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# Chatting . . .

By M.H.B.

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JUDGING FROM the hundreds of gaily decorated chocolate eggs, rabbits, chickens, ducks and yes, even ships, trains and cars, we saw being made in their factory on Main Street, we would say that Cordaro Candies of Georgetown are a tremendous help to the Easter Bunny. And since it won't be long now until the children are excitedly hunting around Easter Sunday morning to see what the Bunny has brought them, we visited the candy shop last week, so that we might see the greatest variety of Easter confections before they were packed up and shipped away to the stores.

As soon as we walked in, two long tables crowded with chocolate eggs, animals and aeroplanes caught and held our fascinated gaze. It was like something a child might dream about the night before Christmas. Indeed, some of the chocolate rabbits were of dream like proportions—really huge. One "Easter tableau" in chocolate was composed of an Easter egg easily a foot and a half long, profusely decorated with roses and lilies, supported on either side by equally large rabbits.

"Do people actually buy such elaborate and expensive (it retails for \$20.00) Easter Eggs for their children, or would a work of art line that be bought by stores for display purposes?" we asked Mr. Cordaro. Well, Mr. Cordaro didn't think many such elaborate goodies were bought for the children, but he did think the "older children who were in love" sometimes indulged what we would guess to be a long-suppressed childish yearning for a really huge Easter egg, and presented it to the lady of their choice. And yes, he admitted, Easter confections of such proportions are usually bought by stores for display during the Easter season. That particular product is Cordaro's most expensive. Other Easter candies range down in price to 5c for little chickens and bunnies.

UPON CLOSER inspection, we discovered all the chocolate animals and eggs were in various stages of dress or decoration. Mr. Cordaro does all the decorative work, and showed us how it was done. He uses vegetable colouring for the "fancy work", and squeezes the coloured candy thru tubes, very similar to those used for fancy cake icings. In order to make those elaborate roses, he uses clothes pins. That is to say, he makes the flowers on the head of ordinary peg clothes-pins, which in turn are pegged onto a long wooden rack, so that when the flowers are completed, they can dry undisturbed until completely set. Then they are easily picked off the top of the peg.

Now, to tell you about what is under all the decorations—the actual chocolate miniature—the Cordaro Candy factory buys pure milk chocolate by the ton from a firm which manufactures it from the cocoa bean. The chocolate

comes in 50-lb packages of large "slabs." This chocolate is put into an electrically operated 150-pound capacity kettle, in which it constantly stirred by an electric mixer. When the chocolate reaches the correct temperature, Mrs. Cordaro pours it into the moulds. Each mould is made in two parts, which are tightly clamped together when the chocolate is poured. The mould is then placed over a draining rack, so that the excess chocolate can run off, leaving a coating on the mould. Thus when the chocolate is cooled and set, and the mould removed, the perfectly formed object is left. The old saying that there's a trick to every trade is quite true of the chocolate-molding business, as of everything else. The trick in this case, is to have the chocolate the absolutely right temperature for moulding. Otherwise, if it is too warm, the chocolate is too thin in consistency; forms too thin a coating on the mould, and the product will break during the unmolding process. If the chocolate is too cool, the coating on the mould will be too thick, and it does not take much of a business head to figure out how easily money would be lost if too many solid molds were cast, using twice as much chocolate as the price-costs were based on.

IT CAME AS A surprise to learn that in making even the smallest Easter Egg, seven operations are involved. First, of course, the melting of the chocolate. Then each egg is molded in two separate halves. These halves are then sealed together, and a trimming put around the seal. The egg has a foot put on it so that it will stand upright. Next comes the glazing veneer which is also used on all the chocolate products for a twofold purpose—to give a glossy finish, and to preserve the chocolate. The egg is now ready to be decorated.

LAST WEEK WAS a very important week for Georgetown, musically speaking, with two gifted young pianists giving recitals on Monday evening, Kenneth R. Harrison, organist and choirleader of Knox Presbyterian Church, who will try his A.T.C.M. examination very soon gave a piano recital in the Church. Following the recital, Knox choir prepared and served tea and a dainty buffet lunch. Mrs. Norton of Limehouse and Mrs. James Ritchie presided at the tea table. On Friday evening of the same week, Margaret Bradley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Bradley, gave her first recital at the Heliconian Hall, Toronto. Unfortunately, due to the illness of the family "chauffeur", we were unable to attend the formal recital, and so felt particularly lucky in that as a member of St. George's Choir, we had been treated to a "recital preview" at the Bradley's home a few nights previously. Both these pianists have wonderful talent, and each has a different field of musical endeavour, Mr. Harrison taking a course

involving periodic examinations and the A.T.C.M. degree, and Miss Bradley concentrating entirely on concert piano work. Exchanging appreciative comments on the work of these talented pianists, with another of our town's outstanding musicians, Mrs. R. T. Paul, she mentioned that Margaret's recital brought back memories of her days in musical training, when she too made her debut with a piano recital at the Heliconian Hall. It takes a lot of courage and years of hard work to lead up to and give a piano recital of the type Ken and Margaret presented. Both deserve the warmest praise and congratulations.

THE SLIPPERY STREETS of winter seem to have been the cause of even more painful injuries than usual this year. A recent visit to the library brought to our notice the fact that the librarian, Mrs. Moore, had suffered a broken arm, when she slipped on a library step while closing up one evening recently. Mrs. Moore's nephew, Mr. M. Barber from near Acton, is assisting his aunt in her duties, while her arm is in a cast. Mr. and Mrs. Cranston Griese are moving to Acton soon where he is building a new house. Mr. Griese has always worked in Acton, but has lived here for the past two years in the apartment in Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Cunningham's house on Chapel Street.

Mr Leroy Dale KC arrived back in town last week, after a vacation in Florida.

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