



Christmas Goose

➤ CHRISTMAS GOOSE is staging somewhat of a comeback since the need for supplying a turkey feast to our men on the fighting fronts has caused a sharp shortage of turkeys in the home market. Many a platter that has never borne any other holiday bird than a proud gobbler will this year offer up a gander. Middle-aged Dads will have to modify their carving technique to the flatter, broader anserine bosom that has replaced the high keel of the more familiar bird.

Having a goose for Christmas dinner may be a novelty to many American families, but it is certainly nothing new. Indeed, the goose was the original ruler of the feast; the turkey, if anything, is the newcomer, the usurper.

Before the fifteenth-century discovery

of America there were, of course, no turkeys anywhere in Christendom. In proud baronial halls, peacocks were sometimes sumptuously served, but in the less pretentious homes of ordinary burghers and prosperous peasants Yuletide brought a good roast goose.

If we can reconcile ourselves to the lack of white meat, much can be claimed in favor of the goose. The meat, though all dark, is juicier and richer than that of the turkey. If it has a fault, it is that it is too rich with fat: the problem is not to keep the bird properly basted but to remove the excess fat that oozes out during the roasting.

That excess fat, in these days of high ration-point value on all edible fats, is something to be prized. It is just about the finest and most wholesome of animal

cooking fats, as many an American with post-Mayflower ancestors can still tell you. In rural areas, too, it is still esteemed as an ingredient of folk medicine—goose-grease and turpentine rubbed on the chest is a sovereign means for exorcising a bad, deep cough.

In Europe, where geese are kept in much larger numbers than they ever have been in this country, the goose is almost a two-legged sheep. For it supplies not only meat and cooking fat but before it is killed it yields two or three crops of feathers which are plucked from the living birds (near spring moulting-time, when it won't hurt them) and made into the voluminous, smothering feather-beds that are the pride of every farm wife's heart, all the way from France to Russia.

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PUBLIC HEALTH

Interstate Quarantine

More rigid quarantine to prevent spread of diseases from overseas is foreseen. Tropical disease experts are studying the problem.

➤ MORE VIGOROUS interstate quarantine activities to prevent the spread of disease are in the offing, it appears from the report of Dr. Thomas Parran, surgeon general of the U. S. Public Health Service, to the American Public Health Association meeting in New York.

"Circumstances of war may necessitate

strengthening the Federal interstate quarantine function," he declared.

The purpose would be to prevent the spread of diseases which might be introduced into this country from abroad and which "are not and should not be subject to national quarantine regulations."

In other words, a person who had malaria abroad would not be kept from entering the country, but because he might be carrying malaria parasites he should not be free to travel into regions where the malaria mosquitos are prevalent.

The Army and Navy can be counted on, Dr. Parran said, not to release infected personnel until they have had the maximum benefit of treatment for malaria or other infectious diseases. Some tropical diseases, however, are not amenable to perfect medical control. Unpredicted relapses will occur. To prevent epidemics starting from such patients who might have relapses, stricter quarantine control between states might be necessary.

Army, Navy and Public Health Service experts on tropical diseases, who are members of a newly created interdepartmental committee, are now "riding the airlines east and west" around the world, studying methods of preventing introduction of mosquitos or other insect carriers of disease.

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