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HENRY BLAIR

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LONDON GOSSIP.

LONDON, January 26, 1920.

PRINCESS MARY TO TRAVEL.

I hear it said that towards the end of the summer Princess Mary will make a tour of the Northern capitals Copenhagen, Christiania, and Stockholm—and will probably be accompanied by Prince Albert. The Queen of Norway, during her recent visit, invited Princess Mary to stay with her in Christiania some time this year. Princess Mary accompanied the King and Queen when they paid their State visit to Paris in April, 1914, four months before the outbreak of the war. This is her only State visit to a foreign capital so far, and she will travel incognito to Scandinavia.

RESTAURANT-KEEPING FOR WOMEN.

It is many years since educated women first found that tea-shops provided a pleasant means of making a living, and there are several restaurants in London which have long been noted beyond their immediate districts. Now the idea is becoming more popular, especially among women who as cooks and waitresses in war-time restaurants have had a useful experience. Several W.A.A.C.'s have opened "The Good-Humored Ladies" Restaurant in Chelsea and last week a divisional recruiter for the W.A.A.C.'s has opened a delightful little restaurant near Fleet Street in Shoe Lane. It is known as the Brownie Restaurant, after the name given to the W.A.A.C.'s in France. Dame Florence Leach has visited it to congratulate the staff, all of whom have served under her command. Near by, in Wine Office Court, the Wine Office House Restaurant has been established in three rooms of an old house. It is furnished in cottage style, and is haunted by many journalists, who have discovered that the meals are good. Two other ladies have opened the Wayside Restaurant in a side street near Chancery Lane Post Office, and good meals are served in prettily furnished rooms. Next the Norwich Union building in Fleet Street a window announces that yet another venture is to be made, and the Futurist Restaurant will soon be opened. There is plenty of room for all these new restaurants without interfering with such old-established favourites as the Temple rooms or the dining rooms in Clifford's Inn.

SCOTLAND YARD AND THE DETECTION OF CRIME.

The epidemic of serious crime (including murder, wild West hold-ups, shop gutting, post office safe lifting, etc.) which is raging just now, has revived the oft-heard suggestion that our various local detective systems should be placed in direct touch with Scotland Yard in London, to which department immediate communication of the details of the gravest offences should be made with a view especially to tracing a missing criminal or identifying an arrested suspect. There seems a popular idea that something of this sort of liaison work already exists, but that is unfounded, and the consequence is that much priceless time is often wasted which can never be regained, and usually by the most slow and backward police organizations in the country, these keenly representing the interference of those of superior skill. No one desires a return to the employment of the Blathers and Duff type of "Bow Street Runner" immortalised by Charles Dickens in "Oliver Twist," or even to such a dullard as Inspector Bucket of "Bleak House," probably the worst drawn detective in fiction. Those who remember the great Sergeant Cuff in "Wilkie Collins's "Moonstone" will know the quiet scorn he poured on the local police for their lack of appreciation of obvious clues; and when reading the reports of certain very recent undetected crimes one sees so many points of resemblance that another Sergeant Cuff seems needed to-day to pour some further contempt on the inert. That the London police force has its own weaknesses is evident from the fact that seven constables have been taken in a bunch for leaving their "beats" in the wealthiest parts of the West End of the Metropolis to go and play cards in an adjoining motor garage. Things of this kind, coupled with the return of criminals from the Army and all the rest of the happenings that go to make up the crime boom that is now going on explain popular indignation and unrest in the matter.

A BRAIN-ATTACKING GERM.

The details published from Paris of the spread of lethargic encephalitis in France, cases having been reported from all parts of the country, are of painful interest to those here who know from sad experience that this dread complaint is far from being confined to the other side of the Channel. Cases of a very severe nature have occurred in England, and some in a university center, whose highly-promising students have been suddenly stricken with a paralytic stupor which has brought low even the healthiest athletes. There is a suspicion that the complaint—which is not unknown to medical science, though its visita-

tions have come at rare intervals—was this time brought to Europe by American officers returning from the front, and though it is stated from Paris to be not very contagious, the fact that the germ enters the system through the nostrils and attacks the nervous substance of the brain gradually creeping down the spinal cord, is sufficiently alarming to demand the utmost precaution. The spread of the disease is regarded in the United States, I am told, as very serious, and the greatest care is taken to isolate the sufferers so as to prevent infection. It may be from fear of creating a general alarm that no such drastic steps appear yet to have been taken in regard to certain at least of the cases which have occurred in this country, but in matters of disease it is possible to push the "hide-the-truth" policy much too far.

A COUNTERPANE CAMPAIGN.

Admiral Sir Douglas Brownrigg's rich picture of Winston Churchill conducting a campaign from his counterpane was hugely enjoyed amongst both enemies and friends of the War Secretary. The story is told in the Admiral's book, "Indiscretions of the Naval Caser," of how Churchill sitting up in a huge bed, evidently suffering from a gumbell, with his head swathed in flannel, and a big cigar protruding from among the bandages, dealt with bundles of despatches which he spread over his quilt. There was a glass of hot water within reach of his hand, a typist sat at the foot of the bed, and the Admiral was in the background awaiting instructions. The story is incomplete in one detail. It does not mention the Minister's taste in pyjamas. But members of the House of Commons who took part in the all-night debates on the 1909-1910 Budget will recall evidence they then had that Churchill's eccentricities of dress are not confined to funny hats and outdoor apparel. On that occasion he rushed into the division lobby with an overcoat thrown over a sleeping suit of gay and gorgeous hues. And if he wore anything as striking when the Admiral visited him, there was certainly color in the picture. Churchill is nothing if not unconventional. His little hat which he perches jauntily on the side of his head has long been a source of entertainment. An unkind critic suggests that it was the last one left in the club one night. But the hats and the collars and the overcoats pale into insignificance beside this new picture of the Ministerial matutinal levee. Was it not Napoleon who anticipated the Churchill penchant for conducting campaigns from his camp bed?

CURIOS BECOMING DEARER.

Never has there been such a boom in antique furniture and glass as now, and there seems no likelihood of prices falling. In the neighborhood of the King's Road, Chelsea, which has always been one of the hunting grounds of the collector, many dealers show no desire to sell what furniture they have, as the supply is limited and friends of mine who made inquiries prices still rising. In two shops a number of tables displayed in the shop were told that they were not at present for sale as they had to be polished before they would be ready. This is a common answer to stave off the persistent buyer. There is also a great demand for old Waterford glass and an expert assured me that more has been sold during the last few months than was ever made by the famous factory. Much spurious glass and furniture is being imported from the Continent and some is manufactured in London. It is the work of skilled craftsmen and often will deceive experts at both auction rooms and the principal museums.

GERMAN DIPLOMATS.

Berlin's diplomatic appointments leave the old "professionals" in the cold, although intriguers like Dr. Rosen survive. There are no Socialists. Kautsky is not there, nor even Bernstein, but only the tame Dr. Landeberg. Great business magnates are well represented by Senator Dr. Stamer, for London. A curious exception is made in the case of Tokio, whither Dr. Solf, the ex-Colonial Secretary, is to proceed. This statesman, friend of Kuehlmann and Bal-



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Popular Records

- SELECTION OF SONGS.
- Till We Meet Again.
 - The Rose of No-Man's Land.
 - Oo-La-La-Wee-Wee.
 - Arrival of the American Troops in France.
 - Departure of American Troops in France.
 - Some Day Waiting Will End.
 - Johnny's in Town.
 - Have a Smile for Everyone You Meet.
 - Etc.
 - The Magic of Your Eyes.
 - I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles.
 - Thopt That Thuttering Jimmy.
 - Star Spangled Banner.
 - Girl of Mine.
 - Dreamy Alabama.
 - Baby (tenor solo), etc., etc.
- WALTZ AND ONE-STEP.
- Mummy's Lullaby (waltz).
 - Sweet Hawaiian Moonlight (waltz).
 - Hindustan (fox-trot).
 - Angé d'Amour (waltz).
 - Killima Waltz (Hawaiian music).
 - Hilo March (Hawaiian music).
 - LaPare-La Victoria (Irish Guards Band).
 - Sambre et Meuse (Irish Guards Band).
 - Imperial British March (Irish Guards Band).
 - The Vedette March (Irish Guards Band).
 - Tickle the Ivories (Irish Guards Band).
 - Hystericks (Irish Guards Band).
 - Beautiful Ohio (waltz).
 - Dolores Waltz.
 - Blue Danube Waltz, etc., etc.
- CHARACTER SONGS.
- My Uncle's Farm.
 - The Two Doctors.
 - Out to Old Aunt Mary's.
 - An Old Sweetheart of Mine.
 - How Are You Gonna Wet Your Whistle.
 - Everybody Wants a Key to My Cellar.
 - Dixie is Dixie Once More.

The Races, oh the Races!

Four corking fine races are being arranged for next Wednesday at 2.30 p.m. sharp. Then you will know who's who. The chief feature, of course, is the race for the championship of Newfoundland. Two horses entered: Howard Mann and Finnlisterre. Man dear, won't they step some! and three other sizzling races, all classified as to their rates of speed. A sure enough good afternoon's sport. Good prizes, all truck (mighty good truck though), no dough. Coal, oats, corned beef, flour, butter, etc., and a real live calf to eat it up. Hip! Hip! Hip! The Races Oh! Next Wednesday.

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- Fresh Codfish.
- Smoked Bloters.
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- Halibut.
- No. 1 Tinned Salmon.
- No. 1 Tinned Lobster.
- Skipper Sardines.
- "My Lady" Sardine Sandwich, 10c. tin.
- Tomato Soup.
- Smoked Salmon.
- 20 Cases CREAM OF WHEAT.
- KEILLER'S MARMALADE, 4 lb. and 7 lb. tins.
- 10 cases FRESH EGGS.
- 200 Brace FRESH RABBITS.

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