



**Now, when EGGS are short
and out of reach . . .**

**make up for their IRON and PROTEIN
by using more DRIED PEAS, DRIED
BEANS (when available) and LENTILS.**

.....

**Make up for their VITAMIN 'A' by
using more CHEESE and MILK**

- Allow each ration book holder to have his or her fresh egg either boiled, poached, scrambled or fried.
- Serve split pea or lentil soup with added milk. (Flavour with bacon ends or bacon rinds).
- Serve dried blue peas as a vegetable with tomato sauce.
- Serve cheese dishes of all kinds.
- Serve white sauce, parsley sauce or cheese sauce with fish, brains, sweet-breads, vegetables.

When eggs are plentiful—PRESERVE
for future cooking purposes and
preserve ENOUGH.

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THE FEMININE TRADITION

A Talk About Katherine Mansfield

I'M afraid I find myself in a rather unhappy situation. The short stories of Katherine Mansfield are among the most famous stories of this century—or at any rate, some of them are. So I don't feel it to be altogether an advantage that I myself have written short stories. I imagine that many writers of fiction just don't read the work of many of their fellow craftsmen—let alone talk about it in public. And I think for a very good reason. Because if you are

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a writer you will probably find you have to be very careful about your influences. You may know that the stories of such and such a writer are generally reckoned to be very good stories indeed, but if they don't happen to be more or less in the tradition that you are working in yourself, you may feel it necessary not to expose yourself to their influence too much. Still, I fancy most of us take the risk pretty frequently. Reading books is much easier than writing them, and very much more pleasant and enjoyable.

Now, you will have noticed that I used the word "tradition." There are readers, and there are even professional critics, who imagine that if you have a story to tell you simply tell it, and don't concern yourself with any particular tradition, or style, or method of approach. But I am afraid this viewpoint is a mistake. And certainly it turns out to be a fallacy if you endeavour to apply it to Katherine Mansfield's stories.

There are, of course, many traditions, and many points to be considered about each one of them. For instance, many critics have referred to the influence of Russian short stories on Katherine Mansfield's work, particularly those by Anton Tchekov. And certain it is that if you read Tchekov you see the influence. But I would like to show that Katherine Mansfield established herself in a tradition that hasn't a great deal to do with anything she may have derived from this Russian writer. What I think every reader must feel, and feel very strongly, is that she is in the feminine tradition.

And perhaps my saying that will make some listeners laugh and say, Why, of course, silly—she was a woman, wasn't she?

But my reply is that it isn't nearly so clear-cut and straightforward as all that. Because what I have called the feminine tradition in fiction was to a very great extent brought into being by a London printer and bookseller of the 18th Century. His name was Samuel

Richardson, and one of his novels he calls *Pamela*. The story is told in the form of letters, most of them signed by Pamela her-

self, and if the name, Samuel Richardson, were not on the title page, I imagine many readers might find it impossible to believe that a man could compose letters so saturated with what we call feminine sensibility. The book is, indeed, an astonishing performance, but you have only to think of some novel written in a more masculine tradition (one say, by Richardson's great contemporary, Henry Fielding), to see how serious its shortcomings are. It is, in fact, what I would call a minor novel. And I think it is fair to go on and say that the feminine tradition is the minor tradition. That's not a reproach though, not necessarily—indeed it might very well be a compliment. Because it is in this feminine, this minor tradition of fiction-writing, that you find some of the best stories. Those of Jane Austen, for instance.



KATHERINE MANSFIELD
Diamond minutes and golden hours

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