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FREEMAN'S CUSTARD POWDER.

One of Freeman's English Foods.

LONDON GOSSIP.

LONDON, July 17.
PRINCE GEORGE TO VISIT NORWAY.

The battleship *Temeraire*, now employed as a training ship for cadets, is about to cruise in Norwegian waters. She is to visit Christiania, and will lie off the Norwegian capital from August 18th to August 30th. Therefore she will not visit Trondheim between those dates as originally intended. Christiania is seeing a good deal of British men-of-war just now. Sir Roger Keyes has visited the port in the *Hood*, and his squadron was well received. Among the cadets who are training in the *Temeraire* is Prince George, the youngest surviving son of the King and Queen.

LORD FISHER AND THE SCRIPTURES.

Within a few feet of the spot near the Sanctuary steps in Westminster Abbey, where the body of Lord Fisher rested during the memorial service, is the seat where the great man used to sit regularly during his later years on Sunday evenings. Close by is the text painted on a board, "Blessed is he that considereth the poor." Not long ago Lord Fisher, who, as one may say, was a "character" in his devotions as in everything else, accosted a verger and said, "My compliments to the Dean and tell him from me that this text ought to be altered. 'Considering' the poor will do them no good; it ought to read, 'Blessed is he that provideth for the poor.'"

HOLIDAY RESORTS DOING BADLY.

The holiday resorts of the South coast of England most favored by Londoners, are not enjoying the golden harvest that they expected to reap in this the first peace-time summer. The demand for accommodation to-day not only falls below expectation, but is considerably less than it was a year ago, when the resorts were besieged with the newly demobilized who came with "money to burn," and to whom expense was a minor consideration. Hotel-keepers looked for-

ward this year to a repetition of the shower of "Bradburys" they enjoyed last summer, but the present season so far has not brought them the realization of these golden expectations. For this several explanations are forthcoming. Demobilization gratuities have almost vanished, and the spirit of reckless extravagance so prominent a year ago, has been replaced by a disposition towards comparative thrift. Then, since July came in the weather conditions have been distinctly unpropitious, and have materially contributed towards the disappointments which have befallen the seaside boarding house keepers. In the more remote resorts the relative failure of the season is attributed to the increased railway fares, which has produced a very natural reluctance among trippers to travel far afield. With a further jump in fares looming on the horizon, the heart of "mine host" in these distant resorts is very far from being jovial.

THE VOGUE IN SECOND-HAND BOOKS.

It is a commonplace that the second-hand bookshop is reaping the benefit of the increasing prices of new publications. Dealers are securing larger supplies of second-hand books, most of which are volumes published about and during the war. Shelves and tables are overloaded with war books, which were popular in their day and now possess little or no attraction for the general reader. Dealers tell me that the vast majority are of the same value to them as religious literature, of which large supplies are always available. The days of literary "finds" in the second-hand shops are practically over, but I am told the businesses in the poorer districts of London offer a better field for the connoisseur than elsewhere, and besides, they have the advantage of being cheaper than the well-known establishments.

AIR MAIL CHARGES.

The announcement of the completion of a contract with the Handley-Page Aeroplane Company for the carriage of mails between London and Amsterdam at a charge of three-pence (6 cents) per ounce over the ordinary foreign postal fee well illustrates the supineness of Government departments. The curious thing is that, though the truth of criticism has been recognized so far as the Amsterdam service is concerned, the Paris charge still stands as high as two shillings (50c.) per ounce, an anachronism that will soon have to be altered.

LIFE-SAVING GEAR AT SEA.

W. Schermuly, whose life's activity seems mainly to have been devoted to the invention of life-saving apparatus at sea, started his career as a sailor in the old Warspite training ship. Unfortunately, the Warspite was burnt out during the war or he might have given the trade demonstration of his invention from her deck instead of from the rival ship, the Worcester. The Schermuly portable rocket apparatus has been on the market for a number of years, and issued by many of the most important mail and passenger steamship lines. Mr. Schermuly has now invented a new steel-cased rocket for line-throwing purposes. It is claimed that this rocket marks a great advance over the present style, as it is immune from climatic effects and possesses no stick. Its throwing range of nearly four hundred yards is also an improvement on the old performance. The inventor's boat-releasing gear is so simple in design that its practicability at first is apt to be overlooked. Instead of two ropes which two men have to release simultaneously, the gear consists of one rope, continued along the centre of the boat, fore and aft. The release is effected by means of a small lever pulled over by the man in charge of the boat, the boat always being on an even keel when entering the water. All danger of its being held fast at one end but released at the other, and thereby spilling the occupants in the water, is thus overcome. No

claim, however, is made that the new gear can simplify the launching of boats from a ship lying right over on one side.

MEN'S WEAR.

The Men's Clothing, Outfitting and Woollen Trades Exhibition at the Agricultural Hall, Islington (in the north of London), is the first separate exhibition of men's wear. In past years it has been a part of the Drapery Trades Exhibition, but clothiers, like British manufacturers generally, have awakened to the possibilities of exhibitions for pushing foreign trade, so it has now been decided to hold a separate exhibition each year to demonstrate the changing material fashions of man. There is nothing very violent to record this year. The biggest change seems to be the rapid development in the "ready-made" trade, and it is claimed now that everybody except absolute freaks can be fitted from stock. Before the war one would never have thought of visiting a ready-made clothes store for evening clothes, but this year traders are finding a large and good-class trade in this line. "Ready-made" clothing has been brought to such a fine art, a representative of one big firm said, "that in the not distant future it will be nearly all ready-made." In the miscellaneous stalls one noticed a dearth of white collars. Shirts and collars are now made of the same material. Among hats the chief change is in the boater for next season. The crown is to be made higher and the band narrower, and the smooth edge is to disappear. Velours are again popular. They used to be made by Austria; now they come from Czechoslovakia. There is also a large display of cloth hats in the Homburg shape for golfers and sportsmen. "Caps," one salesman said, "are now old-fashioned."

ZOO ARRIVALS.

Those who saw the arrival of the great Indian collection at the Zoological Gardens, London, last week were struck by the tameness of the "wild" creatures. They seemed to have not a growl left in them after the trials of the sea voyage. The Bengal tigers, the most magnificent of the acquisition, were too bored or too resigned to move when dumped at the door of the lion house like bales of goods. They were curiously torpid—as much so as the big snakes which solved their troubles by going to sleep in Calcutta and waking up in London. The monkeys were lively enough but the heat and monotony of life in a small box was weighing on their energies. Indurani, the new elephant, will walk to the Zoo from the docks after midnight to-night, when there is no danger of her charging a bus. The regular losses at the Zoo are much larger than is realized. Only a fortnight ago one of the elephants



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died after a useful life spent in carrying school children. Indurani is just in time to take her place. The Zoo is now nearly as well stocked as before the war. The cages were woefully thinned during the war, and it was not possible to fill up the gaps, but importation has been going on steadily since the Armistice. Gifts have been coming in well too.

Meets Lost Love.

Of the three marshals of France, one, Marshal Petain, is a bachelor and all the candidates for the honor of being Madame la Marechale—rumor says they have been many—have come to the conclusion that his heart is as unconquerable as he made Verdun.

But the truth is that he lost it long ago and was beaten by a rival. He is not the cold, immovable man of popular opinion. Once, when he was major and instructor at the Paris War School, he was in the habit of lunching at a restaurant patronized by officers at the corner of the Champ de Mars. But it was not only for the

excellence of its cuisine that the future marshal went there. Perched at the desk by the door was a lovely cashier. The whole war school was in love with her, but it was supposed that the major instructor would win over his pupils.

One day the pretty cashier quitted her desk and was seen with orange blossoms in her hair, making her way to a neighboring church. But Petain was not the bridegroom. The bride had passed him by and given her affections to a younger man, to whom

the major was teaching the art of war.

A few days ago the Marshal was visiting in the country and the general, in command of the district gave a luncheon in his honor. On his arrival at the house the Marshal recognized in the wife of his host his lost love of long ago, now a matron surrounded by her children. As to him the war had brought honor and promotion to his successful rival.

For a moment the Marshal, who for a man of his rank is shy, was somewhat embarrassed, but the hostess put things right. With the memory, perhaps, of past favors refused, she advanced to meet her guest.

"This time you may embrace me," M. le Marechal, she said; and at their ease the happy company sat down to luncheon.

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