

# England's Third Line of Defense

By G. KAY SPENCER.

The singular metamorphosis that transmutes a quiet, meek little London tailor or clerk to a brawny, element-hardened husky, who meets the steel of Spartan-trained armies in the supreme test—and conquers—is one of the inexplicable developments of this war.

While Flanders sucks the life blood of the noblest armies of them all, London listens—and hears the thunder of British guns "out there."

Those deep-throated mammoths are the "Gods of Attrition" and the first line of England's defense.

The second line of defense rides the waters of the world. No ensign flies so high nor so far as the "Union Jack."

There is another line. The women of the United Kingdom man the forges and foundries of Britain from Kilauea to Dover. They are the delivery of the sinews of the heroic descendants of that old red line, who fought as Englishmen have always fought—with honor and glory—on the sands of the Sahara, the crests of the Alps or the Tibetan plateaus.

The women have also entered the military. The Women's Military Reserve, organized by Viscountess Castlereagh (now marchioness of Londonderry), whose object is to defend the shores of the nation against the possible invasion of the Germans, is about to acquire the honor of becoming an integral part of the British army system.

To the marvelous organizing ability of the marchioness of Londonderry is due this unique woman's organization. With her second in command, Hon. Evelyn Haverfield, the marchioness has developed the W. V. R. until they are much more efficient than the so-called "Territorials" were when the green war struck. They are proficient in the regular army drill manual. All the officers have attained their positions solely on merit.

They have had the aid of regular army officers, but these gradually withdrew as the women developed officers of their own.

A tremendous impetus was given the youthful organization when, through the death of her father-in-law, Lady

Castlereagh became marchioness of Londonderry. Society flocked to her colors, only to find that commissions could not be bought—and then, curiously enough, they set out to work for them. There is many a prominent society woman serving in the ranks with servants of her own establishment.

The marchioness received the official attention of Lord Kitchener, when he recommended her as the colonel in chief for the very good and sufficient reason that she desired the command to go to a leader willing to accept the guidance of the government. Mrs. Pankhurst is said to have been more or less disappointed at this turn, but she lost no time in grieving—instead, she loyally supported the legion of Amazons.

The age limit for the organization was fixed at eighteen to forty. The big drill hall of Knightsbridge was loaned and drilling in the military arts has continued ever since.

It might be mentioned that all the officers of the W. V. R. have passed successfully the royal army examinations for their rank.

The purpose in applying an official status to the W. V. R. would be for the effect in case of an actual invasion—any time in this or future wars—for it is to be a permanent organization. If they were no official body an enemy would be justified in dealing with them as franc-tireurs or snipers. An official standing merely allows to them treatment under the war colors for official armed enemy forces.

While there seems to be not the remotest fear of invasion, either now or in the years to come, it is felt that the cause of any internal disruption occurring through rampant internal forces or enemy air raids, a body of healthy, straight thinking, well-officed and trained women would be of incalculable aid.

The colonel in chief of the W. V. R. never identified herself with the militant suffragettes, but her chief aid, Mrs. Haverfield, was a leader among them, driving her dog-cart through the London streets bearing flaming placards, "Votes for women!" and having—with evident enjoyment—numerous fights with the police and the rabble.

of all floors in a poultry house as when the house is cleaned a portion of the dirt will be removed and in the winter it is difficult to obtain a supply of clean dry dirt. Rais easily dig into the poultry house when the dirt floor is used and as the rats burrow up through the litter it is sometimes difficult to find out where they enter without cleaning out quite a portion of the litter or hunting a long time for their place of entrance. Board floors are of course necessary in colony houses which are to be moved frequently, but the concrete floor is now considered by practical poultrymen to be the only safe and substantial manner of building the floor in a modern poultry house.

The concrete foundation for a poultry house can be made of at least eight or ten inches above the ground and it should then be filled with at least three inches of tightly packed cinders or coarse gravel. Over this place the concrete mixture in the proportions of one part of cement to six parts of gravel and spread it out with a plasterer's trowel to a depth of two inches. The mixture will spread better if plenty of water is added during the mixing and it is quite sloppy. Before the first cement mixture has set cover the surface with a half-inch layer of a mixture containing one part cement to three parts of coarse sand instead of gravel. A foundation of this height allows the soil to be above the floor and this prevents rotting. It is also best to level the ground under the poultry house unless it is very well drained and when on a well drained site filling will take away the moisture that lies just under the surface of the soil as well as the surface water and in that way the house is given an ideal situation as far as drainage and permanent foundation are concerned.

## All Mothers Must Make Sacrifices—Philosophy of One of Right Spirit

Mothers are mothers all the world over; but I think some of our mothers of men in the big draft have shown as fine a spirit as the best, writes Margaret Prescott Montague in the Atlantic. I happened to drop in at the log cabin of one of these mothers just as a rickety old automobile lurched down the rough road and left an official summons for one of the sons who had volunteered. The mother's face was lean and brown, with magnificent black eyes, high cheekbones, a fierce, clean-cut chin and not an extra pound of flesh anywhere upon her. Two of her sons have volunteered. She has five boys; three are of the fighting age, and the other two will soon be if the war keeps on. I offered some unceremonious remarks of sympathy, but was met by the proud retort, "Mothers have got to make sacrifices. I figure it out that's the way it's always been, and so it'll always have to be, and if you hold yer sons back, yer don't git nowhere."

Viewing her words in retrospect, it seems to me now that she was really talking more to herself than to me, arguing it out passionately, seeking earnestly the right road to travel. And I think in a sense she had come to her journey's end, and had found what she was seeking, when she added: "There's a plenty lays right down an' carries on an' thinks they can't stand it, but—and here her face set itself in a high determination—"you kin of you will!"

# What Can We Do?



There is a request from hospitals for scrapbooks made to interest the convalescent soldiers when their hands are heavy on limbs forced to lie. Certainly here is a simple and easy task waiting for those who are anxious to serve the needs of our soldiers in some way, but with little time or money to spare. And convalescents in the hospital are not the only ones who will find the scrapbook something to enjoy and pass along. So, if you are considering about for something to send to the Soldiers for Christmas, consider the many virtues of a clever scrapbook.

These books are to be filled with pictures, cartoons, very short stories, good and new jokes (especially those originating in the army). These can be cut from magazines or papers or gathered elsewhere. Old files of magazines might prove a good field for exploration in filling them. Kodak pictures, if good and of general interest, will help out, and those of animals or country life are always interesting, or those made on trips to places of great natural beauty of historic interest. The blank books can be had at the humble and useful ten-cent stores and the pictures pasted in them. There is really more interest in this work, if the books are to be sent to acquaintances who have joined the army, and it is not at all hard to get acquainted with some soldier boy who may have less attention from home than his comrade, one especially nice thing about them is that they can be passed along and another is that the work is interesting in itself.

## Fads and Fancies of Fashion



MOUVELS IN COATS FOR MISSES. We can achieve smartness in coats that sell at a moderate price, if they are made up in correct lines and in accordance with accepted styles. This is a consummation devoutly to be wished for the mother of the young girl. No one is more sane of what she wants, or harder to change in her convictions, than the miss in her teens, but, thanks be, she is not exacting in the matter of materials. She does not yearn for ermine or velvet and will gladly wear rabbit fur disguised as either, if only it is made up in the right way.

For her the coat in the picture has been designed. It possesses all the style requisites which she can demand, worked out in materials that are moderate in price—as prices go just now. This coat is evidently an adaptation of styles with the authority of at least two famous Paris houses behind them. It is of Indian, a heavy wool cloth, lined with a fur fabric that has much the effect of minkskin. The lines are straight from shoulder to hem and there is the coolest and smartest of muffer collars about the neck, a narrow girdle, with long ends of the simplest, "throw-over" variety, is finished with hanging ornaments of silk cord. On the original model there were no pockets, but pockets are very practical on winter coats and they have been added without marring this design.

BUTTONS are used for fastening the coat; three large ones, covered with cloth like the coat, are placed at the front, one above and two below the girdle. Three smaller ones manage the collar and the front of the body. The bands of fur fabric need not be like the coat in color; those in black look well on almost any of the fashionable colors in wool, but the best effects are not in strong color contrasts. Dark brown with brown bandings, taupe with taupe bandings, wine or dark amethyst with black bandings are good combinations for coats. All the neutral or "glove" colors are to be recommended.

## Teeth Factor in General Health

By DR. SAMUEL G. DIXON, Commissioner of Health of Pennsylvania.

Good teeth are necessary for health. What adds more to the beauty of the human face than a mouthful of fine teeth?

The first teeth need great care. First, the mother should see that the mouth is not over-crowded so that its form may be maintained for the second teeth when they come.

The baby teeth are softer than those that come after and therefore acids must be scrupulously avoided, particularly in mouth washes, as teeth will destroy these important teeth which should be kept in the mouth as long as they are in good condition.

Your doctor or druggist should be able to tell you about the acidity of the tooth preparations that are on the market.

It is always a pleasure to learn how to do things for one's self; it makes you self-reliant and at the same time stimulates you to seek further knowledge.

If you expect your tooth preparation of being acid you can buy a few cents worth of litmus paper from your druggist, and by dipping a very small piece of this into your mixture a reddish tinge will appear on the paper if there is any acid present. If acid, forbid the use of the preparation. If a tooth powder is used it should be well shaken up with water before making the acid test.

Plain chalk with a soft brush or rag will do very well to clean the teeth of children both night and morning. The mouth should be well rinsed with water after each meal, and just before retiring it is well for both adult and child to rinse the mouth with a strong solution of baking soda. This destroys the acidity that might have been generated in the mouth from foodstuffs.

The teeth and gums should not be abused. Sound and healthy gums are necessary to maintain the health of the teeth.

## Good Floor for Poultry House Is of Importance: Concrete Best Material

The floor in the poultry house is worthy of more consideration than it usually receives, as a substantial floor is necessary to keep the flock warm and dry as well as to exclude rats and moisture. The wooden floor costs more than concrete if you place the concrete without hiring skilled labor and the concrete is perfectly warm when covered with a deep litter and it can be thoroughly cleaned whenever the litter is removed.

## GATHERED SMILES



Reputation to Maintain. "Can't you set a date for the payment of this bill?" asked the collector. "I could if it weren't for one thing," answered the debtor. "What is that?" "I want to maintain my reputation for veracity."

He'd Done It. She (romantically)—The man I marry must be willing to go through fire for me. He—Then I'm your man. The boss has fired me for telephoning you so often.

Obliging. Purchaser (angrily)—That cheap suit you sold me only a few weeks ago has gone all to pieces! Dealer (benevolently)—My friend, take the advice of an old friend and buy a better suit next time. Let me show you some high-priced goods!

Too Old to Change. Maloney Jr.—The teacher told us about breathing oxygen into our lungs and breathing carbonic acid gas out. Mrs. Maloney—Sure, 'tis all right!

Grateful. May—I don't think much of a man who proposes to a girl by letter. Carrie—my dear, you should feel grateful to a man who proposes to you in any way.

Caused Tears, Too. Nell—Mamie's engagement ring is a pearl. Nell—But pearls are emblematic of tears. Nell—Yes, and the poor girl is crying her eyes out. She expected a diamond.

## We Are Never Old.

We are never old, that is we never cease to be young, for all life at the same time; youth is an army, the whole battalion of our faculties and our freshness, our passions and our illusions, on a considerably retreating front into the enemy's country.

for ye young people to learn this thing, but O've been breathing air both ways too long to change.

The New Warmth. "With coal beyond reach and wood going up every day, how are the common people going to keep warm?" "I guess they'll have to do the best they can with their burning indignation."

No Joke. "And so you are married?" "I told you I was going to be." "But I thought it was a joke." "It isn't."

High-Speed Machines. The airplane is now easily the speediest means of locomotion. Machines capable of 150 miles per hour in still air are now in use on the battle front. In making a steep dive some of the machines have attained the enormous speed of 250 per hour. The speed record before the advent of the airplane was held by an electric train which, at Fort Belknap, near St. Paul, Minn., recorded a speed of 112 miles per hour.

Shun Stove in Storm. The most dangerous point in a house during a thunder storm is near the stove, says a writer in the Pathfinder. Fireplaces, screen doors, chimneys, tin roofs or tin valleys and roofs are also hazardous. As the circulation of air in the house has nothing to do with its being struck or not by lightning the windows may safely be left open. The safest place is on an iron or brass bed. To stand near it is risky, but to lie on it is perfectly safe. The walls and ceiling of the room, on the floor below may be struck, but not the person in bed. A feather tick is no protection against lightning unless it is on steel springs. It is safer to stand under a tree than out in the open. Oak trees are struck often than other trees and the beech the least of all.

One Item of War Expense. Imagine yourself slowly running your eyes up the 432 feet of the great lighthouse in Egypt. Do not stop at the top, but picture, if you can, the seven pyramids of equal height

## SUNDAY LESSONS

By REV. P. B. FITZWATER, D. D., Teacher of English Bible in the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago. (Copyright, 1917, Western Newspaper Union.)

### LESSON FOR NOVEMBER 4

#### DEFEAT THROUGH DRUNKENNESS.

(World Temperance Sunday.) LESSON TEXT—1 Kings 20:1-21. GOLDEN TEXT—Let not him that drieth on his harness boast himself as he that putteth it off.—1 Kings 20:11.

- 1. Samaria Besieged (vv. 1-12.) 1. By whom (v. 1.) Benhadad, the Syrian king, accompanied by 32 kings, came against Samaria. These 32 kings were not allies, but rulers over the neighboring cities—vassal princes. 2. Benhadad's message to Ahab (vv. 2-4.)

He offered peace on the most abject and insulting terms. His demands meant more than the cession of tribute. He over-reached himself in this; thus defeating his purpose. He not only demanded tribute money, but the surrender of that which was most vital to Ahab's manhood and self-respect—his wives and children. He thus made a thrust at his tenderest spot. Many a man has been thus aroused to do his duty, who otherwise would have submitted to shameful indignities.

- 3. Ahab's reply (vv. 4, 7-9.) His reply was tame and humiliatingly submissive. Perhaps, he thought it only meant the giving of tribute, which he was willing to do in face of Benhadad's overwhelming army. Conciliatory measures were regarded as the most prudent. But the peremptory demands of the enemy repented, awoke Ahab to his senses, and caused him to call together the elders of the land, who counseled against submission. Thus stiffened for the opposition, Ahab refused to make full compliance with his demands.

- 4. Benhadad's bluster and boasting (v. 10.) The design of this was to strike terror into the hearts of the king and people. He vowed that he will make Samaria a heap of dust, and that this dust will not be sufficient to fill the hands of his army, so overwhelming is the number of his host.

- 5. Ahab's answer by a proverb (v. 11.) "Let not him that drieth on his harness boast himself as he that putteth it off." This is a proverb full of points for all boasters. God's purpose may overrule all man's proud presumptions. "Man proposes, but God disposes." "Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."

- 6. Readiness for the attack (v. 12.) In the full confidence of victory, the Syrian king was giving a banquet to his princes. In the midst of this feasting, the command was given to invade Samaria. Incited by strong drink, he gave no attention to the striking proverb of Ahab. Many have gone to ruin because through the stupor of drunkenness, they have failed to heed proper warnings.

- 7. Ahab's Victory Over the Syrians (v. 13, 14.) The army of Ahab was but a handful compared with that of the Syrian (v. 15; cf. v. 16). Benhadad, with confidence in his superior numbers, ordered the young men of Israel to be taken whether they came for peace or war. He, with his princes, continued their drunken debauch. The young men struck right and left, creating great consternation. When the seven thousand reserves joined the young men, a general panic was produced among the Syrians. From the human side, the victory is accounted for by the drunkenness of the Syrians, but from the divine side, we see that God wrought for his own glory. Ahab pursued the Syrians with a great slaughter, but Benhadad escaped. Many have been the defeats which have come through drunkenness; defeats in morals, defeats in religion, defeats in business, defeats in physical endurance. The man who indulges even moderately has reduced his opportunities of success very greatly. Most of the accidents by automobiles, railroads, etc., are traceable to the use of intoxicating liquors.

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