

WORDS AND PHRASES THAT ONCE MEANT SOMETHING

APPALLED by the loss to our language of many of the more colourful words and phrases in common use in Anglo-Saxon and Elizabethan times. I have spent my recent spare time compiling a glossary of words and phrases in common use in my childhood but now either dead or dying, or at any rate so greatly changed in meaning as to be nearly unrecognisable. The list appended here is but a beginning; I am well aware that within a few fleeting weeks I may have to change some definitions given now after long research and deep reflection; here, however, are the bones of what may well prove to be a dictionary of giant stature within our own time.

The following abbreviations have been used:—a. adjective; abb. abbreviation; pron. pronounced; n. noun; q.v. which see; v. verb; (I have purposely avoided the use of the letters v.i. and v.t., as I find them confusing).

BISCUITS—little cakes, twice cooked.

With the Auckland gas shortage it has been possible to make only those kinds of cakes that require just the one cooking, so no one in Auckland has seen a b. in a shop for a very long time. They are, however, delicious when properly cooked, I am told.

CHOCOLATE, *Chocolates*, *Chocolate Biscuits* (q.v.) etc.—produce of the cacao-seed used until about the end of the last decade as sweets. The

material is dark brown in colour, the word being now chiefly used in literature in the original sense and in everyday life to describe a particular tone: e.g. "C-brown costume 16 gns."

EGGS—These are deposited by the females of various species of fish, reptiles and birds, as well as by the queer Australian amphibious-mammal known as platypus. In most cases, it is then the duty of the female (occasionally the male has been known to help) to keep the ee. warm till the young are hatched from them. Some types of ee. are known to be edible, though rarely seen in civilised communities (this is probably because of the shy breeding



"Rarely seen in civilised communities"

habits of most of the fish, reptiles and birds concerned). Colloq: A good e.—a good fellow. A bad e.—a criminal. Also occurring in the phrase, in literary and imaginative works, ee. and bacon, or bacon and ee.

ELASTIC—a., used negatively, to describe regulations in Navy, Army and Air Force and scope of meat-rationing coupons. Source: was originally a noun, the name of a substance (reputedly discovered or invented by Sir Stamford Raffles) with the appearance of white or black tape but with the following peculiarity: IT WAS LONGER THAN IT SEEMED. For instance:—You could take a piece the length of the table; tack one end firmly to one edge of the table, walk round the

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HAIR FALLING OUT?

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Clifford Street,
Seddon.
Dec. 20th, 1942.

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I have been using Pure Silvikrin for a few months now, and have had amazing results—was nearly bald—the hairdresser said she never saw a person with so much new hair. I am very pleased with my new hair—it has come back as it was in my schooldays. I am still in ill-health so it is only thanks to Pure Silvikrin that I am no bald now, instead of having a thick head of wavy hair.

Now what makes it curly and wavy—the reason is I always use Tonic Lotion Silvikrin in the daytime. No need for a hair set when you can get natural waves as well as keeping your scalp clean. And don't my girls like it. I've just got to hide the bottle if I want any left, so will give them a bottle each for Xmas. Not forgetting the shampoo—I have been using all three for six months. I'm using the last bottle of Pure Silvikrin now, will carry on then with Tonic Shampoo and Oil.

Now let me tell you, I am not telling you all this just to please you—it's all true, as my friends can tell you. But you must use it every day, not miss two or three and start again as a friend of mine does, and then wonder why you aren't getting results. The only thing is I cannot get my hair to shine (that is because of gland trouble.) So you will understand Silvikrin has had a battle and come out with flying colours.

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Mrs. P. Watson.

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