

Vegetarianism in War-time

So closely is vegetarianism linked in many minds with food 'faddism' that one runs the risk of being regarded as eccentric if the consumption of more vegetables is strongly advocated. Nevertheless, the slogan 'Eat more Vegetables' is not only to form a central feature of the nutritional policy of the Ministry of Food during the War, but also, it is hoped, will be prominent in the post-War campaign to eradicate malnutrition from Great Britain. One simple fact stands out. Wholemeal cereals, vegetables, potatoes and milk or cheese provide all that is required for building a sound body and for maintaining good health. A little book of useful recipes, written primarily, one imagines, for vegetarians, entitled 'Food in War-Time' (edited by W. H. White. London: G. Bell & Sons, Ltd., in conjunction with the London Vegetarian Society, 1940. 6d. net), should be widely read and used. It describes many dishes which would be valuable additions to our diet in ordinary times as well as in the special times for which it has been written.

Plastic Materials in the *Yankee Clipper*

A LARGE amount of plastic materials is used in the construction and furnishing of the American machines of the *Yankee Clipper* class, used in the trans-Atlantic air service. According to an article in the *Electrician* of March 8, colour plays an important part in the furnishing and decoration of these machines. The average American traveller is very critical of his travel-surroundings, and as he is relatively a prisoner in the machine for long hours on end, it is essential that his liking for cheerful surroundings be satisfied. Plastic decorations have been found to be most useful by the designers.

The dining-room has dome lights made of cellulose and giving a diffused light. The rear compartment, sometimes known as the 'bridal suite', is very luxurious, and is furnished with a dressing-table, etc. The lighting around the dressing-table has shades made of another type of cellulose acetate material. The dressing-table top is of synthetic resin laminated material. On the other hand, the wash-basins and table-tops in the ladies' dressing-room are in a blue vinyl material. The upper wall fabric is protected with sheets of transparent methyl material. Similarly, the cabin windows and the navigator's turret are 'glazed' with methacrylate. Plastic materials are also used for passenger signal flashing lights, for fuel tank gauges, and for some of the control knobs. The walls are made of opaque vitryl resin sheets, differing in colour in the various cabins and departments. Laminated material is used for some of the control pulleys, for spacers of various kinds and for certain bushings, and plastic materials form the basis of most of the paint and lacquer used on the machines.

The National Institute of Agricultural Botany

THE annual report of the National Institute of Agricultural Botany, Huntingdon Road, Cambridge, for the season 1938-39 has been issued. Much of the Institute's work concerns the trial of new varieties

of crop plants, and the farmer who takes advantage of the frequent reports issued by the Institute can save himself a considerable amount of time, trouble and expense in trying things out for himself. Many of the notes supplied in the present report relate to types which are still only in the early stages of trial, but are none the less interesting because of that fact. At a time when high production per acre is a question of more than usual importance, the Institute's tests of the ability of certain varieties of wheat to respond to high levels of manuring without lodging will be followed with particular interest. The report indicates that seed of a carefully purified stock of Spratt-Archer barley and of a selected high-yielding strain of Rivet wheat have been recently made available to the seed trade.

Royal Geographical Society Awards

THE King has approved the award of the Royal Medals of the Royal Geographical Society as follows: Founder's Medal to Mr. and Mrs. Harold Ingrams, for their exploration, travel, and studies in the Hadhramaut; Patron's Medal to Lieutenant Alexander R. Glen, for his expeditions in Spitsbergen and North-East Land. The Council has made the following awards: Victoria Medal to Mr. O. G. S. Crawford, for his archaeological maps prepared for the Ordnance Survey and his work on the *Tabula Imperii Romani*; Murchison Grant to Mr. Peter Mott, for his surveys in West Greenland; Back Grant to Mr. Gerald Seligman, for his glacier studies on the Jungfrauoch; Cuthbert Peek Grant to Mr. John Hanbury-Tracy, for his work in south-eastern Tibet with Mr. Kaulback and his journey in the north of South America; Gill Memorial to Mr. Alexander King, for his work in Jan Mayen in 1938.

Lectures on Food and its Use

A SERIES of lectures under the general title "The Nation's Larder" have been arranged at the Royal Institution with the approval and support of the Ministry of Food. The first was delivered on April 23 by Prof. J. C. Drummond, who spoke on food in relation to health in Great Britain during the past two hundred years. The remaining lectures of the series, which are being given on Tuesdays at 5.15, are on medical aspects of the use of foods (Sir Robert McCarrison), national food requirements (Sir John Orr), home production of food (Sir Frederick Keeble), manufacture, preservation and distribution of food (Dr. L. H. Lampitt), food and the housewife (Prof. V. H. Mottram) and the feeding of children (Dr. J. C. Spence). The lectures are to be published later in book form. Admission is by ticket obtainable, free of charge, from the Royal Institution, Albemarle Street, London, W.1.

Eighth American Scientific Congress

AN illustrated descriptive programme is now available of the Eighth American Scientific Congress, to be held in Washington, D.C., during May 10-18 (see *NATURE*, December 23, 1939, p. 1056). The Congress will be opened by President Roosevelt on May 10; and the first plenary session takes place on May 13.