

LONDON GOSSIP.

LONDON, Oct. 29th, 1917.
LONDON OCTOBER 1917.

Well-to-do people, as well as poor, suffered in the last series of raids, and neither seem able to get their dwellings put rapidly into a habitable state. London would strike one who has been absent from it for some time as having become uncommonly shabby. But this is the fourth year in which very little house-painting has been done, and with the extension of manufacturing enterprise the atmosphere has not become less dirty. The people also are less smart than they might keep themselves. Most of the women one sees in the West End are in mourning, and the world of fashion has grown dowdy. As for male civilians, they go about in old and shapeless clothes and slouch hats, and it appears to be the aim of every wealthy man to look as shabby as he can. Grosvenor Square might be inhabited by seedy commercial travellers whose firms had gone into bankruptcy. Nature, however, keeps noticeably fresh and bright. The sward in the parks is as green as in June, and the trees have scarcely begun to shed their foliage or to change their color. But there are no flowers. That luxury the Office of Works sternly denies us.

PACIFIST ORGANISATIONS AND THEIR FUNDS.

A question is to be put to the Home Secretary shortly, suggesting an enquiry by the Government into the origin of the funds possessed by the various pacifist organisations which at this moment are in full blast. Comparatively little of their work seems to be done in London, but in the cotton districts of Lancashire, as well as the mining belt of South Wales, together with the West Riding and the Clyde, there is a very active propaganda, largely engineered and participated in by women. That kind of thing costs much money to work, and it would be of especial interest to know at this moment where it all comes from. Even such of the organisations as publish lists of subscribers, and give no other clue than initials and initials are not always to be accepted at their face suggestion.

KOSCIUSZKO.

We have just had the centenary of the death of the great Polish hero, Thaddeus Kosciuszko, about whom most of us, I am afraid, know very little except the scanty information in Campbell's famous line "and freedom shrieked when Kosciuszko fell." And even there the poet has misled us, for, in spite of the interest he professed in the Polish cause, he was not at the pains to find out how to pronounce his hero's name. I once

heard a small Polish child recite this passage of the poem. She got on splendidly until that fatal line, and then, unable to make Kosciuszko a word of syllables as Campbell did, ruined the line by giving it only three. One gets pretty near the Polish pronunciation if one remembers that the middle and accented syllable sounds like the English word "stew"—Kosciuszko, with all the stress on "stew."

SIR THOMAS LIPTON AND YACHTING.

A correspondent of mine who met Sir Thomas Lipton the other day on the pier at Bournemouth tells me that the owner of all the Shamrocks is as keen as ever about yachting. "I have no boat now," said the genial baronet, "so am obliged for the time being to take my sea-faring this way. But," he added, "as soon as the war is at an end I intend to be really afloat again." My friend asked what the plans were with regard to the Nicholson Shamrock which is on the other side of the Atlantic. "That matter has been arranged," said Sir Thomas. "When the hostilities are over the Challenger and the Defender which were built for 1914 will race. There is to be no new Defender and no new Challenger." Sir Thomas was asked why he did not buy Margherita for racing in British waters after the war. "I am going to race here after the war," said the baronet, "but if I had brought the big Nicholson schooner there would have been nobody to race against. I am agreeable, and have said so in the proper quarter, to build any size of British yacht from 15 metres up provided one or two other men come in to make a class."

NEW COLOR FOR FLYING CORPS.

A few weeks back those officers of the Royal Flying Corps who do not "go up" were ordered by the War Office to give up wearing the double-breasted tunic and flying officer's cap, substituting ordinary officer's array at their own expense. Now it is rumoured that the whole Flying Corps is to be reclothed, khaki disappearing in favor of some blue more inconspicuous. Sky blue is the obvious color, but if the change is made the authorities are more likely to choose a green tint.

WOMEN AIR PILOTS NEXT.

Simultaneously with the change in the command of the military branch of the flying services, I learn from a reliable source that an interesting development is under consideration. This is nothing less than the employment of women as pilots. There is, of course, no intention of permitting the female flying officers to fight in the air, but it is quite possible that before long they will be employed to take machines across the Channel for delivery behind the lines. I am told that applications for the work—or perhaps I should say for commissions—have already been made by a few daring women. The Royal Flying Corps has employed women as chauffeurs for some months. The majority of these are ladies of good family, who have taken up the work because they have driven cars for years.

COMMON SERJEANT DICKENS.

London's new Common Serjeant, Henry Fielding Dickens, K.C., is the only surviving son of the novelist. The youngest of Dickens's six boys, he was named Fielding after the, until then, greatest English novelist, although his father's first intention was to call him Oliver Goldsmith. H. F. Dickens named all his own sons Charles. One of them, Cedric Charles Dickens, fell in battle last year. The new Common Serjeant is approaching his seventeenth year. He was called to the Bar forty-two years ago, and has long been one of the most notable figures in the Temple. He was once briefed to examine a witness who bore the name of Pickwick. The opportunity seemed too good to be missed. Sir Frank Lockwood was so anxious to see a Dickens confronting a Pickwick that he got Mr. Justice Hawkins to adjourn a case to let him be present. The witness turned out to be a lanky, lugubrious individual.

SIMPLICITY AND SERGE.

Society women are giving a lead to others in the matter of dress suited to the dictates of war-time economy. Simple coat and skirt costumes, or equally simple coat frocks of navy or black serge, are the favorite wear of girls who have lately married heirs to dukedoms and earldoms, good furs and a modest string of pearls being the only indications of wealth. The skirts are of decent length. The ultra-short frocks and extravagantly high boots of past winters are now out of date in Mayfair, and have been relegated to high-salaried munitio-



Bread and Milk is a Balanced Ration

Any food or combination of foods that supplies all requirements of nutrition is called a "balanced ration." Food experts point to bread and milk as a splendid example.

When baking bread you surely owe it to yourself to select with care the flour that will provide the most nutrition and energy-producing power.

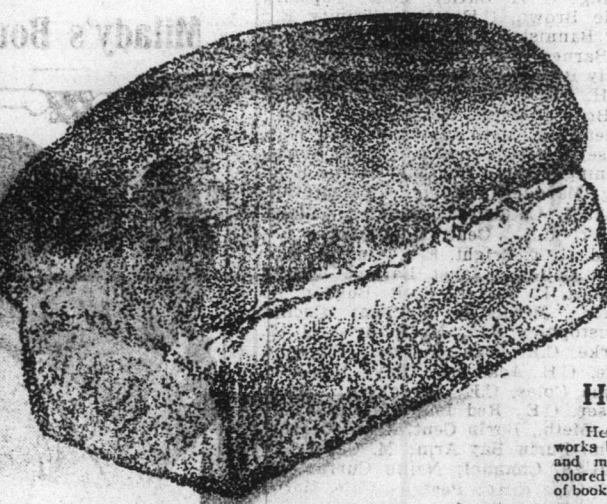
Dr. Wiley, the famous food expert, a former chief of the Department of Chemistry at Washing-

ton, states that there is more energy in a pound of bread than in a pound of meat.

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cers and the belles of certain Government offices.

WAR INFLUENCE ON TOYS.

The toy warehouses here offer an interesting commentary on the influence affecting production and distribution. There is no lack of dolls, "soft" animal pets, and the like, while certain generic types of puzzle appear in quasi-novel forms suggested by current problems of defence and objective. Small stocks are to be seen here and there of French mechanical toys, but the English product is scarce, and it would seem that Birmingham (the center of this industry here) does not look for a new outlet in that direction. Some of the more ambitious boxes of lead soldiers are admirably modelled, and present the details of modern equipment with fidelity. There are good models of anti-aircraft guns operated by barrel springs, besides 3 feet hydroplanes and other flying types of a practical construction; and bomb cases converted into inkstands, match-holders and the like are also available.

PARLIAMENTARY HOURS.

There seems to be some reason to believe that Parliament will consider changing its hours from three to eleven, as at present, to ten or eleven in the morning to five in the afternoon. According to one statement, arrangements are already being made

to keep Christian hours during the air-raid season—that is, whenever there are moonlight nights. Of course all arrangements depend on the decisions of the House of Parliament themselves, but I think it is very probable that the change of hours is really being considered.

WAR NEWS.

Messages Received
Previous to 9 A. M.

STEAMER MISSING.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16.
The British steamer Kansas City is believed to have been lost at sea. Nothing has been heard of her since she was separated from her convoy in a storm on Sept. 5th.

HOPE FOR LLOYD GEORGE'S RESIGNATION.

AMSTERDAM, Nov. 16.
The Berlin newspapers comment on the French and English crisis precipitated by the Paris speech of Lloyd George, whose resignation most of the German papers considers certain. They express the hope that "his departure will clear the political atmosphere of Europe and pave the way for peace."

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HAS AT LAST ARRIVED.

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The present shipment contains the following books:—

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BOURGEOIS—No. 2: Cloth, red edges.
No. 3A: Paste grain, limp; gold edges.

POPULAR—No. 5: Cloth, red edges.
No. 5A: Paste grain, limp; gold edges.

BREVIER—No. 2: Cloth, red edges.
No. 2B: Morocco grain, yapp, India Paper; red under gold edges.

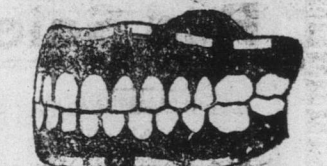
SMALL PICA—No. 4: Cloth, red edges.
No. 4A: Paste grain, limp, India paper; gold edges.

PULPIT & ORGAN—No. 6: Cloth, red edges.
No. 6A: Paste grain, limp; gold edges.

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