

THOUGHTS ON THE FOOD PROBLEM.

There is no doubt that we all don't get more meat than we cannot eat, and a great saving of tonnage might be effected if so many ships had not been sunk.

The chief nourishment for the body, blood-builders, frame makers, fat producers, brain manufacturers, have been allotted by eminent scientists to emanate from the "in" categories, such as caesin, albumin, protein, and many other "ins," amongst which we may include those derived from the denbighin, wheatsheafin, devonshirein, and even so far out as the white-lionin.

Meat is, we all know, the food derived from the *boss communis*, or common cow, which has the rather unique peculiarity of having the head end opposite the tail end, except when the animal turns round, when the tail end is opposite the head end. There is no occasion to eat meat at all, or at any rate cooked meat. (The writer of this article has been eating meat, cooked, that is to say, for over 45 years, and it's hardly worth while changing the habit now, otherwise he wouldn't taste another drop in future).

How many thousand potatoes are spoilt by being peeled before being boiled? How many I say? You can read in any vegetarian journal that potatoes and all vegetables ought to be eaten unpeeled and raw, and according to the writers of these journals, surely they ought to know, if we insist in eating meat, the same principles ought to apply. In order to get the proper benefit from meat, it should also be eaten unpeeled and raw, especially mutton. What is more strength-giving to the wasted and war-worn soldier than a fine raw mutton chop with the peel or wool on it? Just imagine the succulence of a pork chop served in the same way, and beef served similar in shape to the deadly cancer-producing roast; and how virile would become the phagocytes in our bodies through fighting the *echino-coccus* and other *cocci* introduced in the raw meats, *tubercle bacilli* for instance. But why, I say again, eat meat, raw potatoes, or any faddist foods of the so-called Vegetarian?

Our country abounds in insects, and before continuing, allow me to introduce myself as the prophet of insect consumption or an Insectarian. Moths, Butterflies and other Flies are here in abundance, and only await the ready nets of our chefs to be garnered into our pantries.

For those who like an extra zest, a piquancy, the *Formic Acid* contained in the business ends of bees and wasps would far surpass the effect produced by chilli vinegar on the jaded palates of sergeants, or even of sergeant-majors.

The latter is a frank statement, but it is worthy of notice.

Mosquitoes, before being served up should be carefully graded and sorted, and the proboscis of each minutely examined for the *plasmodium*, which produces the inconvenient Malaria; the same care must be exercised regarding flies, for fear of *Tripanosomiasis*. And look at the grass, the green grass growing all around. Grass, of course, is not an insect, and I may appear inconsistent as an Insectarian in advocating the use of grass as human food.

But that's all wild horses, buffaloes, and deer feed upon. Who wouldn't be a wild horse, an elephant, or a deer? The writer knows several dears not far from this camp. He has never seen them eating grass or wasps, it is true, but they appear intensely charming, either promenading the boulevards, or sporting in the briney during a warm afternoon.

And the costumes!—(Get on with the food business—this is not an article on bathing costumes—Editor).

So—there is the grand stand-by of grass, uncooked and unpeeled of course. Never allow an uncouth pantryman to peel your grass, mosquitoes, any Hymenopterous, Lepidopterous, or Coleopterous viands.

There are, besides these Opterous diets, others of less appetising appearance, though of palatable taste and entomological nature, which can be included in the menu, none of which are rationed so far, though such things as ant coupons and those of grass and mosquitoes may well eventuate during the remaining years of the Great World's Cataclysm. (This original expression is exclusively copyright by the *P.P. Post* in the U.S. of America).

We who have been blessed with families well know that all babies are supplied with the apparatus to masticate milk, called by the cognoscenti, milk teeth. Following these come others, amongst which are the canine teeth, given to man for the express purpose of flesh-eating, so perhaps we might consume a piece of meat occasionally, though I've asked previously, why eat meat? not, however, with the idea of giving an air of versimilitude to a bald and unconvincing narrative.

And so, by indulging in an Insectarian diet, heredity will ordain that the milk-chewing teeth and also the canine teeth will disappear by the process of elimination, even as our tails have done—and insect teeth, grass teeth, will evolve. This will give dental sergeants a new kind of plate to make, and no doubt *wood* cause them extra work, but I'm sure they will welcome the fact that they have some work to do.