

Too Much Accent.

A PARAGRAPH from "John o' London's":—

"I have been troubled for some time by that aristocratic accent which is usually practised by the richer classes, and often imitated by the lesser ones. A person I know thinks that it is a mark of good education and good taste. I maintained that it is bad taste, and that it would not be used by a well-educated person of good sense, whatever he was brought up in. Would you mind putting us right?" My friend must remember that what he calls the "aristocratic accent" is acquired in aristocratic surroundings in just the same way as the Whitechapel accent is acquired in Whitechapel, and that those who are early-trained to use them are to an extent blameless. This does not alter the fact that both accents are bad. It is as bad to pronounce "refined" "refayned" as it is to pronounce "paper" "piper." Each may be a mark of education of a certain grade, but neither is a mark of good taste.

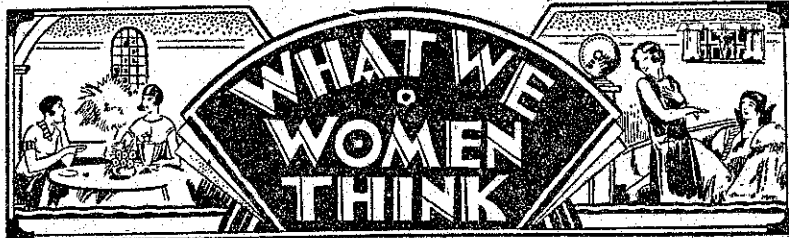
The Tint That Cheers.

THE narrow hall in small houses is usually badly lighted, as far as natural light is concerned, usually depending upon the fanlight over the front door or the light that trickles downstairs from a landing window. For this reason it is a wise plan to keep to a cheerful colour scheme, and avoid dark tints. Wallpaper may be used, but large patterns must be avoided; indeed, one well-known decorator advises against patterned wallpapers for halls, and makes this a general rule. Plain papers, distemper or paint can be used with good effect. Warm tones of yellow are generally successful—they suggest sunshine and brightness, and as well as reflecting more sunlight than dark colours, they yield better results for any given amount of artificial light.

Warm tones of cream or beige or a carefully-chosen pale green tint that are also pleasing and certain tones of grey are satisfactory, if adequate colour relief is afforded by carpets and curtains. A cheerful colour scheme for a tiny hall in a small house or country cottage can be achieved with whitewashed walls and ceiling, brick red stair carpet or rush matting, and a floor surround of red tiled linoleum (if the hall lacks red tiles) round a square of rush matting.

Life Aboard a Soviet Ship.

A WELL-KNOWN resident of Wellington, now abroad with her husband, writes thus concerning the Soviet, with which they are both entirely in sympathy:—"We embarked for Red Russia at London Bridge, in a Soviet ship, and sailed away down the Thames on a spring evening under the great uplifted span of the Tower Bridge, our passengers singing lustily the International, to the delight of our Russian crew and the English dockers on the wharves. It was most interesting to observe the attitude of the crews and passengers of other ships as we passed them. One pleasure steamer returning from Margate, and crowded with readers of the 'Daily Mail' (the most scurrilous and popular Tory paper in England), received our farewell waves in stony silence, with the exception of one steward in the bow, who waved unobtrusively as if frightened the captain might see him. But a Soviet incoming ship shouted friendly greetings to us. Mostly, though, we were coldly received by all nationalities



with the exception of a sailor here and there. Our cabin was far more comfortable than any we have had on the crossing to Australia, though not so elaborate as the one we had on our last voyage to England: two real beds, dressing-table, wardrobe, water laid on, electric fan, steam heat and reading lamps, with simple and tasteful decoration. It is only costing us £25 a head for a month's trip in the Union, travelling, theatres, concerts, sight-seeing, May Day celebrations and all included!

"The voyage was a revelation, crew and passengers mixing together like friends and all class distinctions gone. The food was truly marvellous, well cooked and quantities of it. It is merely put before you on huge silver platters and you help yourselves. The cabins of the sailors were identical with ours, and so was their food. At the end of their mess-room was the Lenin Corner, with a little bronze statue of their great man draped in red, a long table spread with a red cloth and covered with attractive

magazines and papers printed in the Soyuz (the Soviet Union).

"There was a wireless set and a gramophone and dance records (though the prevalent taste seemed for classical music), dominos and chess. Never have I seen such men as these—gentle, courteous, intelligent, magnificent workers, and working with an enthusiasm for their Union which seemed almost unbelievable. The third mate was a woman, a charming looking girl of 28, dressed in her officer's coat. The attitude of these Communists toward women is something most interesting to see. There is absolutely none of the gaucherie and unpleasant love-making so common among our men-folk, but a real camaraderie, and work for the Union comes before anything else.

"Their Caucasian dancing was a revelation to watch, and their singing of 'Stenka Razin' and other revolutionary songs to the music of 'Bala-laikas' was wonderful and moving to hear."

Our Cookery Corner

Parsley Wine.

Ingredients: One pound of parsley, five quarts of water, three pounds of brown sugar, two ounces of whole ginger, two oranges, two lemons, and one ounce of compressed yeast.

Method: Bruise the ginger and tie loosely in muslin with thin rind of oranges and lemons. Boil these and the parsley for half an hour in the water, and then pour, whilst still boiling, over sugar and the juice of fruit. Stir well, and when it feels comfortably warm to the finger work it with the yeast (mixed with a teaspoonful of soft sugar, a little warm water, and spread on slice of warm toasted bread). Lay this on top of liquid, cover with a cloth, and leave for three days.

Then lift out the toast and muslin bag, strain into cask, cork lightly until it ceases to work, bottle, cork well, and keep for six months to a year.

Cheese Souffle.

Ingredients: Three-quarter breakfastcupful of milk, a level dessert-spoonful of cornflour, the whites of three eggs, the yolks of two eggs, 2oz. grated cheese, a pinch of bi-carbonate of soda, a sprinkling of pepper, a good pinch of salt, a few grains of cayenne.

Method: Mix the cornflour with a little of the milk. Boil the remainder, mix it with the cornflour, return to the saucepan and stir while it boils for five minutes. Season with salt, pepper and cayenne. Stir in the cheese, and when well mixed stand it

at the side of the stove, where it cannot boil.

Put the egg yolks into a basin, break them with a wooden spoon, then add the cheese mixture. When evenly mixed, fold in the stiffly-beaten egg whites and the bi-carbonate of soda. Turn into a buttered dish and put in a hot oven. Slacken the heat to moderate after ten minutes, and bake fifteen minutes more.

Barcelona Eggs.

Ingredients: 4 eggs, 2oz. butter, 2 large Spanish onions, 5 large tomatoes, pepper and salt.

Method: Peel and cut onions into thin slices. Melt butter in a frying pan, add onions when it is smoking hot, and cook thoroughly, stirring occasionally. Then add tomatoes, peeled and quartered, and seasoning to taste. Cook slowly till tomatoes are soft, then gently turn into a hot dish. Serve fried eggs on top.

Coffee Cream.

Ingredients: 1½ pints milk, 3 eggs, 4oz. gelatine, 1 gill thick cream, ½ gill strong coffee, 2oz. castor sugar.

Method: Dissolve the gelatine in hot coffee. Beat the eggs and pour, with the milk, into a double boiler. Stir over boiling water until thick, then add sugar. Take off the fire and stir in the gelatine and coffee. Pour the custard into a basin, and when slightly cool, but not set, stir in the whipped cream. Stir very lightly together, then gently pour into a wet mould. Turn out when set and decorate with whipped, sweetened cream flavoured with vanilla.

Those Intimate Garments.

MODERN underwear is tailored so carefully to-day that the smart woman considers a visit to the lingerie fitter as essential as the visit to the dressmaker and tailor. Never before in the whole history of fashion have "beneaths" been of more importance than that which is worn over them. With the slender frocks of to-day, one garment, or at the most two, are considered necessary, and all superfluous fullness must be eliminated. Modern lingerie moulds the figure—it is space-saving and must also act as the foundation of one's frock. There are slim little under-shirts made to wear with little satin shorts or tailored culottes which have a hip yoke and are cut like riding breeches. Two-piece foundations for sports or dance wear consist of these tailored satin shirts attached to a brassiere which are worn with tailored knickers. Soft waistgirdles of satin are first favourite among lingerie materials both for appearance and durability. Coffee-coloured spotted net or applique motifs of the reverse side of the satin trim the most modish underwear in this material.

Not So Easy.

To be a successful short-story writer you cannot afford to make mistakes. You must have the gift of vivid and terse expression and be able to suggest more than you have to say. Character has to be delineated rather than developed—in fact, you must be a master of dialogue. If you can cut out 100 words and not upset the story, then surely it is not yet a good story. De Maupassant is the great master of the short story. Kipling, unlike Edgar Allan Poe, whose short stories are fantastic, noisy and emphatic, says things quietly and obtains his finest effects with the utmost economy of literary means. His tragic tales are examples of masterly simplicity.

Woman as Artist.

FEMALE doctors are now fairly numerous in all civilised countries; and there are female lawyers, bankers, accountants, architects and politicians; with women painters of eminence like Mrs. Dod Proctor and Dame Laura Knight. There is a sculptress now in England who gained public attention by a masterly bust of a well-known judge. Mrs. Mitchell lives in a Somerset village and has chiselled portraits of Mr. Galsworthy, Thomas Hardy and other notable people. There are some who speak of her as the feminine rival to Epstein, and no doubt they mean it as a high compliment to the lady's great originality and technical craftsmanship.

Back to the Land.

IN the 1921 census of England and Wales 20,000 women were returned as farmers, and it is said that there are altogether more than 100,000 women working on the land. Many are trained in horticulture and fill well-paid posts in the gardening world. Some are in charge of large private pleasure gardens, of which they undertake the whole organisation and direction. They are better educated and more scientifically trained than the average head gardeners on estates, and are not infrequently preferred to men for that reason. Others manage small gardens where they carry on all the work with the help of casual labour for the heaviest jobs. There is a demand for college-trained women for managing private gardens and those attached to schools and institutions.