

The Amateur Winemaker

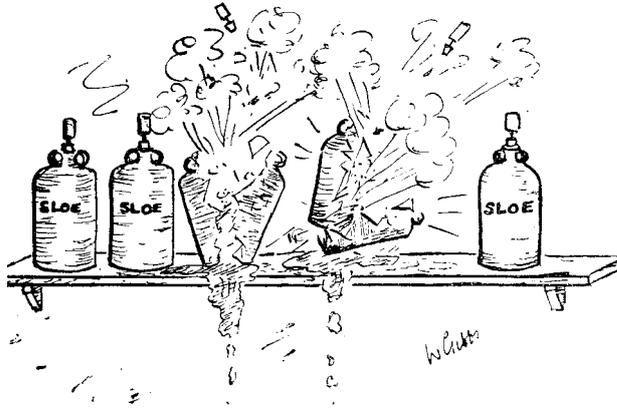
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Editor: C. J. J. Berry,
North Croye, Croye Drive,
The Avenue, Andover, Hants
Tel.: Andover 3177.

Canadian Agents: Wine-Art, p.a. Box 2701, Vancouver 3.
B.C.

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From the Editor's chair



".... Water is not wholesome sole by itself for an Englishman. Good wine moderately drunken doth actuate and doth quicken a man's wits; it doth comfort his heart; it doth scour the liver; it doth engender good blood; it doth comfort and nourish the brain, wherefore it is medicinal

....

Dr. Andrew Border (A.D. 1490-1549).



THIS YEAR'S "NATIONAL"

Arrangements are now well under way for this year's National Conference and Show, as will be seen by an advertisement in this issue. This year our hosts will be the Amateur Winemakers' Association of Cheltenham and the winemakers of Bishop's Cleeve, and they are sparing no pains to ensure that the Conference is every bit as successful as its predecessors. It is to be held in the Town Hall, Cheltenham, a large building with every facility for such a gathering, on Friday and Saturday, April 6th and 7th, so make the entry in your diary right away!



THE PROGRAMME

The committee has already had three meetings (a committee meeting is a major undertaking, since members are scattered all over the south of England) and have already made most of the general arrangements: only details remain to be settled. The judging of the wine show will take place on the Friday afternoon, and in the evening the Conference will be launched by a civic reception being given by the Mayor, which will be followed by a wine and cheese party in the Pillar Room on a "cheese-provided, -bring-your-own-bottle" basis. The

wine show will be open in the evening, too. The main day, of course, is the Saturday, and the highlights of this will be a session in the morning devoted to the showing of winning sets of colour slides, and Mr. B. C. A. Turner "interviewing" Mr. R. C. Lucas (incidentally, the Show secretary) and Mrs. S. M. Tritton, both of whom need no introduction. Both are experienced winemakers, and since their views do not always coincide one can expect some lively, if good-humoured argument. The contest is expected to go the full ten rounds! Then we shall adjourn for lunch in the Pillar Room, and afterwards the Show awards will be presented (there are three new ones this year, the Turner Trophy, a handsome silver salver, the *Amateur Winemaker* Shield, and the Andrews trophy).

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The afternoon will be devoted to two sessions, an "Any Questions?" at which a panel of experts will answer your posers, and the annual general meeting.



BOOK NOW

In all, you are promised a most interesting Conference, and it will be advisable to book your accommodation early if you are thinking of staying either one or two nights. Write at once to: Mr. E. Malin, Home Office, Stoke Rd., Bishop's Cleeve, Cheltenham, the accommodation officer, who will advise you as to the hotels and other accommodation available.



THE WINE SHOW

... is expected to be as big as ever this year, and there are the same number of classes, though they have been changed slightly, as will be seen from the schedules, which will be available shortly (from Mr. Martin, 78 Broomhill Rd., Minley Estate, Farnborough, Hants). The principal change is that separate classes have been included for elderflower, rosepetal, and elderberry wines. There are two exciting new classes, about which we warned you some months ago, for a set of colour slides, and a film, both with commentary, so hurry up and get your cameras, still or cine, busy, and get your entry completed.



STEWARDS WANTED

The list of judges is now complete, but we would be very glad indeed of volunteers to assist them as stewards. Stewarding does give one valuable experience of judging, and obviously it is from the ranks of the stewards that future judges must come as our panel of judges gradually has to be enlarged. Last year there was no lack of volunteers (indeed, some latecomers had to be refused) and we shall again this year appoint stewards on a "first come, first served" basis. We can offer them tea on the Friday, and a full Conference ticket, but no other reward, unfortunately, since we have to cut our expenses to the bone. If you would like to steward at this important show would you please write *at once* to: C. J. Berry, North Croye The Avenue, Andover, Hants, giving your name and address clearly (and Circle, if you belong to one). Please confine your letter or card to this one subject, to avoid confusion in the *Amateur Winemaker* office! Judging will take place at 1.30pm on the Friday, and one point to note is that no judge or steward can exhibit in any class.