

Easter Eggs.

BY L. S. LEWIS.



our confectioners do not receive a

It is more than thirty years since Mr. Joseph Hartl, an Austrian confectioner, re-introduced into England Easter eggs wrought in sweetmeats; and although

worth of jewellery—watches, rings, brooches, clocks, tuds, pins, etc.

Eggs in which such presents are placed are mere *papier-mâché* shells, covered with hand-painted satin. Frequently, however, a lady will order a plain white satin egg to be painted upon by herself, and then returned for filling and dispatching. Returned travellers will bring in ostrich eggs to be painted and filled; and an egg of the extinct great auk has passed through Messrs. Buszard's hands—truly a present for a prince, empty or filled.

All sorts of presents, from gloves and bonnets to



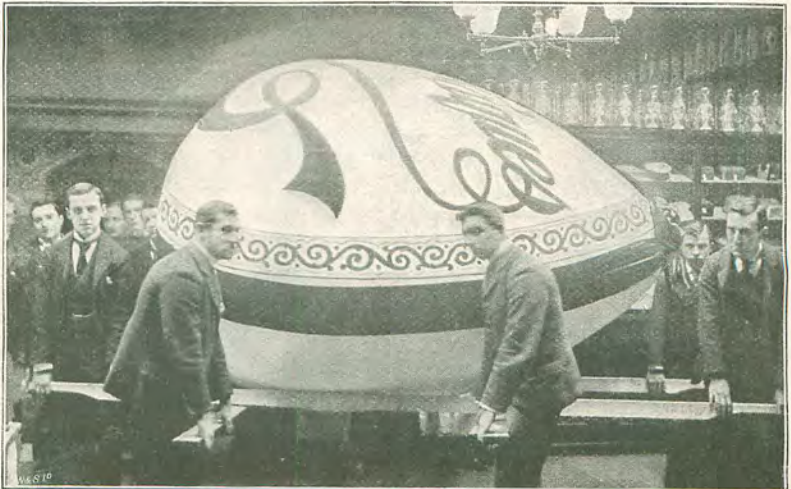
FILLING EGGS WITH SWEETS AND JEWELLERY.

hundredth part of the encour-

agement given to their *confrères* on the Continent, yet they are absolutely second to none in ingenuity of design and general excellence; this will be evidenced by the photographs reproduced in this article.

The first photo. shows a corner of Messrs. Buszard's spacious show-rooms in Oxford Street. One assistant is putting confectionery into the eggs, whilst his colleague is inserting various articles of jewellery, which have been ordered at the jeweller's and then sent on to Buszard's to be placed in specially made eggs, and dispatched to all parts of the world. On the counter is seen between £3,000 and £4,000

articles of furniture, are placed in Easter eggs; for ours is a practical age. The record egg, in point of size and costliness, was made at Buszard's splendid establishment, and here it is. Seven men are carrying it on a kind of bier. The shell of this monster egg was entirely of chocolate, nine feet high, and eighteen feet in circumference at the widest part. It held about half



THE BIGGEST EASTER EGG EVER MADE.



MAN STANDING INSIDE THE GREAT EGG.

a ton of superfine confectionery, besides the whole expensive trousseau of a South African millionaire's bride. A great number of the wedding presents were also packed in the egg. The sweetmeat part of the order, including the elaborate external decoration, cost £500. The packing of the filled egg was a work of art, and the whole was insured for many thousands of pounds before being delivered on board a Castle liner at Southampton Docks.

The next photo. gives an excellent notion of the size of this wonderful egg. One of Messrs. Buszard's liveried servants is seen

standing in an unfinished half of the shell; a little table is before him, and on it are placed some plain satin eggs of ordinary size. Easter eggs worth £20,000 have been sent out by this famous wedding-cake house; but, of course, the value lay chiefly in the precious contents—perhaps a superb diamond necklace composed of specimen stones.

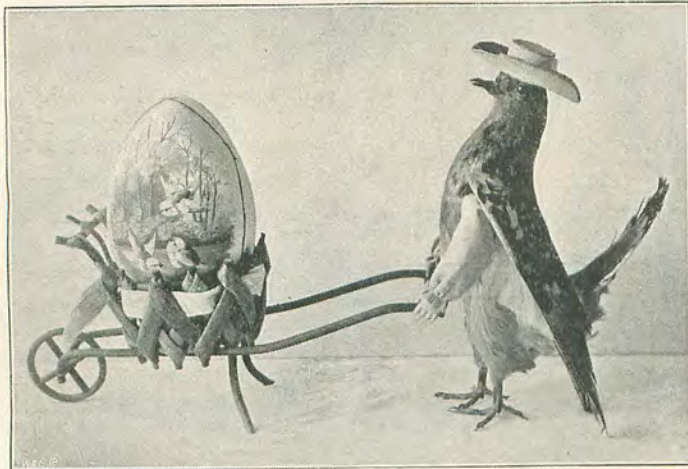
The next photo. shows an amusing novelty. It was made by Messrs. Buszard, and would



TWO EASTER NOVELTIES.

cost two or three pounds. A very perky pigeon, wearing a smart hat, is wheeling an elegant little wheelbarrow, in which is a beautifully decorated and painted egg, filled probably with perfume or sweets.

When I mention that £10 is quite a common price to pay for an artistic Easter novelty in the West-end of London, some idea may be gained of the extent of the Easter trade in New York and capitals of Europe. The inhabitants of St. Petersburg, rich and poor, exchange more Easter eggs than the people of any other two of the world's great capitals. Paris used to come next (Easter novelties may still be seen there, priced at 5,000 francs); but second place



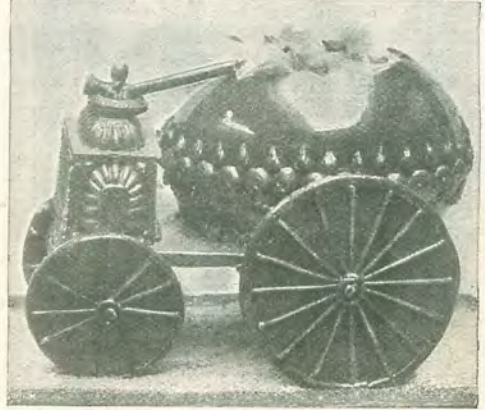
A PIGEON OF IMPORTANCE.



MOTHER OWL AND HER LITTLE ONES.

sive eggs filled with games and mechanical toys of all kinds.

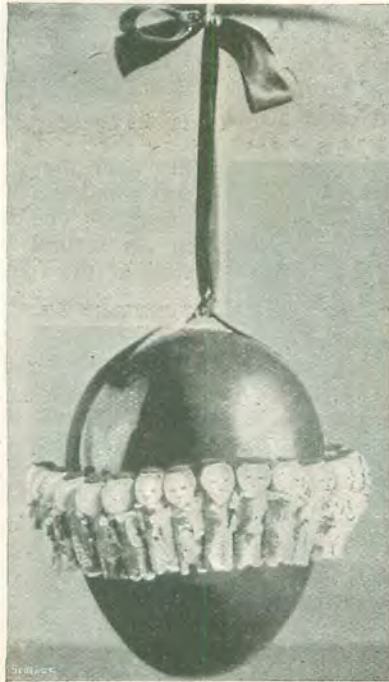
The next novelty shown here was made by Messrs. A. J. Caley and Son, of Norwich, the well-known confectioners. Here we see a big, wise-looking owl with her family; the bodies of all consisting of a delicious chocolate Easter egg. The big chocolate egg lower down, engirdled with a regiment



GREAT MOTOR-CAR OF CHOCOLATE.
From a Photo. by Avenell & Co., Brighton.

must now be given to New York, in which city, as everyone knows, things are conducted on a magnificent scale. Mr. Tom Smith, the "Cracker King," told me of a superb Easter egg which a New York railway magnate presented to his little son. It was really a miniature carriage, the body being in the form of a huge egg, enamelled white, lined with white quilted satin, and drawn by a pair of marvellously diminutive ponies. London comes last in this matter—a long way after Edinburgh, Manchester, and Birmingham.

Here are two more tasteful and pretty novelties from Buszard's. One is a little Swiss carrier who has the inevitable egg in his pannier; and the other is an egg made in the shape of a nest, mounted on a rustic stand, and with a doll clinging to the outside. This brings me to Easter eggs for children. At Hamley's, in Regent Street, you will be shown a satin egg containing a doll's complete trousseau; an egg of plaited straw, containing a miniature tea or dinner-service, or, perhaps, a regiment of soldiers; and huge expen-



A JAPANESE EGG.

of Japanese youngsters, is from the same great East Anglian house.

Of course, to some extent topical events affect the designs of Easter novelties; but the craze *must* be something which can be fashioned into the shape of an egg. Thus, a bicycle wouldn't do. But look at this ingenious little motor-car, which was designed and "built" by Maynards, Ltd., the well-known retail confectioners. The motor-car is one mass of chocolate, weighing 18lb. This is a big egg, but, in point of size—though not in tastefulness and ingenuity of design—the Parisians eclipse us. I have seen, in Paris, Easter eggs as big as an ordinary door. Not all sweetstuff, however. One, I remember, was merely a huge shell of interlaced cane or wicker, which was to be filled with moss and stuck all over with fresh flowers—a costly and



"THE MILLINER'S APPRENTICE."
(A Little Chick.)

beautiful ornament for a lady's boudoir. This cost 1,500 francs.

The next photo. shows another of Mr. Hartl's designs—a real chick dressed up as a milliner's apprentice, and carrying in her hand a box of eggs. The donor can, of course, buy an expensive hat or bonnet and place it in the box, to be delivered, as it were, by the gay little chick.

Mr. Ponder, Her Majesty's own confectioner, usually prepares some Easter eggs for the little Battenbergs and other Royal

children. These eggs are in the Continental style—that is to say, real eggs boiled hard, dyed various colours, and then inscribed with names and mottoes. The Queen herself receives Easter eggs from some of her numerous relatives, and also from foreign monarchs.

The elaborate Easter egg next shown is reposing in a kind of hansom cab, or jinricksha, made of bamboo and drawn by a team of four little storks. A fifth stork, of commanding mien, is driving the whole concern, post haste to the residence of the lucky recipient.

But Easter novelties would be incomplete without some representation of "the goose

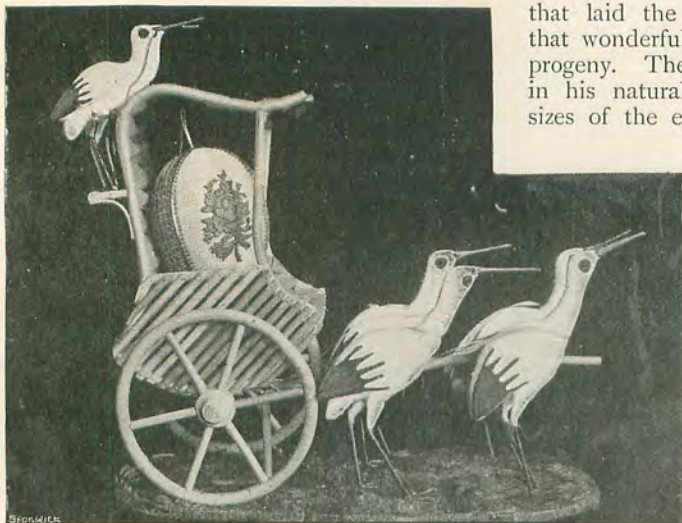


"THE GOOSE THAT LAID THE GOLDEN EGGS."

that laid the golden eggs"; and here is that wonderful bird, attended by numerous progeny. The designer may be a little weak in his natural history (notice the relative sizes of the eggs)—but it were churlish to

criticise such pretty things. The larger goose is a mechanical bird—there being a somewhat painful view of clockwork at the place where the neck joins the body. That goose will nod complacently for hours, as though it knew its eggs contained (as many ultimately do) a little pile of twenty or fifty bright new sovereigns.

Lastly we come to some of the many novelties turned out by Mr. Fuller, the



ELABORATE EGG CONTAINING JEWELS.



MR. GLADSTONE.



MR. CECIL RHODES.



DR. JAMESON.

famous American confectioner. In the first place, then, there are rich American cakes in the form of magnificent eggs, iced and decorated in a most beautiful manner, and bound at the joining of the halves with pretty satin ribbons. Then there are blown egg-shells filled with chocolate cream (poured through the pin-hole), and ultimately heated in a saucepan and placed in one's egg-cup on Easter morning.

Naturally, even the shrewdest suspect nothing, but attack the egg in the usual way.

But Fuller's funniest and most original things are reproduced here. They are of American origin; and here is the manner of their making: About a gross of hen's eggs are bought and blown by the girls at Fuller's works, naturalists' tools being used for this purpose; the contents of the eggs, by the way, are sold to the girls very cheaply, at so much per quart. The blown shells are next taken to the drying-room and left there a few days, before being weighted or balanced. This is done by pouring in through the hole a little fine shot, on top of which is poured melted wax. The eggs are then stood on a per-

fectedly level surface and allowed to settle. Then they are placed in the hands of an artist, who judges from the shape of the egg (and the shapes vary) what "character" shall

be imparted to it by means of oil paint. I have chosen for reproduction the following: Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Cecil Rhodes, Dr. Jameson, a clown, a "dude," and a penguin. Now, these eggs are as funny as they are novel. Push Rhodes—

knock him down

as many times as you like—and he bobs up again, protesting furiously. The masher rolls about with a tremendous swagger; the clown, with reckless *abandon*; and the penguin, with that comically stupid and helpless air so notoriously characteristic of the bird.

In very few of these eggs are "properties" needed; I mean legs, arms, and so on. They depend solely for their effect upon the weighting and the painted likeness on the bare shell. In the case of the penguin, however, a head and a pair of wings have to be stuck on with gutta-percha. At first these weighted eggs were called "dancing eggs," but that name had to be altered, because people were disappointed at finding no clock-work inside!



A CLOWN.



A "DUDE."



THE STUPID PENGUIN.