

IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO SHOUT "HOME'S THE CAPER!"

THIS rehabilitation business is serious. You have to know how to behave at home. The American Army paper "Yank" has some useful tips for returning servicemen which you may well take note of if you hope - we say "hope" advisedly - to be heading South soon.

Try to avoid the usual procedure of dumping all your food - ice cream, brussels sprouts, mutton, potatoes and jelly - onto one plate. The natives of New Zealand have inadequately developed taste glands and serve each food on a different plate. You needn't bother about having to wash all these dirty dishes. They use for this purpose a strange, almost human species known as "women."

Don't put on a coat and take a torch when you have to go to a latrine. The native huts are equipped with a separate room for this purpose, confusingly camouflaged with white enamel, chromium, brass and booby-trap rugs which slip out from under the unwary intruder.

Don't tell the native girls what you are thinking about in the simple pidgin-English which works so well in most countries. These New Zealand girls have developed a subtle sixth sense which enables them to grasp your expectations without the aid of speech, and a tribal taboo in most cities bans the expressive words of your ordinary sentimental vocabulary.

Don't use your boot to open doors. The natives have developed a primitive contrivance known as a knob which serves the purpose almost as well. It is neither so quick nor so efficient as a boot, but the same door may be used over and over again as even the best ones here may not.

When you are about to leave a native gathering and find that your hat has disappeared, don't flourish your revolver and shout "Nobody leaves this room till the so-and-so who has my hat coughs it up!" You will find that they have hidden your hat but will return it to you when you are ready to leave. This is not mere prankishness but a well-established custom of the country. There are places known as "cabarets" where once your hat is taken away, it will be given back only for a fee.

If you've been down the road getting oranges from one of the rare places where they have them - known as "shops" - don't crawl away on your stomach when crossing an open space.