

### Making Uncooked Pork Safe For Food; Tempting Dainties Suggested

Hygienically, the custom of eating uncooked pork and pork products is regarded by medical specialists as very much to be discouraged; but the toothsome summer sausage, smoked sausage, some summer sausage, and a number of other dainties continue to tempt the American public to defy the physicians.

Facing this situation, the United States department of agriculture has conducted a long series of experiments to ascertain what treatment, other than cooking, will thoroughly destroy trichinae and render the foods safe for consumption. The result of the experiments is made public in department bulletin 880, just issued.

The experiments, a proved of double service, in addition to fixing the safety point in the various methods of curing pork without cooking, they cut down the time consumed in the process in some cases as much as five days, permitting considerable saving in the cost of manufacture.

**Effects Little Known**

Prior to the investigations comparatively little was known concerning the effects of processes used in curing pork upon the vitality of trichinae, which cause the dread disease trichinosis.

It has been assumed as a governing principle that the consumer is himself responsible for the proper preparation of fresh pork or pork products that are usually cooked before eating, but that usually cooked products are properly cooked, or if a kind customarily eaten without cooking, to be sure that the products are from live trichinae.

The federal meat-inspection regulations it is therefore provided that products cooked in establishments under inspection must be cooked in accordance with methods approved by the bureau of animal industry; and, further, that products containing any raw muscle tissue of pork, if of a kind prepared customarily to be eaten uncooked, must either be subjected to cooking at heat to destroy the vitality of trichinae or must be subjected to some other process which would accomplish the same purpose.

**New Methods Devised**

Most of the department's experimental work was carried out in cooperation with certain meat-packing establishments in Chicago. The investigators selected the methods of preparing pork without cooking that seemed likely to be efficacious in destroying trichinae and at the same time suited to practical requirements of manufacture. Several new methods were devised.

These methods were tested by preparing the products from trichinous pork and then feeding the finished product to experiment animals to see whether the trichinae survived. Detailed records were kept of every step of the process.

The investigation shows that pork products of the kinds customarily eaten without cooking may be rendered safe for consumption, so far as trichinosis is concerned, but that it is necessary to follow a special curing process adapted to each. Salt is an essential in most of the processes.

Sausages of moderate size have been rendered harmless by mixing not less than 3 1/2 pounds of salt with every hundredweight of meat, followed by preliminary curing and then by drying. After the salt has been introduced, the sausages must be dried at least 20 days in a temperature not lower than 45 degrees F. A period of 5 days is allowed for preliminary curing, which may be curtailed, provided the time in the drying room is correspondingly increased.

In the case of pepperoni, which are sausages stuffed in long, narrow, thin rings, it was found feasible to reduce the curing period to 20 days, of which at least 15 days must be given to drying.

Smoked sausages may be rendered harmless by being subjected to a preliminary cure and then smoked to a temperature ranging from 80 degrees F. for 30 hours, followed by drying for 10 days. Sausage smoked at a temperature of 125 to 130 degrees F., for a relatively brief period, following a preliminary curing period of 6 days, is rendered harmless without subsequent drying.

**Two Methods for Ham**

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Mayflower play, says The Times and very little humor, and the whole thing consists of a series of scenes laid in London, at Plymouth and in New England. The Chronicle calls the play a crude melodrama, the love story which threads it having been taken almost line by line from Longfellow's "Courtship of Miles Standish," but arranged with hardly any dramatic skill.

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**PRESENT DAY PILGRIM FATHERS IN HARD LUCK**

"Props" Give Way During Performance of The Mayflower

LONDON, Oct. 25.—Twentieth-century Pilgrim Fathers have hardships of their own. Last night while Ben Greet played the lustily singing from the poop deck of a stage production of the Mayflower at the Surrey theater, stage properties gave way, the ship heeled, crashed toward the audience and precipitated the hapless Pilgrims to the stage amid sails, masts and splintered woodwork.

After anxious moments it was determined that no broken bones had resulted from the unhistorical presentation. Thus assured, the notable gathering of first nighters, including American diplomatic officials and influential Anglo-Americans, were prepared for the humor of the situation as the rise of the curtain on the second act—the Pilgrim Fathers offering thanks for their safe voyage across the Atlantic. London critics say the audience could hardly be blamed for bursting into laughter.

The production of "The Mayflower," a play which is a part of the tercentenary celebrations in London, according to The Times shows once again how difficult it is for a play of this kind to be anything but a series of episodes very loosely strung together. "Abraham Lincoln" was, of course the exception. There is no drama in The

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