

CHelsea GIRL'S DEATH.

LOVER CHARGED WITH MURDER.

At an inquest at Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire, on Thursday, on Lucy Fairman (twenty-six), of Uppercross, Chelsea, a verdict of "Wilful murder" was returned against her sweetheart, Frank William Charles Crocker, a young nurseryman. The girl had been missing from home for several months, and her dead body was found in the River Lea, near Rye House.

AFTER THE DANCE.

Crocker, after being told by the coroner that it was possible he might be charged, elected to give evidence. Describing his movements on Saturday, January 6, he said he saw Miss Fairman at her home, and that he had taken her to Rye House dance. He had three dances, and left at 2.45 with Miss Fairman. He did not have any quarrel with the girl, but he thought he had made her jealous because he danced with other young ladies.

Returning to Hoddesdon, he went to his grandmother's, and fetched Miss Fairman's bag and umbrella. He travelled to Broxbourne with a man who played cards at Rye House. They had refreshment at Broxbourne, and then went on to London, reaching there at 11.15 p.m. Answering Mr. Robinson (who appeared for the girl's relatives), Crocker said he had not promised to marry Miss Fairman. He did not go to see Miss Fairman leave by train because he was asked to go to Hoddesdon, and he thought she would follow him. Afterwards he believed she had gone by the 8.50 train, but he did not inquire about her.

The jury returned their verdict after an absence of about a quarter of an hour, and the coroner committed Crocker for trial. He was at once taken into custody.

A COUNCIL COMEDY.

At a meeting of the Coventry Rural District Council it was necessary to appoint a chairman and vice-chairman, but only the two members who had held these offices for the year just closed were in attendance. Accordingly the one proposed and elected chairman was the chairman respectively, and each seconded his own nomination. In similar manner they also proposed and seconded votes of thanks to each other for their services during the past year.

FATHER'S FEAR.

At a Poplar inquest on a little girl, who was knocked down by an omnibus and killed while skipping, the child's father said that when he saw the body lying in the road he suspected, from the clothes, that deceased was his daughter, but was too nervous to make inquiries until he reached home. The child's death was instantaneous, one of the wheels passing over her head. A verdict of "Accidental death" was returned.

A memorial tablet is to be placed in the house in Canonage, Jedburgh, where Robert Burns stayed in 1787, and where the local magistrates presented him with the freedom of the borough. Messrs. A. G. Cameron (Paddington), A. Gould (Hull), and W. T. Wilson, M.P., have been selected by the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners as Parliamentary Labour candidates for the next election.

SAILORS' BRAVERY COMMENDED.

At Caxton Hall, London, Mr. Dickinson, the Police Court magistrate, delivered judgment in the Board of Trade inquiry into the loss of the s.s. Guillemot, of the General Steam Navigation Company, which went down in the Bay of Biscay on December 21 last.

The seven survivors of the crew of twenty-three were picked up by the steamer Lincoln, of the Lincolndale Steamship Company, of Manchester.

The Court found that the primary cause of the foundering of the vessel was the disablement of the steam steering-gear, and, later, of the hand steering-gear, whereby the Guillemot fell into the trough of the heavy sea and became unmanageable. All the officers behaved with courage and steadiness throughout, and worthily upheld the best traditions of the mercantile marine.

It was right that men who bore themselves in such a manner should have had at hand to assist them in their need officers like Mr. Puckey, of the Lincoln, who displayed the greatest daring and skill in his efforts to save life, and Captain Jackson, who manoeuvred his ship, the Lincoln, in a thoroughly capable and seamanlike way, the apprentice Peter-dregh, who risked his life in the water, and the four men who accompanied Mr. Puckey in the boat. The Court could not praise too highly the courage and skill of the rescuers and the manner in which the master of the Lincoln handled his vessel. That combination of bravery and good seamanship alone rendered possible the difficult feat of lowering a boat in the tremendous sea that was running.

The Court found that the Guillemot was navigated with proper and seamanlike care, and while expressing no condemnation of a system which, while employing a number of officials in a supervising capacity, apparently made no one of them responsible for seeing that the company's ships went on in seaworthy condition as regards such matters as deck cargo.

NON ADHESIVE.



"Please, will you change this stamp? Mother and father, and Uncle Joe and Aunt Eliza, and me 'ave all licked it, but none of us can make it stick!"

In Dublin the annual convention of the Hotel and Tourist Association of Ireland was held, under the presidency of Mr. Talbot Power, D.L., who bore witness to the improvement in Irish hotels.

A lady has been elected as a sidesman for the parish church of Farnham, Surrey.

Heston and Isleworth's birth-rate of 23.94 for the past year is the lowest on record.

Mr. H. C. Berners, high steward of Harwich, has attended the Stamford Bench at Ipswich for forty years.

Head postman at Brentford for over thirty years, Mr. Charles Martin, on his retirement and removal to Bournemouth, has been the recipient of many handsome presents.

Paddington Borough Council has issued notices calling attention to the great danger occasioned to the lives of men employed in sewers by petrol being thrown down the drains.

Authority has been given by the Local Government Association for the preparation of four town planning schemes, three with a total area of 1,100 acres, to be prepared by the corporation of Sheffield, and one with an area of fifty-three acres by the corporation of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

HOME HINTS.

Before jam-making soak half a cake of pipe-clay and rub the paste over the outside of pan, giving the bottom an extra thick coat. Dry on the fire. This will save the jam and the pan.

Don't throw old black stockings away. Cut off the feet, undo the seam, join the pieces together, running them neatly from the narrow to the widest parts. They will form an excellent get-toot top of good-wearing stockinette, only needing a founce.

After filling a rubber water-bottle with hot water, it is a good plan to press the side of the bottle before putting in the stopper. This allows all the steam to escape, and there is little danger of the seams coming undone, no matter how hot the water may be.

Salt is good for lustreless hair. Rub it well into the roots of the hair at night, then tie the hair up in a large towel and wear a nightcap. Brush out the salt in the morning. Several applications of this treatment will bring about a great improvement in the appearance of the hair.

Coffee or cream stains may be removed from delicate silk or woollen fabrics by first of all brushing the stains with glycerine, and then well rinsing them in lukewarm water. The stain should be allowed to dry in. Later, press the material on the wrong side with a warm iron.

To clean soap and brass make a good lather with emulsion and a quart of very hot water in which a teaspoonful of the strongest liquid ammonia. Wash the article in this, using a soft brush for the chased work. Wipe dry with a soft cloth.

To clean patent leather boots, first remove all the dirt upon them with a sponge or flannel, then rub over with a mixture of paste consisting of two spoonfuls of cream and one of linseed oil, both of which require warming before being mixed. Polish with a soft rag.

Instead of lining the drawers in the bedroom with newspaper, give them a coat of good white paint. This is much nicer than paper, and when cleaning is necessary, all that is required is to wipe them out with a damp cloth.

Scorch marks, unless very bad, when of course there is no cure for them, may be removed from linen by rubbing with a cut onion in half, and rub the scorched part with it; then soak in cold water. You will find that the marks will soon disappear after this treatment.

Substitute for Night Lights. Collect some old pill-boxes, odds and ends of candles and tapers, the candle-sticks, get some crocheted cotton and a bit of beeswax. The cotton, after beeswaxing it, must be cut into small lengths; then fix these into pin-holes in the bottom of the pill-boxes, and hold each little wick in position while filling the box with the melted candle-grease. This soon hardens in a cool place. To use, float the pill-box on a little water in a saucer in the usual way.

CLEANING BLACK LACE. Put an old black kid glove in water and boil it for half an hour. Obtain through a bit of muslin, and slightly dilute with warm water. When cool lay the lace on a board and sponge with the liquid, treating only a small portion at a time. Wash with a sponge so that the lace adheres slightly to the board; leave to dry, when pull gently off so as to avoid tearing. A black silk dress or coat which has become shiny may be sponged with this mixture with good results.

INEXPENSIVE PLATE POLISH. An inexpensive plate polish which will not injure the surface or remove the silver can be made by taking half a pint of sweet oil, whitening, and after trying it loosely in muslin soak out all the finest particles in half a pint of methylated spirit, kneading and squeezing it very lightly. Keep the mixture in a well-corked bottle, and shake the bottle before pouring some of the mixture into a saucer for use. See that the article to be polished is free from grease, and when it has dried on polish the silver surface with a soft cambric leather.

A REST PREVENTATIVE. A simple method of making ironwork proof against rust is to heat it until it is almost red hot and to brush it over with linseed oil. This is a simple matter, and a simple like ordinary paint or enamel, does not chip off. Rust may be removed from iron or steel by rubbing the surface with emery powder made into a paste with sweet oil. Another preparation consists of putty powder and oxalic acid mixed together with water. This latter scouring mixture should be washed off with warm water before the final polish is given with a dry rubber.

SOME USEFUL RECIPES. STEWED SEAKALE.—Wash the seakale and tie it in bundles. Boil in salted water for a quarter of an hour, then drain and put into a saucepan with as much brown gravy as will cover it. Stew gently till tender. Place it on a hot dish and stir a little lemon juice into the sauce and pour it over.

BANANA PUFFS.—Put into a pan half a pound of butter, and half a pint of milk, place the pan over the fire and when it simmers add a cupful of flour, beat all well together and when cold, mix in four eggs, leaving out one white, adding sugar to taste and throw in the grated rind of a lemon. Make the mixture into small squares, wrap the bananas in the squares of paste, after baking them in the oven until quite tender, then remove their skins and fry them, rolled securely in the paste. Dish and screen with sugar.

COOK'S ROW CUTLERY.—First boil the row slowly for half an hour, putting into the water a tablespoonful of vinegar and the same quantity of salt. When cooked, let it drain and get quite cold. Then divide into slices half an inch thick, and trim to a neat shape. Brush the slices over with egg and breadcrumbs, and fry in boiling fat to a golden brown. Drain on paper, serve on small crockets of fried bread, spread lightly with anchovy paste. Garnish with chopped parsley.

SULTANA SOFTS.—Rub two ounces of butter into one pound of flour, adding a teaspoonful of baking-powder and salt. Work all into a light dough with some milk; working in at the same time a good handful of sugar. Roll out the dough to an inch thick, cut it into three-cornered shapes, and bake until browned and cooked in a good steady oven.

COCONUT BISCUITS.—Take the whites of two eggs and beat them to a stiff froth, then mix together half a pound of caster sugar with half a pound of coconut. Stir this into the whisked eggs and form into small cones. Place them on a buttered baking-tray, and bake in a hot oven for half an hour.

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.

A FAMOUS MARCHIONESS.

Interesting stories of Amelia Hill, wife of the first Marquis of Salisbury are told by the Rev. Jocelyn J. Anthon in a little book entitled "Hatfield: Some Memories of the Past." Hunting and cards were Lady Salisbury's chief amusements. It is related of her that she had been out hunting on the morning before her death—at the age of eighty-five. Cards were her great hobby of an evening, and she caused much scandal by sending out invitations for Sunday card parties. The late Mr. Fordham, of Melbourne Bury, used to say that he had seen cards ankle deep in the Long Gallery of Hatfield when the evening had grown old, and many pucks had been thrown.

The duty on the property as valued in the English grant will eventually amount to about £280,000.

After fourteen years, James Tombs has just been arrested on a charge of stealing three-pennyworth of watercress. He was brought before the Wycombe magistrates, when it transpired that since the offence the prosecutor, the policeman, and the witnesses had all died. The Bench discharged the accused.

NO NEED BEFORE. In her later days the Marchioness had in the political world earned the sobriquet of "Old Sarah," a name handed down to posterity in an immortal lampoon by "The Spectator." In her later days she had been giving a large political party at Hatfield, and the fun waxing fast and furious, some of the party while dancing had carelessly knocked over a lady Salisbury. The lady, said to have been very old, fell on the terrace this afternoon, and the following quib was at once composed:—

Conservatives at Hatfield House; Have grown quite harum-scarum; For Barch, "Her ladyship's" hand will play; Than overturn Old Sarah.

The Marchioness is said to have been the last of her generation to traverse the streets of London in a sedan chair.

WANTED, WIVES. There is swinging spirited verse, some serious and some humorous, in "Ironbark Splinters from the Australian Bush," by G. Herbert Gibson (T. Werner Laurie, 5s. net). The book is an excellent collection of the need of Western Australian farmers for wives, and he tells us the sort of wives they want.

Girls for sweethearts, and girls for wives, And girls to milk our cows; Girls to brighten our lonely lives, And girls to wash our clothes; Girls to attend to the hand-fed calves; To honour and to obey The blokes they take for their other halves, And, who haven't 'em much to say.

Send us women with lots of go, As it is to be seen; That the roosters don't forget to crow, Or the hens forget to lay. Handy girls with a cookery book, And girls with no dislike profound To give a hand with a reaping hook, When the harvest time comes round."

The author modestly describes his verses as the lightest of light reading, but claims that the local colour of the bush verses is correct, his knowledge having been derived from years of experience on sheep and cattle stations and farms.

THE "MAZARINE" BIBLE. Among the most rare and valuable volumes, first place is usually accorded to the "Mazarine Bible"—the earliest book printed with movable type. It was printed in Paris in 1475. It received its popular name from the fact that the first copy to attract attention was found in the library of Cardinal Mazarin. The fine Gothic characters closely resembled the characters of the Vulgate Bible, and were passed off as such. Their low price, however, quickly raised suspicion, and their vendor soon found himself laid by the heels—not for the first time. The book was sold for himself, and he was compelled to disclose the secret of their production.

At the Ashburnham sale a copy fetched £2,000. It is said that early copies were there was considerable doubt about two of the leaves said to be facsimile; but the volume lost pride of place as the most valuable book when Mr. Pierpont Morgan created a new record by paying £4,000 for a copy. The present edition of "Le Morte d'Arthur," 1485, the American millionaire paid £8,500 for. The latter is absolutely unique, for no other perfect copy is known, but it may be noted that away back in 1688, at the sale of Dr. Bernard's library, a copy—possibly this identical volume—was sold for the insignificant sum of 2s. 10d. 1.

THE PROFESSOR IN THE TRAIN. In his "Reminiscences" (Cassell and Co.), Professor Blackie describes the fact that he met the late Professor Blackie. He writes:—"On one occasion, when I was coming home from Edinburgh, there got into the carriage a strange-looking man, with features something like those of an elephant, very heavy cut, wearing a huge plaid wrapped about him. A little girl had come to see him off, and when he bade her good-bye I was surprised to hear him address her in Greek. When we started it was with a Greek, and he took out of his pocket a Greek book, and read it with great gesticulation, in a loud voice, perfectly regardless of my presence in the carriage. I passed a most uncomfortable night, being so convinced that the old gentleman was insane. I left him at Hitchin, and he went on in the carriage to London. About a week after I was dining in the hall of Trinity College, and on going to the combination room I found that Mr. W. G. 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