

EPIDEMIC OF SCARLET FEVER.

Why Diseases Abound in the Early Days of Autumn.

INFECTED STREETS.

The annual autumn epidemic of scarlet fever has broken out in London. Yesterday there were 3,548 patients under treatment for this disease in the twelve hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Board.

Mr. J. T. Helby, chairman of the hospitals committee, speaking to an interviewer yesterday, emphatically denied that there was any serious outbreak of the disease this year, and attributed "the autumnal season rise" to the return of children from the seaside. "This year the rise is, if anything, less marked than usual," he said.

Mr. Helby added that one hospital, with accommodation for 400 patients, is at present entirely vacant.

A very different view of the situation, however, was taken by a specialist in children's diseases, seen by the *Daily Mirror* yesterday. "Mr. Helby's statement," he said, "is that of a man bent upon calming public alarm. To say that fever cases are due to the return of children from the seaside is to assume that scarlet fever epidemics are rampant at seaside towns."

Warm Weather to Blame.

"The fact that there are 160 fever cases to-day than there were on this day last year is due entirely to the exceptionally warm, dry weather we have experienced."

"This is the time of year for scarlet fever to break out; it is also the time of year when various rheumatic diseases are prevalent. Why, then, is not the return of children from the seaside given as a cause of an epidemic of rheumatic diseases? For scarlet fever in the child and what is generally known as 'rheumatic fever' in adults are caused by members of the same family of micro-organisms—the streptococci."

"I have, in fact, known cases where a mother, suffering from a bad attack of 'rheumatic fever,' has infected her child with scarlet fever."

Germ in the Streets.

"Scarlet fever manifests itself as scarlet fever in children, and as sore throats and inflamed joints in adults. Careful observation shows epidemics of both occur at this time of the year."

"The cause of these epidemics is alternate wetting and drying of the streets, usual in the early autumn. The myriad germs that are to be found in street dust and refuse are revived and made more virulent by wet. When the streets dry these germs blow about, and as the cooler temperature lowers human vitality you are a much easier prey for them."

"When once the weather breaks up," added the doctor, "I greatly fear that epidemics of scarlet fever and acute rheumatism will be rather worse this year than of late."

THE RELEASE OF HUGH WATT.

Decision to Deprive the Prisoner of Good Marks May Be Discussed in Parliament.

The decision of the Home Secretary to deprive Mr. Hugh Watt of the benefit of the "good marks" he has earned in prison—equivalent to three months' rebate—has caused considerable surprise, as no reason has been given for departing from the invariable practice which entitles a prisoner to the benefit of the "marks" in reduction of his sentence.

The sentence having been reduced from five years to one, it would naturally be expected that where the full "good marks" have been earned the discharge would take place at the end of nine months. The exception made in this case is the more singular since the prisoner is not in enjoyment of good health, and is suffering from serious eye trouble, which will necessitate a prolonged treatment by a specialist.

It is probable that the question will be raised in Parliament during the autumn sitting.

SPECIAL COURT FOR MOTORISTS.

Certain of the Kingston County Justices constituted themselves a special court yesterday to deal with motorists. In fifteen cases penalties amounting to £73 19s. 6d. were imposed.

ARTIST'S DEATH.

A Southampton jury decided yesterday that Albert Green Johnson, the well-known artist, who was found dead in a train bound for London, had died from heart disease.

Nottingham Goose Fair opened yesterday and continues to-day and to-morrow.

TWO WOMEN AND A MAN.

Sequel to an Actress Being Hissed on the Music-Hall Stage.

There were some remarkable revelations in the Brentford Police Court yesterday when suggestions were made of two beautiful young women fighting for a man's love.

Mrs. Mamie Clafin, of 12, Fairholme-road, West Kensington, was summoned for using threats towards Edith Ross, professionally known on the music-hall stage as Miss Maggie Rennie.

The complainant, said Mr. Akerman in opening, was a young lady who performed on the music-hall stage, and the defendant was the wife of a variety agent, Mr. Clafin, who was also the business agent of the complainant.

Whilst his client was doing her turn at the Ealing Hippodrome, on September 19, a great disturbance arose in the house, and a number of boys in the gallery tried to hiss the complainant off.

These boys, Mr. Akerman said, had been paid by the defendant to hiss his client.

The complainant said that the defendant had threatened to throw vitriol over her and to shoot her, whilst on one occasion she visited her armed with a bag of pepper. Defendant had accused her of certain relations with Mr. Clafin.

Mr. Jeykll (who defended): You have been in terms of intimacy with the defendant's husband for some time?

Witness: I have known him as a friend, and he is a close friend of Lady Cook, who is an intimate acquaintance of my father's.

Miss Rennie's mother, questioned as to her daughter's association with Mr. Clafin, said in one of her replies: "My daughter was only seventeen years old at the time. A very romantic girl. Defendant's husband made advances to her, and she, like any other young and impetuous girl, wrote him several foolish letters."

Binding Mrs. Clafin over to keep the peace, the chairman remarked that comment was superfluous.

ELECTION CHARGE COLLAPSES.

Secretary of Lingfield Racecourse Held To Be Not Guilty of Corrupt Practices.

The proceedings at the Oxted Police Court against Mr. Robert R. Fowler, secretary of the Lingfield Racecourse, for alleged offences under the Corrupt Practices Act at the last general election, were brought to an abrupt conclusion yesterday.

The allegation was that Fowler had dismissed three racecourse employees because of the part they played in securing the return of the Liberal candidate for the Reigate Division.

The magistrates, after a short consultation in private, announced that the case would be dismissed, as they considered there was no case to go to a jury.

NO MOTOR-OMNIBUS TRUST.

Official Denial That London's Street Service Is To Be Controlled by a Ring of Companies.

"It is an absolute invention," declared an official of the Vanguard Omnibus Company to the *Daily Mirror* yesterday, concerning the reported formation of a motor-omnibus trust to control fares on London streets.

The companies concerned were said to be the Vanguard, the Arrow, the Motor-Omnibus Company, and the London and Provincial Motor-Omnibus Company.

"There is no amalgamation," continued the official, "and there is no talk of any such thing. We are in a very prosperous condition, and we have no intention of allying ourselves with anybody. The report doubtless arose from the fact that we have a certain working agreement with other services. This is merely for mutual benefit, however, and each company works absolutely independently."

RUBBER TOYS DEARER.

Bicycles and Motor-Cars Rob the Poor Child of Its Favourite Playthings.

Motor-cars and bicycles are reducing the chances of children of the poorer classes having india-rubber dolls and toys this Christmas.

"So much rubber is required for tyres that all india-rubber toys and dolls have become much dearer," said a toy dealer to the *Daily Mirror* yesterday.

"In fact, small shopkeepers cannot afford to stock them. A little doll between 5in. and 6in. in length once sold at 6d. is now only obtainable for 1s., and the price of birds and animals has risen in proportion."

"LOST ALL INTEREST IN LIFE."

"I have no particular trouble. I did it coolly because I have lost all interest in life," remarked an Upton Park man who was remanded at West Ham yesterday on a charge of attempted suicide.

SWEET KING DEAD.

How Mr. G. O. Barratt Gave 2,000 Men Work.

ORIGIN OF "STICKJAW."

Mr. George Osborne Barratt, the inventor of "stickjaw," almond rock, Yankee Panky, rainbow balls, and other confections famous the world over, has just passed away at the ripe age of seventy-nine years.

Children especially will deplore his death, for how many of them had come to regard the founder of the firm of Barratt and Co., Wood Green, as a veritable Santa Claus.

Mr. Barratt's career furnishes another picturesque and interesting story to the increasing number of trade romances. Commencing business in the humblest possible way in Shepherdess-walk,



MR. GEORGE OSBORNE BARRATT.

City-road, about sixty years ago, he leaves behind him at his death an organisation employing nearly 2,000 workpeople and turning out over 300 tons of sweetstuff weekly.

During a lifetime remarkable for its strenuousness, Mr. Barratt accomplished many things. He will go down to history as the man who brought wholesome sweets within reach of the poorest purse, and as the first to pack confectionery in boxes and label them.

"Stickjaw," which brought him fame, was really the result of an accident. This was after he had started as a confectioner in Shepherdess-walk, with only his wife and a sugar boiler to help him.

Trusting to Providence.

One morning Mr. Barratt, to his horror, found that his sugar boiler had not grained the batch of cocoanut candy. Not a moment was to be lost, for customers were waiting, so he had it poured into tins as usual, trusting to Providence that the stuff would set before it reached the shopkeepers.

But it didn't; yet, in spite of its altered appearance, it sold as usual, and when next he called, all his customers gave "repeat orders" for what they termed "that stuff that sticks the jaw." Thus it came about that "stickjaw" and the name of Barratt became synonymous.

He also introduced the famous Tichborne Rock. At the time of the trial it would have been difficult to find a confectioner's shop in the kingdom which did not display in the window a box of this wonderful confection with a card bearing the following couplet:—

Crack the rock where'er you will,
You'll find Sir Roger in it still.

It is on record that "Sir Roger" himself many a time and oft bought the rock in vain endeavours to solve the mystery of the ineffaceable likeness, but it remained Mr. Barratt's secret for a long time.

MOTOR-OMNIBUS DANGERS.

Mr. Plowden Lectures a Chauffeur Ignorant of the Rules of the Road.

"Don't you know it is wrong to overtake a vehicle on the near side?" asked Mr. Plowden at the West London Police Court yesterday, of Alfred Parsons, summoned for driving a Vanguard to the common danger in Fulham High-street.

Parsons: Well, sir, to speak the truth, I didn't. I have only been driving for a month.

Mr. Plowden: It's a mercy you have been pulled up so soon. I have never heard a more amazing confession of incapacity. You don't know the A B C of your calling.

Parsons: I am very sorry.

Mr. Plowden: Yes, yes; but just think of the terrible risks the public incur through incompetence like yours.

A fine of 20s. and costs was imposed.

LADY EVELYN CAVENDISH'S BRACELET.

Mr. Horace Smith, at the South-Western Police Court yesterday, remanded James Smith and Walter Barrett on a charge of being concerned in the theft of a gold bracelet belonging to Lady Evelyn Cavendish.

GREEN HATS FOR MEN.

Austrian Exhibition Leaves Behind a New Fashion for London.

The latest thing in headgear for men are green hats, made in the Homburg and Tyrolese style. They are getting "all the rage" in the West End, the majority of good hatters are stocking them, and dressy men, often in green lounge suits, are to be seen wearing them everywhere.

There are two varieties, one called the Austrian green hat, and the other the Marienbad, the former having a smart-looking feather in the band at the side. Yesterday the manager of a leading firm told the *Daily Mirror* that although the price of the new hat is 14s., a large number have been sold.

"The idea came originally," he said, "from Austria, and hats of this type were first seen in England at the Austrian Exhibition at Earl's Court."

"A similar hat is worn by nearly all the Austrian country people, and green is the general shade, the Emperor's foresters wearing a hat which is almost identical with that which is now being sold in London."

"They are made of felt, will fold up into a very small compass, are neat and smart, and extremely comfortable."

HOW SHOULD A COW BE MILKED?

Dairy Show May Supply Answer to an Old and Out-Debated Question.

The vexed question, "From which side should a cow be milked?" should be settled at the Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, on Tuesday next.

A feature of the opening day of the Dairy Show will be a milking contest. Seventy-five farmers' wives and dairymaids from all over England, Scotland, and Wales will compete for a first prize of £15 and certificates of proficiency.

The awards will be made on the following basis: Manner of approaching the animal and style of work, 20 points; cleanliness, 10 points; clean stripping, 10 points; total, 40 points.

"Lots of people seem very interested in the question," said Mr. William C. Young, the secretary of the show, yesterday, "and if they want to know they must come to the show and see for themselves. I could tell you but I won't."

FIRE SEASON BEGINS.

Should Neglect of Precautions Against Burning Fatalities Be Made a Penal Offence?

Dr. F. J. Waldo, the City coroner, held inquests yesterday on two children burnt to death in South-wark.

After the jury had returned a verdict of Accidental Death in each case, the coroner remarked:

The fire season is beginning now. Many of the causes of burning fatalities to children could be prevented if the parents were more thoughtful and provided fireguards. One does not want to make criminals, but I think many cases would be prevented if a law were brought in penalising people who failed to provide means of protection for their children against fire.

"DAILY MIRROR" MATINEES.

Excellent Performance and Enthusiastic Audience at "The Earl and the Girl" at Kennington.

The *Daily Mirror* matinee performance yesterday of Mr. William Greet's "Earl and the Girl" company at the most handsome of our suburban theatres, the Kennington, was packed.

Over 500 of the *Daily Mirror* readers were present, and the continued applause plainly showed how much they enjoyed the splendid performance presented to them. Of the company, Mr. William Stephens, as Jim Cheese, the dog trainer, gave a most excellent performance.

The whole performance did great credit to Mr. Barrett Brandreth, the manager of the Kennington Theatre, and to Mr. William Greet, who was present in person.

Unfortunately some readers who had misread the instructions for gaining free admittance to the matinee were disappointed, for many were under the impression that entrance might be obtained by presentation of a copy of the *Daily Mirror* at the box-office, and one gentleman presented no fewer than seven.

AUTOCRAT OF THE STREETS.

Mr. Cluer, sitting at North London Police Court yesterday, told a cabman, who complained of the abolition of a cab rank in Tufnell Park-road by the Commissioner of Police, that this official was absolute in that matter. All applicant could do was to appeal to the Home Secretary.