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LONDON GOSSIP.

LONDON, August 28, 1917.

SOLDIERS' GRAVES IN FRANCE.

A number of professional women gardeners have just been engaged to tend the graves of our soldiers in France, and within a few days they are going over to begin their work. They are enrolled as members of the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps, are engaged for the duration of the war and will, I understand, work under the direction of the Kew (the famous botanical gardens, on the outskirts of London) authorities. Miss Helen Colt, the well-known writer on horticultural matters, is one of those selected. The problem will be to find plants that will be decorative, hardy, and permanent, and that will require a little care. There was a suggestion that trees from the various overseas dominions should be chosen to mark the graves near battlefields—the wattle for Australia, the maple for Canada. It will be interesting to see whether this idea is carried out for individual graves.

EXTENDING THE DIVORCE LAW.

Meetings are intended to be held in large centers of population in support of a movement to press on the Government an alteration of the divorce law as a measure of reconstruction after the war. This movement has considerable support among members of both Houses of Parliament, as was shown at a meeting held at Westminster recently. The idea is the promotion of a Bill to enact that all decrees for judicial separation and magisterial separation orders alike shall, after they have existed three years, have the force of a decree absolute for the dissolution of marriage. An even more striking proviso would be to render it lawful

for any husband or wife to pray the High Court of Justice for a dissolution of marriage on the ground of continuous separation for three years, "whether by mutual agreement or for any other reason"—a provision that would open a very wide door for evasion of marital responsibilities, and one that stands on a very different plane from the other. A committee of five members of each House was formed to carry on the movement, which is certain to lead to a lively and heated controversy.

THE JEWISH REGIMENT.

The announcement that a Jewish regiment of infantry is being formed would be even more interesting if it had been added (as I understand is the case) for employment with the Palestine Expedition. A mule transport section composed of Jews from Palestine did good service in Egypt and Syria and was known as the Zionist Corps. Many of them fell in the fighting, and the remainder will probably be attached to this new regiment. There are many officers of Jewish race in the army, but the number speaking Yiddish or Russian is probably not very large. Three Jews in the army have won the Victoria Cross. A special Jewish regiment, with the honor of the race particularly in its keeping, will be a notable addition to the British force in the East.

THE NATIONAL WAR AIMS MEETING.

The brief announcement of the National War Aims Committee gave no idea of the spirit or the work of the new organization. The Prime Minister is its president, and its vice presidents are the official leaders of the other parties. The real intention

is to use the party organization for a crusade in the country to remind the public of the facts of the war and to keep them fully informed of the aims for which the Allies are fighting. Local committees are to be set up all over the country. The party agents will be employed in the work of organization, and the mayors and local authorities will be brought on to the committee. The whole movement will be started by a meeting at the Queen's Hall, London, on August 4—the third anniversary of the outbreak of war. At this meeting the Prime Minister and Lord Crewe will be supported on the platform by members of the Government, by prominent members of Parliament, and by representatives of the London County Council, the mayors of the London boroughs, the heads of churches, and representatives of all sections and parties.

PAYMENT FOR DIGNITIES.

Lord Selborne desires Ministers to pledge themselves "that when any honor or dignity is conferred upon a British subject, other than a member of the Royal Family or the members of the naval, military, or permanent service under the Crown, a definite public statement of the reasons for which it has been recommended to the Crown shall accompany the notification of the grant; and that a declaration to the Sovereign be made by the Prime Minister, in recommending any person to his Majesty's favor for any such honor or dignity, that he has satisfied himself that no payment or expectation of payment is directly or indirectly associated with the grant or promise of such honor or dignity." As the son of one who won his peerage as Lord Chancellor, Lord Selborne is on safer ground in making this demand than might be the case with some other holders of peerages of recent creation. As a former party Whip in the Commons, he may also be in possession of facts which prove the existence of a "cash down" system in this regard. One is inclined to doubt, however, whether either the Prime Minister or party Whips are so very simple as to leave proofs of such a traffic—if such a traffic in these days exists—lying about.

AT WORK AND PLAY.

London is a merry place these days. The elementary schools have "broken up," and the youngsters, north, east, south and west, have been holding high revel in the miles of parks and open spaces which are among London's chief possessions, although the heavy rain of the last few days has temporarily put a stop to sojourning out of doors. Their middle and upper class cousins, who are learning the way they should go at public and private schools, are also experiencing the joys of the long summer holiday, but there are not the old-time scenes at the railway stations which one used to delight in before the war. Hundreds of the boys are to spend the vacation in the harvest fields, and it is good to know the farmers are more ready to accept their services than they were last year. I fancy it was Lord Selborne's idea that school boys should work their holidays on the land, but it was not as successful as it should have been owing to the objections of the farmers. But this year they have learned wisdom, and I am told that in nearly every part of the South and West country there has been a refreshing eagerness to take advantage of the offers of assistance which nearly every big public school has made.

WHISKERS.

Frank Richardson, who has just died, manufactured for himself an uneasy reputation among humorists. With an amazing ingenuity in resource, he laid himself out to exhaust the last drop of the comic from the idea of whiskers. He ended, as was natural, in exhausting his readers, who tired sooner than he did of the game of ringing the changes upon the word. Still he achieved his aim, which was to give himself a useful literary label. "Frank Richardson's Oh, yes, the man who writes about whiskers," people would say. So secure was his position as the great whisker expert that it was customary with the lighter newspapers in the slack season—what worlds away now!—to send a bright young man to interview Richardson on the latest phase of the whisker movement. I think this was overdone once during the war, and that was when the "spoofer" report came out that the French soldiers had been ordered to shave. That report, originally a comic effort in a French newspaper, was gravely copied as fact by some newspapers here. It gave Richardson his last effective opening. He was a clever man, and, as one or two serious novels show, capable of sound work, but, if I may use this vulgarism, it will be his nemesis that whiskers will grow on all he did.

The tops of young carrots and turnips are as good as beet tops to cook for greens. Orange juice is a preventive of scurvy among children who use pasteurized milk.

Four Sons Serving Two Flags.

IN ONE CAUSE.

Mr. Michael Sutton, employed at the new fish plant in the West End, is the proud father of four sons serving with the English and American forces. They are, David, Patrick, Con, and John. All four enlisted in the United States. David and Patrick are attached to a motor division and are now in training at Long Island, the former being since promoted to instructing Sergeant. Con and John, who only recently made their homes in the United States and are still British subjects, have enlisted in an English division that is being raised in the United States. Con, the youngest of the four, is not yet eighteen years of age. All were born in Notre Dame Bay and are worthy sons of Newfoundland. Mr. Sutton was for seven years a member of the local police force and served under Magistrate Wells at Little Bay.

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Theatre Hill Drug Store is open every night till 9.30.

Ice Shortage.

A number of stores throughout the city where ice cold drinks are sold are greatly inconvenienced owing to the dealer from whom they received their supply of ice having disposed of the stock on hand to other parties. As the other dealers have only sufficient to supply their regular customers the storekeepers in question may have to wait till Jack Frost comes around again. We understand there is a considerable supply of ice in some of the nearby outports, but the proper mode of conveyance cannot at present be obtained.

At the Crescent.

The Crescent Picture Palace is giving its patrons a great holiday programme to-day, the feature picture is the celebrated Broadway comedy success "The Spring Chicken," a biographical production in three reels, featuring Gertrude Bambrick with an all star cast. A thrilling adventure of "Grant, Police Reporter" is "The Tigers Claw" with George Larkin and Alice Kirby. "When Cupid Slipped" is a smashing comedy with Seligs new comedy star Victor Ford. Madame Timmons sings the latest New York song hit by Charles K. Harris "A Cottage Some Roses and You." Don't miss seeing this big holiday show.

SMALL SOLDIERS.

Small boys have quit their playing, their sliding on the hill, and now they are displaying great military skill. All round I behold them, in marches and parades; small generals enrolled them in legions and brigades. They wield, with valor Roman, their rifles made of boards, and bravely charge the foe with little wooden swords. No kinds plead for exemption, all long to brandish arms, and none has asked redemption from war and its alarms. The old time hobby horses, the roller skates are gone; imaginary courses are piled upon the lawn. The boys who would be pitchers, and make baseball a trade, are busy now as ditchers, for trenches must be made. They toil with wooden shovels, no soldier loafs or stalls, the boys from humble hovels, the boys from stately halls. There is no weary clacker for peace with shameful joys, there is no one whining slacker among the little boys. No kid so keen for peace is that he would dodge the fray because he buys three nieces and sundry uncles hay. The kid, so small their mothers put them to bed at night, are shaming elder brothers who fear to go and fight.

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- Some Ends of White Nainsook Length 1 to 1½ yards. Worth 30c. a yard to-day. Price 15c. to 16c.

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