

MOTHER OF LARGE FAMILY

Recommends Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound to Other Mothers

Hemford, N. S.—"I am the mother of four children and I was so weak after my last baby came that I could not do my work and suffered for months until a friend induced me to try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. Since taking the 'Vegetable Compound' my weakness has left me and the pain in my back has gone. I tell all my friends who are troubled with female weakness to take Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, for I think it is the best medicine ever sold. You may advertise my letter."—Mrs. GEORGE I. CROUSE, Hemford, N. S.

My First Child

Glen Allen, Alabama.—"I have been greatly benefited by taking Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound for bearing-down feelings and pains. I was troubled in this way for nearly four years following the birth of my first child, and at times could hardly stand on my feet. A neighbor recommended the Vegetable Compound to me after I had taken doctor's medicines without much benefit. It has relieved my pains and gives me strength. I recommend it and give you permission to use my testimonial letter."—Mrs. IDA RYE, Glen Allen, Alabama.

Women who suffer should write to the Lydia E. Pinkham Medicine Co., Cobourg, Ontario, for a free copy of Lydia E. Pinkham's Private Text-Book upon "Ailments Peculiar to Women."

In Bavaria.

Finding paper marks no good to him, the editor of a weekly paper in a Bavarian town has announced to the public that he prefers to take his subscriptions kind. For a three months' subscription he is ready to receive six pounds of flour, a pound of butter or two dozen fresh eggs.

Industrious Ants.

Ants in South America are wonderfully industrious. They have been known to construct a tunnel three miles in length.

China.

China has the largest population in the world, with 428,000,000, and the largest area of any of the world's political divisions, 4,278,000 square miles.

Your Headaches A Warning

It is a dangerous habit to seek relief from headaches through drugs which deaden the pain but fail to remove its cause. Ninety per cent of the sick headaches and accompanying dizziness are a warning that inactive kidneys are leaving poison in your system. You need Gin Pills. A few doses will relieve the kidney congestion and banish the cause of your headaches. Thousands of people have won lasting benefit from Gin Pills. So can you!

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The Czarina and Rasputin

Dr. I. V. Hesen, the distinguished Russian publicist, who is at present in Berlin, is in possession of the complete letters of the ill-fated czarina to Nicholas II., and he says that they are the most sensational documents that have appeared in the last few years. The czar's answers are supposed to be in existence and they may be published later. Taken together they would give a clear enough history of Russia in the war if no other records were preserved. But the czarina's letters are most interesting from the personal side. What they tell indirectly about her own character and that of the czar and about Rasputin, the evil genius of the Romanoffs, and other powerful and sinister figures at the Russian Court, constitutes as sensational a story as any writer of fiction of the time has imagined.

Reading them one understands how impossible it would have been for Russia to stay in the war to the end and make a sustained contribution to it commensurate with her potential resources of man power. One pities the Russian people and soldiers who had for their king such a pitiful weakling as the czar, influenced by such a woman as the czarina, who was certainly not well balanced, and she in her turn being instructed by the coarse and ignorant libertine Rasputin. The suspicion that the monk was the center of some international military espionage organization is strengthened by some of the passages in the czarina's letters. He was angry if any important military decision was made without his knowledge. He insisted upon being kept informed as to what was going on at the front, and reports were made to him. It seems improbable that he could understand half of the information that thus reached him. Unless he was merely displaying his arrogance, it seems not unlikely that his information was passed on to quarters where it could be understood and valued.

Another character little heard of abroad appears frequently in the letters. That is Anna Vrubova, a young woman who was married to a naval officer, but soon divorced him. She was then presented by the czar with a little house near the Imperial Palace and between her and the czarina there grew up a mysterious friendship that has never been explained. The czarina appeared to be infatuated with the woman and showed jealousy of her. At the same time she was always thrusting her upon the notice of the czar. She was also a confidant of Rasputin's, and exerted influence in the highest court circles, having to her credit at least one cabinet appointment. She appears to have been a woman of abominable character and the czarina writes to the czar about her escapades, at the same time confessing her deep regard for her.

The intimate relations with the gross, drunken, debauched, filthy monk, Rasputin, with the imperial family, naturally led to rumors which reflected upon the czarina. But these appear to have been groundless. The czarina was probably a virtuous wife, although not the less likely on that account to bring about the ruin of her husband. She was a religious fanatic, and seemed to believe that by the mere expedient of burning an extra large candle or spending a few extra minutes in prayer, she could correct military reverses and throw back German armies. She was as superstitious as any peasant, and it was upon this weakness that Rasputin worked. He predicted that certain things would come to pass, and perhaps one out of ten would justify him. He would explain that the others had not occurred because they had not been prayed for with sufficient earnestness. Thus whatever happened he was always right.

In her letters the czarina speaks occasionally of the old man's fondness for wine, but his other debaucheries she passed over. The truth is that while Rasputin was so feared in Russia that women of the highest society were throwing themselves at his feet, he preferred the society of street walkers. As he rose to influence a horde of lesser scoundrels and harpies rose with him and cloaked by his name, plundered and blackmailed. Rasputin controlled the czarina, and to a great extent the czarina controlled the czar. The emperor meant well but when great decisions were to be made he turned to his wife for advice and she in turn consulted Rasputin the oracle. Whether he was deliberately planning the downfall of Russia or whether he was a mere half-lunatic, unaware of much that was going on, we do not know. In any event he had more to do with the downfall of Russia than any other person, and as such will be remembered in history.

Arab Fishermen.

The ordinary methods of hook and line do not appeal to the Arab fisherman, who likes to do things in the easiest possible manner. When he goes after fish he proceeds to ground-bait the river with a thick, sticky dough into which a quantity of opium has been mixed. Any fish that makes a meal of this is quickly stupefied and floats to the surface. The fisherman then mounts an inflated goat skin and goes out to collect his bag.

Musical Hoppers.

In Italy there is a regular business of making tiny wire cages for grasshoppers to chirrup in. The Italians believe that the grasshopper brings good luck, and that if one can be kept alive in a cage for a month the year will be prosperous.

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