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SWISS GATEAUX.

To write a review on a highly specialized work such as Mr. Bachmann's treatise illustrating the noble art of designing and decorating various kinds of gateaux is, to me, a novel experience. I approach the task with misgivings lest in my colossal ignorance I should fail to do justice to a beautifully produced book and to the distinguished craftsman responsible for it.

The art of preparing dainty and tasteful dishes is not a new one. Ever since Esau sold his birthright for a mess of pottage, civilized man has craved for something more than his ordinary daily food. Indeed it is not only in matters spiritual that "man does not live by bread alone". Esau's rash and ill-considered bargain was, it is true, provoked by nothing more exciting than a dish of lentil soup. What is the price, I wonder, he would have offered had he been tempted by one of Mr. Bachmann's lovely confections?

Perhaps Mr. Bachmann will one day, from the store of his vast and expert knowledge, write a "History of Cake and Pastry-making through the Ages". He might then throw a new light on the cakes King Alfred so thoughtlessly allowed to be burnt; he might dispose of the foolish remark "Why don't they eat cake" which Marie-Antoinette is alleged to have uttered when she was told the poor were starving for want of bread; he might explain the British predilection for cakes and ale and tell us why Brillat-Savarin makes no mention of cakes or gateaux.

But to return to Mr. Bachmann's book: Published by Maclaren & Sons Ltd., in one volume, entitled "Swiss Gateaux". Price 30/-, it is the first English

translation of a Swiss manual, translated and edited by Mr. Walter Bachmann, F.I.C.D., B.C.A., F.Z.S. It is handsomely illustrated and covers the technique of preparing a wide selection of artistically decorated gateaux as practised in Switzerland. It should be a most useful handbook for bakers, pastrycooks and those engaged in the catering trade.

Mr. Bachmann is a well-known member of the Swiss Colony, a prominent Freemason, Freeman of the City of London and an eminent leader in his profession. I can do no better than quote from his introduction: "Craftsmanship is a possession which cannot be taken away from man". The man and his work are summed up in this quotation.

J.J.F.S.

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