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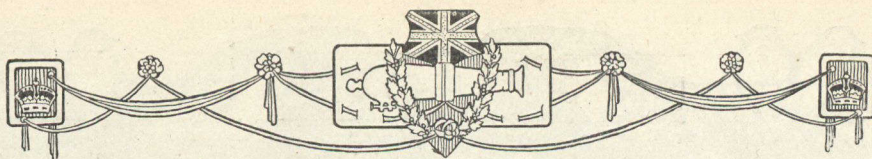
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BRITISH GOSSIP

THE public interest in the utterances of Father Bernard Vaughan is not on the wane. The sins of the smart set are not so heavily belaboured by the eloquent priest this season but fashionable congregations are still eager to embrace every opportunity of hearing their practices condemned. During the winter months, Father Vaughan spends most of his time in the East End, working among people whom even the police are reluctant to approach. The two extremes of society seem to be Father Vaughan's chosen hearers and are favoured with addresses of equal vigour. The story is told by an English weekly that, while standing beneath a famous picture of Henry VIII., he was asked what he would do if the original of the picture were to step down from the canvas.

"I should ask the ladies to leave the room," he replied. This bit of repartee, however, has been reported about several other celebrities, all of them clergymen.

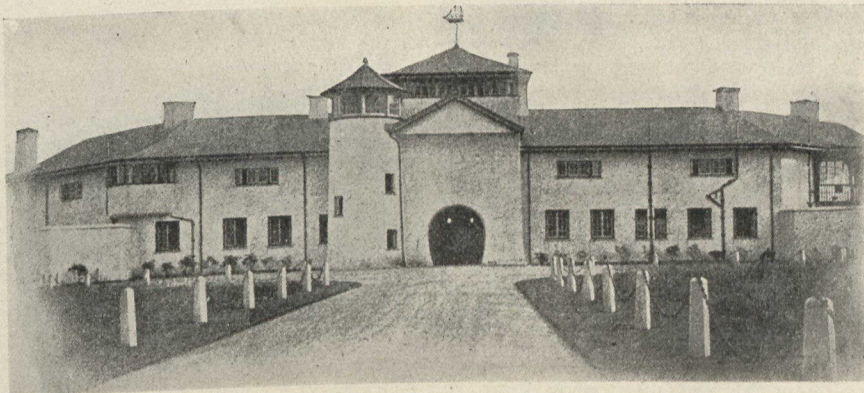
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THE suffragettes have nobly come forward once more to relieve the January days of the dullness which invariably follows the Christmas vacation. How easy it is, as a Bromide would remark, for a luxury to become a daily need! At first, the suffragettes seemed a trifle exotic, something hardly needed by the everyday household. But now life would be lonely without the ladies of the lifted voice. Five more of these worthy dames have been carried off in the arms of the stalwart guardians of the peace and consigned to lonely meditation. Poor Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman and unhappy Mr. Asquith! Their ways are strewn with fair demanders of votes and their carriages are blocked by bands of determined spinsters and matrons, while Mr. Arthur Balfour smiles a dreamy, gentle smile and blandly advises the suffragettes: "Remember you won't get what you want unless you ask for it."

* * *

IT appears that dramatised works of Dickens are having an unusual run in London. Mr. Tree has made the last venture with "Edwin Drood," as turned into a play by Mr. Comyns Carr. The great success several years ago of "The Only Way," the stage version of "The Tale of Two Cities," was due, perhaps, more to Mr. Martin Harvey's acting than to any surpassing dramatic virtue in the production itself. The last act was, of course, full of thrilling interest, but the rest of the play was awkward and mechanical. "Edwin Drood," because of its unfinished condition, has always had an attraction for those who like to embroider the work of others. The newspapers are not slow to hint that the witness at the Druce trial who endeavoured to drag in the name of the great novelist has contributed to making all mysteries singularly enticing for this dramatic season.

* * *



A "Motored" Grange in Hampshire.

The motor has long been an all-pervading influence of England's one-time stately homes. At last it has been fairly and squarely recognised that houses, must be architecturally adapted to its uses—that one's grange, to be enduring, must certainly be "motored." Above is a representation of such a house—that of Mrs. Walker Munro, at Milford, Hants. The central idea of the house is a garage, with suitable motor-entrance in place of the front door now almost as obsolete as pedestrianism itself.—The Bystander.

* * *

THE collapse of the Druce case, after the opening of the famous and disputed coffin, was prompt and complete. The announcement that certain spectacular witnesses are to be prosecuted for perjury is hardly likely to arouse half the interest which formerly centred around the claimants to a dukedom. Truly the Portland properties were tempting to any man who could persuade himself that his own grand-daddy was the fifth Duke in disguise. But the public seems to be satisfied that Druce of the Bazaar was what he appeared, a steady-going British merchant, and not an aristocrat playing tricks with his identity. So the nine days' wonder disappeared into the Druce coffin and will probably soon be forgotten. Nearly everyone who has read shilling shockers can persuade himself that he is rightful heir to an imposing castle and broad estates but the law has a cold, cruel way of demanding documentary evidence.

* * *

MR. WALTER WELLMAN'S trip by airship to the North Pole ended in bubbles, as August of 1907 proved unfriendly to such an undertaking. The latest expedition, in which the English public is deeply interested, takes a different direction. The "Nimrod," with Lieutenant Ernest Shackleton on board, sailed from Lyttleton, New Zealand, on January 1st, bound for the Antarctic. The crews of the Australian squadron, the "Prometheus," "Pegasus," "Pyramus," and the flagship "Powerful"—all under the supreme command of Admiral Sir Wilmot Fawkes, manned ship and cheered as the "Nimrod" passed, with the flag presented by Queen Alexandra flying at the fore. The most interesting feature of the equipment is a motor car of peculiar construction. Another novelty is the use of Manchurian ponies to drag the sledges instead of depending entirely upon dogs. Egg powder, beef extract, milk powder and dried vegetables afford tinned food to last many months. Lieutenant Shackleton hopes to return to New Zealand in April, 1909, the Discoverer of the South Pole.

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