

Fine Groceries

The Quality of Royal Stores Groceries has always an unfailing guarantee, while the Special Prices now ruling make buying at the Royal Stores a doubly-wise economy.

KOPS' Non-Alcoholic WINES

Just arrived by S.S. Digby: Kops' Non-Alcoholic Wines.
Ginger Wine, Sherry Wine, Port Wine, Raisin Wine,
Orange Wine, Cherry Wine

70c. bot.

TURKEYS. GEESE.

California Oranges, per doz. 80c.
Valencia Oranges, per doz. 35c.
Tangerine Oranges, per doz. 80c.
Table Apples, per doz. . . . 45c.
Grapes, per lb. 30c.

DUCKS. CHICKEN.

Walnuts (New Crop) per lb. 40c.
Hazel Nuts (New Crop)—
per lb. 27c.
Brazil Nuts (New Crop)—
per lb. 27c.
Almond Nuts (New Crop)—
per lb. 30c.
Mixed Nuts (New Crop)
per lb. 32c.

"Royal Invincible" Cigars 25's—Per Box \$3.00.

Crystallized Nutty Fruits—
per box \$1.10
Crystallized Ginger Chips—
per lb. 90c.
Crystallized Pineapple Chips—
per lb. 90c.

Florde-Machado Cigars 25's—Per Box \$5.00.

Shelled Walnuts, per lb. . 80c.
Salted Peanuts, per lb. . 40c.
Roasted Peanuts, per lb. . 22c.

"Cremas" Cigars 25's—Per Box \$4.50.

Tunis Dates, per lb. . . 32c.
Turban Dates, per lb. . . 25c.
Elme Figs, Layers, per lb. .
Cream DeMenthe, per tin . 35c.
Turkish Delight, per pkt. . 35c.

"Bouquet" Cigars 25's—Per Box \$3.75.

Pascall's Butter Walnuts—
per tin 35c.
Pascall's Jordan Toffee—
per tin 35c.
Pascall's Devonshire Toffee—
per tin 35c.
Pascall's Butter Scotch—
per pkt. 30c.
Pascall's Everton Toffee—
16-oz. tin 50c.

Moirs' Cake 1's—Per Pkt. 60c.

Jacobs' Fancy Biscuits Per lb. 90c.

The Royal Stores, Ltd.

Grocery Department

dec28,th.s

An After-War Poison Mystery.

WHAT HAPPENED IN THE SEVEN-
TEENTH CENTURY—SORCE-
RESSES OF THE LOUIS
XIV. PERIOD.

By MAURICE THIERY.

Among nations, as among individuals, war is always followed by a period of unrest, marked by deeds of violence and offences against the moral law. The wave of crime and immorality which followed the great European war had a remarkable counterpart in the extraordinary series of murders which in the seventeenth century followed the wars of the Fronde. The husbands came home from the wars coarsened and brutalized and only too ready to exercise a tyranny to which the women, after their long period of freedom, were no less disinclined to submit.

REBELLIOUS WIVES.

To this conflict of passions is directly to be ascribed the outbreak of murder by poison which is unsurpassed in the annals of crime. These

rebellious wives, who were now prevented by the presence of their passions, began coolly to speculate as to how they could rid themselves of their importunate lords with the greatest secrecy and despatch. In those days, at any rate, there was no method so swift and so sure as poisoning.

In the preceding century Catharine de Medici had set the hideous example. She had brought with her from Florence her famous "perfumer," Rene Bianchi, who compounded those mysterious and deadly poisons which, gracefully and effectually, secured the translation to another sphere of all whom the Queen-mother desired to dismember herself. Were there not poisoned flowers, poisoned candles, poisoned books, poisoned gloves, poison in everything and in every place? And the doctors of the period were completely unable to distinguish between a death from poisoning and a death from natural causes.

THE SORCERESSES' OPPORTUNITY.

Poison, then, was the ideal means to rid oneself of an obnoxious fellow-creature, but where and from whom

was it to be obtained? At this point the all-powerful and redoubtable sorceresses enter the drama. In the seventeenth century pretty well all the world, both rich and poor, high and low, believed in the art of sorcery, and in shops and chambers of weird and fantastic appearance the sorceresses plied their art, offering to their numerous and often elegant clientele plants to cure every ill, "waters of youth" that would restore the bloom of adolescence to withered cheeks.

All this they did openly, and the police were aware of it. But the majority had a "shop parlour," to which only the initiate were admitted. Here the poisons and powders were all neatly ranged in phial and jar. Here was the recipe of the notorious Glaser—to wit, arsenic—and the terrible "inheritance powders," as they were suggestively designated. The trade was a brisk one. For more than twenty years dozens and dozens of poison had been done to death by people without the police having an inkling of it. Let us glance at some of the amazing facts on which the remarkable researches of M. Funch-

Sainte-Croix's sudden death led to the discovery of a host of compromising papers, of hidden powders, and phials of poison. The eyes of the police were at length opened, and they decided to lay hands on the Marquise. She, however, had got wind of their designs, and had sought safety in flight. At last they ran her to earth at Liege. She was tried at Paris and condemned to talk barefooted to Notre Dame, with a rope round her neck, there to ask the Divine pardon for her crimes. Afterwards she was to be taken to the Place de Greve to have her head cut off, her body burned, and her ashes flung to the wind. So courageously did she meet her death that many, looking upon her as a saint, gathered up the ashes of her pyre and treasured them as relics.

THE DISCOVERY.

It was not until three years after this sensational trial that the police discovered the notorious association of women who practised the combined arts of sorcery and poisoning. An obscure advocate, one Maitre Perrin, was dining one night at the house of a certain Mme. Vigoureux, the wife of a ladies' tailor, in com-

Brenano and M. Ravalsson have shed a new and important light.

THE MARQUISE DE BRINVILLIERS

The prologue—and it was a tragic one enough—to the "Affaire des Poisons" was the sensational trial and conviction of the Marquise de Brinvilliers. Young and beautiful, passionately devoted to pleasure, the Marquise, whose education on the moral side had been completely neglected, dragged about with her in her train a young and brilliant cavalier, Sainte-Croix by name, in whose company she frequented the gambling saloons, and whom Antoine d'Aubray, her scandalized father, had caused to be shut up for some time in the Bastille. As the pretty Marquise was forever wanting money, with which her husband was unable to provide her in sufficient quantities, she conceived a plan whereby she would enter as soon as possible into possession of the paternal inheritance, and at the same time avenge the slight put upon Sainte-Croix by her father. Accompanied by her lover, she paid numerous visits to the apothecary Glaser; and then, with her inseparable companion still at her side, she went to soothe and comfort the sick in the hospital. She brought them cakes and sweetmeats and wine, and the unhappy creatures over whose bed she hung like a ministering angel died, all of them, a few days afterwards in desperate agony.

KILLED HER FATHER AND BROTHERS.

Having by these "experiments" assured herself of the fatal efficiency of the poison, and of her own immunity from detection by the doctors, she took up her abode with her father, and began to administer the fatal drugs. The sufferings of the unhappy man lasted eight months, at the end of which period he died in unspeakable agony. In the course of the three following years, the Marquise, by similar means, killed her two brothers, the most notorious sorceress of the day, a woman called Monvoisin, more generally known as La Voisin. Her clientele consisted of the highest among the aristocracy, and she used to make anything between fifty and a hundred thousand francs a year. She had as friend and accomplice a magician called Lesage, who gave out that he was on intimate terms with Satan, a distinction which failed to preserve him from arrest. La Voisin's revelations were sensational, and panic spread throughout the whole of Paris. Everybody went in terror of being poisoned, and, as no one dared any longer to drink out of silver vessels, glasses were introduced, and henceforth their use became permanent.

Two hundred and forty-six persons were placed under arrest. In no long time exalted names began to be whispered abroad, and to occupy public attention. Amongst others there were the Princess de Tingry and her brother-in-law, the Marquis de Luxembourg, who were accused of being involved in mysterious poisoning affairs. Then there were the Comtesse de Roure and Mme. de Polignac, who, it was alleged, had attempted to poison Mlle. de Lavalliere in order to win the King's affection for themselves. There were Mazarin's nieces, who were Louis XIV's first loves.

CONDAMNED TO THE STAKE.

Meanwhile La Voisin was condemned to be burned at the stake. But, after her trial, Louvois, the austere Minister of War, went to interview La Voisin in her prison cell, and promised her that her life should be spared, as well as that of the magician Lesage, if both would make a complete confession of their guilt. These confessions were made, and the revelations were of an incredible nature, and the guilty party was the foremost woman of the kingdom, Mme. de Montespan, the King's mistress.

ATTEMPT ON THE KING.

At this point the lack of documents renders it impossible to achieve any historical certainty, but one thing is certain, and that is that Mme. de Montespan had been in communication both with La Voisin and with Lesage, whom she had begged to win for her the King's affections by means of magic potions. When she began to have cause for jealousy, the favourite went back again to La Voisin, who gave her certain powders which, she said, would restore the King's love for her. When the temporary passion of the King for the beautiful Henriette de Fontanges was at its height, Mme. de Montespan, consumed with jealousy, is alleged to have applied to La Voisin to furnish the means for compassing the death of her rival and of the King himself.

Wonderful Big Programme at the NICKEL Wed. & Thurs.

THE FIGHT OF THE AGE.

GEORGES CARPENTIER

VS

TED (KID) LEWIS

the idol of Europe boomed and hissed as he leaves the ring. Did Carpentier win on a foul? Was the referee holding Lewis hand? Three of the greatest boxers in the ring together. Every movement in the most talked of fight in years. All doubt questions answered by this picture.

"TORCHY A LA CARTE" a rip-roaring comedy with JOHNNY HINES. FRIDAY—KATHLEEN MACDONALD in "MY LADY'S LATCH KEY."

JESSE L. LASKY Presents

Wallace Reid

— IN —

"Too Much Speed!"

A story of love and racing cars and a dare-devil driver who proved a fast worker in both. Filled with the thrill-and-laugh-stuff that makes a moving picture move!

COMING—JACKIE COOGAN in "MY BOY."

returned to Paris with the purpose of going back to Saint Germain on the 13th March. She was arrested on Sunday, the 12th March. Learning of her arrest, Mme. de Montespan fled from the Court, and two years after, the Duchesse de Fontanges died a natural death at the age of twenty-two.

What took place between the King and Mme. de Montespan after these tragic revelations we shall never know. Louis XIV. had far too great a regard for his dignity to punish a mother of his seven children, whom he had legitimized. He did not wish her from the Court, but the beginning to make itself felt. Mme. de Montespan died in 1707, the odour of sanctity, the King uttered a single word of regret.

Morey's Coal is Good Coal!

In Stock, Best Grades of

North Sydney Screened, Scotch House-
hold and Anthracite

COAL.

M. MOREY & Co., Ltd.

ead.1f

RYLANDS BROS.

Warrington, England.

MAKERS OF HIGHEST GRADE

WIRE ROPE

— FOR —

HAWSERS.
ELEVATORS.

LOGGING.
RIGGING.

CARGO.

Wm. Heap & Co., Ltd.

Distributors.

TAILORING SERVICE!

From the booking of your measure, to the last of the garment, we are at your service. Each individual has his own selection, cutting and making. Any defect is remedied before leaving store. You are always at liberty to have your clothes kept in order and good repair. Added to this, you have a choice of a splendid and varied range in Suitings and Overcoatings. New goods always arriving. Our Fall and Winter style books to hand. Prices no higher than hand-me-downs.



John Maunder,
Tailor and Clothier, 231-233 Duckworth Street

BILLY'S UNCLE

"Things Aren't Always What They Seem."

By BEN BATSFORD

