

TO AUCTION R. L. S. TREASURE \* AMERICAN HOSPITALS SUPERIOR

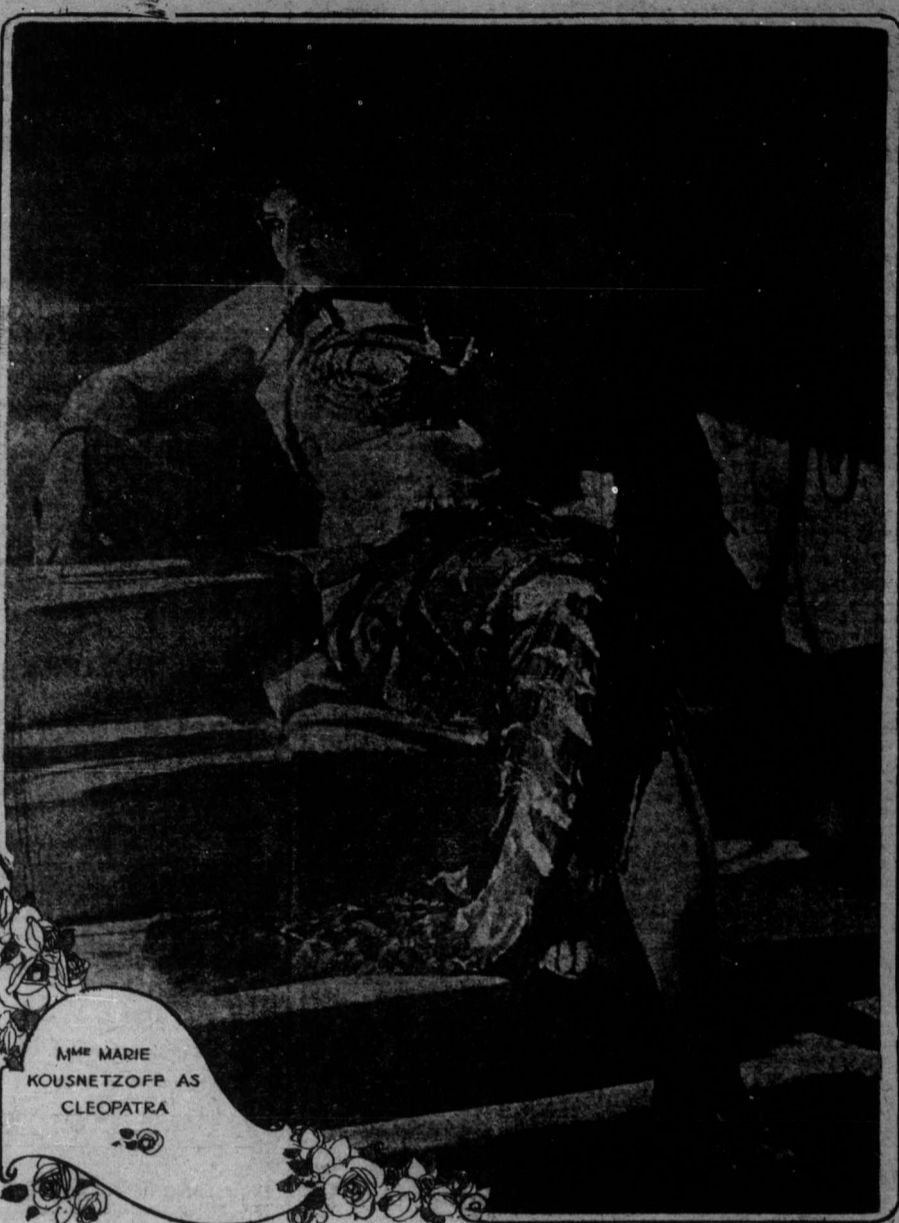
Rare Treat for Admirers of Robert Louis Stevenson

Autograph Letters and Portions of MSS. That Have Never Been Published Are To Be Sold to the Highest Bidder in London This Week.

INTERESTING BITS OF EARLY PHILOSOPHY

(Special Dispatch.) LONDON, July 13. OVERS of Robert Louis Stevenson have, in the sale at Sotheby's next Friday of a large number of autograph letters and manuscripts of his never before published, a treat that is likely to fill the salerooms to the limit. The earliest of the autograph notes is the following, written in the spring of 1873, when he was twenty-three, still a law student, and no more than literary tastes and all his literary life and adventure before him. "I think now, this 5th or 6th of April, 1873, that I can see my future life. I think it will run stiller and stiller, year by year, a very quiet, desultory, studious existence. If God only gives me tolerable health, I think now I shall be very happy, work and science calm the mind and stop gnawing in the brain, and as I am glad to say that I do not recognize that I shall never be a great man I may set myself peacefully on a smaller journey; but the hope of coming to the inn before nightfall. "O dass mein Leben. Nach diesem Ziel ein ewig wandeln sey!" In a letter of October, 1874, addressed to his mother, he refers to Mr. (now Sir) Sidney Colvin, whom he first met in the previous winter at Montrose, and also to a meeting at the Saville Club (now the London Club) a man named Markheim, whose name he has given to one of his most powerful short stories. "You must understand (I want to say this in a letter) that I shall be a nomad, more or less, until my days be done. I am not sure that I shall ever be a man, and you will see I shall pass more of my life with you than elsewhere; only, take me as I am, and give me link. I must be a bit of a vagabond! It's your own fault after all, isn't it? You shouldn't have had a tramp for a son!" Stevenson and Christianity. In a letter written to his father, from the Café de la Source, Boulevard St. Michel, Paris, February 15, 1878, he speaks of his attitude toward Christianity, the question which since his student days had clouded the deep attachment between them. "I have had some sharp lessons and some very acute sufferings in these last seven and twenty years; more than even you would guess; I begin to grow an old man; a little sharp, I fear, and a little close and unfriendly; but still I have a good heart and believe in myself and my fellowmen and the God who made me. I have my eye on a sickbed. \* \* \* Two years ago, I think I was as bad a man as was consistent with my character. And of all that has happened to me since then, I think I must receive the most benefit. Most of the direct and indirect influences, such as improved sanitation, better housing and greater prosperity, had full opportunity of proving their worth in this connection during that period of unexampled reformation which extended from the middle to the close of the last century. The death rate among adults continued to fall during this period in a way that falsified the preconceptions of statisticians. A Nevertheless the death rate of infants under one year of age remained at exactly the same figure during the last four years of the nineteenth century as it did between 1861 and 1865—namely, 155 per 1,000 births. The infantile death rate has steadily declined during the last fourteen years to the comparatively satisfactory one of about 95 in England. In London itself it has declined to 91. These striking results must clearly be due to some new influence not in operation before 1860. This decline in the death rate coincides with the very rapid development in English methods of teaching mothercraft to the poorer classes. The movement began in quite a small way with the establishment of health societies in various parts of the country, mainly in the North. Most of these health societies included in their programme some system of house to house visiting by health workers, who gave poor mothers instruction in the details of infant management. Marylebone, the first regular infant consultation, to which the mothers could bring their infants for expert medical supervision and examination, was founded in 1906. This consultation, working in conjunction with a fully equipped health society, and in closer association with the Public Health Department, performed such splendid services not only in instructing the mothers in the essentials of mothercraft, but also in educating a large staff of highly efficient health workers, that the movement rapidly extended throughout the country. Following this a number of societies, some calling themselves "schools for mothers," some "infant societies" and others "welfare centres" were opened in St. Pancras, Stepney, Reading, Birmingham and elsewhere. The existing societies were federated in 1909, under the aegis of the Central Society of Infant Consultations, known later as the Association of Infant Consultations and Schools for Mothers. This Central Association, which is an independent department of the National League for Physical Education and Improvement, has now more than 500 local branches. Its work is mainly concerned with the instruction of new mothers in the principles of sanitation, and in the propagation of mothercraft. It organizes mothercraft classes, in which the individual mothers attending participate, taking

THE SERPENT OF OLD NILE AS IMAGINED IN THE BIG PRODUCTION OF "CLEOPATRA"



Mme. Marie Kousnetzoff as Cleopatra. Mrs. Kousnetzoff is one of the prominent artists appearing during the present grand season of Russian opera, German opera and Russian ballet at Drury Lane, being seen, for instance, as Potiphar's wife in "La Legende de Joseph" and as Princess Yaroslava, wife of Igor, Prince of Severia, in "Prince Igor."

Hen Pheasants in Modern French England and Russia Cooperate

(Special Dispatch.) LONDON, July 13. HEN pheasants occasionally appear dressed in a plumage which resembles that of the cock pheasant to a greater or less degree. It is known that a transformation in sexual characters may take place, not as the bird grows up, but after it has passed through several seasons as a normal hen bird. A typical instance, a case investigated by Hunter, the founder of the Surgeons' Museum, is now on exhibition at the Royal College of Surgeons, Lincoln's Inn Fields. It is the case of a pea hen which had the following remarkable history:—She was "the favorite plied hen" of Lady Tynte and produced chickens right up to the age of eleven years, the lady and family were astounded by her displaying the feathers peculiar to the other sex, and appearing like a plied peacock. In the third year she did the same, and in addition had spurs resembling those of a cock. She never laid after this change in her plumage and died in the following winter during the hard frost in the year 1776-7. Biologists have recently realized that such cases provide them with opportunities of discovering the secrets which underlie the differentiation of sexes. "Medical men are also interested in such cases, for, although a direct transformation of sex has never been observed in a human being, yet cases of a somewhat similar nature do come under their notice. The investigations begun by John Hunt, a century and a half ago are being continued by the officers of the museum. There are at least three kinds of "male" pheasant—the term "male" being the one used by sportsmen to denote birds of uncertain sex. The common "male" pheasant is a hen bird which, like Lady Tynte's plied hen, begins, in old age, to assume the plumage and characters of the cock. The reproductive glands in such birds are found to have atrophied, lost the structure natural to the female, and in some cases taken on an imperfect male character. The changes in the external appearance of the "male" pheasant are, it is believed, secondary to the alteration in the reproductive glands. In a very rare class the "male" pheasant represents a male assuming the female plumage. Such cases have been recorded recently by Professors Shattock and Johnson and by Dr. Hammond Smith. A "male" pheasant sent from Banbury, represents a new or third class—one in which the sexual disorder is congenital. In such birds the reproductive system is found to be in a state of arrested development and they are really neuter.

American Surgeons' Paris Trip Seen by Colleagues

Foreign Visitors to French Hospitals Are Likely To Be Disappointed, Except in the Matter of the Absolute Impartiality Shown All Applicants for Treatment.

FRENCH NURSES ARE INFERIOR TO AMERICAN

(Special Dispatch.) PARIS, July 13, 1914. AMERICAN surgeons to the number of 131, who are making a tour of Europe to study surgical methods and the progress the Old World has made in surgery, began their tour in Paris, where many of them were interviewed by your correspondent in order to record some of their impressions. These impressions, indeed, are very interesting to read, for surgery has arrived at a high pitch of perfection in America, and numerous French surgeons frequently go to the United States with a view to becoming acquainted with the latest methods invented by American surgeons, who justly enjoy a great reputation for bold and skilful operations. When foreign medical men come to Paris, French doctors cannot always show them medical and surgical installations as perfect as their own. Many of the Paris hospitals are very old, and their equipment is sometimes not all that may be desired. But there are also some modern, up-to-date buildings, which may rank with the best to be found abroad. Grade of Hospitals. It may be asked why it is that in a city like Paris, despite the enormous expenditure of the Assistance Publique, amounting to upward of seventy million francs a year, there are still many hospitals of an inferior grade. The immediate reply to this question is that the present situation is merely a transitional one, and that as far as resources allow new hospitals are being built, while those that do not come up to the modern standard are being closed. It is, therefore, only a question of time, and not of indifference or negligence. Nevertheless, although the new hospitals have made a vital impression on the American surgeons, they have not been sparing of their criticisms of the old ones, which it must be admitted are not worthy of praise. It is also true, as one of the surgeons remarked, that there is a great difference between the American hospital nurses and the French. The former are undoubtedly superior. But as regards French nurses, improvement is again only a question of time. Mr. Meaurio, director of the Assistance Publique, has formed at the Salpêtrière a school for nurses, which now supplies a well-trained personnel. These nurses will gradually replace those of the older type, who, however devoted they may be, are not always sufficiently well educated to be perfectly equal to their duties. Status of Nurses. On the other hand, American nurses are generally drawn from a higher social grade than the French nurses. In this direction, too, the situation is improving. The nurses of the new school, being better trained and more highly educated, are valuable aids for the doctors and surgeons. Dr. Andrews was surprised to find that in the Paris hospitals there are no wards reserved for patients able to pay for them, as is the case in America. But the fundamental idea of a hospital is quite different in France from that in America. The French medical syndicates insist that hospitals shall be exclusively reserved for the necessitous, and to achieve this result they have conducted numerous campaigns, which have contributed to the maintenance of the present situation. There are very few isolation wards in Paris hospitals, and in the majority of cases patients paying about six francs a day are accommodated in the wards common to all. Accordingly, wealthy persons who are attacked by contagious diseases or who are obliged to undergo operations, and who in America would not hesitate to go to the hospital, where they find very comfortable rooms, never entertain the idea of doing so in France. Questions of Treatment. It is certain that if French hospitals had comfortable rooms, where well-to-do patients might come for treatment the situation would be completely changed. And so a change would also benefit the poorer patients, since the money contributed by paying patients for maintenance and treatment would proportionately diminish the demands made on the Assistance Publique for the treatment of indigent persons. Consequently these funds would be available for the improvement of the hospitals and also for the treatment of a greater number of necessitous cases. One of the defects of French hospitals depends entirely on the Assistance Publique and have a self-governing power. Many people think that it would be better for each hospital to control its own affairs, so that it might receive donations especially contributed for the sole use and that it might be governed by wealthy and charitable persons of the district, who would take a special interest in a hospital dependent on them and placed, to some extent at least, under their responsibility. The American surgeons appear to have been struck by what has been done in France to combat tuberculosis. As a matter of fact, there are some very remarkable installations for this purpose in Paris. These include the anti-tuberculous dispensaries and offices. The dispensary, of which the typical one is the Léon Bourgeois dispensary, are especially devoted to combating tuberculosis. They undertake the treatment of patients who apply to them and also direct them either to a sanatorium or to a special hospital, tuberculosis patients and those bearing in mind the fact that the anti-tuberculous office of the type attached to the Beaujon Hospital. There attention is devoted to warding off tuberculosis and to its treatment, and not only is the severely tuberculous patient placed in a special institution, but in addition care is taken to help not merely the tuberculous patient himself, but also the family of which he is a breadwinner and which his illness prevents him from maintaining in comfort. This office is also a real information agency, where any one who is interested in some particular patient may obtain precise details as to what is the best thing to do for him. These dispensaries and offices have rendered very great services. They might well be generally adopted not only throughout the rest of France, but also in other countries. The two Senators, Mr. Léon Bourgeois and Mr. Paul Strauss, have just introduced into the Senate a bill whose express purpose is to provide for the general adoption of such a scheme. In conclusion, it may be stated that the visit of the American surgeons to Paris has been of benefit both to them and to their hosts. They have seen that, although certain of the French hospital equipments are much inferior to their own, there are also some organizations in Paris of which they might take advantage. In addition they have rendered a service to the Paris doctors and surgeons, who have learned in conversation with their American colleagues something of the progress realized by the latter. Such an exchange of impressions is certainly beneficial to both countries.

Influence of Modern Schools on Mortality

Marked Decrease in Deaths Among Children Since Mothers Accepted Authoritative Guidance.

(Special Dispatch.) LONDON, July 13. INFANT mortality in England has decreased to a gratifying extent since the establishment of schools for mothers. It is, perhaps, not fair to attribute the decrease to these schools are entirely responsible for the improvement. It is certain, however, that their share has been no inconsiderable one. Most of the direct and indirect influences, such as improved sanitation, better housing and greater prosperity, had full opportunity of proving their worth in this connection during that period of unexampled reformation which extended from the middle to the close of the last century. The death rate among adults continued to fall during this period in a way that falsified the preconceptions of statisticians. A Nevertheless the death rate of infants under one year of age remained at exactly the same figure during the last four years of the nineteenth century as it did between 1861 and 1865—namely, 155 per 1,000 births. The infantile death rate has steadily declined during the last fourteen years to the comparatively satisfactory one of about 95 in England. In London itself it has declined to 91. These striking results must clearly be due to some new influence not in operation before 1860. This decline in the death rate coincides with the very rapid development in English methods of teaching mothercraft to the poorer classes. The movement began in quite a small way with the establishment of health societies in various parts of the country, mainly in the North. Most of these health societies included in their programme some system of house to house visiting by health workers, who gave poor mothers instruction in the details of infant management. Marylebone, the first regular infant consultation, to which the mothers could bring their infants for expert medical supervision and examination, was founded in 1906. This consultation, working in conjunction with a fully equipped health society, and in closer association with the Public Health Department, performed such splendid services not only in instructing the mothers in the essentials of mothercraft, but also in educating a large staff of highly efficient health workers, that the movement rapidly extended throughout the country. Following this a number of societies, some calling themselves "schools for mothers," some "infant societies" and others "welfare centres" were opened in St. Pancras, Stepney, Reading, Birmingham and elsewhere. The existing societies were federated in 1909, under the aegis of the Central Society of Infant Consultations, known later as the Association of Infant Consultations and Schools for Mothers. This Central Association, which is an independent department of the National League for Physical Education and Improvement, has now more than 500 local branches. Its work is mainly concerned with the instruction of new mothers in the principles of sanitation, and in the propagation of mothercraft. It organizes mothercraft classes, in which the individual mothers attending participate, taking

NO OBJECTION TO TUNNEL

(Special Dispatch.) LONDON, July 13. IT is hoped that a decision will soon be reached in the matter of a tunnel between France and England. Lord Sydenham of Combe, who was a soldier of distinction and Governor of Victoria and Bombay, said before a committee of the House that the measure of precaution to be taken might be summarized as follows:—Means of holding up any train for examination; means of flooding a dip in the tunnel situated from each of two independent forts; forts to command the exits from the tunnel with guns which could not be silenced from the sea, and exposure of portions of line to fire from the sea. To these might be added, if the old women of both sexes so desired, provision of mines situated from either or both forts for destroying the viaduct, and provision of mines situated from either fort for blowing in the crown of the tunnel. Lord Sydenham said that if England had to send forces to France, Belgium or Holland the tunnel would be of enormous importance. There were no valid military objections to the scheme. General Sir Ivor Herbert, M. P., said that the fetter of the silver streak was only valuable if it developed a little and really looked upon it as a symbol and emblem of sea power. Sea power, he said, was what England must depend on, and the command not only of the "silver streak" but of the whole ocean would be as necessary after the creation of the tunnel as it was to-day. Sir William Bull, M. P., after remarking that he was convinced that public opinion was distinctly in favor of the Channel tunnel, said they were waiting for Mr. Asquith to give the decision of the Committee of National Defence.

WHERE SHALL GIRLS LUNCH?

(Special Dispatch.) LONDON, July 13, 1914. BECAUSE of the scarcity of good clean restaurants where working girls may lunch at a moderate price, conferences are being held to discuss the formation of an association of working girls' restaurants and dinner clubs. There are to-day in London twenty-nine dining rooms for working girls, most of them established as part of the activities of institutes, clubs or societies. Many of the factory girls have no facilities for proper meals. They leave the luncheon they have brought with them in ill-smelling cellophane during the morning and eat them in hole and corner fashion in the workrooms or in the street. The women and girls' Dinner Hour Club was reorganized a year ago for the benefit of workers in the Kingsway locality. A substantial five penny lunch is served in a big room sunny and cool. Here is a sample menu:—Entrée—Roast mutton, cold lamb and mint sauce and salad, steak pie, minced beef, potatoes, cabbage, haricots verts, Swiss chard, sweet pudding with syrup or jam, stewed figs, lemon tart. For the uniform of dress, two vegetables and sweet (pudding, fruit, or pastry) are served, or meat, two vegetables and cup of tea and biscuits, and the daily menu is well varied. A club subscription of twopenny a month is paid and there are at the moment about 130 on the books. The average daily luncheon or dinner served being about one hundred. For this club subscription there is the use from noon until five o'clock, Saturdays and Sundays excepted, of a pleasant club room on the second floor with easy chairs, a piano, library, papers and games. Many social evenings are also arranged in connection with the club. The club members are junior typists, cashiers and shop assistants. Few Knows Everything. One of our regulars—Miss Paw, what a word of attachment!—is a Paw—a love letter, and so on.