

WE of the present cosmopolitan era partake with equal relish of Irish stew and Bologna sausage, of the "chow-chow" of the Orient and the "pudding" of Yorkshire. As "the heirs of all the ages," we have adopted foreign viands, unknown to our homespun ancestry, as indispensable to the completeness of our daily repasts; and if all the exotics were excluded from an ordinary dinner little would be left. But in primitive times a national dish was in its way as characteristic and distinctive as a language. And even yet in some quarters of the world some very queer food is eaten.

It is an ancient custom in many regions to turn worn-out beasts of burden into food. The nomads of the Orient eat the flesh of the camel, and consider it equal to veal; the Laplanders drink the blood of the reindeer; when the Kalmucks tire of riding their horses they roast them; and the Esquimaux cook and eat their old dogs (an act that is said to be occasionally reciprocated when the dogs catch a stray old Esquimaux).

The inhabitants of "the realms of the boreal pole" consume immense quantities of fat to produce the necessary animal warmth. Even fastidious European and American travellers, when in the frigid regions, eat with relish huge slices of lard and drink train oil. Whale's tail, saturated with oil, and seal's flesh in a state of putrification, are esteemed desirable food by the natives of Greenland. Dr. Hayes tells us of a charming little maiden of the Esquimaux race, who became a prime favorite with his sailors, while they were in winter quarters, hopelessly imprisoned by the rigors of an Arctic night. Entering the cabin one evening, she expressed such artless admiration of all she saw that the good-natured captain offered to present to her any article she might select. After a moment's hesitation she chose an ornamental cake of Castile soap. When the doctor handed it to her she capered in an ecstasy of delight, then--*swallowed it!*

Among the dainties that figure on the tables of wealthy Chinese are birds' nests, salted earthworms, boiled Japan leather, maggots, pigeons' eggs, sharks' fins, and pounded