







### Fraud in Foods and Drugs.

Pauline Periwinkle has this to say in the Dallas News: Everybody eats, consequently everybody ought to be interested in foods and their values. The majority of food consumers, however, concern themselves with but one quality—that of taste. If the palate is pleased, no fault is found with the food. So on the intelligent housekeeper rests a double burden. She must please the family palate, and she must see that the food has value—the proper amount of nutrition at a proper price. The family health and the family purse demand this. For instance, if she pays a fancy price for syrup, in order to avoid glucose, which she knows to be indigestible, or for pure cider vinegar, knowing that the chemical acid kind injures the membrane of the stomach, and if in spite of her precaution she is deceived, and the syrup is adulterated with glucose and the vinegar is a mixture of cheap molasses, whiskey and acetic acid, then the family has not only been cheated in food value, but robbed of money. "Cheating" is not too strong a word to apply to food adulterations; sometimes it is not strong enough, for not infrequently more is involved than merely taking one's money without equivalent return, since the adulterant used may be positively injurious, or like water in milk, may lack the nourishment on which life depends.

No amount of precaution on the part of the housewife was of any avail until the pure food law went into effect, and until the state created a pure food commission to unearth frauds operating against the law. Now the housewife's intelligence, co-operating with the technical knowledge of the state chemist, can reduce fraudulent practices on the part of food purveyors to a minimum, and conserve the health of the people while saving them thousands of dollars. This has been proved in the instance of milk alone.

Some people may ignorantly believe that whereas they are paying perhaps 10c a quart for milk now, and paid only 7c or 8c a quart before the passage of the pure food law, they are losing money. If they were getting just the same product now that they did before, this might be true. But they were getting quantity, not quality, before. Perhaps 5c would represent the actual value of the milk, to which was added sufficient skimmed milk or water to make up the quantity and give the dairyman the necessary profit on his business. The dairyman can not operate a business for nothing, but if the people "will not consume a product on the basis of a legitimate profit, it is still not right to fool them into paying the price by adulterating such a product." The consumer might better buy a half quart or three-quarters of pure milk and add the water himself, if he is determined to have quantity regardless; but for the protection of the thousands of babies dependent on cow's milk for nourishment mothers ought to know what they are receiving in food values in the milk they buy. Nobody can estimate the number of infants that have been starved to death or poisoned by the preservatives once used in milk without let or hindrance. If the pure food law of Texas and the services of a state chemist had accomplished nothing else, they would still be a humane and profitable investment for the people.

The first annual report of the Dairy and Food Commissioner of Texas, made to the governor, has recently been published, and it would pay every housewife, especially in the cities where so much depends on the character of "made" products, to get a copy, if for no other reason than to find out what is meant by the legend, "Guaranteed under the food and drugs act," etc. The report says: "The public understands this to mean that the United States Agricultural Department guarantees the contents of every package bearing this legend. It simply means that the manufacturer has made affidavit that

his product is not misbranded nor adulterated, according to the requirements of the pure food law."

How many housewives read the label on the canned goods they buy? And how many compare it with the label once placed upon these goods? A housekeeper who paid a fancy price for a can of ground coffee that bore the label, "Pure Mocha and Java Blend" was surprised, after the law went into effect, to see that the label had been changed to read, "Pure Java and Mocha and Other Superior Brands." Now she knows that all along she was paying a stiff price for a good deal of "other superior brands," and very little Java and Mocha. She had been imposed upon by a cheaper coffee that had been doctored, and thus she had been robbed of a dollar for every pound of coffee she had consumed. The law which this practice of infidelity on the public was carried out by the manufacturer was completely nullified by the following extra label from Dr. Abbott's report.

"Our preserves, jams and marmalades have been largely adulterated, being made up of starch, glucose and sugar. I have found peas, beans and corn colored with copper salts. We have analyzed a large number of colors and preservatives, all of which were illegal, that were on hand when the pure food law was passed. I have found that our meats have been embalmed with borax, boric acid and sulphite of soda. I have found our meats and candies colored with illegal coal tar colors. Canned meats that were on hand when the pure food law was passed were composed of gristle, connective tissue and scrap pieces of meat, and were represented as chicken or potted ham, etc. Our syrups were made up largely of glucose and molasses, and sold under false labels and false representation. Sugar syrup, flavored and colored with caramel, was sold as maple syrup.

"Honey has been found to be adulterated, in some cases with glucose, in other cases with molasses. Distilled vinegar has been sold for apple vinegar. A mixture of cotton seed and olive oil has been sold as genuine olive oil, bearing a label that did not contain a single word of English, but written in Italian, representing the product as virgin oil direct from Italy. A mixture of coffee and chicory has been largely sold in Texas as a genuine Mocha and Java coffee. So-called lemon extracts have been simply solutions of citral. Vanilla extracts have been found to be largely imitations, being made up with vanillin and coumarin. The low grade malt liquors \* \* \* sold in local option territory have in most instances turned out to be real beer. Five soft drinks have been found that contain cocaine."

Then follow several pages of "examples," showing how labels have been changed since the law went into effect. "Mocha and Java" now reads "coffee and chicory;" "pure maple syrup" now reads "maple and cane syrup;" "potted ham" is now "potted meat ham flavor," etc. Some things were taken off the market entirely, such as banana extract (there being no such thing) and other products, including extracts and even medicines that would not bear examination at all. Manufacturers wrote the Texas dealers to set these goods aside to be taken up by their traveling salesmen, and then they were re-shipped to other states that had no pure food laws. Many of the extracts were actually poisonous, being made with wood alcohol; and they are now being foisted on the unprotected citizens of other states as once they were on Texans.

Some manufacturers, it was found, were trying to get around the law by describing as a "floor disinfectant" a deodorant sold to butchers. It was such a poor floor deodorant, that a use was soon found for it in "restoring" decayed sausage meat, especially as the manufacturer had very thoughtfully given it just the right "sausage

color" by including a coal tar in its preparation.

The worst forms of fraud are those perpetrated through the medium of drugs and medicines, even when the ingredients are perfectly harmless. The report points out the danger as follows: "Through the manufacturers' advertisements of their nostrums, the public is induced to diagnose and prescribe for ailments. If such an ailment is an imaginary or hysterical one no harm is done; but if a person is suffering from some organic trouble, and is induced to apply these remedies, harmless in themselves, great harm may come in the delay of proper treatment." Remedies of this character have been analyzed and condemned as "misbranded" by the state chemist. They are not "illegal" because the manufacturer has complied with the law by filing the formulas with the authorities, and secured the right to use the "guaranteed" legend; but they are misbranded when they claim to perform the impossible. Illegal medicines are those which, like the cherry juice sold for that purpose, are found upon analysis to be "poisonous" concoctions.

It is an appropriation commensurate with the importance of the work, and which would permit, as now contemplated, adding inspectors to the force, as in the health and live stock commission, the pure food commission can protect the public from a lot of imposition and fraud. An inspector for each section of the state is needed especially for periodical visits to dairies, meat markets, and manufacturing of food products. The state chemist's time is needed altogether in the laboratory to keep pace with the growing demands for analytical work. Housekeepers can be of much assistance by sending samples of suspicious and unlabeled drugs and foods. The report gives instructions to consumers who may wish to have analyses made, also much useful information as to food standards, so that the consumer may have data on which to base an opinion on the value of all the various foods in common use.

The largest damage suit ever recorded in Ellis county was filed Tuesday by Austin Hickman, who seeks to recover \$100,000 from the Houston & Texas Central railroad company for injuries received December 3, when Hickman's hands and feet were mangled by a freight train. The plaintiff resides at Ennis.

**Feats That Never Happened.**  
A grotesque and foolish view of the west leads many who are not acquainted with that part of the country to perpetrate amusing blunders regarding the possibilities of the typical western weapons, the rifle and the six shooter. To shoot an animal's eye out at a hundred paces is a common feat in wild west literature. Sometimes it is done with a six shooter—in type, not anywhere else. Of course, no man can see the eye of an animal that far. I have had a good rifleman tell me he could cut off a robin's head at a hundred steps. The truth is that he could not see the head clearly that far. You read that the desperado Slade could with a six shooter at fifty or sixty steps hit a man in any button of his coat that he chose, but you may be sure that neither Slade nor any one else could do anything of the kind. Even trick and fancy shooting at its best could ever cover feats ascribed as matters of course to the average frontiersman by those devotees of frenzied fiction who never saw the frontier.—*Outing Magazine.*

**Eluding the Officers.**  
Here is an amusing description of one of Balzac's periods of impecuniosity. Mery, the poet, a great friend of Balzac, was an inveterate gambler and rarely left the card table before daybreak. His way lay past the Cafe de Paris, and for four consecutive mornings he had met Balzac strolling leisurely up and down dressed in a pantalon a pieds (trousers not terminating below the ankle, but with feet in them like stockings) and frock coat with velvet facings. The second morning Mery felt surprised at the coincidence; the third he was puzzled; the fourth he could hold out no longer and asked Balzac the reason of these nocturnal perambulations roundabout the same spot.

Balzac put his hand in his pocket and produced an almanac showing that the sun did not rise before 3:50. "I am being tracked by the officers of the tribunal de commerce and obliged to hide myself during the day, but at this hour I am free and can take a walk, for as long as the sun is not up they cannot arrest me."

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### The Apple.

The apple is a deservedly popular favorite among fruits. It has a wide range of usefulness. It can be eaten raw, made into pies, apple dumplings and sauce either green or ripe. It can be baked, stewed, fried or roasted. It can be made into cider, vinegar, apple-jack, apple butter, pickle, jelly and preserves. It can be stored for winter in cans, dried or fresh. Individuals may have peculiar fruit tastes, but all like apples. It is a safe fruit to grow, for no family either in the city or country feels completely fed without it in some form daily in the house and on the table.

### Milk on a Stick.

In winter time milk goes to the buyer in a chunk instead of a quart, says a Glasgow paper. The people in Siberia buy their milk frozen, and for convenience it is allowed to freeze about a stick, which comes as a handle to carry it by. The milkman leaves one chunk or two chunks, as the case may be, at the houses of his customers. The children in Irkutsk, instead of crying for a drink of milk, cry for a bite of milk. The people in winter time do not say, "Be careful not to spill the milk," but "Be careful not to break the milk." Broken milk is better than spilled milk, though, because there is an opportunity to save the pieces. A quart of frozen milk on a stick is a very formidable weapon in the hand of an angry man or boy, as it is possible to knock a person down with it. Irkutsk people hang their milk on hooks instead of putting it in pans, though, of course, when warm spring weather comes on they have to use the pans or pails as the milk begins to melt and drop down the hooks.

### The Illusion of Night.

I sometimes fancy that every great city must have been built by night. At least it is only at night that every part of a great city is great. All architecture is great architecture after sunset. Perhaps architecture is really a nocturnal art, like the art of fireworks. At least I think many people of those nobler trades that work by night (journalists, policemen, burglars, coffee stall keepers and such mistaken enthusiasts as refuse to go home till morning) must often have stood admiring some black bulk of building with a crown of battlements or a crest of spires and then burst into tears at daybreak to discover that it was only a haberdasher's shop with huge gold letters across the face of it.—G. A. Chesterton in London News.

### Women Who Wear Well.

It is astonishing how great a change a few years of married life often make in the appearance and disposition of many women. The freshness, the charm, the brilliance vanish like the bloom from a peach which is rudely handled. The matron is only a dim shadow, a faint echo of the charming maiden. There are two reasons for this change, ignorance and neglect. Few young women appreciate the shock to the system through the change which comes with marriage and motherhood. Many neglect to deal with the unpleasant pelvic drains and weaknesses which too often come with marriage and motherhood, not understanding that this secret drain is robbing the cheek of its freshness and the form of its fairness.

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