

# From the Woman's Point of View.

By VERITY.

## ELECTRICITY IN THE HOME

"In building new homes where electricity is available it is the exception for anyone to install any other method of illumination," said Mrs. Barrington in her little heart-to-heart talks from 2YA recently, "yet it is surprising how many people still fail to recognise the fact that the more generalised the use of electricity for all household purposes, the greater the comfort and well-being of the country as a whole. Life has been very hard for so many women, that it is just fine to know that all the wearying disagreeable part of that everlasting preparing of meals, the daily round of sweeping and cleaning, the drudgery of the weekly wash, can now become a pleasant hobby."

It is rather lamentable at times to hear the wrong notions people entertain about electricity. A new home is being planned, and perhaps someone says, "Are you going to install an electric range?" "Oh! no," is so often the answer, "We are only working people, we cannot afford luxuries of that sort." It has never occurred to them to thoroughly go into the matter. A good electric range can be installed at practically the same cost as a small coal range, including the chimney mantle and tiles. An electric range can be set down in any suitable corner, as one would a piece of furniture. Apart from the tubing with the wires, which are attached to the wall, it remains to all intents an exceedingly attractive and useful piece of furniture. Some prepare a place for the range by tiling the floor, and sometimes the surrounding wall, but this, though very nice, is not in the least necessary.

Another reason commonly given, is that sometimes the power fails for a while. As large business premises and whole cities can be run with perfect success, it is reasonable to expect the average home can do likewise. There are occasions when the power may be cut off for a short while, especially in districts where wiring is in progress. If in the middle of cooking, the consequences are not so drastic as one not accustomed to electric ranges may suppose, as a good range is made to hold the heat for an astonishing length of time, and ten or twenty minutes is about the limit of time, in which the power is liable to be off. The inconvenience likely to occur only very occasionally, is surely a trifling matter when compared with all the other advantages to be enjoyed every day in the week.

### Running Expenses.

Yet another matter which bothers many people unaccustomed to electric ranges, is the possible running expenses. Apart from the few isolated cases where people run up enormous bills for which there must always be some definite reason, a whole household can be run electrically at so astonishingly low a figure, many people find it very hard to accept the

fact as first told them. It does not matter what you have been accustomed to use as fuel, where money has to be spent, electricity can, and should, and does prove far more economical than anything else.

One of the blessings of cooking by electricity is, you always know just where you are. As a lady said to me the other day, "When you set the switches to maintain a certain heat, it stays put." And I think that most aptly expresses it.

### Diverse Opinions.

It is surprising how divided a household will often be on this important matter. I find the foregoing opinions mostly expressed by the men-folk. Maybe because the cleaning of filthy coal ranges does not, as a rule, concern them. Where the housewife is dead against an electric range, it is quite often because she is absolutely afraid of it. I had one lady tell me, that when the electricians had completed their work, and left her alone with the mysterious thing, she felt absolutely sick with terror! Electric ranges are so definitely calculated to be a joy and delight to any woman, it seems such a pity that anyone should allow this reason to deter them from installing one in the home.

"Another point is speed. Though an electric range is undoubtedly much quicker than any fuel stove in heating, because it is a little slower than gas in some instances, the whole proposition may be thrust aside. The first heating of the top elements takes, say, two minutes, but once thoroughly hot, one thing after another can be brought to the boil as quickly as can be desired by any reasonable person. Mrs. Barrington gave detailed instructions as to the use and management of electric ranges.

### The Washing Machine.

"One of the electric household appliances which interests me most as an extreme labour saver is the washing machine. Hard as it sometimes is to educate people to the use of electric ranges, it is much harder to get people to credit what a washing machine means in the home. They simply make the erstwhile laborious washing day non-existent if you wish. There

is no need to ever keep soiled cloths about. With a good washing machine there is no wear and tear of even the most delicate fabrics during the washing process. It is so simple a matter to run some hot water into the machine add a little soap, pop the clothes in and set the machine in motion. You come back in five minutes, or thereabouts, and the clothes are perfectly clean and only require rinsing.

It is not generally understood that there is no necessity whatever to boil white clothes when an electric washing



MRS. BARRINGTON.

—S. P. Andrew, photo.

machine in used. Your sheets, etc., will always remain snowy white, and you will be proud to put them on the line. For flannels and blankets, they are out on their own. As long as a good supply of hot water is available you are set indeed.

"I have seen some of the most modern homes with the machine installed in the bathroom or in the kitchenette. It only means a heating point on the wall, a hot water tap handy, and means for the water to run away from the machine. By doing away with the laundry, when building a new home, and purchasing the washing machine, a saving of just on £40 or more is made. This aspect of the business does not occur to many people.

### The Comfort of a Radiator.

"Another thing I would like to mention is the radiator. These are well-known and widely used, and most people are familiar with the comfort and convenience they bring in their train. However, it will do no harm to stress the fact, of their especial merits in cases of sickness, and where people are studying a good deal. When it is desirable to keep one's wits alert and spend long hours in mental exertion, heat engendered by electricity is in no wise enervating. Electrical heat does not interfere with the oxygen in the

air, and so has not the tendency to make one drowsy and heavy. This fact is well worth remembering."

This week Mrs. Barrington will have something to say about vacuum cleaners, and the installation of the electric water heating system in the home. The latter should be especially interesting and instructive; and, as there is considerable diversity of opinion on this matter, Mrs. Barrington has spared herself no pains in collecting thoroughly reliable information with the idea of clearing up some points for those who are interested but still undecided. We are looking forward to receiving enlightenment on the various problems that always present themselves when considering new installations.

## COOKERY NOTES

Nearly everyone finds frying more or less difficult. To be able to send food to the table fried a beautiful "golden brown" is an accomplishment, the attainment of which needs both skill and practice. Miss Christian's advice and hints on "Frying," heard last week from 2YA, will, I feel sure, be much appreciated in all quarters. Some general rules to remember were:

1. For deep frying have the fat deep enough to cover food.
2. Fat must be right temperature. Wait until a blue smoke arises before dropping food in.
3. Food must be tender and of even thickness.
4. For shallow frying food should be coated with flour or oatmeal; for deep frying with egg and breadcrumbs or batter.
5. Serve very hot and free from grease.

### RECIPES.

The following are a few recipes given over the air by our authorities on cooking last week. Some of our listeners may like to have a permanent record of them.

### Fish Balls.

1lb. cold cooked fish, 1/2 teaspoon anchovy essence, 1 teaspoon chopped parsley, 2 tablespoons breadcrumbs, 1 egg, 6 oz. mashed potatoes, 2 tablespoons cold sauce, pepper and salt. Mash potatoes, flake fish and remove all bones and skin. Put potatoes and fish into a bowl and mix with the sauce, pepper, salt and parsley. Make into balls, brush with egg, toss into breadcrumbs, and fry in pan of hot fat.

### Dough Nuts.

1lb. flour, 2 oz. butter, 2 teaspoons baking powder, 2 eggs, 6oz. sugar, 1 pint milk, pan of fat for frying. Put the flour and 2 oz. sugar into a bowl, rub in the butter, add baking powder, and mix to a moist paste with eggs and milk, roll out to a quarter of an inch in thickness, cut

into rounds with a plain cutter, remove centres with a smaller cutter, fry in deep fat a golden brown, toss in sugar, and serve either hot or cold.

### Small Ginger Bread.

1lb. flour, 2 oz. brown sugar, 3 oz. golden syrup, 1/2 teaspoon salt, 3 oz. butter, 1/2 teaspoon carbonate of soda. Put flour, salt, sugar, ginger and carbonate into a bowl, rub in butter and mix to a stiff paste with melted golden syrup. Roll out and cut into rounds. Bake in a slow oven.

### Molasses Cake.

A large tin, 10in. x 12in. and nearly 3in. deep is required. Prepare your tin first. Then thoroughly sift together 3 cups of flour, 1/2 teaspoon baking powder, 1 teaspoon cinnamon, and ginger to taste, and stand on one side. Next cream together one cup of sugar and one cup of melted lard or butter. Lard does quite well and is more economical. Then add 3 eggs. The mixture jellifies when you add the eggs to the melted ingredients. Next add a cup of treacle or golden syrup. Stir in the sifted flour thoroughly. Lastly add one cup of absolutely boiling water. The mixture is very thin when ready for the oven. Time according to the depth of the tin, half an hour to three-quarters of an hour.

## AMONG OUR LISTENERS

"Since the afternoon sessions from 2YA, my wife has been very pleased and listens with interest to the lectures on fashions and cooking. This is a great boon to the ladies, and I am sure is meeting with the success it deserves."—W.P.R., Wanganni.

"We all look forward to the band concerts, and think the Monday programme from Christchurch is a favourite with most listeners, as a band appeals to most people. We are the only people in Hoanga to have a radio, but now that my son has had such success with his crystal others may follow. I often say that the radio gives me greater pleasure than any other thing during the whole fifteen years that I have been in New Zealand. We receive Wellington and Christchurch splendidly on four valves, much better than we get Auckland."—P.L.M., Hoanga.

"The subjects of interest to women are vast and varied, embracing almost if not every calling, and I feel sure women's sphere is going to be even broader with the advent of the wonder of the ages—radio."—G.H., Kibbirnie.

"I wish to make a little suggestion for our afternoons with radio, that we might hear more of the children singing. If you could only have a peep at a lonely old man just for the half-hour on Sunday evening with his two-valve set it would bring tears to your eyes."—A.B., St. Martin's.

## Imperial Conference

The second portion of the lecture upon the Imperial Conference was given by the Editor-Audience on Friday evening last, the subject of defence being mainly dealt with.

On the subject of foreign affairs and defence, the conference had the advantage of hearing a full exposition of existing conditions by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and by the authorities of the Navy, the Army, and the Air Force. Foreign affairs and defence are allied subjects—the provision to be made for defence depends on the international position at the time, while on the other hand the policy of the Empire in foreign affairs is similarly affected by its existing means of defence. It was understood at the conference that, notwithstanding the equality of the Dominions with Great Britain, the major share of the responsibility, in the twin domains of foreign affairs and defence, must necessarily remain at the present stage with His Majesty's Government in Great Britain. In order to ensure that the actions in this connection of that Government may meet with the approval of His Majesty's Governments in the Dominions, every possible step is taken to consult with Dominion Governments, and to keep them up-to-date in all material developments, but on the cardinal principle of British policy there is no difference of opinion between any of the Governments of the Empire. That principle is the maintenance of peace—the British Commonwealth desires nothing beyond this, and the whole of its efforts are directed to that end. Its foreign policy is conducted openly and publicly insofar as this can be done in the present state of the world, and all the Governments represented at the conference were firm in their support of this attitude wherever practicable. From the point of view of foreign policy, and from the point of view of defence, it was made abundantly clear that whatever may be the status or the powers of the Governments forming the Empire, on these subjects the Empire speaks with one voice.

### Technical Arms Reviewed.

The Dominion delegations were shown the latest developments in the Navy, the Army, and the Air Force. Each branch arranged a display of great interest. To observe the work of the Navy the delegations were taken to sea on Portland by the battle-cruiser "Revenge," where they witnessed realistic demonstrations of the progress that is being made in the senior service.

Aeroplanes, submarines, and destroyers, using guns, torpedoes, smoke screens, mines, and depth charges, were seen in action, and manoeuvres and firing at great range by the battle fleet demonstrated the efficiency of the latest implements of war. The military authorities staged at Camberley an impressive demonstration of the movement towards the mechanisation of the Army. On a most difficult day, deluged with rain all kinds of vehicles, from the latest tanks to the latest monsters, from "crabs," filed past in feet of mud without a hitch or delay, and subsequently staged manoeuvres and a mimic battle, assisted by aeroplanes, to show the part that the mechanised army may be expected to play in the future. The Air Force at Croydon provided a thrilling demonstration of the almost impossible things that may be done in the air. Not the least interesting feature of this day was the almost insignificant machine in which Sir Alan Cobham had just completed his flight to Australia and back.

One result of the deliberations of the conference on defence was the decision of the New Zealand Government, referred to in the preceding lecture, to lay before Parliament a proposal to grant a subsidy of £1,000,000 towards the construction of the naval base at Singapore.

### Communications.

Very full consideration was given to the question of communications between the different parts of the Empire. The easier it is to communicate from one part to another, and the shorter the time necessary to proceed from one part to another, the more opportunity will be afforded for personal discussion on any point at issue, and consequently the smaller the possibility of misunderstanding or disagreement. The success of the 1926 conference in removing all misunderstandings by the solvent of personal discussion, brought the importance of communications more clearly to the front. Every aspect of the subject was debated at length—shipping, cables, wireless telegraphy, the aeroplane, and the airship each received its share of attention, and the possibilities were recognised of future developments in the air of great Im-

perial significance. As a first means of drawing the Empire closer together in point of time, the two new airships that are now in course of construction are expected to prove of material assistance, and a party of experts from Great Britain are now in New Zealand in order to assist in the selection of a suitable base for an airship mast and the necessary terminal facilities to enable these ships to add this country to their route. It need not be stressed how greatly inter-Empire communication would be facilitated if it were found possible, as experts assert that it will, to reduce the time required to travel from Great Britain to New Zealand from some five weeks to ten or twelve days. A future lecture will deal more fully with the question of Imperial communications.

The subject of inter-Imperial trade was one of the most important on the agenda, and it received long and detailed consideration. It was the unanimous opinion of the conference that everything possible should be done to encourage trade within the Empire, and although any increase in this trade must in the last resort depend upon the efforts and good-will of the traders and the people themselves, it was felt that in many directions assistance could be rendered by the Governments concerned. The very large part played by trade in bringing the peoples of the Empire into closer touch, and in assisting to create that understanding of different viewpoints and different conditions that is so desirable, was explicitly recognised, and steps were resolved upon to bring this point of view clearly before the peoples of all the countries concerned. From the material aspect it was recognised that trading within the Empire adds to the general prosperity all round, and helps to avoid real difficulties relating to exchange and to reduce the possibility of foreign entanglements.

Allied with the question of trade is that of migration. The population of the Empire at present is not distributed to the best advantage. On the one hand we see in Great Britain a large number of people unable to obtain employment, while on the other hand, in many of the great Dominions, there are vast stretches of country not yet fully developed. The unemployment difficulty in Great Britain seems to be steadily decreasing, but the problem of how best to transfer the surplus population of the Old Country, so as to bring into effective production the unused areas in the Dominions, is one calling for earnest consideration. The subject was dis-

cussed at length by a committee of the conference, and, while no novel or dramatic step was found to be possible, the result of the committee's deliberations will be to facilitate in many directions the desired movement of population.

### Value of Publicity.

Another very important subject debated was that of cinematograph films. The members of the conference were unanimous in recognising the desirability of arranging for the exhibition of a greater proportion of British films. Throughout the Empire the present position appears to be that the American film practically dominates the market, and that British people, by means of this new and extremely popular method of entertainment, are being gradually educated to foreign ideals and foreign customs. It was felt that this cannot be allowed to continue indefinitely, and that the welfare of the nation demands that the younger generation should not be confined to the lessons and the examples of foreign films, but should have the opportunity of seeing on the screen British films conveying British ideas and British customs. How best to achieve this end is a difficult question, but a Bill for the purpose has already been introduced in the British House of Commons, and the New Zealand Government are considering the introduction of a somewhat similar measure.

The question of research was considered by an expert committee, which produced a most valuable report, recommending, among other things, the establishment of a considered scheme of co-operation and uniformity in this subject throughout the Empire. Pointed attention was called to the fact that if the Empire is to hold its own in the period of active competition that is anticipated in the future, it must rely more and more upon the application of science to increase its production or decrease its costs. Even in a small country such as New Zealand the potential possibilities of scientific research cannot be over-estimated. It should be recognised by all that, as a community, we in New Zealand exist by the sale of our raw products—our wool, dairy produce, meat, fruit, etc.—and that, in practically all these articles, the competition in the future is likely to be more severe than in the past. If we are to maintain our present position we must, so to speak, attempt to make two blades of wheat grow where one grew before—to produce more goods at the same cost, or

the same quantity at a lesser cost. Science is already grappling with these problems, and the conference has pointed out the significance of the subject to the Empire, and the necessity of our keeping pace with the world.

### The Spirit of the Conference.

The outstanding result of this conference was not the work done, but the spirit in which the work was approached and in which it was completed. When it is remembered that the conference consisted of representatives from all parts of the world, speaking for people in all stages of development, of different races, of different histories, and with different conditions of life, the existence of varying points of view is inevitable, and the fact that it was possible to arrive at unanimous conclusions on so many delicate and difficult subjects must be regarded as remarkable. One thing, and one alone, enabled this unanimity to be achieved, and that is good-will. Every individual representative quite obviously arrived at the conference with a determination to consider fully any point of view that might differ from his own; with a sympathy for countries other than his own, and for their individual problems; and with an intention to sink any individual and selfish interests for the good of a common whole. While this spirit of good-will exists there is no reason to fear for the continued existence of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

After all, the forces that bind us together are stronger than any force that might tend to drive us apart. From the material point of view of self-protection, we are obviously stronger together than we are apart. Covering all portions of the world, and producing raw materials of practically every kind required by civilisation, we are in an excellent position to combine the productive potentialities of the Dominions with the manufacturing powers of the Old Country, and to exist, to some extent, in an economic system, undisturbed by the fluctuations and possible dissensions of the outside world. From the most selfish point of view there are very real advantages in maintaining our association.

But the strongest and most enduring ties of all are, of course, those of sentiment, of sympathy, and of mutual understanding, and there can be no more powerful instrument for strengthening and perpetuating these ties than the full personal discussions of the Imperial Conference.