



FROM THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

" . . . So give me wine. Let my meals still be occasions of good-fellowship, where pleasant conversation will help good digestion to wait on appetite and health on both. May the gleam of a glass of claret still attract my tired eye; may its fragrance soothe my weariness; may its savour charm my palate and carry below a spirit of concord borrowed from the feast. May I remember all the kind thoughts it inspires, for they, like the decanted wine, are free from all bitterness and have left malice behind them. And may I never drink unworthily; may I always remember that the gift which I am enjoying is not given at all; may I be prompted to help the less fortunate and to give thanks to the Giver of all good things for this, the most friendly of His gifts. Come fill the glass. Your good health!"

—Maurice Healy in "Stay with me Flagons."

TORQUAY PROMISING

At the time of writing—early March—prospects for the National at Torquay this year are bright, for entries are (slightly) ahead of what they were at an equivalent time last year, and there is every evidence that both Circles and individuals are keenly looking forward to this particular Conference. Everywhere I have been in the South the comment has been the same, that "regulars" are looking forward to enjoying a hotel, as distinct from a holiday camp, Conference. Both kinds of Conference have their advantages—and disadvantages—of course, and both have their advocates, but we would think that the hotel type of conference tends to be more popular with the real enthusiasts. At holiday camp conferences the enthusiasm tends to be watered down (if we dare use that expression!) a little by the number of non-winemakers who just come along for a reasonably cheap week-end. Hotel conferences, on the other hand, are usually attended only by the really keen types! This year, too, we have heard constant nostalgic references to the Harrogate conference, and how much everyone enjoyed it, and this we take as encouraging, for there are many parallels between the two.

NEW—AND HOSPITABLE

Harrogate was the first in the north, Torquay is the first in the West, Harrogate generated immense enthusiasm in the north; impressive enthusiasm already exists in the West. Harrogate gave us a wonderful welcome, but no one doubts that the west will reach a high standard in this respect, too. All the signs are therefore that the Conference will be one of the best ever.

The committee have already taken the first steps, by the way, towards organising the 1969 Conference, for which Southport is emerging as the likely venue.

MORE "A.W." RECIPES

This month we publish a new collection of "Amateur Winemaker" recipes, entitled (curiously enough!) "Amateur Winemaker Recipes," yet another addition to the growing range of "A.W." 5/- paperbacks. This new book contains over 200 recipes culled, in the main, from the last five years' issues of the magazine, and they include many intriguing ones, particularly those for herb-flavoured wines, and for wines from unusual combinations of ingredients. The book has some outstanding recipes for fruit cups, punches, mulls and liqueurs, types of drink with which more and more winemakers are experimenting, for vins ordinaires, both white and red, and for easily-made table wines. The book has a well-designed cover by George Hodgson and is lightened by some amusing cartoons by Rex Royle.

GOOD FOR OUR MORALE!

It is nice, sometimes, to feel that one is doing the right thing—even if it is for the wrong reasons! We consequently felt very virtuous (and secretly a little amused) when that ludicrous "Back Britain" advertisement mentioned that as a possible way of helping Britain one might even make, and cultivate a liking for, mead (instead, presumably, of buying commercial wines). The writers were apparently blissfully unaware that thousands of Britons have been making their own wines in vast quantities these last few years. (We'll bet you never realised how virtuously patriotic you've been all this time!). What's more, even our brewing is now meeting with approval, and is being given the benefit of clergy. "The Daily Mirror" reported on 26 February: "A clergyman is getting rid of the old Vicarage tea-party image by offering parishioners tankards of his own home-brewed ale.

And the men of the parish reckon the beer they get from the Rev. Mark Wells beats the stuff they buy in the local pubs.

The vicar finds male parishioners are more relaxed and more ready to discuss their problems with a pint in their hands.

'I brew it myself—five gallons at a time—with hops, malt, sugar and yeast,' said Mr. Wells, vicar of Stoke-by-Nayland, Essex.

'It costs about fivepence pint to make. And it has been so successful that I have passed on the recipe to three other clergymen.'

If we're approved of by the patriots, and appreciated by the prelates, we're almost too perfect to survive!

—THE EDITOR.

NEW HOME FOR EDMER LIMITED

Edme Limited, leading manufacturers of malt products for home brewers, announce that they have moved into new offices. With effect from April 1st their new address will be:

Edme Limited,
Ramillies Buildings,
Hills Place, W.1.
Tel.: 01-734-5563.

The full range of Edme home-brew products is now available by writing to the above address and their newly introduced Home Brewing Advisory Service is in full operation.