

LONDON GOSSIP.

LONDON, Dec. 23rd, 1914.

QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S CHRISTMAS.

For so many years has it been Christmas at Sandringham that her decision to stay in London this year may well be misunderstood. Ill health might suggest itself as an explanation, but happily Her Majesty is perfectly well and has been busy over her Yuletide shopping. I saw her out walking on December 22nd, and she was as active and sprightly as usual. Nor Majesty from the neighborhood of the East Court. Her own explanation is all sufficient and does infinite credit to her kindness of heart. She has declared that she could not go away enjoying or entertaining while there is so much to do in London for "her poor people," including soldiers, sailors, and Belgian refugees.

SCHOOLBOY PRINCES.

Prince George, home from school at Sandringham for the holidays and the recipient of many handsome presents on his twelfth birthday, has much the same build as his two elder brothers, Prince Edward and Prince Albert, but he favors his younger brother, Prince John, more in the matter of disposition, being very high-spirited. It is generally believed that the career mapped out for him is one in the Navy. Though the Royal Christmas was spent very quietly, the presence of Prince Albert ensured that the young people in the Royal party were kept amused. The Prince, it is not generally known, is an excellent conjurer, and Queen Alexandra paid tribute to his powers by presenting him some time ago with a splendid box of tricks. Many of Prince Albert's best conjuring feats were learnt from Charles Petram, who performed when His Royal Highness was much younger, at Sandringham.

THE BELGIAN ARMY.

Good news it is to hear on reliable authority of the Belgian army's prospects. After its terrible trying time in the early days of the invasion of Belgium, the difficult and fatiguing march from Antwerp, and the very fierce fighting to which it was immediately called on the Yser, the Belgian field army has had a much needed rest. It was established for a time as part of the garrison of Paris. It is now in the field again doing the excellent service which one has come to expect of it. Reduced in numbers as it necessarily is, it now forms a valiant part of the forces which are reconquering Belgium yard by yard. Its youngest conscripts are training in France, and will go to the front in due time. It is being reinforced by a flood of new volunteers coming from wherever young Belgian men are to be found. Small parties of these volunteers are frequently to be met with as they pass through London. Cheerful they all seem as is their habit, and they are in agreeable contrast to some of the war-worn men, tired and troubled with rheumatism, whom one needed to meet after the retreat from Antwerp. Maintaining its superb national energy, the Belgian nation is building up afresh its military strength, and it would not be astonishing if the field forces were increased to something like its original numbers.

REBUILDING FRENCH FARMS.

A. E. Harvey, who is at the head of a party of architects, doctors and nurses endeavoring to alleviate physical suffering and lay the foundations of the work of reconstruction in the districts over which the battles have swept in the Marne, has sent home some interesting accounts of the work that is being done. Next to medical assistance what the peasants need most is some temporary shelter to replace their ruined homes. In the villages of Champguyon and Chatillon the architects have improvised several makeshift homes with planks and beams and a roof of tar-

red felt, with an angle of the standing walls as main support. In many cases, unfortunately, the walls are usually quite unsafe, and there is nothing for it but to demolish them and sort out any sound bricks for use when permanent rebuilding can begin. At every point there are serious difficulties. Labor, particularly skilled labor, is almost unobtainable, timber and felt are very scarce, and glass will probably have to be sent from England, for in France the supply is exhausted. And when the peasants are housed there still remains the urgent necessity of fighting agricultural implements and seed corn to enable them to regain the power of self-support.

RUSSIA'S CHANGED POINT OF VIEW.

A budget of newly arrived Russian papers—brought me by a friend whose presence in this country is itself of interest, as indicating that, while Germany is calling up her undrilled Landstrum, Russia has so far found no occasion to draw upon her second line of reserves, to which he belongs—affords many notable glimpses of the extent to which the war has modified the old internal feuds of the Russian Empire. The proclamation issued by the Polish National Committee, urging the Poles in all the three principalities to give their loyalty to Russia, has compelled the grateful acknowledgment not merely of the Liberal press, but of journals supported by Octobrists and Chauvinists and others who ranked as the most reactionary elements in the Duma. The ultra-Conservative "Novoye Vremya" finds it matter both for satisfaction and surprise that even before the proclamation was issued the Polish population was co-operating heartily with the Russian forces, notwithstanding the best efforts of the Germans to win the Poles to their side. The "Russkoye Solvo" lays stress upon the great future opened up when the Russian people learn to solve the Poles and recognize the identity of their interests. The "Bourse Gazette" sees in the proclamation of this new "Russo-Polish Alliance" a rainbow announcing "the coming of that happy day of which the two greatest poets of the two greatest Slav races—Pushkin and Michiewicz—dreamed in the days of their youth and made the theme of their secret night meetings and confidential talk." The proclamation has evidently given an impetus to the Russian press to discuss the Polish question more freely, and there is good reason to hope that the ultimate effect of the war will be to the advantage not of the Poles only, but of other peoples within the Russian sphere. It has been duly noted in Russia, though it has apparently escaped notice elsewhere, that the "Siberian regiments" which gave the first check to the Germans before Warsaw, consisted of Poles serving in Siberia.

THE WOMEN DOCTORS' CHANCE.

Although women's employment has been more severely affected by the war than that of men, there is one brilliant exception. Medical women are in demand as they have never been before. Hospitals whose doors have been closed to them are eagerly begging them to come forward and fill resident posts. Since the war women have obtained posts at the London Hospital, at the Samaritan Free, and at the London Temperance Hospital. Several other important hospitals such as the women's department of the Lock hospital and the National Hospital for Diseases of the Heart, are asking for women resident doctors. Almost all the Poor Law infirmaries in the country are willing to put one woman resident on their staffs. Public authorities are asking for women, both as assistant medical officers and school doctors. Private practitioners are constantly endeavoring to obtain women for partners, or as "locum" during their absence with the army. There is a shortage

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of men doctors quite apart from the demands made by the war, and a study of the entries during the last few years at the medical schools shows that in about three years the shortage will become acute, for as it takes many years to make a doctor, it is possible to gauge the maximum output at a given time several years in advance. One believes that after the war there must come a period of social reconstruction, and nowadays this means more medical work, usually of a preventive nature, and hence more doctors. The position of medical women has never, therefore, been so bright.

THE KNITTING FASHION.

In London alone there must be some hundreds of thousands of women who spend their leisure moments making woollen articles for the soldiers and sailors—stockings, mitts, belts, sleeping helmets, and other useful articles. This work is not confined to the home. In all public places where there are women—the theatres, concert rooms, lecture hall, trains, buses, and trams—the knitting needle is piled with a rare industry. It is not uncommon to see a half-finished sock or muffler dangling from the hands of a lady in a dress circle or box of a theatre. At a recent Albert Hall concert over 100 women set about their task while the orchestra played, and at a lecture on December 22nd, I counted 30 or 40 who divided their attention between the thread of the discourse and the mysteries of "purl and plain." The occupation of knitting in public has indeed become very fashionable, and more recruits for the great army of workers may be expected when the soldiers become experts under a hastily sought tuition.

CAN'T FIND DANDRUFF

Every bit of dandruff disappears after one or two applications of Danderrine rubbed well into the scalp with the finger tips. Get a 25-cent bottle of Danderrine at any drug store and save your hair. After a few applications you can't find a particle of dandruff or any falling hair, and the scalp will never itch.

U. S. APPRECIATE FRIENDLY SPIRIT OF NOTE.

Washington, Jan. 14.—In a note delivered to-day by Ambassador Page at London, Secretary Bryan acknowledged receipt of the preliminary reply of the British Government to the American note protesting against the treatment of neutral commerce by the British fleet. He expressed appreciation of the friendly spirit in which the communication had been received, and noted with satisfaction that the principles of international law set forth by the United States had been accepted.

Following is a paraphrase of the Secretary's note:

"The friendly spirit in which the British Government received the American note of December 26 is appreciated. No doubt is entertained by us that the cordial relations between the Governments will continue, pending diplomatic discussion. This Government notes with satisfaction that the principles of international law, as set forth in the American note, are accepted by His Majesty's Government. As the original note is being examined with care by the British Government with a view to replying further, and in detail, it would seem premature for me to make further answer at this time.

"It is the intention of this Government to consider, in connection with the further reply of the British Government, the points raised by Sir Edward Grey in connection with the preliminary answer."

MINARD'S LINIMENT CURES DIPHTHERIA.

Cracow.

By GEORGE FITCH.

Author of "At Good Old Sivas."

Cracow, which may have a "rich" or "skit" on the end of its name by the time this essay is published, is located squarely in the middle of the track in the present war with no facilities for climbing a tree.

It is in northeastern Austria, close to the German line, and is a fine, old city full of historic buildings, which, unlike the inhabitants, cannot be replaced when they get within range of a cannon. Around Cracow the history of Poland revolved and boiled and bubbled from the year 1000 until 1846 when Cracow was wiped out as an independent state. Independence was always Cracow's chief stock in trade and it defied Germany, Austria and Russia all together just before the extinguisher went down.

Cracow has about 100,000 people in healthy times, most of whom are Poles. It is situated on the Vistula river, is a railway, mining and trading metropolis and is the second largest city in Galicia. Most of the salt used by eastern Europe comes from the mines near Cracow, and much of the pepper in Polish history has been supplied by this plucky town.

Cracow has the second oldest university in Europe, 25 nunneries and monasteries, and a cathedral 600 years old, in which lie the remains of St. Stanislaus, Sobieski, Kosciuszko, and the other great Polish heroes who died for their country with so much vim and so little success. It also has two artificial hills, one erected in memory of Kosciuszko, and one built 1100 years ago in honor of Krakus, who built the town. Both hills are in an excellent state of preservation.

Cracow first burst into history in the 10th century when it was captured by the Bohemians. From that time on the city fought its way through the supposedly Christian era, getting captured regularly by Tartars, Bohemians, Austrians, French, Russians, Prussians and whoever happened to be passing that way. After each capture, however, it was rebuilt with great cheerfulness. Those modern cities which get hit in a supposedly vital spot by an earthquake, a fire or a hard time, and which fill the land with their mournings, should look at the history of Cracow and be content with their lot. In the sixteenth century, the thrifty Cracow or Cracattie, whatever they are called, used to build their houses with hinges so they could be knocked down with less damage.

FOR A BAD COLD

The surest way to stop a cold is to live the liver and cleanse the bowels, and the nicest cathartic to do this is a 10-cent box of Cascarets. Take one or two Cascarets to-night and your cold may be gone by morning.

Wireless From Paris to Warsaw.

The wireless station at the Eiffel Tower may be utilized to communicate with Russia from Paris, via British stations to the Mediterranean, instead of by way of German stations. But the Eiffel Tower, however, could easily get its messages to Petrograd direct, for it is the most powerful station on the Continent. The terrific "sparking" from its antennae, 1,000 feet above the ground, is so distinct that those conversant with the Morse code can read its time and weather reports in the streets of Paris without any instruments. But there is no powerful wireless station in Russia, and the round about way will be necessary. The British Government is building a station more than 500 ft. above sea-level in a remote part of Oxfordshire, which will have a dozen masts, each as high as St. Paul's Cathedral. This station will be able, it is anticipated, to get into direct communication with Egypt in the daytime, and possibly with India at night, when the ether is always a better carrier.



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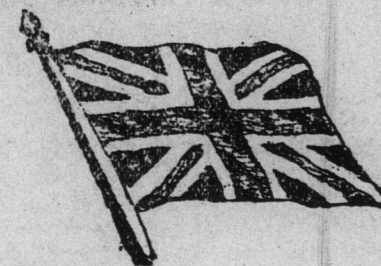
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