



**THE AUSTERITY
KITCHEN**
BY CHRISTINE
BAUMGARTHUBER

Where the alimentary is
elementary.



Previously by
CHRISTINE BAUMGARTHUBER

*Coweye Burgers and
Plastic Malts*
Dinner with Caligula
*A Contrary Image of
Steaming Excrement*

No Taste for Industry

By CHRISTINE BAUMGARTHUBER



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Sometime in 1910, renowned opera singer Feodor Chaliapin returned to his native Russia after completing a season with New York's Metropolitan Opera. His homecoming he capped with an audience with Nicholas II of Russia. Chaliapin reports having had with the tsar the following exchange:

Czar: "I have heard the American kitchen is miserable. All the foods are prepared on a big scale and they have no individual taste or flavor. Is that true?"

Chaliapin: "Yes, Your Majesty, that it true. They have a flavor of American corporations and speculation."

Czar: "That I think is the drawback of the American conditions as far as I have heard. The trusts can manufacture iron and other industrial things on a big scale, but when it comes to the manufacture of food, there the commercial methods fail. As far as I have heard, they have commercialized literature and art, restaurants and homes. A man has to eat what the trust gives and has to be content with a home that another trust furnishes."

