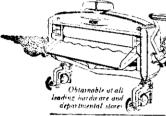
# How new is a frock ?

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### Shepherd's Calendar

# EQUIRED READING

NTIL this week I had refused to read The Crue! Sea. It was partly because I am a land-lubber, partly because I have been taken in too often by popularity. Now, if I could ever believe in compulsory reading, I would put it in the list. There are some bad lapses in it--unnecessary slips into smartness. coarseness, empty patter. The political thinking about Ireland, Australia, America, and in some degree Franceis on the lowest levels of national and social prejudice. The book is

also too long; too JULY 30 long by at least a third for an author who is neither a Melville nor a Conrad. But I would make everybody read it if I could ever make anybody read anything. We should be made to know, and never allowed to forget, what war at sea means; the cold, the terror, the hourly discomfort and anxiety, and when the worst happens, the sickening torture.



Without such reminders as books like this give us, the cruelty of the sea is a phrase We understand it as I understand a storm on the Alps when I watch it from a safe chair in my window. But no one has to live on the Alps. Tens of thousands of men and women have to live on the sea, and when war comes, to die on the sea. If I forget again what that necessity means it will be because I am too old and too dull to remember anything,

] HE trouble with women," he said in his haste, "is that they have no respect for property. They are destroyers by nature and by habit."
"All because she dropped your preci-

ous watch,'

"It's not all because of that. It's be-

cause of the things JULY 31 they do every day; the irresponsible and

stupid things." "Don't they do a little

creating, too? "They do it blindly, accidentally, involuntarily, then pretend that there was purpose and a plan."

"Was it good planning to give her your watch?" "I said I'm not talking

about watches."

"I know you said that."

"You know it's the truth. You know that a man would not have dropped a watch that belonged to somebody else. He would have been more careful."

"So it is the watch."

"It's not the watch. It's the woman who dropped it-the women who are dropping things every day, and who don't care; who never learn; who don't want to learn; who save things with one hand and throw them away with the other; who skimp to get fine houses, then bang doors, break



"Without such reminders . . . the cruelty of the sea is a phrase"



(C) Punch