

NEWS NOTES.

We do not necessarily endorse the opinions of our correspondents in the following notes.

SHAKESPEARE MEMORIAL FOR LONDON.

A provisional committee has been formed for the carrying out of a scheme to raise a worthy memorial to the memory of Shakespeare on some prominent site in London. The proposal is to build a monument to the poet in the grounds of the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, the work of Lord Ronald Sutherland Gower, should be kept in view. It would be fitting to have some artistic connection between the monument to the poet's native town and any monument to his memory placed in the capital of his native country.

THE LAW'S DELAYS.

On the subject of the law's delays a correspondent writes his experiences. A writ against a provincial paper was issued in January last. Set down for trial somewhere in March or April, he was warned in May that the case was "only six out of the hundred." The solicitor immediately started bringing witnesses from various long distances in the country. This waiting about went on until July. During July they were kept hanging round, expecting to be in the list every day. At the beginning of August, without any notification whatever, some of the judges had to go on circuit, and the remainder took non-jury cases. Further hanging about went on till the Long Vacation, by which time two witnesses to fact were dead. "So, after 12 months' litigation, I found myself with a large expenditure, out of pocket, and valuable time lost." Tired of weary waiting, an amicable arrangement as regards costs and a personal explanation in court finally settled the matter.

MY NAME IS NORVAL.

Sir Henry Irving told an amusing story on Sunday night in his speech at the Bessie Club in Manchester. When he was a young actor, and a member of the stock company in that city, a player accused him one night with this question: "You played Young Norval this evening, didn't you?" "Yes," he replied. "Well, you were only 10 years old at home," said the player, "and I'd give him a kicking if he couldn't spout 'My name is Norval' better than you did." Sir Henry added that he was quite sure the boy never deserved that kicking.

COMMONS VOTING.

Sir John Glynne's statement that he has always been independent and has "never walked into any lobby following the index finger of a Whip" is a somewhat novel statement. As a rule the debating chamber is almost deserted, but when the division bell rings, members stream in from the terrace, the smoking rooms, the library, and the corridors. Most of them have no idea of the issue on which they are about to vote, and either point to the lobby they men are to enter, or guide them vocally by calling out "Aye" or "No," as the case may be.

HOW M.P.'S KEEP FIT.

The exhibition of rifle shooting with which Mr. Marshall Hall, M.P., has been entertaining his constituents at the Royal Albert Hall, is the first among members of Parliament in this particular sport. Other "champions" of the House are Sir Charles Dilke and Mr. Reginald McKenna, who are well-known marksmen, the former being equally skilled with the golf. Mr. Percy Thornton was a champion half-miler in his day. Mr. Hayes Fisher an amateur expert of repute. Mr. Alfred Lyttelton a cricketer of distinction, and Sir R. T. Hermon Hodge a successful amateur tennis player. In the recreations, Mr. Balfour's love of the piano is well known. Mr. Bonar Law is the best Parliamentary chess player, and Mr. George Montagu and Mr. F. B. Midgley are amateur actors of neither small nor unrecognised pretensions.

ADMIRAL'S SCATHING REBUKE.

Vice-Admiral Topham, who six months ago succeeded Vice-Admiral Skrydloff in the command of the Black Sea Fleet, has lately attracted some attention by his frank, stern and occasionally sarcastic strictures on the many and various shortcomings of the personnel, both staff and crew, of the squadron. A couple of months ago Admiral Topham, highly displeased with the discipline of the squadron, ordered it to be reformed, and gave a special order to each of the commanders, but not one of the latter succeeded in doing so. The Order of the Day posted next morning concluded with the gibingly contemptuous observation that he (the admiral) would severely reprimand any commander who hesitated before leading into action a squadron so incompetently handled, and that the commanders were probably better fitted to find their proper positions in a ball-room than in a naval man-of-war.

ROYAL BABY'S GIFTS.

The Italian Queen has been much struck by the interest shown by all nationalities in the fortunes of her little son. The English people in particular have been to the fore in gifts of all kinds. A beautifully chased silver cradle, a silver cot, and an anonymous donor. It bore the stamp of a London firm, and the package had been handed in Earl's Court post office, S.W. Evidently some other Englishman thought that the Prince of Wales should, like his father, become a member of the Order of the Garter, and sent in a registered packet a set of Queen Victoria's Jubilee coins, in mint condition, including a set of 1887 Maud's money.

MODERNISING THE L.C.C. FIRE BRIGADE.

"Hi! Hi! Hi!" the familiar cry of the London Fire Brigade as the engine speeds through the streets, will soon be heard no more. The lusty cries of the firemen are to be replaced by the sibilant sound of gas, just as in Paris a mechanical horn is employed for the same purpose of clearing the streets. The Fire Brigade Committee have had under consideration the question of the adoption of mechanical means of calling attention to the approach of brigade appliances. Various devices have been considered, and, as an experiment, six gas horns were obtained. It is now proposed to fit gas horns to all the brigade appliances. In the meantime 20 more will be ordered at £4 each, and tenders for a full supply at once will be asked for.

MR. JACKSON ON BOWLING.

The Hon. F. S. Jackson made some interesting remarks on bowling in presenting the bowling prizes at the annual meeting of the York Cricket Club. He said he used to think it should be the greatest object of a bowler to get a wicket, but last year or the year before one gentleman discovered a means whereby any batsman in the world could be got out. He bowled a leg-break ball with an off-break. It is a very beautiful ball, but it is an off-break. Mr. Bosworth, who was the most successful at times, and on those days he sent off a leg-break ball which came back from the off. There were only two men who could do it, and he and the other Mr. Schwartz, of the South African. Last season these bowlers were responsible for the downfall of many cricketers by means of that absurdly simple-looking ball. If the younger players would practice and learn to bowl in this way they were sure to get into the county eleven.

THE DUCHESS OF AOSTA.

The Duchess of Aosta, whose condition caused the hurried departure of the Queen of Portugal from London early in the week, is sister to the Duc d'Orleans and the Queen of Portugal. Born at Twickenham, at the residence of her father, the Comte de Paris, in 1871, she was married to the Duke of Aosta in 1895 at Kingston-on-Thames to the Duke of Aosta, who, as eldest cousin of Victor Emmanuel III., was heir presumptive to the throne of Italy until the death of the baby who was christened the Prince of Naples. The Duke and Duchess of Aosta have hitherto been the centre of the sporting world in Italy. The duchess herself was once a well-known figure in our own hunting centres.

PREMIER'S BOXING MATCH.

Mr. Roosevelt has objected strongly to the imaginative reporter's account of a turkey hunt by the President's children at the White House. We wonder what he thinks of the description in the *New York Herald* of the "gutting encounter," in which he "knocked out" Lieutenant Fortescue with the gloves. The Lieutenant was a corporal in the "Rough Riders," and he is attached to the White House for the special duty of coaching the President in Japanese matters for his interview with Prince Fushimi. So there could not have been any ill-will in Mr. Roosevelt's hitting from the shoulder. Nevertheless, the combats "mixed" all over the excitement, and the fight was about round in a "slugging fashion." At the end of round two "a good hard lound by the President on the Lieutenant's jaw" stretched him on the floor. In the absence of official details, the peace party in America is much agitated.

WOLF HUNT IN NORTHERLAND.

An exciting wolf hunt has taken place in Allon Dale, Northumberland. The farmers of the district found that several of their sheep had been worried, and a few days ago a wolf was found near the village. The loss had been so serious that the farmers were compelled to house their sheep. Many attempts have been made to trap the depredator, but without success. It was therefore resolved to organise a hunt on a large scale. Parties of ten or twelve men, with their dogs, were sent to Allon Dale, and different parts of Wearside, and included farmers and local sportsmen numbering nearly 200, with 40 guns. The search was begun about 10 o'clock in the East Wood below Allon Dale, and the excitement was intense. No trace of the wolf was seen until the West Wood was beaten, when it was found the animal had been staying in a wide drain during the night. No further sign of the wolf could be observed, and the search was brought up owing to darkness. The hunt will be renewed.

MODERN JOAN OF ARC.

An extraordinary outcome of the Joan of Arc demonstration in Paris occurred on Sunday night, when a young girl named Marie Perrot went mad in a frenzy of patriotism. Cries of fire were heard on the Rue Lafayette, and clouds of smoke were seen issuing from one of the windows of a large building. Firemen and police arrived on the scene, but they were unable to force open the door of the flat from which the smoke came. A terrible light met their gaze. Miss Perrot was standing on her bed, which was soaked with petroleum, and clad only in a nightgown. With her arms stretched out she was crying out hysterically, regardless of the flames dancing round her. "I am Joan of Arc in her funeral pyre. I have vanquished the Englishmen, my mission is ended, I must die." The policeman dragged the curtains from the window, and threw them round her, sufficing the flames. She was taken to the hospital, where she lies in a critical condition.

WORLD'S FINEST ORCHESTRA.

Trouble is brewing between the management of the Paris Opera House and the members of the orchestra. The latter are admittedly among the finest players in the world. They can only become members of the orchestra after passing through a severe examination, and many of them are laureates of the Conservatoire. In spite of this, they only draw from £4 10s. to £8 per month as salary for 192 performances a year and unlimited rehearsals. They are now agitating for a minimum remuneration of £12 per month, but as the orchestra is already considerably larger than the State subvention allows the management is unable to comply with the demand, especially as it would entail an increased expenditure of £16,000. The musicians have held a number of meetings on the subject, and are now debating whether or not to present an ultimatum or to go on strike, if no notice be taken of their claims.

THE CORELESS APPLE.

A coreless apple, growing on a blossomless tree, threatens to revolutionise the apple trade and the industry of the orchard. No wonder that the discovery, as Mr. Morgan has pointed out in the *December "Nineteenth Century,"* as "the world's greatest discovery in horticulture." True, the phenomenon of an apple that is all apple has been known since the days of the Greeks, but it is possible to grow a seedless apple-tree from other seedless apple-trees may be propagated. Already there are two thousand of them in fruit, and it is estimated that in two years the number will have grown to two and a half millions. The fruit is said to be of good appearance and favour; if it is also of good size it should soon elbow many of its ready relations out of the market. It is liable, however, to succumb to bacterial diseases, and in eccentric situations in its interior. This falling, if of frequent occurrence, would be a serious obstacle to the popularity of the apple; but the seeds are due to be due to the contamination of alien pollen conveyed by air or insects, and Mr. Spencer, the inventor of the coreless apple, believes that with ordinary care it can be made seed-proof.

REVIVAL DANZERS.

Many doctors believe that such religious revivals as that now agitating Wales are a grave menace to the sanity of all but the most strong-minded. Medical papers have already expressed this view, and Dr. Forster, the Winchester specialist, has very emphatically pointed out the danger. Dr. Winslow says that, in his opinion, next to drink, nothing is more frequently responsible for mental disease than badly-directed religious enthusiasm. "The development of religious mania is gradual," he said. "First comes the predisposing cause—revival meetings, etc.—followed by excitement and delusions, which lead to complete insanity, due to an incurable nature. At the time of the Moody and Sankey revival I had several cases of this form of insanity to deal with. I have known people who, in the fervour of religious excitement, endeavoured to act up to the letter of the words of Scripture—'If thine eye offend thee, pluck it out.'"

MAID OF HONOUR'S DISSOLVED ENGAGEMENT.

The announcement that the marriage arranged between Mr. Sandley and Miss Dorothy Vivan would not take place came as a great surprise. Everything was in full preparation for the ceremony, which was to have taken place shortly. Miss Dorothy Vivan is one of the prettiest girls in the county, and her father, who is always known as "the beautiful Vivian twins," are Maids of Honour to the Queen. Ever since their early childhood they have been accustomed to the atmosphere of Court life, for their father, the late Lord Vivian, was British Minister in Denmark and Brussels, and Ambassador to Rome, and held many other diplomatic appointments. Miss Violet and Miss Dorothy Vivan are the Queen's favourite Maids of Honour, and with her customary thought and kindness her Majesty always arranges for them to be in waiting at the same time. They invariably dress alike in pretty, picturesque costumes. Mr. Sandley is in the 2nd Life Guards, and is related to the family of Lord Sandley. He is a good-looking and popular young officer.

DRAGA'S JEWELS SOLD.

TRAGIC RELICS FETCH SMALL PRICES.

Thirty pounds was all the late Queen Draga's wedding dress fetched when it was put up for auction at Christie's. It looked like a rich ecclesiastical robe. Next came her Majesty's state costume. Shorn of the gold stars and girdle it looked like a rich ecclesiastical robe. The gold stars and the rich girdle were passed from hand to hand, while dealers were disputing the possession of this tragic record of a royal epoch in the Court of Belgrade. By a series of small bids the dress was carried from £30 to £270, and then the hammer fell to the bid of a private gentleman. It was understood in this case, too, that the costume was purchased for Serbia.

More than half of the £235 which these Serbian relics realised was obtained for the tiara that was worn by Queen Draga at her wedding. It was a beautiful object, formed as a knot of riband and spray of foliage, with two fine large brilliants in the centre. The competition for this historical piece of jewellery was particularly keen. It was knocked down to Mr. J. Moylan Jones, of the Grosvenor Gardens, who had been showing it round after the sale, remarked that he thought he had got the best bargain he ever made. There was a good deal of competition first to handle and then to purchase a cabochon emerald and a brilliant diamond, the amount of his "out-of-Queen Draga by the Tar" as a wedding present. This fetched the satisfactory price of £480. A gold pendant and pair of earrings, of Serbian design, and suited to some brave beauty, were sold for £270, being run from 10 guineas up to that figure.

LADY SUED FOR "BREACH."

FARMER'S DAUGHTER WHO WANTED HER ENGAGEMENT TO END. It is not often a lady appears as defendant in a breach of promise action, but as the Leeds *Advertiser*, Norman Gibbs, a solicitor's clerk, of Rotherham, obtained £168 damages against Miss Bertha Spencer, a farmer's daughter, the amount of his "out-of-court" contract expenses. The lady had nearly £10,000 in her own right. Mr. Gibbs and Miss Bertha were at first secretly engaged, but it proved on Mr. Gibbs's mind, so wrote to the lady's father. "I find myself," he declared, "madly in love with Bertha, and she says she has a similar feeling towards me, and will marry me. Already people have begun to talk, and in justice to Bertha I want to put an end to it." But Mr. Spencer could not make up his mind, "Let me sleep on it," he said. "He died!" cried Mr. Justice Darling, playfully, "with the golden chain, and gently put the question back."

MOHAMMEDANS PRAYING IN THE RAIN.

In a drenching downpour of rain, a dozen dusky men assembled on Friday morning under the eaves of the Marble Arch end of Hyde Park. "Allah be praised! Allah is good" they chanted as they scraped the sodden ground with their foreheads. On a scrap of oilcloth stood an imposing figure with a flowing turban of white and gold on his head. A finger thrust in each ear, he prayed fervently in Arabic. The strange little company were Mohammedans, who for the first time in London, offered up their prayer to celebrate the feast after the East of Ramadan (Id-ul-Fitr), the most solemn and most trying month of the year to the faithful. The un-English rain and sipping air robbed the ceremony of much picturesque, for overcoats were worn with turbans and mackintoshes accompanied fezzes. One follower of the Prophet wore what looked like beaded sandals, and damp feet were the reward of his piety. Having, despite the murky atmosphere, discovered the direction in which Mecca lies, Allah's faithful in London spread their praying mats accordingly. The little ceremony lasted only a few minutes.

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LORD CURZON IN INDIA.

Lord Curzon arrived at Bombay on Friday and was given an enthusiastic welcome. Lord Curzon said, in reply to an address of welcome, that he regarded India as a land, not only of romance, but of obligation. "India" to him was "duty" spelt with five letters instead of four. He had returned to carry some stages further towards completion certain things which he believed would contribute to the strength of the Empire and the welfare of the country. The improvement of the irrigation policy, the starting of a new railway board, the continuation of educational reforms, and also the work of riveting together the loose stones that constituted the land defences of the country, so that none might rashly force an entrance, threaten its security, or dissipate the slowly garnered prosperity of the people.

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MANSLAUGHTER AT 75.

Denis Farrelly, a retired sea captain, aged 75, was found guilty at Limerick Assizes of the manslaughter of his wife, also a septuagenarian, at Ring, County Cork. The old man had about £150, and as he was believed to be spending it foolishly on drink, his wife held him while the money was taken from him by a bystander. Then it was put into the bank, from which, according to Mrs. Farrelly's statement, before death, it was withdrawn and buried in the kitchen floor of their house. Quarrels continued over the money, and Farrelly went home one night and pulled his aged wife out of bed, and she was found dead in the morning. Old Farrelly goes to gaol for six months from October 25.

FATHER OF THE ZOO.

The post-mortem examination of old "Jim," the trusted Indian rhinoceros who was Father of the London Zoo, was held at Regent Park, and it was found that senile decay was the cause of death. The Zoo director and his assistants were engaged nearly all day in the work of opening and inspecting the body of the old rhinoceros, and in front of the railing, out of the public view of the grim proceedings. It was found that "Jim's" organs were free from disease, and his stomach was full of food. He had eaten of Glasgow and was always had a huge appetite, his daily allowance being about a truss and a half of the best clover hay. He played "Tom" is now the oldest rhinoceros at the London Zoo, where he arrived, a half-grown animal, in 1858. "Tom" is already better than "Jim," if not so bulky, but he will never be such a favourite owing to his bad temper. Although in his younger days he was fond of chasing his keeper around the paddock, and once in 1870—while trying to smash the front of his cage, he tore off his horn and nearly killed himself with fright, "Jim" never gave any serious trouble. It is considered that "Jim's" death from old age at the age of about 50 years shows that to be the normal length of life of a rhinoceros.

SCOTTISH JUDGE RESIGNS.

Lord Trayner has resigned his position as one of the judges of the Second Division of the Court of Session. Lord Trayner, who is 70 years of age, has occupied the Bench for about 20 years. Educated at the University of Glasgow, and Edinburgh, he was called to the Bar in 1858, and became one of the foremost leaders of his time, and having an extensive knowledge of mercantile and commercial law. A resignation is to take effect at the end of this month.

THE RUNAWAY GIRL.

MADE A WARD IN CHANCERY. Miss Phyllis Meares is to be made a ward of Chancery. Such is the solution to the extraordinary problem of her future career proposed by the First Appeal Court judges, to whom her case was submitted. Miss Meares is the seventeen-year-old daughter of Mr. Meares. In 1902 her mother was divorced, and the court decided that Phyllis should be cared for by her father. Phyllis herself was not consulted in the matter. She lives her mother, who is now Mrs. Danby, and has several times run away from those to whom her father entrusted her, with the object of returning to her mother. When the case was resumed, it was mentioned incidentally that Miss Phyllis was entitled after certain life interests to an income of £1,400 a year. Their lordships decided that Sir Francis Jeune should be informed that they were of opinion that the protection of the Court of Chancery should be obtained for this young girl. This expression of opinion was conveyed to the President of the Divorce Court, with the result that later in the day it was stated in the Court of Appeal that Sir Francis had appointed a brother of Mrs. Meares to act as next friend to institute Chancery proceedings.

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THE DEATH OF NAWAH MUHAMMAD.

The death is announced of Nawah Muhammad Sheriff Khan, Nawah of Die. An American contractor has paid £67,200 for the buildings of the St. Louis World's Fair as they stand. After being in collision with a large vessel, the British towing vessel Robert was sunk on the Channel fishing grounds. The crew were saved.

FOURTEEN FISHERS DROWNED.

SALVAGE TRAGEDY IN NORTHUMBERLANDSHIRE.

Fourteen fishermen lost their lives on Friday in two particularly distressing disasters. The little Northumbrian fishing village of Newbiggin was plunged into gloom by a calamity, which involved the death of seven fishermen. The tragedy occurred on the coast of Northumberland, where for fishing boats to go out as rapidly as possible in the hope of making a rescue or a salvage bargain with the captain before the arrival of the lifeboat. This was what happened when the Norwegian cutter Angla ran ashore during a dense fog on Needle Rocks at 5 a.m. Several boats put out, including the Henry and Jane, manned by a crew of eight. This was the first to reach the Angla, but it had no coiler got alongside when it was expiring by a big wave. All the men were thrown into the water, and, surrounded by their heavy oilskins and sea-boots, all sank but one, who being picked up unconscious by the lifeboat. The other seven, six of whom were related, were drowned. Indescribable scenes were witnessed on shore among relatives or the men. The first report was to the effect that there were 15 victims owing to two boats having capsized, but this, happily, proved to be false. The survivor was John Armstrong, 39, a holly of the owner of the cobble. He was the only man of the boat's crew who could swim. The cobbler got ashore, was turned over completely, and though the ill-fated men tried to climb on to it, they were washed off again and again by the swell of the sea. He swam to some buoy, and was rescued in an exhausted condition by the lifeboat.

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Another disaster occurred in Donsal Bay. While a fishing boat, with a crew of seven, was returning with herrings from the southern shore of the bay to Inver, it was swamped in a rising sea and all the crew were drowned. It is supposed that the men had taken too much fish ashore.

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EPITOME OF NEWS.

There are about 400 cases of measles at Devonport.

Three persons were killed by an explosion at a brickwork factory at Agulha, near Naples. The Statist and the Duke of Devonshire have adopted Mr. John Frederick Chesterton, cotton spinner, as their candidate at the approaching by-election. Thomas Wright, a newspaper editor, entered the St. Albans constituency at the election, but was defeated by Mr. J. H. Chamberlain. The Earl of Devonshire has had the grounds of the Newbury District Hospital planted with a number of choice shrubs and trees from the nurseries of his estates at the Devon. It is proposed to give Mrs. Speyer's generosity to the sufferers in the North Devon Bank smash by erecting a drinking fountain in the village as a permanent memorial. On Tuesday an Essex on Monday a solar halo was observed. The King has fixed December 19 for the homage of the new Bishop of Salisbury. By order of the members of the Thames Conservancy, the water level of the river was raised to £300 a year to Mr. Huggins, their solicitor, who has resigned. The Earl of Essex, head landlord of the county town of Bournemouth, has consented to open negotiations for the lease of the town under the Land Act to the occupying tenants. In the election for the representation of Marylebone on the London County Council on Monday, the Earl of Essex, who has been elected, was defeated by Mr. Wheeler (Progressive), by 1,822 votes to 514. Sixty pamphlets were found up the chimney by the husband of Alice Green, who at the London South-Western Police-court on Monday was committed to prison for the murder of her husband, John Wheeler (Progressive), by 1,822 votes to 514. Sixty pamphlets were found up the chimney by the husband of Alice Green, who at the London South-Western Police-court on Monday was committed to prison for the murder of her husband, John Wheeler (Progressive), by 1,822 votes to 514. Sixty pamphlets were found up the chimney by the husband of Alice Green, who at the London South-Western Police-court on Monday was committed to prison for the murder of her husband, John Wheeler (Progressive), by 1,822 votes to 514.

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