

LONDON'S EYESIGHT.

Practically one-third of the Londoners who present themselves for enlistment in the territorial force, according to Col. H. S. Caldicott, have to be rejected owing to some physical defect—generally one of vision. The possibility of vision defects being on the increase in London was discussed yesterday by a number of well-known oculists, who drew their conclusions from their private work as well as from their experiences in some of the great London hospitals. "Whether there is an actual increase in the number with defective vision it is impossible to state with accuracy," said one doctor, "but there is no doubt that one treats many more eye cases in general hospitals than formerly. Our methods of examination are much stricter, the result being that many people appear in the list of defectives who would have been passed as normal 20 years ago. Speaking from personal experience of 20 years' work in the eye department of a large hospital in London, I do not believe that the eyesight of the average hospital patient is getting worse." Another ophthalmic surgeon was less optimistic. "The general physique of the subject and the stock from which he springs are a great factor in determining the quality of his eyesight." Prof. Karl Pearson's "Inheritance of Vision," published last March, showed that "ad slight very frequently comes from heredity, and is hereditary in the nation's sight appears to me to depend not on the amount of schooling the children get, on overcrowding, city employment, or country employment, but to hinge largely on the much more important and far-reaching question, of physique and stock, improving or degenerating."—London Mail.

COMMON DOOM FOR TWO ROYAL SISTERS

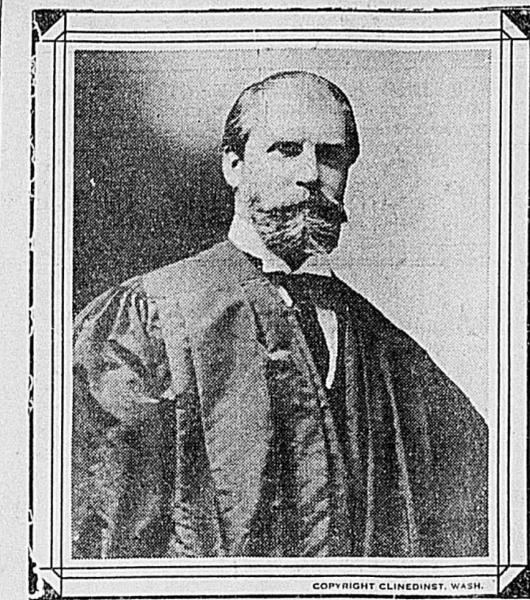
(Continued from Page Seventeen.)

Join the Greek Orthodox church; and even when she did join, her change seemed a mere formality. Immediately after Serge's death came the once frivolous and worldly princess spent all day on her knees in prayer and ecstasy; and at last came to the decision to devote the rest of her life to religious aims. The report published last spring describing the duchess as becoming a nun, but these were not true. The grand duchess' idea was to revive an antique Russian institution known as "Habitat" for the furthering of charitable work. It was to be carried on by sisters, who should promise to live only for good works, but should not take for religious vows. The "Habitat" of Mary and Martha, as it is called, has lately been opened in the Bolshaya Ordulnka street in Moscow. The ceremony of dedication was a grand affair. The central figure was the grand duchess herself. With her were the princesses Shakovskoi and Obolenskii, two young and beautiful girls, belonging to the highest aristocracy. The central figure was the grand duchess herself. With her were the princesses Shakovskoi and Obolenskii, two young and beautiful girls, belonging to the highest aristocracy. The central figure was the grand duchess herself. With her were the princesses Shakovskoi and Obolenskii, two young and beautiful girls, belonging to the highest aristocracy.

CIVIL WAR VETERANS TOGETHER IN LONDON

(Continued from Page Seventeen.)

could for themselves. In a few days they were safely removed to another district. Cleggatt is greatly respected by his brother veterans for his wonderful command of English and his knowledge of consular red tape—he has the details of the U. S. pension office at his finger tips. JULIUS OSTMANN. Saved fifty-eight lives. Acting-Ensign Maurice Wagg, another member of the association, received a medal of honor for "gallant and meritorious work" on that night of December 19, 1862, when the Monitor, first ironclad, foundered. Ensign Wagg was a coxswain on board the U. S. S. Rhode Island. When the Monitor foundered he put off three times in a long while only four hands, and in the face of the most appalling dangers saved 58 lives. The third time he was left stranded in the boat and was not picked up till the following afternoon. Mr. Walker of the Fifth Maryland volunteers enjoys a peculiar distinction. When Gen. Lee surrendered Richmond there was some difficulty, owing to a fog, in finding the general, who the rebel flag had been seen. A dog of whisky and \$5 was offered to the man who would climb up and pull it down. Walker promptly won the prize. The Stars and Stripes was run up, and the Civil war had come to an end.



JUSTICE CHARLES E. HUGHES

The first picture of Justice Charles E. Hughes in his robes of office.

fare to attend the society's meetings. Since the consulate is not empowered to give money for this purpose, it is to be hoped that some generous patriot will contribute enough to keep this commendable society together. The only compulsory expense to a member is the entrance fee of 25c. Later the society hopes to have a fund to defray the expenses of sick veterans and for honoring the remains of deceased comrades. WALTER ROLLINS.

LADY WARWICK TIRES OF HER ASSOCIATES

(Continued from Page Seventeen.)

When Miss Jennie Lee was on tour with the dramatized version of "Bleak House," she met with an amusing experience. One night she was in the midst of the long and harrowing death scene of poor Joe. The stage was darkened and the limelight illuminated the pale features of the death-stricken boy. People were sobbing all over the house. Suddenly, to her consternation, Miss Lee heard the limelight man addressing her in a brassy Scotch whisper, audible to half the house. "Dee quick, Miss Lee—dee quick!" he roared softly. "The limelight's gaen out!" She did it "quick," but it was for the purpose of making a speech to that limelight man which he said he would never forget.—Detroit Free Press.

SHE DIED "QUICK."

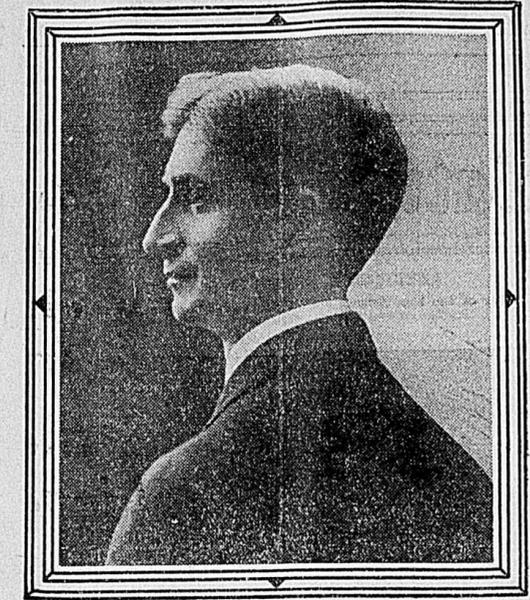
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DEVOTED WIFE.

Mrs. Joseph Chamberlain remains the devoted wife and nurse of her great statesman who is her husband. He is never happy if she is out of his sight for a moment. She is beginning to show signs of her long term of nursing, but she assures all her friends she is "perfectly happy" and that her only trial would be were anything to happen to "Joe." It is said that some day Mrs. Chamberlain will enter an American sisterhood; she is very devout and is a constant visitor at a well-known convent near Epsom. Most of her private income she gives to charity but in the most unostentatious manner. The agents who dispense it have strictest instructions never to reveal whence it comes. Her friends have ceased to invite her out now, so persistent does she decline all their invitations. Ever since she has been married she has written twice each week to her mother, never missing a mail no matter where she is.

UNDER PARRAGUT.

"I remember Farragut," he said, "and served with him on the battleship Delaware in 1860, when he was first lieutenant. He was a smart officer and good to his men. The next time I saw him was when he was commanding the expedition against New Orleans, at the beginning of the Civil war. I was quartermaster on a mortar boat in that expedition. At the time the famous Merrimac attacked the Federal fleet, sinking the Cumberland and blowing up the Congress, Mr. Munro was acting as quartermaster on the latter frigate. 'We were by the Starbuck Point' he says, 'when about 1 o'clock we saw the Merrimac come steaming down the James River. She was unlike any ship I had ever seen before. She was covered all over with iron plates, which sloped up like the roof of a house. Her bows projected in two points into sharp rams where two large guns peeped out through the plating. She took no notice of us on the Confederates but steamed straight for the Cumberland which was lying alongside us. We opened fire on her with our big Dahlgren guns, but the shells glanced off her iron sides like hail from an iron roof. The Merrimac steered straight for the Cumberland and rammed her twice. The Cumberland immediately began to sink, but she continued to fire at her terrible assailant until the water began to come into her port-holes. Her commander refused to strike his flag and she sank about 3 o'clock. When the Merrimac turned on us in the Congress, we fought as long as she could keep afloat but the big shells cut us up terribly and we could make no impression on the Merrimac's iron sides. When the ship was sinking the commander surrendered; the officers were taken prisoners and we men were allowed to get ashore as best we could."



FRANK O. WATTS.

The new president of the American Bankers' Association.

CLOTH MADE OF SEA WEED

Seaweed cloth is an Australian textile. From Melbourne comes the news of a marine plant which the learned term Posidonia australis. Spencer gulf contains millions of tons of material of which the fibers of posidonia constitute a great part. The properties of these fibers enable them to be used in numerous ways. They may be spun and woven by mixing them with wool. Experiments made in the large Australian woolen factories have demonstrated that they take dye almost as well as wool itself, which is not the case with any other textile of vegetable origin, and which makes their utilization possible in the manufacture of large carpets or rugs. The fibers of posidonia do not take fire until in the neighborhood of 375 degrees F. They are as good as hemp for calking vessels and may be of great value in making bags for the transportation of coffee, wool or cotton.

Numerous soundings in Spencer gulf have proved that the deposit is extensive, for it has been accumulating for centuries under the surface, and sometimes at a slightly greater depth. It reaches a thickness varying from four to 12 feet. The fibers have been extracted by the action of wind and waves in a mass of the sand, shells, clay and calcareous matter. They are intimately mingled with all these substances, holding them together like a web. The lower strata are of better quality than the upper, for the latter contain decaying roots of the more recent vegetation. But below two feet the fiber is of much clearer color even while mixed with layers of earth. Specimens of the best quality for industrial use have been gathered in layers covered with two to 10 feet of water. The mass of sand, shells, clay and lime mixed with fibers is easily worked, so that the extraction of the textile substance does not appreciably increase the cost.

THE REMARKABLE CASE OF WILLIAM KEMBLE

Kemble had awakened, as it were, from sleep, raised himself up, and called for his messmates in particular, and those men who were not on duty, to attend to his words. He told them he had experienced death, but was allowed a short space of time to return, and give them as well as the officers some directions for their future conduct in life. In this situation I found him surrounded by the crew, all mute with astonishment, and paying the most serious attention to every word that escaped from his lips. The oldest men were in tears, not a dry eye was to be seen, or a whisper heard; all was as solemn and as silent as the grave. His whole body was as cold as death could make it, there was no pulsation in the

wrists, the temples or the chest perceptible, his voice was clear and powerful, animated. After a short and pertinent address to the medical gentlemen, he brought Commodore Rodgers to him, as he had something to say to him, and he finally left us. The Commodore presented to go with me, while a scene was presented, truly novel and strange, the use of those who are assigned to their beds by illness, supported by the surgeons, surrounded by the curious and astonished spectators, a crowd of work which enclosed the room, a common Japanese lamp throwing out a sickly light, and a candle held opposite a face by an attendant, was the situation of things, when our was the commander made his appearance; and concludes to remember the effect produced when followed by the utterance of these words from the mouth of one long supposed to have been dead. "Commodore Rodgers, I have sent for you, sir, being commissioned by a higher power to address you for a short time and to deliver the message entrusted to me, when I was permitted to revisit the earth. I am now one of the world of spirits—I am not permitted to make known what I have beheld; indeed, were I not forbidden, language would be inadequate to the task; 'tis enough for you and the crew to know that I have been sent back to earth, to re-animate for a few hours my lifeless body, commissioned by God, to perform the work I am now doing."—Galliard Hunt, from the MS. of William Turk, surgeon, in the Library of Congress, reprinted in Harper's Weekly.

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REGAL PILGRIM.

The feature of the grand duchess's conversion which excited the most comment is the fact that she combines religious humility with tremendous pomp and ceremony. At present the grand duchess is on a series of prolonged visits to all the most famous monasteries and shrines in the empire. Never did pilgrim travel with such royal state. In the special train travel a whole host of courtiers, aides-de-camp, and high ecclesiastics. The procedure is to visit the monasteries, hear divine service in the local chapel, adore the saints in the and whirl away by special train to the next monastery. All Russia is put to work to make the pilgrim's progress easy. Governors and all the high officials meet the train, bearing no impression to mend the roads; and order temporarily resigns everywhere. The grand duchess probably does not realize what her religious exaltation costs. The wording of the prayers which she sends to bishops and monastery archbishops shows how absorbed she is in her devotions. At Ufa in East Russia she joined a religious procession, and paraded in carrying a heavy "ikon" or image through the streets. On arriving at another monastery, she telegraphed to the bishop of Ufa expressing joy at "the undesired glory of being allowed to carry the miraculous ikon." At the convent of John the Baptist near Pskoff, she lay an hour before an image and went, "The religious life," she said to a party of school children, "is the only one worth living. It is my misfortune that I learned that too late; and it is your good fortune that you have learned it today." And to reinforce her confession of faith, she carried off three little girls for the Moscow "Obitel."

HER NEWEST INTEREST.

Missionary work is the grand duchess's newest interest. Ordinarily the Russian Orthodox church does not concern itself much with the conversion of the heathen, but there are active missions in the Volga provinces, which are largely inhabited by Mohammedan Tartars, and even by heathen, such as the Tchuvashes who are the descendants of the old Shaman fire-worshippers. In this district the grand duchess addressed a Mohammedan village, and implored the villagers to come over to the Christian faith. She subscribed \$50,000 to a missionary union. The vast sums spent on these pious journeys are, of course,

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and gently reared, women will find in all the seasons of their lives, as maidens, wives and mothers, that the one simple, wholesome laxative remedy, which acts gently and pleasantly and naturally and which may be taken at any time, when the system needs a laxative, with perfect safety and really beneficial effects, is Syrup of Figs and Elixr of Senna. It has that true delicacy of flavor which is so refreshing to the taste, that working and grateful toning to the stomach which responds so favorably to its action and the laxative effect which is so beneficial to the system when, occasionally, its gentle cleansing is required. The genuine, always bearing the name of the California Fig Syrup Co., may be purchased from all leading druggists in original packages of one size only, price fifty cents per bottle.

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MONITOR AND MERRIMAC.

"The next morning I saw the arrival of the Monitor from New York. In outward appearance she looked like a battleship. She was in the water and carried two big guns in her turret. The Monitor and the Merrimac pounded away at each other for two or three hours at very close range without doing each other much harm. Finally the Monitor planted a shell that made a big hole in the port side of the Merrimac and the confederate ship steamed away to Norfolk. If it had not been for the arrival of the Monitor, the Merrimac and the other vessels of the northern fleet would have been destroyed inevitably." "We were by the Starbuck Point" he says, "when about 1 o'clock we saw the Merrimac come steaming down the James River. She was unlike any ship I had ever seen before. She was covered all over with iron plates, which sloped up like the roof of a house. Her bows projected in two points into sharp rams where two large guns peeped out through the plating. She took no notice of us on the Confederates but steamed straight for the Cumberland which was lying alongside us. We opened fire on her with our big Dahlgren guns, but the shells glanced off her iron sides like hail from an iron roof. The Merrimac steered straight for the Cumberland and rammed her twice. The Cumberland immediately began to sink, but she continued to fire at her terrible assailant until the water began to come into her port-holes. Her commander refused to strike his flag and she sank about 3 o'clock. When the Merrimac turned on us in the Congress, we fought as long as she could keep afloat but the big shells cut us up terribly and we could make no impression on the Merrimac's iron sides. When the ship was sinking the commander surrendered; the officers were taken prisoners and we men were allowed to get ashore as best we could."

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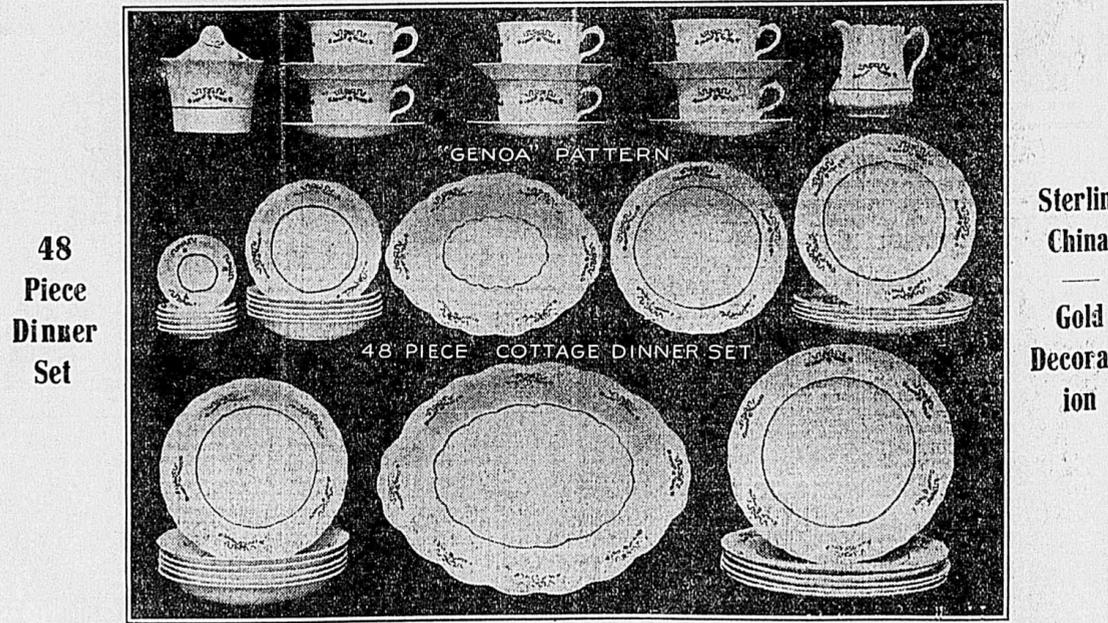
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