



How can I keep Bread from becoming Musty?

Make sure the bread is quite cold before putting it away. Wrap it in a clean cloth, tea towel or old flour bag. Store it on an airy shelf, or if you use a bread bin or tin, keep the lid tilted and cover the gap with a muslin throw-over. Keep the bin scrupulously clean. Wash it out once a week, and dry thoroughly in the sun and air. If you line the tin with paper, change the paper often.

How can I freshen stale Bread?

Dampen the loaf under the cold water tap or with milk, then heat it in a moderate oven for about 10-15 minutes. Make sure the bread is quite cold before putting it away. To prevent the formation of a very crisp crust, wrap the bread loosely after dampening, in a paper bag before heating it in the oven.

How can I keep Meat fresh?

If you have not access to a refrigerator you must not expect to keep it raw more than two days in hot weather.

Hang the meat in a fly-proof, well-ventilated safe (metal or muslin) in a shady and AIRY place, out of doors under a tree is best.

Meat must have air. Therefore do not keep it flat on the plate, but hang it from a hook in the roof of the safe above the plate placed to catch the drips. You will find a meat skewer helpful for this.

To keep BACON, wrap it in paper and store in a cool place where it will not taint other food.

How can I keep Soup from souring?

In hot weather no stock will keep more than 3 or 4 days. Boil it up every day, then empty it into a clean bowl or jug. Do not leave it standing in the stock pot. Stock which contains starchy food such as flour, barley, potato, parsnip, sours readily.

Do not risk any soup stock that shows signs of bubbling. Bury it at once.

COOL ALL FOODS THOROUGHLY BEFORE PUTTING THEM IN THE SAFE OR REFRIGERATOR

Issued by the New Zealand Department of Health.

11.9

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Children's Bookshelf

FEW better Christmas presents for children can be found than well-written and well-illustrated books, and once again the bookshops are stocking up with reading for children of all ages. Some of the new publications are reviewed briefly here.

Information is made readable and facts and figures are inserted guilefully in *The Young Traveller in New Zealand*, by Hilda M. Harrop (Phoenix House, London. English price, 7/6). It belongs to a series intended for readers between the ages of 12 and 15. Mrs. Harrop, who brought her two English-born children to New Zealand for a trip which seemed to be comprehensive, and which must certainly have been enjoyable, gives the story a personal tone. The young visitors ask many questions, and the answers (slightly revised, no doubt, for the purposes of authorship) are made to reveal the country's background and history. There are some factual inaccuracies (Sir George Grey, for instance, was not the first Governor of New Zealand), but it may be captious to look for occasional errors when almost every page is full of information. The writing is bright and easy, and there are some good illustrations.

Another book in the same series is *The Young Traveller in India and Pakistan*, by Geoffrey Trease, in which the two children of a British cameraman travel through the continent with their father as he makes a documentary film about its inhabitants. Once again a wealth of information is presented in a bright and lively manner as the children talk about the things they see and are told concerning the two newest Dominions.

A timely arrival on the juvenile book-list is a splendidly printed and illustrated edition of that old favourite *The Swiss Family Robinson* (Oxford Press, English price, 8/6). Eight excellent colour-plates celebrate the more exciting moments in the adventures of the fabulous family on their even more fabulous island, and many black and white illustrations of equally good quality appear throughout the 400-odd pages.

ESPECIALLY FOR BOYS

ADVENTURE is combined with factual information about fitting out, navigating, and sailing a small vessel in *Dauntless and the Mary Baines*, by Peter Dawlish (Oxford University Press. English price, 8/6). The *Dauntless* is a real ship, although that is not her name, and the story describes how her young crew members track down the person responsible for a dastardly wreck.

Suitable for boys in the same age group (10-15) are three stories of adventure in Africa, also from the Oxford Press. *Bulldozer Brown in Africa* (by Steven Russell, English price, 6/-), is a conventional boys' story in the B.O.P. or Chums

tradition. Rather better in quality is *Trant of Makati* (by Wilfrid Robertson, also 6/-), which is a variation on the Sanders-of-the-River theme, and obviously written by one who knows something of the country. The pick of the trio, however, is *Blue Smoke* (by Y. M. Robinson, 7/6), the entertaining story of a small boy's trip to Rhodesia. This is a well-written yarn, excellently illustrated in black and white by Wyndham Robinson, and just the thing for nine-year-olds and upwards.

For boys with engines in their souls (and most boys wouldn't be boys if they hadn't), *The Complete Book of Motor-cars, Railways, Ships and Aeroplanes* (Odhams Press), with 380 pages of photographs, diagrams and explanatory text is as safe an investment as any uncle or father could make.

Mary Treadgold tells a good story full of mystery and excitement in *The Polly Harris* (Jonathan Cape, London); and she writes prose of a quality seldom found in juvenile fiction. Children may absorb the richer phrases without noticing them; but they will follow with deep attention the events which reach their climax on a ship sliding through fog on the Thames.

FOR YOUNGER READERS

A BOOK that makes nature study fascinating and entertaining is *Yafflewood*, a Village Nature Book by C. J. Kaberry (Geoffrey Cumberlege: Oxford University Press. English price, 7/6). Intended for children aged 8-11, *Yafflewood* combines first-class illustrations with an informative text, although some of the birds and flowers described are found only in England.

Children and parents who discovered the unusual quality of H. J. Kaeser's *Mimfi*, the story of a boy who could not be afraid, will be delighted to hear that a sequel, *Mimfi in Charge* (Geoffrey Cumberlege: Oxford University Press. English price, 8/6), has now been published. As in the first book, there are illustrations in colour by Edward Ardizzone.

Trade was bad in Wild Wood when Elver Eel returned from the West Indies, and Frog, Vole, Carp, and Captain Pike fell in with his plans to brighten the place up. But trouble was in store, as all readers of Dorothy Clewes's fantasy will discover. *The Fair in Wild Wood* (Faber and Faber. English price, 7/6) is the latest in the *Author's Wild Wood* series, and should appeal to children aged 6-10.

The appearance of a new Dr. Dolittle book, *Doctor Dolittle and the Secret Lake* (Jonathan Cape, London), is an event to be noted with satisfaction. Hugh Lofting has been writing these stories for a long time, but he keeps the magic touch. Children of most ages will want to go with the Doctor on his latest expedition—this time

(continued on next page)

