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LONDON GOSSIP.

LONDON, Sept. 11th, 1916.
BRITISH RECOGNISING VALOUR.

I am glad that at last the Army Council has recognised the high standing of holders of the Military Cross among war heroes. When the new medal was established at the end of 1914 the holder was not entitled to put the initial letters after his name, and no provision was made for men who might earn the distinction more than once. Now, however, those people who are allowed to possess the "Army List" for October will find the letters M.C. attached to the names of holders of the Cross. Officers will be entitled to use M.C. after their names, as winners of the Victoria Cross do V.C., and bars will be given to those whose actions would have entitled them to the Cross had they not possessed it already. Moreover, the Cross takes precedence of all other medals except that "For Valour." It is well known that many men have been given a Military Cross for actions which would certainly have won the V.C. in past wars. So the new privileges are no more than right.

THE FLEET AND THE PRESS.

The journalists who recently made a tour of the United Kingdom's naval bases have received communications from Sir John Jellicoe, Sir David Beatty, and one or two other distinguished officers of the Royal Navy, which they value, I am told, very highly. On the conclusion of their inspection they cut out from their newspapers six copies of each of their articles, signed them, and sent them to A. W. Pollen, who had then made up into albums for presentation to the officers who had been at pains to facilitate their work. Sir John Jellicoe says of this album that he "shall value it very much as a most interesting

souvenir of a visit which gave me as well as the rest of the Fleet a great deal of pleasure," and Sir David Beatty, in returning thanks for his expressions "Appreciation of the kindly thought which caused you all to send me such a very interesting souvenir." It will, Sir David thinks, "greatly increase in interest as the years roll by." Captain Brian Dartleot says that he shall always regard his album as "a most interesting memento of an interesting visit."

HIGH COST OF LIVING.

It may be noted in connection with the public protests now being made against the high cost of living that the United Kingdom is the only part of the Empire that has not taken legal steps to check the inflation of prices by artificial causes. In Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Newfoundland, India, and the Crown Colonies and Protectorates measures have been adopted to protect consumers from the operation of foreign or home trusts or combines. The investigating machinery is very various and, though differing in details, it may generally be taken that whenever sufficient evidence is placed before a judge to convince him that a combine exists and that prices have been enhanced or competition restricted by reason of such, to the detriment of consumers or producers, he makes an order directing an investigation. This may result in the admission, free of duty or at a reduced rate of duty, of any article in order to give the public the benefit of reasonable competition; while any patent rights which have been similarly abused may be revoked, and any person found guilty of restricting the production or supply of any article, enhancing its price or lessening competition in regard

Splitting Pains in the Muscles
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Give Nerviline a trial. See how fast it will timber your lame back, how quickly it will cure neuralgic headache, how fast it will break up a bad cold or ease a sore throat.

The best family pain-remedy ever made is Nerviline. Forty years of great success proves this.

For emergent ills, when the doctor isn't handy, there is nothing better than the 50c. family size bottle; trial size 25c., all dealers.

thereto, and continuing to do so is liable to pecuniary penalties.

MISPLACED INDIGNATION.

Recently Mr. Asquith's hall porter, being of military age though not suited for military service, was requisitioned for munition work. A caller at Downing Street shortly afterwards was heard to express indignation that a young man, and one who "ought obviously to be in the Army" had taken the vacant post. The indignation was ill-timed, for the new hall porter had "done his bit" in the Army, and had lost a leg. His appearance of "physical fitness" was due partly to his own adaptability, but very largely to the skill and care of the surgeons, who had fitted him with so excellent an artificial limb that nothing short of close examination could disclose his disability.

THE GREEK CHIEF OF STAFF.

General Moscropoulos, the new Chief of the General Staff of the Greek army, commanded the 4th Division in the Balkan War of 1912, and earned for it the name of the "Iron Division." He executed the brilliant turning movement at the Battle of Sarangoporgu which brought about the defeat of the Turks and the capture of Salonika. He was afterwards promoted to the command of the 3rd Army Corps in Macedonia, a very delicate position when the Allies landed. But he not only succeeded in maintaining good relations with them, but won the esteem of General Sarraill and General Mahon. Another wise appointment to the General Staff, which appears to be imminent if not actually confirmed, is that of General Stratigos, who is counted to be the best tactician in the Greek army.

COLORED WORKERS FOR FRANCE.

I hear that a battalion of coloured men from South Africa will be shortly at work behind the lines in France. It has been raised by the Union Government, and will be under the Military control of officers nominated by that Government. If the experiment is successful it is likely that the policy will be continued by using coloured African labor as an auxiliary service in Europe. I understand that the first batch is composed chiefly of dock laborers from Cape Colony, who will be employed at one of the French ports. The French have been making use of natives from their colonies for a long time, not only in the fighting forces, but in work behind the lines. This is, I believe, the first time that a working force of this kind has been recruited for Europe in a British dominion. It is especially interesting in view of the speech in which Mr. Churchill urged the Government to release men for the fighting line by calling upon the vast reservoir of colored labor in the Empire. Many of those in closest touch with the natives have always contended that it would be an immense economy in men if native laborers could be brought to Europe for army work.

ROMANIA'S RICHEST MAN.

Mr. Take Jonescu is by far the wealthiest man in Roumania, and enjoys enormous national popularity. Virtually he is leader of the Opposition. He is as much an Englishman as a foreigner can be. He speaks our tongue fluently, and for many years before the war always occupied a suite of rooms at the Carlton Hotel during the London season. At Aix-les-Bains, where he also went for an annual cure, he consorted chiefly with the English. He is a lavish host, a



Gin Pills banish backache, no matter how severe. The effect, understand, is not to numb the pain, but Gin Pills go right to the source of the trouble, the kidneys, restoring the natural functions of these organs, and with the blood purified, and inflammation allayed, the pains disappear permanently.

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FOR THE KIDNEYS

Other indications that the kidneys are not purifying the blood stream properly are frequent headaches, deposits in the urine, touches of rheumatism—no name but a few symptoms—and every case calls for Gin Pills. 50c. a box, or 6 boxes for \$2.50 at all druggists.

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Facts for Health Seekers to Ponder Over.

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Jolly good fellow with a somewhat rotund form, a jovial twinkle in his eye, and a keen appreciation of everything that makes life enjoyable. But he is also a profound observer, a keen patriot, a clever politician, and a man armed with quite remarkable oratorical powers. He does not conceal his dislike for Germans. As he once said, whilst dealing with the Huns collectively, "Je m'en fiche!" he has no use for them. He is sure to be Roumania's representative in the Congress after the war.

WHAT HAPPENED TO SCHENCK.

An amusing incident in the Athens situation is the ignominious collapse of Germany's champion, Baron von Schenck. He is believed to have spent in his capacity as German spy master and propagandist some £200,000 in anti-Entente work in Greece. When war broke out he was Krupp's representative in Athens. Then he became a correspondent of the Wolff Telegraph Agency. He developed an elaborate campaign of corruption among the Athens newspapers. At first fourteen Athens papers were Venizelist and pro-Entente. Gradually their numbers dwindled, and at the height of the crisis ten were exploiting German propaganda. Von Schenck is little and bald and had, the accomplice of every "crook" in Greece. Yet he was at one time a Professor of Moral Economy in a German University.

"COACHMAN'S" CAPES for the AUTUMN.

This cold weather has sent women into furs again. Those who have none handy are hurrying to the furriers for their remodelled furs or to purchase new peltry for the coming season. The new fur fashions have a mid-19th Century look. Muffs are barrel-shaped, and quite small in size, and many of the smartest furriers are selling neck furs on the cape, fashioned rather full, and enveloping the upper portion of the arms. Skunk and even bear skin are used for capes, which are to be worn with the Autumn coat dresses. These dresses are trimmed with bands of fur so narrow as to suggest braid, but not infrequently two or more coloured furs are used for this purpose. Walking down Dover Street, flippantly known as "Petticoat Lane"—because it has so many ladies' clubs—I found the Ladies' Athenaeum and other feminine haunts of the fair sex open again after being closed for the annual redecoration and repairs. Some of the ladies' clubs where subscriptions do not rule as high as in the men's clubs, have been very hard hit financially by the war, but one or two have never done better. The ladies' Army and Navy in Burlington Gardens, which is reserved for relatives of officers, flourishes exceedingly, with a prodigiously long list of members.

GERMAN PRISONERS.

The number of prisoners captured on the Somme and Verdun areas by the Allied forces is now between 40,000 and 50,000. I tried to compile the Somme figures at the end of August, but in some cases the numbers were only indicated by phrases like "several hundreds" or some such formula. Mr. Warner Allen, however, the official British press representative with the French forces, who has access to the official figures, has given the total up to the end of August as 45,000. Since then the Allies have taken about 6,000 men, and more are coming in, so that the sum will soon be 50,000. This is nearly double the number captured in the Champagne-Loos offensive.

Prisoners are, in a military sense, the same as dead men, for they cannot possibly be combatants again in the present war, so the record in prisoners gives even more satisfaction than our capture of territory. Mr. Forster stated in the House of Commons in July that the number of British prisoners of war in German hands on June 20, was 25,350, and the number of German prisoners in British hands was 25,467. Since then the Germans have gained about a thousand and we have added about 17,000, so the balance is now heavily on the British side.

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