

from the 1920s reviews:

'The jolliest all-round companion that has appeared in print for many years'
– Evening News

'Everybody is talking about it. Everybody is buying it ... I wonder how I ever spent a weekend without it ... The authors have thought of everything'
– Daily Telegraph

'I say! Have you seen The Weekend Book?'
– Guardian

- * Major consumer advertising
- * Major publicity
- * First serial sale

Duckworth

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THE WEEK-END BOOK

'He who takes it on a railway journey will commiserate the unhappy people who rely on detective fiction'
– The Observer

THE WEEK-END BOOK

The Week-End Book was first published in June 1924. With various editions and alterations it was reprinted in England nineteen times. In 'criticism' of its commercial success, Virginia Woolf once commented: 'The Hogarth Press may not make any money - but at least we did not publish *The Week-End Book*.'



WEEK-END

*The train! The twelve o'clock for paradise.
Hurry, or it will try to creep away.
Out in the country everyone is wise:
We can be only wise on Saturday.
There you are waiting, little friendly house:
Those are your chimney-stacks with you between,
Surrounded by old trees and strolling cows,
Staring through all your windows at the green.
Your homely floor is creaking for our tread;
The smiling tea-pot with contented spout
Thinks of the boiling water, and the bread
Longs for the butter. All their hands are out
To greet us, and the gentle blankets seem
Purring and crooning: "Lie in us, and dream"*

Harold Monro



A CALENDAR OF FLOWERS

JULY



In July, be proud, and walk nose in air for the scent of lime blossom. Wander by a fen river or chalk stream and you will find PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE (1) spearing up through the meadow-sweet. Look for handsome ARROWHEAD (2); FLOWERING RUSH (3); MIMULUS (4) cool and juicy with its feet in the water, little CREEPING JENNY (5) and water FORGET-ME-NOT (6) between the rushes on the edge of the bank. Or if the water meadows are too hot, lie in the shade at the edge of the wood and eat WILD STRAWBERRIES (7) under a bower of HONEYSUCKLE (8). But if you cannot go to the country at all, picnic on a bomb site near St Paul's before they are all built over. There among the willowherb and ragwort you will find EVENING PRIMROSES (9), and BINDWEED (10) with fragile snowy trumpets, using rusty wire for trellis. Next month the willowherb fluff will be blowing between the buses.

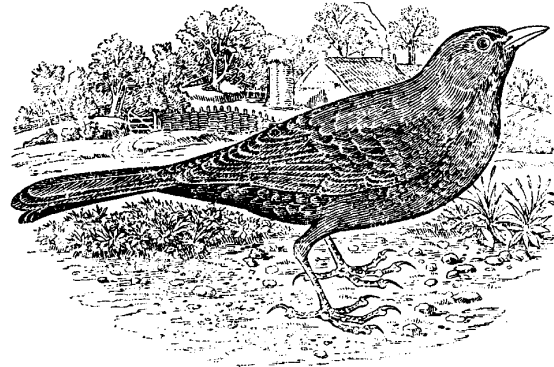
THE YEAR'S WORK

THE ROTATION of crops also enables the farmer to make the best use of his labour. A year's work in the arable fields may go something like this, but it varies considerably from one district to another and there is no set pattern for the whole country:

January and	
February:	Carting muck; ploughing
March:	Sowing oats and barley
April:	Planting potatoes and spring wheat
May:	Sowing turnips and swedes
June:	Singling roots: hoeing and other summer cultivation
July:	Haymaking
August:	Corn harvest
September:	Corn harvest and potato lifting
October:	Potato lifting and ploughing
November:	Root lifting and sowing winter wheat
December:	Ploughing and carting muck once again.

That is a fair sample, and it takes no account (for instance) of sugar-beet, nor of silage-making which is now becoming common on many farms throughout the summer. You must not suppose, however, that these are the farmer's only jobs. His stock must be fed and tended, his cows milked, his machinery kept in order. He must buy and sell, either at market or privately. And his other major tasks include hedgetrimming and laying, ditching, draining, spreading artificial fertilisers or lime, spraying crops and fruit trees, fruit picking and so on. He must be handy with at least ten different sorts of tools and a dozen more or less complicated mechanical implements. He must be a rough carpenter, motor-mechanic, wheelwright, blacksmith, and a bit of a meteorologist, chemist, botanist and biologist as well.

WEEK-END BOOK THE BLACKBIRD, or *Ousel*



The blackbird possesses a quite different emotional quality from the robin, being full of fears, suspicions and nervous reactions. He is almost as conspicuous about human dwelling-places, but never reposes in man the same degree of confidence. His loud chuck of alarm is sign of his volatile and unstable temperament: anger, rufflement, uneasy protest change in a moment to the most taking airs of gallantry to his brown mate. When the blackbird begins to sing in February his low fluting is unrivalled for its pure and mellow tone, and is delivered with a leisureliness which draws out the full value of each note. But the artist flies too high and falls, like Icarus, into a tumble of clacks and chucks and broken jars.

The blackbird builds very early, and his shack is an untidy affair of grasses, roots, and herbs, lined with finer grasses and mud-plastered within. The eggs are four to six in number, greeny blue in colour, smeared with light brown. The brown female has not the distinction of the ebony male, with his golden dagger of a bill. Length, 10 inches.

FOOD AND DRINK

ADVICE TO THOSE WHO ATTEMPT TO SUPPLEMENT THEIR DIET FROM NATURE'S LARDER

FRESHWATER FISH: Trout and salmon should be eaten as soon as possible after being caught. If the other freshwater fish you catch must be eaten, they should be soaked for at least 12 hours in brine. This removes both the slime and the taste of mud.

MUSHROOMS AND TOADSTOOLS: Ordinary mushrooms are white on top, with a skin which peels readily, and have pinkish or chocolate gills underneath, according to age. They grow in grass.

PUFFBALLS are round and white, puckered underneath. They also grow in grass.

PARASOLLE mushrooms are white with brown flecks on top and with white gills and grow in grass.

ALL MUSHROOMS AND TOADSTOOLS are dangerous if they are not eaten fresh; therefore reject all botanist's specimens.

DON'T cook and attempt to eat **YOUNG BRACKEN SHOOT**s because the Japanese do. What suits the hardy races of the extreme East may not suit you.

DON'T cook **YOUNG NETTLES** as a substitute for spinach. It is a stringy one.

DON'T eat **BOILED RHUBARB LEAVES**. This practice caused a large number of deaths during the war.

N.B.—**MICE IN HONEY** should be imported from China, not prepared at home.

ROUNDS AND SONGS

SWING LOW, SWEET CHARIOT

Intensely and rather slowly.

(Chorus.)

Key: A^b

Swing low, sweet cha-ri-ot, Coming for to carry me
 || m : d i - : m | d :- d i | s :- | d . d : d , d i m . s : s }

home. Swing low, sweet, cha-ri-ot,
 || s :- i - : - | l . s : m i - : s | d :- . d i | l . s :- }

(Solo)

Coming for to carry me home. I look'd over Jordan,
 || d . d : d , d i m . m : r | d :- i : m | s . d : - l , d : d }

What did I see, coming for to carry me home—? A
 || d . d : d l . s :- | d . d : d , d i m . s : s | s :- i - : s }

band of angels coming after me—
 || l . s : m i m : d | d . d : d . d | l . s :- }

Coming for to carry me home.
 Repeat chorus after second verse.
 || d . d : d , d i m . m : r | d :- i - : ||

TRAVELS WITH A DONKEY

OF CAMP EQUIPMENT

If, in spite of the weather you determine to embark on the preparation of a camping outfit, *Be Prepared* for every emergency of weather and of distance from habitation by making your camping outfit as comprehensive as possible, but as little burdensome and inconvenient *en route*.

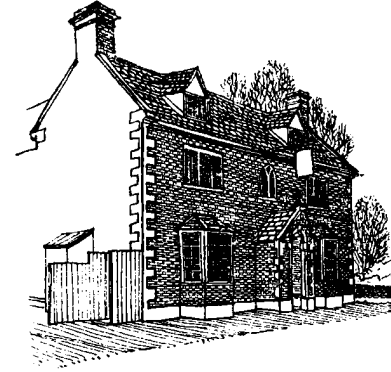
THE TENT

is, in England, the primary safeguard of the person. Tents range from the *extended cottage*, a magnificent structure of walls, roofs, doors and porches, to an *Itisa* which will fold neatly into a pocket, the choice naturally depending on whether the expedition is pedestrian, cyclist or motorist. Most modern tents are made of finely woven cotton, some even of silk material, all of which are found perfectly waterproof. As extra security against cloud-burst, waterproofing solution can be purchased or concocted. A tent complete with poles and pegs may weigh as little as 5 lbs and they can with some difficulty be obtained in colours. They should be provided *with fly-sheets* which give extra protection from sun and rain as well as ventilation.

THE BED

is a scarcely less important protection to the wary camper than the covering overhead. To prevent chills from the damp which never fails in any weather to rise from the ground, a waterproof groundsheet of a light weight oiled fabric (which has superseded mackintosh) should be the foundation of the night's rest. If the ground sheet is the sole article of bedding, it is a very good plan to make a "*hip hole*" underneath it in the ground, but the hole must be large enough to make sure of not falling out and failing to find it again in the course of the night.

ARCHITECTURE



A WAYSIDE PUB: EARLY VICTORIAN IN PLAIN BRICK AND TILE



A VILLAGE PUB IN ROMANTIC VICTORIAN GOTHIC STYLE

THE LAW

OF JOY-RIDES

To take and use a car belonging to another and afterwards abandon it is not theft, provided that the "borrower" can prove he had not the intention "permanently to deprive the owner thereof." But it is now an offence under the Road Traffic Act 1930.

OF MASQUERADES

To go about by night with the face disguised, blackened or masked and having the intent to enter any building, is sufficient to make a person guilty of a misdemeanour. Therefore, since it is difficult to establish the innocence of one's intentions, it is imprudent to be found in such a situation. If one disguise himself for the purpose of impersonating the husband of, and to, any wife other than one's own he may (if successful) be guilty of rape; and it is not wise to rely upon being able to prove that one's histrionic powers are too poor to deceive an unbiassed audience.

OF RIOTOUS BEHAVIOUR

A *riot* is the assembly of three or more persons with an apparent tendency to violence sufficient to inspire alarm or terror, even if only one person be in fact alarmed. If such an assembly consists of twelve or more persons the ensuing disturbance of the peace is a misdemeanour; and failure to disperse, after the reading of the Riot Act, is a felony. To collect a crowd to the annoyance of the neighbours is a nuisance. To join with others, by agreement, in hissing a performance is a conspiracy; but if a consensus of audible censure be not prearranged, it is lawful.

ON KNOTS

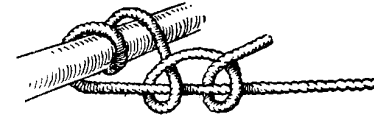
The following knots will do whatever else is necessary to keep the camp in its place:



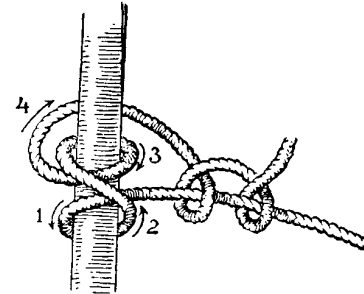
The reef-knot, for joining two ends of equal size.



The Double Sheet Bend, for joining ropes of different thicknesses



The Round Turn and two Half Hitches, for fastening a boat, horse, dog, etc., to a horizontal rail.



The Clove Hitch and two Half Hitches, for hanging anything from a vertical post.

GAMES

HUMAN POLO

The biggest men are the ponies, and the girls or lighter weights mount them pick-a-back, hold on with one hand and use walking-sticks to drive a tennis-ball through goals at opposite ends of a lawn or tennis-court. Holding opponents with the hands is not allowed, nor kicking (of man or ball), but bumping, boring and hooking sticks are all part of the game. A player may remount, but may not play from the ground.

FLAT-RACING

Ponies similarly mounted race thirty yards on hands and knees; after which apply iodine to the kneecaps. Jockeys may not remount or touch the earth with their feet.

Wheelbarrow races and *Three-legged races* need no description, we give them a passing recommendation. *Relay races* are amusing, particularly if each team contains a very small child, who cannot be relied on to keep to the course.

LOOKING AT YOUR FEET THROUGH THE WRONG END OF THE OPERA-GLASSES

while you try to walk, step by step, one foot put straight in front of the other, down a string laid on the floor.

QUALITIES

At the end of the book there is a list of qualities. The subject has to give himself marks for each quality and then pass the book on to the rest in turn to mark him. When all have finished with him, he may read out the verdicts and if you like even work out his average for each quality. After all, he'll have his revenge later.

FIRST AID

FOREIGN BODIES IN EYE

To overcome opposition of the eye to your endeavours to remove from it foreign bodies, practise this manoeuvre aimed at exposing the whole conjunctiva of the upper lid: First place the edge of the thumb along the lower lid just below, and the index finger on the upper lid just above the lashes. By artfully pushing up the skin with the index finger you will disengage very slightly the upper lid margin from the eye surface. Now, with the thumb slip the lower lid behind the upper and by a deft follow-through movement evert this lid between the thumb and index finger. The foreign body can now be removed with moistened linen. Do not fear you have failed in your quest if it prove very small. The patient's description of its size as maybe less than a plover's though surely more than a pigeon's egg is usually not correct. The lower lid can be best explored if the patient looks up while the lid is pulled down.

FOREIGN BODIES IN NOSE

To eject a foreign body from the nose stimulate sneezing with pepper or a paper spill.

FOREIGN BODIES IN EAR

A foreign body in the ear does not constitute an emergency and is not remedied by the introduction of other foreign bodies such as bare bodkins or syringes. It is in such matters as this that the Art of the Physician and Surgeon still avails.

"QUALITIES"

OR THE NEW CONFESSIONS
BOOK

No one should assess other people before
he has assessed himself. Full marks are 20
for each quality.

BEAUTY

BRAINS

CHARM

TASTE

DISCRETION

TOLERANCE

WILL-POWER

SENSE OF HUMOUR

MORAL SENSE

COMMON SENSE

SENSIBILITY

SENSUOUSNESS

TACT

SINCERITY

HUMILITY

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