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Says Cream Applied in Nostrils Relieves Head-Colds at Once.

If your nostrils are clogged and your head is stuffed and you can't breathe freely because of a cold or catarrh, just get a small bottle of Ely's Cream Balm at any drug store. Apply a little of this fragrant, antiseptic cream into your nostrils and let it penetrate through every air passage of your head, soothing and healing the inflamed, swollen mucous membrane and you get instant relief. Ah! how good it feels. Your nostrils are open, your head is clear, no more hawking, snuffling, blowing, no more headache, dryness or struggling for breath. Ely's Cream Balm is just what sufferers from head colds and catarrh need. It's a delight.

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Make this lotion for very little cost and just see for yourself.

An attractive skin wins admiration. In social life and in business the girl or woman whose face and hands show evidence of constant care enjoys a tremendous advantage over those who do not realize the value of a healthy skin and a spotless complexion.

At the cost of a small jar of ordinary cold cream one can prepare a full quart pint of the most wonderful lemon skin softener and complexion beautifier, by squeezing the juice of two fresh lemons into a bottle containing three ounces of orchard white. Care should be taken to strain the juice through a fine cloth so no lemon pulp gets in, then this lotion will keep fresh for months. Every woman knows that lemon juice is used to bleach and remove such blemishes as freckles, sallowness and tan, and is the ideal skin softener, smoothen and beautifier.

Just try it! Get three ounces of orchard white at any pharmacy and two lemons from the grocer and make up a quart pint of this sweetly fragrant lemon lotion and massage it daily into the face, neck, arms and hands. It naturally should help to soften, freshen, bleach and bring out the roses and beautify any skin.

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Gigantic Task of British Navy

WHEN Lord Salisbury traded the island of Heligoland to Germany, it may be at the suggestion of Queen Victoria, he made the present war possible. If this rock had remained in our possession Germany would never have run the risk of fighting Great Britain. The island is some 20 miles from the German naval bases, and in British hands would command them. Possibly, if the island had remained British, Germany would have chosen some other port than Wilhelmshaven as her chief naval base, but this would have entailed grave disadvantages. Today this tiny island, about one square mile in area and rising to a height of 200 feet above sea level, is priceless to Germany, for it is not only powerfully fortified, but it and an adjoining sandbank have been made into a harbor and shelter for submarines, destroyers, light cruisers, zeppelins, and aeroplanes. The narrow waters are shallow enough to be effectively mined to make it absolutely impossible for enemy vessels to pass except at considerable loss. Undoubtedly one of the terms of peace will be that Germany shall lose possession of Heligoland.

This island and others along the coast give Germany a great advantage in the war game against Great Britain. Writing in the New York Tribune, Mr. Gherard Davis says that the guns on Heligoland would be exceedingly difficult for hostile ships to deal with. On the other hand, there are no such flanking islands on the British coast which are exposed to German attack, and the configuration of long stretches of the English coast makes it impossible to be successfully protected by mines. Thus, if German cruisers choose to take the risk of encountering British fighting ships they need not fear mines at a distance to bombard certain English coast towns, especially those that are not adjacent to military ports. It is true that there are thousands, perhaps millions, of mines laid by the British in the North Sea, but they are in certain zones, and not turned loose promiscuously. If these particular safe channels are known to Swedish and Dutch sea captains, there is not the slightest reason to suppose they are not equally well known to German naval commanders.

Why the Germans have not done more bombarding of the undefended English towns is not clear to Mr. Davis, unless, as he supposes, German losses in the Jutland fight seriously reduced her supply of vessels suitable for these attacks. He notes the tremendously more difficult work that has fallen upon the British navy compared with the duties of the German navy. The latter are comprised almost exclusively in the words "safety first." The chief business of the German navy is to keep from being sunk; the duty of the British navy is to keep the North Sea clear. English mine-sweepers, patrol vessels, destroyers, and light cruisers are constantly on duty well off shore toward Germany, and even the battleships are at sea. They are not protecting British coasts by hugging them; they go as near the German navy as the mine fields will permit. Only on one occasion was the whole German fleet out, and then followed the Jutland battle, about which controversy continues to rage, but Northcliffe press, for example, considering the result as unsatisfactory to Britain.

Mr. Davis does not pass judgment on this fight, but remarks that "on every occasion where the Germans have met the English on even fairly equal terms, the Germans have never fought it out." There seems to be no doubt that their conception of the average British naval commander is that of a bull-headed fighter whose sole ambition is to get next a German ship and throw out his grappling-irons. They hope that this blind fighting spirit will lure British ships over carefully-planted mine-fields and that their destruction will follow. There is in England a certain school of patriots who insist that it is the business of the British navy to assume the offensive, to "dig them out like rats," as Winston Churchill said. They regard the matter much as though it were a question of a ferrier drawing a badger, whereas the situation is as though the ferrier were obliged to crawl for a hundred yards through a lethal chamber before he met the badger.

Mr. Davis points out that while the British have had command of the sea since the beginning of the war, the entry of the American navy not making that command more absolute yet it has been warmly welcomed by the British. The British navy has kept sleepless vigil in the North Sea for more than three years. The mental strain has been terrific; the material strain has been great. Many of the British destroyers must have become pretty well worn out in the past three years. Undoubtedly the British navy will have an easier job now that Admiral Sims is there. The strain will be relaxed. As far as the German navy is concerned, Mr. Davis believes the mental pressure must be increasing. The submarine campaign, and the secrecy surrounding it, has sent many a German sailor mad. The long inaction of Germany's major ships must have seriously undermined the morale of the crews and will tend to make them nervous and fearful on the rare occasions when one of the larger ships ventures into open sea. Should ever there come a "day of reckoning" on which the German fleet steams forth it will be manned by crews whose morale has been enfeebled by inaction that must by this time have become an established habit.

COURT SCANDAL RECALLED.

Favorite of Francis Joseph Dies in Vienna.

German newspapers announce the death in Vienna of the actress, Katharina Schratl, for years an intimate of the late Emperor Francis Joseph and to whom he left \$250,000 in his will. She was one of the most lurid figures in the scandalous life of the old Emperor.

Katharina Schratl first met Emperor Francis Joseph in the early 80s, when she had won considerable reputation at the Stadt Theatre in Vienna as a mimic, and soon became known as "the woman behind the Austrian throne." Mme. Schratl, however, lived to see the day when permission was refused her to view the Emperor on his tier.

At the time of her first meeting with Francis Joseph the young actress was the wife of Nicholas von Kiss, a Hungarian, who died in 1900. Court gossip had it that the Empress Elizabeth, who had been known as the most beautiful Princess in all Europe, was first to call her royal consort's attention to the young woman's loveliness of face, and that the next day Katharina Schratl was appointed court actress of the Hofburg Theatre. Throughout the remainder of the Empress' life she befriended the actress, and apparently encouraged the intimacy between her and the Emperor, about which the country soon was gossiping.

Katharina Schratl was described as an extremely handsome woman of the brunette type—tall and classically formed. Her eyes were large and blue, and she had a wealth of much personal magnetism, and her manners were said to be charming.

The actress remained on the stage for many years as leading lady of the Hofburg Theatre. She occupied an establishment near the palace, and nearly every morning Emperor Francis Joseph took breakfast with her.

After the Empress Elizabeth was assassinated in Switzerland in 1898 Mme. Schratl wore the deepest of mourning. The Emperor more and more sought her companionship, and she was appointed "official reader" to amuse him with books. He caused to be published in the State paper of Vienna the following paragraph: "The perfectly innocent character of the relations between the monarch and the actress are known to every one here who has the slightest acquaintance with Austro-Hungarian court life."

Katharina Schratl, the actress, then became a participant in affairs of State, playing behind the scenes but wielding an influence over the aged Emperor that made Austro-Hungarian statesmen eager to gain her counsel. In politics she was at first an opponent, and then a partisan of the Hungarians, who desired greater legislative privileges than the dual monarchy permitted. It was the actress who persuaded Emperor Francis Joseph in 1905 to receive in audience Francis Kossuth, son of the great Hungarian patriot and radical leader.

Mme. Schratl's career as a political power ended with the death of Emperor Francis Joseph in November, 1916.

Unlucky Bagdad.

A writer in Pearson's tells us that Bagdad, where the British are now so firmly established, has earned its reputation of the world's unluckiest city. Not a square inch of the soil on which it stands but has been soaked with the blood of its citizens.

When the Mongols, under their terrible Chief Hulagu, took the city in 1258, 1,000,000 of its inhabitants were put to death. Worse still, Hulagu ruined the whole system of irrigation canals which made Mesopotamia perhaps the richest country in the world, "thereby destroying the work of 300 generations in as many hours."

In 1393 Timur the Tartar sacked the city. He killed all its inhabitants, "save only the holy men," and 900,000 skulls were piled up in pyramids before the walls.

The Persians under Shan Abbas, captured Bagdad in 1623, after a desperate resistance, and in revenge he ordered 600 of the principal citizens to be tortured to death in public, the executions lasting over an entire week. Three hundred others were executed by hanging them head downward in the city's 300 wells, thereby poisoning the water supply.

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BUYING TITLES IN ENGLAND.

The Check in the House of Lords—A Distinct Gain for Democracy.

It was a sign of the times in which we live that Earl Loreburn's resolution aimed at the purchase of honors and titles in England was adopted with immaterial amendments by the House of Lords. The evil had been growing with the rankness of a fungus. The rush for privy councillorships, knightships, baronetcies and seats in the House of Lords suggested the bargain counter. It is a fact that, while the distribution of "honors" by the king upon the recommendation of his prime minister grew steadily in volume, hundreds of aspirants were disappointed. Since the war "to save democracy" began a considerable number of democrats in Great Britain and the Colonies have been ennobled or raised to envied social distinction. And, of course, there were resentment and heart-burning among the applicants who did not see their names on the illustrious scroll, that is to say, in the Gazette. There could be no doubt that, while some of the successful had served the State honorably, others simply wrote checks. It had been so before the war, when political funds yawned for the little scraps of paper and needed for money have greatly multiplied during the last three years. Serving the state by giving money to carry on the war was highly creditable to the donors, but it should not have borne them into the House of Lords, or into the more exclusive circles, on a flood tide—that was indecent in the circumstances.

Reports of the debate in the House of Lords must have had readers who usually find themselves bored stiff by the "proceedings of Parliament." They are usually dull enough. In fact, all England was interested in the subject. It is curious to note the sensitiveness of some of the members of the "hereditary chamber." They are not disposed to believe that titles and distinctions had been sold; of course, the prime minister knew nothing of the abuse, for he merely submitted his advisers' recommendations to the King; anyhow, where was the direct proof? But prime ministers are not so unsophisticated; they are familiar enough with political ways—and means.

The doubting Thomases had their guns spiked by the evidence of the Earl of Selborne, Earl Loreburn, and other plain-spoken critics of the scandal. One illustration will be sufficient, though many were given. Friends of Mayor George Holman of Leeds, a most public-spirited citizen, thought his name should be in the Gazette, and they approached the party Whip. "Yes," said he, "this is a clear case for an honor. What is your friend prepared to give?" Mayor Holman declared that he wouldn't give a penny; his language was stronger. "Could the honor be obtained strictly on merit?" "Why, no," said the Whip; "an honor he shall not have unless he contributes to my party fund."

The influence of Sir James Gledes, founder of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association, was solicited by an applicant for a title who offered to give \$100,000 to that charity for a baronetcy. "Sir James flatly refused to have anything to do with the traffic in titles. The Earl of Selborne, who has fought it for several years, declared that the debate that the abuse was a menace to the purity of public life and was doing great damage to the prestige of the Crown."

The holder of one of the greatest titles in England, the Marquess of Salisbury, struck the popular note when he said that the House of Lords must "speak to the democracy in broad language which could not be misunderstood." In the end the resolution, adopted "without a division," required that "the Prime Minister, before recommending any person for any such honor or dignity, should satisfy himself that no payment or expectation of payment to any party or political fund is directly or indirectly associated with the grant or promise of such honor or dignity." This covers the most flagrant cases, and another paragraph, which calls for "a definite public statement of the reasons for which it (the honor or dignity) has been recommended to the Crown, shall accompany the notification of the grant," should exclude the common herd of tuft hunters. It will be more difficult in future to add to the "Eugenes" and to translate purchasing nonentities to the red enclosure of the House of Lords. Democracy is marching on in England.

Wales Has Mineral Wealth.

Wales is the richest part of the kingdom in mineral wealth. England produces annually about \$2 to each acre; Scotland a little less; but the product of Wales is over \$4 per acre.

Thawing Frozen Meat.

Experiments are under way in England with a method for thawing frozen meat without bursting its tissues so that it will compare favorably with fresh-killed meat.

VIMY

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Our own Canadian boys thrilled the civilized world when in April, 1917, they stormed Vimy Ridge and pushed back the Hun.

Individual feats of heroism are too vast in number to be commemorated singly. Nor would our heroes desire us to waste money on useless monuments.

But every veteran of Vimy Ridge will approve of Canada's rebuilding Vimy as a token of our love to France and as an enduring memorial to the boys who fought and died there.

The Canadian Secours National obtained from France the privilege of rebuilding Vimy. The Secours National will receive the funds to carry on this inspiring work. But it is you and your fellow Canadians who will really rebuild Vimy, rehousing the homeless, providing for a destitute people at least a part of those comforts that we enjoy daily as our normal right. Don't hesitate. Though your contribution may seem small to you, it will loom large to the homeless!

Contributions should be sent without delay to W. R. Johnston, Esq., Hon. Treas., 14 King St. W., Toronto, Ont.

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