

LONDON GOSSIP.

LONDON, March 27th, 1916.
ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE CHIEF.
TAN STAYS.

The denial of the rumor of the retirement of Sir Alfred Keogh, the Director-General of the Army Medical Service, will be received with universal satisfaction. He has served his country well during the war. In France his work has won for him the highest eulogium. Colonel Lee, M.P., who is in a position to know from the first hand of the achievements of the service organised by its director, paid a flattering tribute to Sir Alfred in the House of Commons recently. "If there is any official at the War Office," he said, "who is universally recognized as a success, in view of his great talents, his alert and far-seeing mind, it is Sir Alfred Keogh, and what he has done in this war entitles him to the highest praise. Sir Alfred had nothing whatever to do with the medical arrangement in Mesopotamia, and the responsibility for any breakdown which may have occurred there does not rest with him. But he has carried throughout these anxious months a heavy burden, and it is probably at his own request that Sir William Balfour has been appointed Assistant Director."

ANOTHER HOTEL FOR THE GOVERNMENT.

The Government continue to take over hotels for administrative work. Carter's Hotel, one of the many semi-private hotels in Mayfair, London, which never shock their aristocratic clientele by advertising, received word on March 18th that it was about to be requisitioned. On March 21st Government officials were settling down to work in some of the rooms, while alterations were going on in the others. People staying in the hotel had to make sudden arrangements, and Government contractors appeared on March 20th to dismantle the rooms and remove the furniture and stores. There are fifty rooms in the hotel. One part of the arrangement with the Government is that the place is to be re-decorated and restored to the proprietor in a condition for business. The present condition of the Hotel Metropole, in which the Munitions Department have been at work for the last fortnight, shows how quickly an hotel can be adapted for these purposes. Lloyd George's office is not in the music room (which is used for conferences), but in one of the chief suites of rooms on the first floor. The big reading and writing rooms are divided off into many compartments where typewriters are busy, and the dining room is partitioned into rooms where hard-worked staffs labor at high pressure and have no thoughts to spare for their former associations. Only in a few cases have the wall-papers had to be touched, and bed-room papers form the background to many busy department chiefs.

GRAMOPHONES IN THE TRENCHES

The prohibition of the importation of gramophones and their component parts will be a blow to our fighting forces, who have become the largest customers for these things. A purchase of new records is one of the commissions entrusted by their mates to sailors, and an equal responsibility attaches to the man who takes back new records for the compact little French gramophone, which is a purely British invention and has more than once been destroyed by shell fire. Most of the gramophones sold here, including the most famous of all, are made in England, but the motors come from Switzerland, and can hardly be made in England under present conditions. Although nearly all records are of British make, they are threatened by the suggested prohibition of shellac. We have a good stock of machines in England, and it is to be supposed that the fighting men will have first class claim to them, especially the men in hospitals or on hospital ships—the Anglia went down with her gramophone singing vigorously—but it will not be long before the shortage is felt even by them, and the men in Mesopotamia who asked for gramophone needles will do well to bring their hard-worked gramophones home with them.

DOMESTIC ECONOMY IN WAR-TIME.

A very remarkable side of domestic economising in London, which has naturally enough escaped public attention, is becoming quite common in the better parts of Chelsea and Kensington, and for all I know, on the other side of the Park. It is not very uncommon now when you call on a friend there to find the whole family living on two floors, and that the rest of the house has been shut up and the whole place is being run with the aid of one servant. In many cases relatives have joined households, shutting or letting the house of one of the party. The servant scarcity is, of

course, at the root of much of this economising; still, many people are doing it as a sensible contribution to the national necessities. Many families have now two or three sons in the army, which generally means an unexpected claim on their purses. All sorts of minor economies, such as doing without table napkins or linen table-cloths, can be seen, while the white linen collar seems to be disappearing now from whole districts of respectability. Even in households which would not have been classed as Bohemian dinner parties are becoming very like the old improvised supper parties in artists' studios, after the big fancy dress balls. I have heard of one big party where the whole bill of fare was sausage and mashed potatoes, beer and apples. One suburban hostess who sent out invitations recently added the indignant that the dinner would be fish and chips, but that the fare could be depended upon because the cook (aged 16) had been in the fried fish business and had once been entrusted with the whole barrow!

HOLLAND, GERMANY AND THE SKELETON.

In diplomatic as in political circles, the suspicion is growing that Germany at this moment desires to force Holland to abandon her carefully-maintained neutrality, even though at

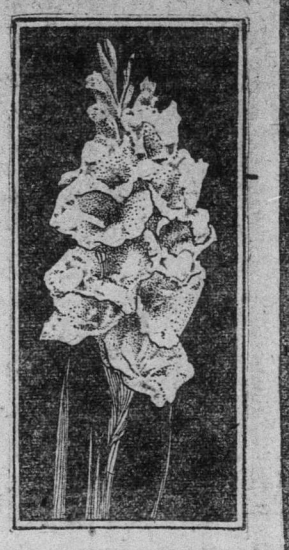
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the risk of war with herself. The object would be, by a swift descent down the river, to gain full command of the mouth of the Scheldt, an object regarded none the less desirable by the extensive allied air raid on Zebrugghe on March 20th, which is rapidly becoming less tenable as a German base in the North Sea. Those who know how, at the creation of the Belgian kingdom in 1830, the determined retention of Dutch rights over the navigation of the Scheldt, from close to Antwerp into the North Sea, was the rock on which the negotiations nearly split, and was, indeed, one of the main causes of a war between Holland and France, will realize how essential to

the former this position always has been held. It has been taken as an axiom, indeed, in European politics, for a century that the one thing necessary to set Holland against any power would be any attempt to interfere with its full holding of the mouth of the Scheldt. So much was this realised by our Ministers that, even to relieve the agony of Antwerp in September, 1914, no attempt was made by us, despite our naval command of the North Sea, to go up the river to her aid, and thus to violate Dutch neutrality; and the Foreign Secretary rejected with emphasis a suggestion thrown out at that time that we should open negotiations for the pur-

chase of Zealand and its transfer to Belgium, an idea which at once would have thrown Holland into Germany's arms.

GENERAL CADORNA'S BUSY DAY.

If the Italian General Cadorna's soldiers are as busy in their trenches as their general is in London the Austrians on the Alps are bound to have a hot time of it. Yesterday he met General Robertson at ten, at eleven he saw Lloyd George, at twelve he was received by the King. He lunched with Asquith at one, he saw Sir Edward Grey at three, and Lord Lansdowne at four. He met also Bonar Law, and in the evening he dined at the Embassy. It would be rather interesting to know when he attended to the voluminous correspondence and despatches which follow a commander-in-chief everywhere. One may be sure the dinner was no mere social entertainment, for he met five Cabinet Ministers at the Embassy.

LUCKY GERMAN DESTROYERS.

Shipbuilders who have had to do with the construction of destroyers will no doubt smile at the statement in the German official account of the little encounter off the Belgian coast on March 20th that the fight was "a success" for our enemies. The Germans were lucky to get away, and the affairs of October 17, 1914, and May 1, 1915, prove it. In both of these scraps the Hun flotillas were cleared up by British destroyers, four vessels going down on the first occasion and two on the second. In the battle of the Bight on August 28, 1914, when

several larger boats than the Zebrugghe class were sunk, British destroyers convincingly demonstrated their superiority. They are, as a matter of fact, better and speedier and craft and harder hitters than anything of the type in the German Navy. Probably if the run back on March 20th had been a little longer there would have been another "clear up" to add to the last.

TAILORING AND OFFICERS' UNIFORMS.

Badly hit by the great shrinkage of their civilian trade owing to so many of their customers having joined the colors, the West End tailors have hitherto consoled themselves with the thought that at all events the demand for officers' uniforms would enable them to keep their staffs partly employed. But since the beginning of the year there has been an extraordinary falling off in this business, and practically no officers' uniforms are now being ordered from the tailors. It is believed that the War Office is depriving them of this remnant of their trade by securing the outfits through contractors and issuing them at about cost price direct to the officers. Feeling is very bitter on the matter. For, should military trade be taken away, it will compel many firms already fighting against great odds to close down altogether.

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If you have skin trouble of any kind, get a bottle of D. D. D. Prescription to-day. Sold Everywhere.

At the City Hall.

At the regular weekly Municipal meeting last night, Chairman Gosling presided and the following Commissioners were present: Ayre, Bradshaw, McNamara, Morris, Anderson and Withers.

Mr. W. J. Higgins, as Secretary, reported the decision of the Joint Select Committee of Parliament, appointed to consider the charter. The Secretary will acknowledge the letter.

The Supt. of the Street Railway service wrote in reply to the Council, that their system of opening drains, for the purpose of allowing the water to run from the tracks during rain storms or thaws was the best under the circumstances. The matter will be enquired into.

The Nfld. Clothing Co. wrote as to increased water supply. Referred to Engineer.

The President of the Truckmen's Union informed the Board that on and after May 1st, the rate of services for man and horse at municipal work would be \$4 per day. The rate will be paid.

A. Snow, Casey Street, complained of condition of gully in front of his house. Referred to Engineer.

G. W. Healy complained of the condition of Monroe St. west. The Engineer will enquire into the matter.

Permission to make repairs and alterations to houses were given J. Moore, Freshwater Road; M. J. Murphy, Hutchings St.; P. F. Malone, Central St.; Mrs. M. Healey, Plank Road. Tessler & Co. asked permission to repair house corner Livingstone St. and Carter's Hill. Referred to Engineer.

Mrs. R. White offered a small piece of land for street widening purposes, Military Road. The matter to be considered.

A. J. Cole, Gilbert St., complained of condition of drain. The Engineer will report.

The Council employees east and west asked to be paid at noon Saturdays, instead of 4 p.m. Referred to Finance Committee.

Mrs. B. Rowe, widow of a pensioner asked for financial help. Nothing can be done in the matter.

A cave in on the Southside near Bowring Bros. premises, which had been partly repaired during the week, was reported by the Engineer.

Plans of proposed dwellings submitted by H. Russell, Leslie St., and G. Lilly, King's Bridge Road, were approved.

With the passing of the pay rolls and granting requirements, the meeting adjourned at 10 o'clock.

Milady's Boudoir.

KEEPING THE FACE SUPPLE.

To keep the skin of the face supple and in good condition, steaming it is ideal. Too frequent steaming is not advised, once a week is usually often enough, as it has a tendency to make the skin flabby, but if indulged in now, and then, it serves to open the pores, removes dust and accumulations and keeps the skin supple.

There are different methods of steaming the face, but a favorite one is to utilize the chafing dish, for with this the heat may be so regulated that the temperature of the water can be kept below the boiling point. However, any kind of a vessel can be used over a gas burner or alcohol lamp. The water should never reach the boiling stage as steam from boiling water will burn the skin. The object is to cleanse the pores by perspiration.

Before beginning the steaming process, the complexion should be given a thick coating of cold cream, applying it with the finger tips, using a rotary motion.

The face is now held over the steaming vessel and a towel is so held that the steam is directed to the face. After the perspiration starts, the cream is removed with a soft towel, and the complexion is again steamed.

The wiping and steaming should be continued until all trace of grease have disappeared. Ten to twenty minutes may be devoted to this process, and then the face must be carefully dried, after which a dash of cold water will close the pores, the face is again gently dried and a good tonic applied.

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