NEWS NOTES.

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

NOT TOO OLD FOR WORK.

We have some fairly serviceable men among these, who, according to Dr. Osler, should by this time have passed their best. Sir Frederick Treves did not falter over the operation which he performed upon the King, although he was over fifty at the time. Lord Roberts relieved Ladysmith when he was sixty-seven; and Lord Kitchener is keeping his end up in his fifty-fifth year. Dr. Russell Wallace is working as hard as ever at seventy-three; and the genius of Sir Oliver Lodge at fifty-three, of Sir William Ramsay at the same age, and of Sir William Crookes at seventy-three shows no sign of dimming. Edinburgh flourishes under a Principal of seventy-seven years; Lord Raleigh's mental faculties are not less alert at sixty-three than when he joined Sir William Ramsay in the discovery of argon, eleven years ago. At sea, Sir John Fisher at sixty-four, and Lord Charles Beresford at fifty-nine, manage very comfortably to get about deck. The position of these "patriarchs" is not so superfluous on the world's stage as this joking professor would have us believe.

L.C.C.'s NEW PALACE.

The special committee of the London County Council has decided to recommend as the site of the new county hall and offices the land—now covered by a disused warehouse, shops, and wharves—bounded by the river, Westminster Bridge-road, Belvedere-road, and the Council's works depôt. The reasons why the site has been selected are:—It is accessible from all parts of London; it is sufficient in area to supply every need of the Council; the erection of the hall will effect a much-needed improvement in the locality; waste land on the foreshore will be reclaimed; the building will have a splendid frontage; the Albert Embankment can be extended; London's reproach of being the worst-housed municipality in Europe will be removed. A member of the committee says that at present the departments are scattered in 15 different part of London, and they pay £34,000 a year in rents for dark, cramped offices.

THE LATE SIR WEMYSS REID.

The death of Sir Wemyss Reid removes a conspicuous figure from the journalistic world. It will create a sad void in political and literary circles, for Sir Wemyss had a gift for friendship. He had filled with success many high positions in the journalistic world. He was editor of the *Leeds Mercury* when it was a power in the land, and had for years been closely connected with the great house of Cassell. Among his services to the Liberal party was the establishment under his auspices of the *Speaker*, the excellent weekly of which he was the first editor. Sir Wemyss in his time did excellent literary work, including a monograph on Lord Houghton, a life of Charlotte Brontë, and a biography of W. E. Foster. In 1890 Sir Wemyss found a congenial task in writing a "Life of Lord Houghton," who probably had done more to aid struggling genius than any other man of his day. Here are one or two good things which Sir Wemyss attributed to Lord Houghton. "Gladstone's method of impartiality is being furiously earnest on both sides of a question." "Trust in leaders has the same relation to politics that credit has to commerce." "You are a man of large heart," said lady Waldegrave to me. "That may be," I answered, "but it is not nearly so useful as a narrow mind."

PRINCESS MARGARET OF CONNAUGHT.

Princess Margaret of Connaught, who is engaged to the eldest son of the Crown Prince of Sweden, is one of the most popular of our young Princesses. She is tall and graceful, with a fresh colour and soft brown hair, and her somewhat marked eyebrows give a distinctive character to the girlish face. She is devoted to country life and sports, and never so happy as when on the golf-ground. It is possible that the young Princess and Prince Oscar of Sweden will arrange to spend a good deal of time in this country after their marriage, which is in every way a suitable one, and gives great satisfaction to all their relatives. Prince Oscar is nearly related to the Kaiser, whose aunt, the Grand Duchess of Baden, was his grandmother on his mother's side. Prince Oscar and his bride-elect are almost the same age, having been born in the same year.

WHERE ART FORGERIES GO.

New York, whose millionaires are constantly dupes to European art dealers, has just had palmed upon it a statute of Aphrodite which is represented as a genuine Praxiteles. Sir Caspar Clarke, the director-elect of the Metropolitan Museum, was asked what he would do with spurious works of art. He replied with a laugh, "In South Kensington I select such works, label them spurious, and place them in a gallery of modern art." The American papers declare with large headings that they have at last discovered an English humorist.

EFFECT OF LOW RATES.

Southborough, a pleasant residential town in Kent, recently reduced its rates, with the result that there was a rush for residences by householders eager to avail themselves of a low-rated locality, and not a house remains tenantless. Between Southborough and Tunbridge Wells there has always existed a spirit of keen rivalry for public favour, and, not to be outdone, Tunbridge Wells is now going to reduce its rates by 4d. in the pound for the ensuing half-year. Fareham, Hants, a town of 8,000 inhabitants, owns its own water supply and electric light, and its rates have now been brought down to 1s. in the pound.

LIFE-LONG MASQUERADE.

On her death-bed in hospital at Cincinnati, Frances Lamonche, a girl of 20, told a nurse a remarkable story of her long masquerade as a boy. As Frank Williams she was admitted to the hospital clad in male apparel, and having her brown hair closely cropped. There was nothing in her manner to indicate her sex. Learning that her case was hopeless, she confessed to the nurse that she was not Frank Williams, but Fronces Lamonche, and was immediately removed to the female ward. Ever since she was five years old, she admitted, she had been wearing boys' clothes and doing boys' work. With her mother's consent and approval she attended several boys' schools in America, and when her sex was discovered her mother took her away. Her mother was under the impression that boys succeeded in life better than girls. In Chicago she was a newsboy for a time, then a bookkeeper. Then she went to England and learned to ride, afterwards visiting Paris, where she asserts she secured a jockey's licence. A French nobleman became her sponsor, and as Frank Lamonche she carried the colours of her benefactor for several months. Finally she returned to America with her mother, a Frenchwoman by birth, and a music-hall dancer. Four years ago her mother died, and Frances became a homeless wanderer, sleeping in barns and porches. For a time she lived at the convent of the Good Shepherd, at Columbus, but found life there rather irksome. Last November she drifted to Cincinnati, looking exactly like a boy of 19.

THE DESTRUCTIVE LIMPET.

Mr. A. Macindoe, Las Palmas, Canary Islands, sends to the *Field* a note on the increasing aggression of the limpet upon the land as observed by him during a visit last summer to Ladram Bay: The result of the excavations of the common limpet may be well seen at Ladram Bay, near Sidmouth, in the soft, new red sandstone which there forms the cliff. Each limpet, large or small, occupies a depression in the rock, into which its hard, sharp-edged shell fits exactly. When the animal is covered by the incoming tide it leaves its pit and wanders off in search of the minute seaweeds on which it feeds; when the ebb set in it returns unerringly to the depression or pit from which it set out. The constant attrition produced in this way, and when at rest the pressure require to prevent dislodgment by the waves, so deepens and enlarges the hole that after a time it is abandoned for a plane surface, where the process is repeated. The action of the water in the vacated hole rapidly enlarges it, it coalesces with others, and so the work of destruction goes on.

HOMELIEST COURT IN EUROPE.

The Royal House of Sweden, like that of Austria, has not been without its family troubles, which have generally taken the direction of a son becoming enamoured of someone not of the Royal blood and renouncing his rights of succession as a consequence. Prince Oscar of Sweden, the King's second son, took this course and resigned his potential claims to the throne in exchange for a happy marriage, though he in no way quarrelled with his family in so doing. Political difficulties exist also to vex the wearer of the Swedish crown, for the animosity between Norway and Sweden does not diminish, and a certain amount of poverty keeps a large portion of the community in a constant state of unrest. The Court of Sweden has been described as one of the simplest and most homely in Europe. The poorest subject may call and speak to the King with no more formality than the sending in of his name. In part this is doubtless due to the simple life of the Swedish people, but it has been ascribed also in considerable measure to the influence of the Queen of Sweden, whose democratic sympathies and unsophisticated tastes, as well as her strong religious leanings, are well known. It has, indeed, been rumoured more than once that she contemplated joining the Salvation Army, though there was never any truth in this.

FORTUNES IN DIAMONDS.

The £5,100 which the famous Agra diamond realised at Christie's seems a relatively small price to pay for a gem of over 31 carats, with a romantic history of nearly four centuries. The "Hope" diamond, a sapphire-blue brilliant only 13 carats heavier, is valued at £20,000 to £30,000; and there is among the Crown jewels of Russia a red diamond of 10 carats only for which £15,000 was paid. Among larger stones, the "Orloff," which blazes in the sceptre of the Czar, was exchanged in 1772 for £90,000, an annuity of 4,000 roubles, and a title of nobility; the Duke of Orleans paid £130,000 for the Pitt diamond, which is now valued at three times that sum. The "Koh-i-noor" is worth every penny of £120,000; the "Excelsior" in its natural state was assessed at a round million pounds; and even this sum would probably not purchase the wonderful stone recently found at the Premier Mine, which turns the scale at 1lb. 6oz. avoirdupois.

PANAMA CANAL COST.

Definite engineering plans for the construction of the Panama Canal, which have been laid before the Canal Commission, urge the construction of a sea-level canal, at a cost of over £45,000,000. It is estimated that 10 to 12 years will be required for the necessary works. The proposed minimum depth of water is 35 feet, and the breadth of the canal 100 feet. Low tidal docks are proposed to control the difference in the tidal levels between the Atlantic and the Pacific. As outlined by the engineers the sea-level canal provides unrestricted navigation, and complete adaptability of the waterway to future developments in the construction of steamships. Critics at Washington, in explanation of the great cost of the Panama Canal, point out that the constructors have not to cut through sands at sea-level, as in the case of the Suez Canal, but have a range of mountains to pierce. It is believed generally that the aforementioned plans will be adopted by the commission.

"QUEEN OF QUEENS."

Mdlle. Jeanne Troupel, a Parisian brunette of nineteen, and a dressmaker's assistant in the Faubourg Saint-Honoré, has been chosen "Queen of Queens" for the mid-Lenten festivities after a rather exciting election under the iron and glass roof of the Central Market Hall. The big building was crammed, and as the voting papers were drawn from the capacious clothes-basket which did duty for a ballot-box, and were counted, the feelings expressed by the meeting were not unanimous. Among cheers were heard cries of "Who's been tampering with the ballot?" as the result of the polling became apparent. This was very unpleasant for Mdlle. Jeanne. She says it was all the doing of the envious "dames of the fish-market," whose candidate has been worsted. Mdlle. Jeanne is a dressmaker, it is true, but her father is vice-president of the "Society of the Renascence of Markets," so she is no outsider. Eventually, it is certain that all the new Queen's subjects will rally faithfully round her. Hers is an exceptionally important sovereignty this year, for she will travel in state to Milan to represent France officially at the carnival there, while the Queen of the Turin markets is to pay an official visit to Paris.

EX-HANGMAN'S CONFESSIONS.

Berry, the ex-hangman, who has come under the influence of the revival now in progress, has described his conversion. He had been a bad man, he said, for thirty years, but his household was now a heaven upon earth. In his time he had seen wickedness in all its stages, but he was not now bothered by his Satanic majesty. For thirty years he had been unable to shed a tear, and had not known what sympathy was. When he left his home at Heckmondwike, and joined the then Bradford police force, he became wicked because he had to do as the other police did, or he would have been sacked. He went the way the wind blew him. His sins had now left him, and he was ready to die without any fear. He hoped the revival would reach Bradford, and sweep like an avalanche through the country.

DOCTORS AND CHLOROFORM.

A child named Wm. Turner, aged eight, died in St. Mary's Hospital, London, while undergoing an operation for the removal of a piece of diseased bone in the jaw. Giving evidence at the inquest, the operating surgeon said that chloroform was given to the boy and he took it well. Just as the operation was completed he was observed to collapse. All efforts to resuscitate him failed, and he died in a very short time. The anæsthetist said he had administered anæsthetics in 300 cases and had never before had a fatal case. Dr. Danford Thomas, the Coroner, said he knew a doctor who had successfully administered anæsthetics 2,000 times, and who thought he was never going to have a failure, but at last a fatal case occurred with him. The doctor had boasted to him about his success only a short time previously. As a rule children took chloroform very well, and fatal cases were not very common with them.

INFANT MORTALITY.

"We deliberately encourage mothers to earn money away from home, and assist them to do so by maintaining infants' schools, a policy not only enormously wasteful, but ruinous to the children," says the Medical Officer for the Downham rural district of Norfolk, in his annual report. And can anyone refute him? He is moved to make these remarks by the high rate of infant mortality in his division, and in discussing the matter says that improper feeding, want of cleanliness (both personal and in the house), neglect (especially in the custom of leaving children in the care of others), and general lack of management, are some of the causes of this great mortality. "The basis of the home is the mother. The child, rich or poor, who has no mother, or only a mother in name, who never knows her personal care, sustains a loss, moral and physical, for which nothing in after life can make amends."

SHOULD WOMEN WORK.

Mrs. Perkins Gilman, the noted American lecturer, delivered the fourth of her series of lectures to the members of the Women's Institute, London, on Monday afternoon. Her subject was, "Should Women Work," and she took the broad, general line that women should be co-workers with men in advancing the civilisation of the human race. Human activities were not masculine just because they were monopolised by men. The essentially masculine department of life was loving and fighting, and man, as a rule, did those things with great violence. Work was a race function, and not a sex function; and by work she meant every expression of social energy in a specialised form which maintained society. She did not expect that all women would forthwith renounce allegiance to their lords and their homes, and rush for positions as typewriters and so forth. All that could be asked of the middle-aged woman of the present generation was to open her mind on the subject, and to bring up her daughters to work.

THE NAVAL BUDGET.

POINTS OF IMPORTANCE.

The Naval Budget, just issued, provides for a total expenditure of £33,389,000, as compared with £36,889,000 for the year now expiring, a net saving of £3,500,000.

The essential items of the Naval programme for 1905-6 are as follows:—

One new battleship, to be named the Dreadnought.
Four armoured cruisers, of which the first will be named the Invincible.
Six ocean-going destroyers, one of the six being of a new experimental type.
Twelve coastal destroyers.
Eleven submarines.
A new officer, "the Inspector of Target Practice," is to be created.
The number of men asked for is 129,000, a reduction of 2,100.
The Alberta is not to be replaced, but £50,000 is asked for towards a second royal yacht.
Flotillas of submarines are in the course of organisation.
More than 100 vessels have been commissioned in reserve since the beginning of this year.
A special committee has been appointed on designs for the assistance of the Admiralty and the Director of Naval Construction, under the presidency of Sir John Fisher, and with Prince Louis of Battenberg as one of its members. The committee's report will not be published.
Naval recruiting has been satisfactor. Gunnery continues to improve steadily. Oil fuel has been a success.

J. L. SULLIVAN RE-APPEARS IN THE PRIZE RING.

In American sporting circles the re-appearance in the prize-ring of John L. Sullivan, the former champion, furnishes something like a sensation. Sullivan is forty-seven years old, and weighs 300 pounds. Only a few months ago he was reported to be lying dangerously ill, and was not expected to recover.

The *Yellow Press*, indeed, published full-page pictures showing Charles Mitchell, the English pugilist, who was then visiting America, saying, "Good-bye to his old antagonist now sick unto death." Sullivan was suffering from stomach trouble, and was very exhausted and emaciated from lying in bed. The question then discussed was whether the former champion would live weeks or months.

The other night Sullivan delighted his old admirers by reappearing in the prize ring at Grand Rapids, Michigan, and knocking out Jack McCormick in the second round. Naturally, John L. is elated with his success, and for the moment becomes again the idol of American pugilism.

After recovering his breath, Sullivan amazed everybody by challenging Jeffries, Fitzsimmons, and Corbett. He says he never felt in better shape. It is not believed that he will be able to stay two rounds with either of the trio, but his prowess at forty-seven has delighted many.

LAST OF THE DANDIES.

The death has occurred at Newcastle-on-Tyne of Sir Charles Hammond, who represented that city in Parliament as a Conservative from 1874 to 1888, and from 1892 to 1900. He was eighty-eight years old.

Sir Charles was one of the "characters" of the House of Commons on account of the eccentricity of his figure and attire. To the last he dressed as a dandy.

His political meetings in his constituency were made lively by his quaint utterances and sharp retorts. To a man who called out, "Get your hair cut!" he once replied, catching the eye of his victim: "I think I have had something to do with getting your hair out on more than one occasion," a retort which found its point in the fact that Sir Charles was senior magistrate.

AN EARL'S SON'S DEBTS.

At the London Bankruptcy Court an application was made to grant the discharge of the Hon. Hubert E. V. Duncombe, a son of the Earl of Feversham.

The receiving order was made against him in August, 1904, the liabilities being stated at £4,493, with no available assets. He had previously failed in January, 1884, with liabilities £3,953, but the amount was paid by a relative.

It was now stated that there was every prospect that the debts would be paid in full, and the Registrar granted the discharge subject to the debtor consenting to a judgment for the full amount of the debts.

DISPUTED BARONETCY.

The dispute as to the headship of the famous Scotch family of Moncreiff has entered on a new phase, and will be fought to a finish in the Edinburgh Court of Sessions without delay.

The question at issue is who should be regarded as the head of the house, and consequently entitled to the baronetcy created in 1626. The present litigation is between the Moncrieffs of Culpargie, represented by Sir Alexander Moncreiffe, and the Moncrieffs of Tullibole, represented by Lord Moncrieff, who retired a few weeks ago from the Scottish Bench.

SAGACIOUS COLLIES.

Thomas Moore, a labourer, of Pear Tree Farm, Willaston, Chester, probably owes his life to the faithfulness of two collies. While feeding colts, he was kicked, and so badly injured that he was unable to move all night.

It was bitterly cold, and the collies, which accompanied him, lay upon him and kept him warm. They were discovered next morning by a shepherd, and Moore was removed home. He is now doing well.

LOYAL ADDRESS SURCHARGED.

The Kingstown (co. Dublin) Urban Council are in the cheerful position of finding themselves surcharged £39 by the Local Government Board auditor for the decoration of the town and the illumination of an address on the occasion of the King's visit in 1903.

The auditor pointed out that although as a Government official he was bound to object to it, as an individual he was very much in sympathy with it.

"W.G.'S" LOSS.

Mr. W. G. Grace, the eldest son of the famous cricketer, died at East Cowes, after an operation.

He was a member of the teaching staff of the Royal College at Osborne, a position which he had held since the opening of the institution.

Mr. Grace had played cricket for Cambridge University, Gloucestershire, the London County Club, and for the Gentlemen of England. He invariably played in spectacles.

NEXT CHURCH CONGRESS.

It is officially announced that from October 3rd to October 7th has been decided upon as the period for the next Church Congress, which will be held at Weymouth.

The proposal to visit Bournemouth in 1906 is postponed.

Having first accepted about a ton weight of parcels from the Gaelic League, the authorities at the General Post Office returned them, says the *Freeman's Journal*, with an intimation that the addresses, which were in Irish, must be translated into English.

MINISTER OBTAINS DIVORCE.

The Rev. William Baldwin, a Baptist minister, was granted a decree nisi on the ground of his wife's misconduct with Dr. William Park.

The marriage took place in 1898, and in 1900, owing to ill-health, Mr. Baldwin gave up his church at Woking, and went to live with his wife at a hydro establishment at Limpley, Stoke, near Bath, Dr. Park being the medical adviser there. Mrs. Baldwin was also taken ill, and was attended by Dr. Park.

At half-past two one morning Mr. Baldwin woke up and found that his wife was not by his side. The candle was burning, and his wife's slippers and dressing-gown were in the room. He got up and began a search for her, and knocked at Dr. Park's room fearing she might be walking in her sleep.

Dr. Park suggested that she must have gone downstairs, and Mr. Baldwin went down to see, but could not find her. When he returned to his room his wife was in bed again. Subsequently she left the hydro, and went abroad with Dr. Park. When they came back to this country Mr. Baldwin went to his wife, and begged her to return to him, but she refused to do so.

When she went away with Dr. Park she had £575 in bank-notes, and she was interested under her father's will to the extent of £20,000.

No defence was put in, and the decree was granted with costs.

EVAN ROBERTS BREAKS SILENCE.

Evan Roberts, the young Welsh revivalist, spoke on Thursday last for the first time after his seven days of seclusion and absolute silence.

He declared that he had "wrestled against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places," but power had been given to him, and he had obtained the victory.

Asked as to his future work, he said that he would undertake no engagements during the week, and he was still awaiting guidance as to whether he should undertake a mission to Liverpool. The revivalist then returned to his room, and spent the greater part of the day in solitude, declining to see visitors or to answer interrogatory notes.

Leeds revivalists have begun to pray and sing in the tramcars of the city. It is said that the practice is causing many passengers considerable annoyance, and that, if repeated it will be brought to the notice of the authorities.

LORD SELBORNE'S NEW POST.

The South African Press comments very favourably on the whole on Lord Selborne's appointment as High Commissioner for South Africa.

The *Cape Times* considers it certain that as Lord Selborne is a member of the present Ministry, and therefore identified with their South African policy, there will be no change in the ideals which guided Lord Milner.

The appointment, adds the journal, should satisfy not only both sections at home, but public opinion in South Africa, which asks for the best that England can send to succeed Lord Milner.

The *South African News*, representing Bond opinion, says:—"As a member of the Government which conducted the war, Lord Selborne comes to us with his prejudices thick upon him, and as a Cabinet Minister he will find it difficult to take up the passive position reserved for the Governor of a self-governing colony."

A CHALLENGE ACCEPTED.

During the recent North Dorset election Sir Randolf Baker, the Unionist candidate, in support of his argument that Chinese labour was necessary for the Transvaal, and that Englishmen would not work side by side with the coloured man, offered to pay the expenses of any man who would make the attempt.

His challenge has been accepted by a Shillingstone man named Sedlan, who formerly served in the South African Constabulary. Sir Randolf has completed arrangements for his passage, and for his employment in the Ferreira Mine. He leaves by the steamer Gascon from Southampton in about a fortnight.

It will be recalled that a similar challenge by Mr. Yerburgh, M.P., fell through.

ANCIENT CHARIOT FOUND.

The *Egyptian Gazette* says: The discovery made recently by Mr. Theodore M. Davis, in the Valley of the Tombs of the daughter of Amenhotep III. and the father and mother of his wife, Queen Thy, is of the greatest importance.

The mummies of the father and mother had been unwrapped and searched for jewels and gold in ancient times—with this exception, nothing had been disturbed. The tomb was crowded with coffins covered with gold leaf, chairs carved and gilded, alabaster canopic jars, ushabtis, and religious symbols of the finest quality. There was also a complete chariot with wheels, pole, and neck-yoke, the body of the chariot being covered with gold leaf.

The collection is the most beautiful and extensive ever found.

GENERAL BOOTH'S MESSAGE.

General Booth has left on a six months' tour to Palestine, Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand.

Before he departed the General left a special farewell message to the people of London:—

If you have the inward conviction that you are going right and doing right, for this world—and the next, which you will be a fool if you leave out of your consideration—then turn not to the right hand nor to the left, neither for fear of man, for fear of the devil, for fear of your own feelings, or anything else.

Raise your colours in the right cause—living for those about you.

Then live under them, fight under them, and, if necessary, die under them.

DR. OSLER WAS MISUNDERSTOOD.

"We have received a cablegram from Prof. Osler," says the "Lancet," asking us to repudiate for him words that he has been described as using in his farewell address to the students of John Hopkins University.

"Prof. Osler, in a speech which seems to have been considerably misunderstood on both sides of the Atlantic, referred to a humorous suggestion in a novel, but expressed no views of his own, as to the chloroforming of persons who have reached the age of 60 years."

HATED ENGLAND.

Attached to the will, which has just been proved, of Miss Marie Victoire Philibert, who had been lady's maid to Lady Herbert of Lea, are two strange affidavits to show that she had not wished to acquire domicile in England.

One is by Lady Herbert to the effect that Miss Philibert was a trusted servant, but that her detestation of England and everything English was one of her greatest characteristics. The other affidavit is by the dead woman's sister, and also records Miss Philibert's dislike of England.

Miss Philibert was a native of Belgium, and left £1,349 9s., chiefly to charities.

News has reached Matlock of the death from pneumonia of Mr. T. Hollis, chef to Queen Victoria.

Mr. Robert Macferron, of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, a wealthy Scotchman, has bequeathed a large sum of money for the relief of the victims of any public calamity in the United States where prompt assistance is needed.

EPITOME OF NEWS.

A pike, weighing 27lbs., was caught in Wimbledon Park Lake on Sunday afternoon.

After experimenting for six years, a Californian florist named Stilleston has produced green carnations.

Unknown vandals have removed the head and the figures of Justices and Peace, says the Calcutta *Englishman*, from the statue of Queen Victoria in Delhi.

The Orient-Pacific Steamship Company has informed the Australian Federal Postmaster-General that it is prepared to deliver Australian mails at a Mediterranean port.

Twenty seconds were occupied in turning out the brigade on an exhibition trip, when the new fire station in Burdett-road, Bow, was opened on Saturday. This is a record time.

Charged at Bristol on Saturday with robberies from his lodgings, Eric Dudley Lennox asked Mr. Justice Kennedy for a death sentence. He was sent to prison for six months.

In a return prepared by the County Council with reference to London's debt for the year 1903-4 it is shown that the total net debt outstanding increased from £57,932,101 to £61,288,526.

The German Crown Prince has been recalled from his Italian visit because, it is stated, the Kaiser feared he might meet the ex-Crown Princess of Saxony at Florence.

The town of Valyevo, in Western Servia, has been visited by showers of black snow, brought by north winds from the vast coal districts. The streets appear as if covered with soot.

A dairy farm near Pittsburg (Penn.), comprising 103 acres, being a portion off the estate of the late Mrs. Shenley, of Prince-gate, London, has been sold for £600,000. This is the highest price ever paid in America for property of this kind.

Lord Grimthorpe, who, although in his eighty-ninth year, still follows his favourite pursuit of clockmaking, has just completed another clock for the tower of the parish at West Melton, Yorkshire.

Dr. Harper, the president of the Chicago University, all his family, and friends intend to try "will-power" to effect a cure of his cancer. They are thoroughly convinced that he will be saved in this way.

Senor San Pedro, the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs, has announced that King Alfonso will visit London at the end of May. The Duke of Connaught's visit to Madrid has been postponed till the end of March.

Inquiry into the circumstances of the stranding of the Orient liner Orizaba off Fremantle, West Australia, has resulted in the Marine Court censuring the captain, and while returning his certificate, ordered him to pay half the costs of the inquiry.

Representatives of nearly all classes of employés on the Great Western Railway system met in conference at Newport on Sunday, and demanded arbitration upon their claims, threatening in the alternative a resort to more drastic means.

Alfred Shrubb, the famous English runner, upset the Victorian mile record at Melbourne on Saturday, winning a scratch over this distance in 4min. 29½ seconds. The prevous best was 4mins. 30 4-5secs.

The Silver Trout Angling Association has offered a £5 5s. prize to be competed for by the French anglers in the forthcoming fishing contest at Ballan court, near Paris. Many English clubs will be represented.

Ernest Quare, of Harlow, said to have been once Master of the Essex Hounds, was fined £5 at Stratford on Saturday for travelling on the Great Eastern Railway without paying his fare. He had been similarly convicted before.

When two labourers were accused at the Southwark Police Court on Saturday of stealing 5l. north of wood from the Rotherhithe Tunnel Works, it was stated that the petty pilfering was so great that the contractors, Messrs. Price and Reeves, had to allow £2,000 a year in their contract for "watchers."

On learning that a charge against him of stealing had been dismissed, a Russian at Bow-street, London, on Saturday exclaimed gratefully, "Oh, tank you. Tank you." He then astonished the Court by prostrating himself in the dock and kissing the floor fervantly.

Motor-car services between the riverside resorts of Henley and Marlow, and also between the famous regatta town and Oxford, are under the consideration of the Great Western Railway Company, with a view to being commenced for the ensuing summer.

Railway carriages transformable into ambulance compartments for the use of sick passengers have been provided on the Prussian railways for express routes.

The Supreme Court of New York, on a recent date, disposed of 17 divorce suits during the four hours in which the court was open for business—an average of 12 minutes for each case.

The British pavilion at the recent World's Fair in St. Louis has been purchased by Mr. R. Brookings, a wealthy resident of that city, who proposes to utilise it as a summer-house attached to his mansion.

Mrs. Carrie Sloucombe, of Des Moines, Iowa, who was recently granted a divorce from her husband on her statement that she found a certain article of woman's attire in his pocket, has been arrested for perjury. It is said that the article which she swore belonged to another woman was her own.

Jules Desoulin, of Lille, aged seven, is given the credit of being the youngest criminal in France. His most recent exploit was stealing a neighbour's new baby and offering it in a pawnshop. When the clerk refused it he left the baby naked in a garden, and, coming back, offered the clothes.

Does a cow feel? This subject was being discussed in the agricultural debating society of Rosebud (Wis.), when Amos Groble testified that at the time his six children were recovering from scarlet fever and ordered milk diet, his cow gave a double portion of milk. The cow reverted to her normal supply when the children got better.

The redoubtable police-fergeant Jarrett, who, on the Portsmouth road at Ripley, has secured so many convictions against motorists, including a peer and a Surrey magistrate, has been promoted to be inspector. He leaves for Woking.

At the meeting of the Worcester Board of Guardians, it was announced by one of the members that a family which had been in and out of the workhouse for twenty years had cost the ratepayers nearly £2,000.

The Midland Railway, which is conveying water from Newark to Lincoln, on account of typhoid at the latter city, has placed eight engine tenders, each capable of conving about 2,000 gallons, at the disposal of the authorities.

The famous Pump Room at Bath is to be enriched by a bust of Charles Dickens, which has been offered to the corporation by Mr. Percy Fitzgerald. It will fittingly occupy a niche in the handsome saloon which Charles Dickens described with such minuteness of detail in the "Pickwick Papers."

When a grocer's traveller from Bishop's Stortford came upon an overturned cart on the road at Patient End, Mr. and Mrs. D. Humphries, of Furneaux Pelham, had been pinned beneath the cart for two hours, and it needed an hour's work to release them.

The Council of the National Association has decided that on the third-class targets (used at 200 yards) the diameter of the inner, counting four marks, shall be reduced from 14in. to 12in.; and of the magpie, counting three marks, from 21in. to 18in. The bull's eye, counting five marks, will remain of 7in. diameter.

On the ground that she played the piano from morning till night a Parisian has sought a divorce from his wife. The court, however, held, says the *Figaro*, that such a grievance was "neither pertinent nor permissible."

To the Manchester stipendiary, a young woman complained that her father-in-law had impersonated her husband (who is in Brazil) in the Divorce Court, and had taken her children away by an order of the court. A police officer was instructed to find the person who removed the children.

Never in the long history of the Sussex Hare Hunt has a hare been caught, but the annual hunt dinner was held as usual at Hayward's Heath, venison and jugged hare being the chief dishes.

Glasgow last year carried 190,000,000 passengers on its tramways, and Liverpool carried 115,000,000.

To establish the English public-house trust system in France, an organisation has been formed in Paris.

Mr. C. T. Ritchie, M.P., and two of his daughters have left London for Sicily. They will be absent for some weeks.

Two sons of Mr. J. Tait, a tailor of Dounby, Orkney, were playing with a gun, when one accidentally shot his brother, inflicting injuries which proved fatal within a few minutes.

Mr. George Roberts, who was a second-cabin passenger from Liverpool to New York by the Cunard steamer Etruria, has disappeared on the voyage.

According to the *Vienna Gazette*, Herr Arnold Spitz has been authorised to style himself "automobile maker to his Majesty King Edward of Great Britain and Ireland."

Ju-Jitsu, the Japanese art of self-defence, has aroused the interest of the War Office, who are sending to examine the system at the recently established school at Oxford-street, London.

A Bill will be introduced into Parliament on May 26th "to establish public trusts under one control, with power to develop the canals of the kingdom."

Mr. Justice Bucknill, who has been absent from the courts for the past two months, owing to a hunting accident, resumed his judicial duties on Monday.

Mr. John McKenna, secretary of the Ulster Rifle Association, has received an intimation that an American rifle team intend competing again this year at Bisley for the Palma trophy.

A man charged at Greenwich with being drunk and disorderly had been convicted 35 times. He pleaded for "another chance," and got a month instead.

M. Marcel Schwob, a well-known French author, whose translation of "Hamlet" was used by Mme. Bernhardt in her production of a few years ago, died on Sunday.

As a rule a share of the profits on the Colchester oyster fishery relieves the local rates. Owing to the bad season it is feared this year there will be little available for this purpose.

Senor Andarra, an ex-judge of Venezuela, is going to Washington to ask that the U.S. should not interfere till the revolution now being organised has deposed President Castro.

Just as the evening service at Claremont Baptist Chapel, Bolton, was about to begin the electric light failed. Candles had to be requisitioned before the service could be proceeded with.

Crossing the canal bridge at Tipton, a woman named Sarah Garner, living at Stoke, by some means fell over. Her head struck the parapet before she reached the water, and she was killed.

Mr. John Newall Moore, of Longford Court, near Neath, passed away in his sleep on Monday, aged 57. He was a prominent figure in South Wales colliery interests.

The Earl of Rosebery will take the chair at a house dinner of the London City Liberal Club on Thursday evening, March 9, at which Mr. Felix Schuster will be the guest of the evening.

Twenty-three persons are believed to have been killed by an explosion which occurred on Sunday in a mine belonging to the United States Coal and Coke Company at Wilcox, West Virginia.

In memory of their son Frank, who was recently killed in an automobile accident, Mr. Richard Croker, the ex-Tammany Hall politician, and his wife have given £1,000 to various charities.

A young tramp named Duff lay down to rest by a lime-kiln near Ardee, co. Louth. He never woke, for he was suffocated by the fumes of the slaking lime.

His painting of an American lady being declared by her husband to be a bad likeness, M. Theobald Chartran, the French artist, slashed the picture to shreds with a knife and showed his visitor the door.

When carrying a sharp chisel in his breast pocket, an apprentice named Pister, of Dartmouth, slipped, and fell heavily. The chisel penetrated his body, and severed an artery, causing death from loss of blood within a few minutes.

Stockport magistrates were engaged for hours on Monday hearing a summons against James Kershaw, a beerhouse keeper, for allowing his premises to be used for gaming purposes. The game ring-throwing was said to be played for money and beer, but this was denied. Eventually a fine of £5 was inflicted, together with costs.

During February Clyde shipbuilders launched 12 steamers aggregating 43,000 tons. The new work already booked exceeds the launches by fully 45,000 tons. The fresh contracts are placed chiefly in Greenock and Port Glasgow.

A body, thought to be that of a man who either fell or jumped from Clifton Suspension-bridge recently, has been recovered. At the inquest on Monday, when an open verdict was returned, it was identified as that of John Frederick Hallard, a fitter, of Swindon.

Applying to the justices at Llandaff for the renewal of a public-house at Tongwynlais, recently demolished, Mr. Albert Dyke, the late landlord, said he had lived among the ruins for five weeks. The Bench refused the application, and told him to consult a solicitor as to compensation.

The King, on the recommendation of the Secretary for Scotland, has appointed Mr. W. M. Gloag, advocate, to be Professor of Law, Glasgow University, in the room of Professor Alexander Moody Stuart, resigned.

A policy holder of the New York Equitable Life Assurance Society is bringing a suit to prevent the expenditure of any part of the surplus funds for the purchase of the shares held by Mr. Hyde, its vice-president.

There is reason to believe that Austria-Hungary and Russia, in order to avoid the introduction of Lord Lansdowne's proposals for meeting the situation in Macedonia, would accept the finance scheme for the three villayets drawn up by the Porte.

A Richmond man, going home on Saturday night, found the charred remains of his wife, who had been burned to death. "I'll go with her!" he exclaimed, producing a knife. At Richmond Police-court on Monday he was charged with attempting suicide, and was discharged under protection.

The railhead of the Cape to Cairo railway will probably be at Kalomo, the administrative centre of North-west Rhodesia (Barotseland) before next June, and early next year there will be continuous railway communication from Cape Town to within 100 miles of the south-east corner of the Congo Free State, a total distance of some 2,000 miles.

Walter William Stock, a baker, was at Merthyr Police-court committed for trial on a charge of bigamy. It was said that prior to 1891 Stock had married twice, both wives having died. In that year he married again, and in December, 1903, went through the ceremony with a woman named Hooper, at Neath. When arrested he replied, "I have nothing to say."

A Bill introduced in the Missouri Legislature prohibits any person offering to treat another at at the bar of any place where intoxicating liquors are sold. The penalty is a fine of from £2 to £10 for each offence, or in the alternative from three to thirty days' imprisonment.

In revenge for being turned out of his lodgings, a drunken navvy at Perth made his way to a magazine where gelatine and other explosives are stored, broke in, and lighted a pile of paper in the passage, but no explosion followed.

The appeal of the Aylesbury Dairy Company, Limited, from the decision of which a Mr. Frost was awarded £106 damages for the illness and death of his wife, said to have been due to drinking milk supplied by the company, was on Friday dismissed.

Mrs. Constance Miller, a wealthy widow of New Rochelle, New York State, left directions in her will that her body should be cremated and the ashes deposited in her favourite work-basket, for interment beside her husband's grave.

In a pie-eating competition at New York for a wager of £20, John F. Maher, a clerk in the department of charities, won by consuming sixteen, against his competitor's ten. A cherry pie necessitated the swallowing of all the fruit stones.

Nine manufacturers out of ten who had entered for the Gordon-Bennett Cup have written to the French Automobile Club withdrawing their entries, and asking that a single race should be arranged to defend its interests without being obliged to take part in too many trials.