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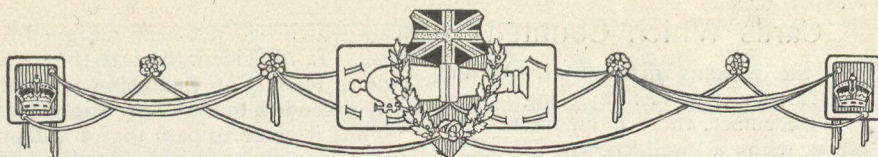


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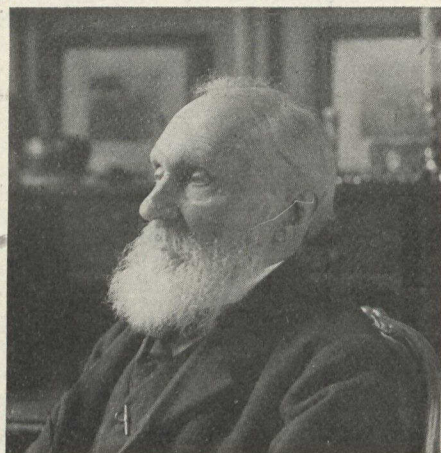
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BRITISH GOSSIP



The late Lord Kelvin.

THE death of Lord Kelvin has removed Great Britain's most distinguished scientist whose eighty-three years had been full of work and honours. He was buried in Westminster Abbey on December twenty-third, 1907, the day upon which Paris had to chronicle the death of Jules Janssen, her most notable astronomer. The first Baron Kelvin was born at Belfast in 1824 and was known in his untitled days as William Thomson. At the age of twenty-two he was filling the chair of Natural Philosophy in Glasgow University and his career as professor was marked by many triumphs. But it was his services in connection with marine telegraphy and his invention of the sounding-machine which gave him

his greatest fame. Since 1865, his has been among the foremost names in British science and each succeeding year seemed but to broaden the interests of one whose research has been for the benefit of the whole race.

* * *

LAST summer, in spite of rains and chills, was a season of pageants in the southern part of England. But any little festivities of that form in which Oxford, Winchester, Bury St. Edmunds or Coventry may have indulged will be entirely outshone by the pageant which is to be given in London next July. All the official bodies of the greatest city in the world are supporting the scheme, while actors, historians, musicians and artists are to contribute to its majesty. It is said that Regent's Park, with its twelve acres of tempting expanse, may be selected for the scene of London's "strange, eventful history." The pageant will go very far back indeed in the history of the "town on the Thames." There is to be a scene in which the chief figure will be the mythical King Lud (who is supposed to be buried in Ludgate), there are to be cave dwellers, early Christians, the coronation of the Conqueror, the triumphs of Richard, Coeur de Lion, the coronation procession of Anne Boleyn, the reception of victorious Drake by Anne's famous daughter, Elizabeth, luckless Charles I. on his last journey to Whitehall, gorgeous Eighteenth Century glimpses of Regency splendour and the final scene a reproduction of the London of 1830. Truly an ambitious programme in which, let us hope, Mr. Andrew Carnegie will not be asked to take part.

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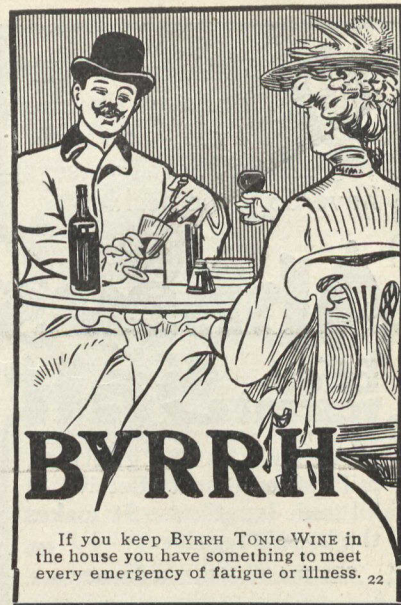
IT may be remembered that about a year ago the Salvation Army established in London and elsewhere an anti-suicide bureau. The principles on which the scheme was founded were inviolable secrecy, free consultation and no financial help guaranteed. It was remarked at the time that anyone so desperately out of love with life as to contemplate getting rid of it by poison, pistol or rope, would be hardly in the mood for consultation or confidence. But the first annual report of this bureau shows that about twelve hundred persons applied to the Army committee and made confession of extreme despondency which prompted them to risk the Great Perhaps. More than fifty per cent. of these unfortunates gave poverty as the reason for their desperate condition. General Booth says that each applicant was treated on his merits and thorough examination made of the circumstances leading to application. This work affords only another proof of the great, practical work being done by the members of this Army to raise the submerged and to shed light in Darkest London.

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THE Island of Malta is a place of many memories and of picturesque reminders of the old days of the "Knights" and the still older days of the Romans. Its occupation by the British is one of the curious political circumstances which make the Empire of King Edward such an odd mosaic. The recent change which makes the Duke of Connaught in command of the pretty island with headquarters at Valetta will doubtless make that spot a more brilliant social centre than it has been heretofore. The Duchess of Connaught is said to prefer northern Europe to the climate of the Mediterranean but will spend the winter months at Valetta. The Princess Patricia is still fancy free, although a semi-Royal betrothal is arranged for her several times a year by enterprising journals.

* * *

BRITISH literary publications have become somewhat agitated over the decidedly revolting novels written by authors of what has been aptly called "the fleshly school of fiction." Miss Corelli and Miss Harraden have united in condemning the offending novelists, most of whom are women. Several prominent editors have joined in the condemnation and have published strong articles on the matter, perhaps the most striking being that by Mr. Rook in "Black and White." The critics are right in their assertion that the four or five women who have perpetrated the most loathsome of these garbage monstrosities are really narrow-minded and under-educated persons who can conceive of nothing more in life than a round of absolutely sensual pleasure. It is almost folly to call most of their stuff "animalism." A really decent pig or self-respecting St. Bernard would hardly descend to the orgies in which these writers of inaccurate English are pleased to revel. However, we have recently had that delightful story, "Alice-for-Short," which counteracts a dozen of the fleshly abominations.



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