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Monday, May 31, 1937

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HOUSEKEEPERS' CHAT

Subject: "FOOD AND DRUG REVIEW." News items from the Federal Food and Drug Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

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Six news items in today's report from the Food and Drug Administration. They will take you from Washington, D. C., the headquarters of the Administration, to Siberia, to South America, to Paris, Tennessee. Let's get going.

First item: **HARDWARE MERCHANT SELLS POISON IN GINGER ALE BOTTLE.**

"A dangerous poison like muriatic acid cannot be sold in a bottle labeled ginger ale, a fact that was recently impressed upon a certain hardware merchant in Washington, D. C.

"This case was one of nineteen court cases resulting from a campaign to determine whether Washington druggists, hardware merchants, and paint dealers were labeling caustic or corrosive poisons, sold over the counter, to conform with the Caustic Poison Act.

"A Government inspector, acting as a customer, bought a sample of muriatic acid from the merchant, who placed the poison in a bottle bearing only a ginger ale label. The Court branded as inexcusable, under any circumstances, the act of the merchant, who, with full knowledge that he was selling a dangerous poison, permitted the substance to leave his store, without the poison labeling required by the Caustic Poison Act, and in a bottle labeled ginger ale."

Next item: **MANUFACTURER SELLS ADULTERATED AND MISBRANDED MOUTH WASH.**

"A manufacturer in Paris, Tennessee, recently pleaded guilty to a charge of the interstate shipment of a mouth wash, adulterated and misbranded under the Food and Drugs Act. The Court assessed fines and costs, amounting to \$145.50.

"This product was labeled 'Mouth Wash, Highly Antiseptic, a powerful germ killer. 10 times as strong as ordinary antiseptics, yet it is pleasant to taste and does not possess repulsive medicinal odor. Sweetens breath, relieves irritated throat, checks dandruff. . . 10 percent alcohol.' The manufacturer had shipped the mouth wash to a grocer in Arkansas."



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Next item: ANOTHER REDSKIN REMEDY BITES THE DUST.

"San Francisco Station reports the seizure of forty-nine bottles of a so-called Indian nostrum, shipped by a company in Texas, and seized on a charge that the bottle label and the carton bore false and misleading claims.

"The carton was marked with the design of an Indian and was labeled 'TONIC OF WALNUT Mexican Herbs, Roots and Medicinal Extracts \*\*\* We recommend this preparation as a general alterative tonic, aperitive \*\*\* and preventive of insomnia, nerve sedative' and so on. The label on the bottle was similar. An enclosed circular recommended the nostrum for poor blood, anemia, loss of appetite, chronic bronchial coughs, boils, pimples, and a few other ailments.

"The circular also bore this statement: 'This famous preparation known everywhere, strikes at the very root of the disease. It enriches the blood with the adequate amount of hemoglobine; it restores the appetite and awakens the functions of the organic life in your body. Soon the strength of a new life will fill your spirit with ambitions; you will be happy to live and will be again possessed of the beautiful desire of the best.'

"Not even that last fine phrase," states our official reporter, "could hide the fact that this nostrum consisted essentially of water, glycerin, alcohol, potassium iodide, sodium benzoate, and extracts of plant drugs, including cinchona. As before stated, the product was seized on a charge that the bottle label and the carton bore false and misleading claims, and were therefore a violation of the Food and Drugs Act."

Next item: BUTTER FROM SIBERIA MISLABELED.

"Boston Station reports the seizure of 16,500 pounds of Siberian butter, imported in boxes holding fifty-six pounds, molded in one-pound prints in New York, and labeled 'made in U.S.A.' Representatives of the company which shipped the butter interstate advised Assistant United States Attorney Charles A. Rome that they had thoughtlessly used the same kind of parchment wrappers on this butter that they used on all domestic butter they handle. Mr. Rome permitted them to take the butter down under bond, and relabel it with a plain, conspicuous statement that the butter was 'made in Russia.'"

Last news item: SHIP STRIKE DAMAGES ARGENTINE CORN.

"Los Angeles reports that the long tie-up of ships by strike conditions at the Los Angeles port damaged a large quantity of Argentine corn. Over 26,000 tons of corn were entered after the strike, of which 348 tons were detained. So far, 121 tons of corn have been destroyed, as unfit for food."

This concludes today's report from the Federal Food and Drug Administration, United States Department of Agriculture.

