids in urine, so it no longer i is a source of irritation, thus often ending bladder weakness. Jad Salts is inexpensive, cannot in-

ure; makes a delightful effervescent lithia water drink which everyone should take now and then to help keep the kidneys clean and active Druggists here say they sell lots of Jad Salts to folks who believe in correcting kidney trouble while it is only trouble.-Advt.

GASSED OVERSEAS SHELL SHOCKED AND RHEUMATISM

shock and rheumatism, and was so nervous I could not sleep at night. I tried many medicines and doctors, but none of them did me any good for any length of time. I got so bad, in the fall of 1919, my hands were so shaky I could scarcely hold anything, chants of Hespeler are asking the town council for police protection at night, and the question will come up citement would almost drive me into fits, and my whole system seemed to be in disorder. I had cramps in my legs nearly every night, and hot and cold chills running up and down my back nearly all the time. One day I decided to try Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills, and after I had taken six boxes I began to feel better. I kept on using them and after a while I was completely relieved."

Price 50c a box at all dealers or mailed direct on receipt of price by the T. Milburn Co., Limited, Toronto.

ACID STOMACH **MEALS SOUR OR** FORM GAS, GAS

Chew a Few Pleasant Tablets Indigestion Gone!



Instant stomach relief! Harmless! The moment "Pape's Diapensin' reaches the stomach all distress from acid stomach or indigestion ends. Immediate relief from flatulence gases, heartburn, palpitation, fullness or stomach pressure.

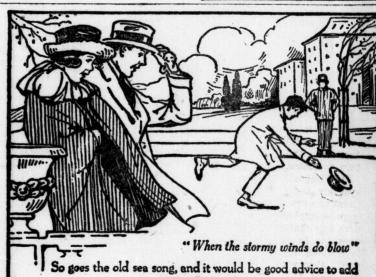
Correct your digestion for a few



the veranda to tell you the changes in the weather 8 to 24 hours in advance. It has a thermometer attached. The regular price of this novel and useful little article in Canada is \$2.00, but for a short time only we will send it, postage paid, to any address on receipt of this ad. and only \$1.50, 2 for \$2.50. Don't miss this chance. Send today. DUPLEX MFG. CO., DEPT. H100,

ECZEMA WRIGHT'S RELIEVER Patent Registered No. 9327.

It is guaranteed. Sold by Taylor Drug Co., 390 Richmond St., or direct from manufacturer, Geo. J. Wright, 333 Douro St., Stratford, Ont. 39h-t



DRINK Baker's Cocoa



It is warming and sustaining, for it has genuine food value, and may be safely indulged in any hour of the day for it is stimulating only in the sense that pure food is stimulating.

It is delicious too.

MADE IN CANADA BY WALTER BAKER & CO. LIMITED

CANADIAN MILLS AT MONTREAL

Booklet of Choice Recipes sent free