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LONDON GOSSIP.

LONDON, June 24, 1918.
SPAIN AND THE ALLIES.
A report has reached me from Madrid, Spain, to the effect that a proposal is under discussion for a Mission, thoroughly representative of all parties in the Cortes, to visit France and England in the course of the summer. The promoters of the idea, which is said to have the approval of the Spanish Government, are convinced that such a visit would have beneficial results, if only because the Spanish representatives would have an opportunity to see for themselves what the food and general conditions are both in this country and in France. The up-to-date and authoritative information which would thus be made available to the Spanish people might be expected to dispel much of the mist concerning Anglo-French social conditions which has been aroused by the persistent efforts of the network of pro-German intrigue in the Peninsula.

OUR LEADER IN ITALY.
The Earl of Cavan, who has been in command of the British force in Italy since Sir Herbert Plumer returned to the Western front, has had excellent news to send of the Austrian offensive, so far as it concerns our men on the Asiago plateau. Lord Cavan went to Italy last November as one of Plumer's leaders in the field after a splendid record in France and Flanders. His fellow corps leader was Sir Richard Haking, who, I believe, is still in Italy. Both Cavan and Haking did well on the Asiago in the operations of 1914—the peer in charge of the Guards Brigade (to

which he succeeded when General Scott Kerr was wounded at Villers Cotterets), and Haking at the head of the 5th Brigade, both being units of the First Corps of Sir Douglas Haig. They have done well continuously since then.

BRITISH WOUNDED IN FRENCH HOSPITALS.
A French non-commissioned officer, writing to a friend here from somewhere behind the French front during the latter stages of the enemy offensive south of the Aisne, gives the following particulars of a visit to the British wounded in a French hospital: "Never since the beginning of the war," he says, "have I seen such a complete and fraternal understanding as is now reigning between the British and the French in the face of the common danger. One feels, indeed, that now there is but one army, in which the 'Tommys' and 'Pollis' fight side by side. Yesterday I called at a large military hospital where a number of British stretcher cases which could not very well be moved very far south had just arrived. I offered my services to the authorities, as they had no interpreter, to help in filling up the hospital forms for the British wounded. Throughout the afternoon I went from bed to bed through the wards, in an atmosphere redolent of phenol and chloroform, asking each man in turn for the necessary information. How pleased the good fellows were to see at last someone who could understand and speak their language! As soon as I addressed them delighted smiles illumined their wan faces. They lay side by side with the French wounded, awaiting their

turn to have their dressings renewed or an operation performed. The surgeons and nurses, I was told, had worked without cessation for three days and nights, for we had mostly had cases in this hospital, and it was important for almost all to operate without delay. A plucky little nurse told me that she had not left the operating-room since the arrival of the first hospital train."

TEA RATIONING.
Two ounces of tea per head each week is quite a manageable ration, and will cause no hardship except, perhaps, to those who drink tea inordinately and like it as strong and black as people in Ireland, in Canada, and in Australia. Oddly enough, Scotland has for many weeks been rationed on tea and the allowance there has been one-and-a-half ounce a week. It is only within the last generation or two that the most of the Londoners have become heavy consumers of tea. The multiplicity of teasops is a feature of social life since the days of Dickens. Happily the ration does not come into force until the hay harvest is likely to be brought in. Cold weak tea is the best substitute for this beer in the hayfield. In the South of England there is an insufficiency of beer, and the public in the rural parts outside London, where they are already cutting the hay, are loud in their complaints of its scarcity.

NEW TEN SHILLING NOTES.
The present £1 (\$5) Treasury note is the third design issued since the introduction in 1914 of paper money, the existing ten shillings (\$2.50) note is the second; but a third design is about to be put into currency by the Treasury. Each issue has been an artistic improvement on its predecessor, and the new ten shilling note is no exception. It is designed much on the same lines as the £1 note. The general color scheme is green, distinguished from the bronze effect of the higher valued note, and instead of St. George and the Dragon is the conventional figure symbolising Britannia. On the reverse side are the Houses of Parliament. Like the present note, the new issue is smaller than the £1 note, which has proved to be virtually forge-proof. No single case of attempted counterfeiting has come before the authorities. The same immunity from fraud is anticipated in the case of the new notes—design, method of printing, paper and watermark all contributing towards the result.

SALE OF DRUGS TO SOLDIERS.
For the last two years chemists have been forbidden to sell to sailors and soldiers certain drugs, as, for instance, powerful narcotics like cocaine and morphine, and less potent hypnotics like sulphonal and barbitone. The last named, by the way, used to be commonly known under the German-owned title of veronal. In several respects the Order forbidding such transaction was either obscurely worded or misread by many chemists, for it not infrequently happened that medical practitioners in khaki were refused supplies. In order to remove any embargo that may have appeared to exist on the sale of these drugs to medical practitioners, a further Order in Council has been made which makes it clear that pharmacists may sell these drugs to doctors, dentists and veterinary surgeons. On the other hand, the new Order strengthens the restrictions as to the sale of the drugs in question to other members of His Majesty's Forces; and henceforth a sailor or soldier may only be supplied with them if he has a duly signed prescription specifying the total amount of the drug to be supplied. Moreover, in order to prevent the abuse of the prescription the chemist is ordered not to hand it back to the customer, but to keep it in the premises where it is dispensed.

THE KING'S WINES.
In March, 1915, the King announced

his intention to discontinue wines and spirits in the Royal household until the end of the war, and his example was followed by Lord Kitchener and other eminent people. The King relaxed his rule for a time after his accident in France, but since then I believe he has only taken a glass of wine on two formal occasions, when he was drinking to the health of eminent foreign leaders. The prohibition to the officers of the King's household does not apply to them personally, but only when in waiting. The result of the King's decision must, of course, have meant a great saving in wines, but His Majesty's gift of the best of the Royal cellar to the Red Cross Fund probably represents more than the saving. Some quite remarkable prices have been realised by the sale of these and other donated wines at the Red Cross wine sale this week. As much as £4.10s. (\$22.50) a bottle was paid for 1820 port, the said port having been given to Queen Victoria by the King of Portugal. For three dozen bottles of Curacoa \$1.250 was realised, whilst \$500 for a dozen bottles of Mr. Astor's brandy and \$250 a bottle for the King's 1820 rum were other prices obtained.

Mr. Briton Meets Mr. Hun
At The Hague, Holland.
The Hague, where the prisoner-of-war conference is being held, has been for more than two hundred years the real capital of Holland. Once called "the finest village in Europe," it is in reality more in the nature of a garden city, set round a central artificial lake called The Vijver. Grouped about this beautiful sheet of water, embowered in stately trees, are most of the principal public buildings, including the famous picture gallery, the city's most precious possession, wherein are enshrined some of the finest examples of the works of the world-famous old masters. Here also are the Royal palace, the law courts, the Parliament houses, the ancient and picturesque town hall, and Mr. Carnegie's stately "palace of peace," opened with a great flourish of trumpets in August, 1913, exactly one year before the outbreak of the most stupendous war in the world's history. More international conferences have been held at The Hague and more treaties and alliances arranged there than in any other city in Europe, or

out of it. Yet it is not a particularly big place, as capital cities go, the population, according to the last census, being only about 285,000 or somewhat less than that of Bradford. What mostly strikes new-comers to The Hague is its extreme cleanliness. It looks as if it had just been taken fresh from a gigantic packing-case and put together on the spot an hour previously.

This spotless purity is largely due, no doubt, to the fact that no soft coal is burned anywhere within the city confines; its place being taken by anthracite, burned in closed stoves, and by charcoal.

Germany Has to Use Low Grade Minerals.

The extent to which Germany has been forced by war conditions to use low grade raw materials or minerals as a source of important metals, etc., is revealed by the leading German steel trade paper. This necessity has been brought about by the stoppage of imports or the advance in prices in Germany, due to the war. In several cases sufficient success has been obtained by new methods to justify the working of low-grade ores even in normal times. Thus, copper schists

were hardly utilized when they contained only 2.5 per cent copper. Now ores of one per cent and even 0.7 per cent find utilization. Even poor pyrites and phosphatic ores are no longer rejected. The vanadium for steel is found in sufficient bulk in slags which do not contain more than 0.7 per cent vanadium; the wolframite of old waste heaps is a raw material for tungsten; chrome ores of 24 per cent is welcome—half the percentage formerly deemed worth mining—and sources of nickel are worked if they contain 1.5 per cent of nickel. Bauxite of 40 per cent aluminium is considered sufficiently rich. It is also stated that, after all, the aluminium can be got out of clay. There is no change as to arsenic and antimony. Sulphur, is gained from gypsum and anhydrite, and phosphates of 20 per cent are converted into fertilizer.—Scientific American.

Hints for Housewives.

When making starch, add a few shavings from a candle; it will give a gloss to the material when it is ironed. Pour boiling water to which a little borax has been added through any part of a tablecloth that has been stained with tea. Rusty irons can be made smooth by rubbing them when hot upon a piece of beeswax tied in a cloth, and then upon a cloth sprinkled with salt. The following is a sure test for gas leakages: Make a paste of soap and water, and apply it to the joints of the gas-pipe. If there is a crack, escaping gas bubbles will appear in a very short time. To clean a copper kettle, make a strong solution of water, soap, and soda, and let the kettle stand in it for a time. Then mix some fine coal ash with a little paraffin to form a paste, and rub it well on to the kettle. Afterwards polish with dry, powdered brickdust.

Note Paper and Envelopes.

TWO SPECIALS FOR RETAIL
The "Mandan Mills" Package of 120 sheets of good quality white wove 8 vo. Notepaper; ruled.
Price 35c. package, \$1.30 ream.
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These Envelopes are of good quality and well gummed. Postage on one Package of Paper and one Box of Envelopes, 17 cents.

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New Perfection Oil Cook Stove Week

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June, page 296.

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CO., Ltd.,
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Saturday's outgoing express arrived
at Port aux Basques on time this
morning.

DIED.
Saturday, after a short illness, P.
C. O'Driscoll, aged 69 years; leaving
a wife, 4 daughters and 3 sons to
mourn their sad loss. Funeral on
Tuesday, at 2.30 p.m. from his late
residence, 31 Queen's Road. Friends
and acquaintances please accept this
the only, intimation.—R.I.P.