

## THE KITCHEN.

We are living in a day of educational reform, and the present building construction, as a rule, shows homes with rooms well lighted, well aired, attractive, convenient, and with bathrooms which are the latest word in efficiency. But in this general progress in sanitary building the kitchen has not kept pace with the rest of the house: in fact, in many cases as far as the kitchen is concerned, we find instead of progress actual retrogression. Yet in certain respects the health of the entire family depends on the sanitary condition of the kitchen, a fact recognised on the Continent, where the kitchen is held in far greater respect than in this country.

Several causes are responsible for the retrogression in this country, but the principal one is that the kitchen is no longer, as in days gone by, a part of the home of which to be proud. Visitors and members of the family seldom if ever enter the kitchen; indeed, the head of the house herself goes there as little as need be. The care and pride that in former days were bestowed on a pleasant, efficient kitchen are now reserved for the drawing and dining rooms, and the kitchen occupies only a small portion both of house-room and attention. It may be kept clean, it is true, but there is a difference between the clean and the sanitary kitchen, and architects are giving too little thought to the latter in the houses they plan because the housewife does not demand it.

For a thoroughly sanitary kitchen light, ventilation, good plumbing, and, what are most frequently lacking, non-absorbent, washable floors and walls are necessary. Many a house in which a perfect bathroom is to be found can only show a kitchen with wooden floors and walls that will be easily permeated with animal and vegetable matters. Yet the sanitary reasons that call for tiled floors and walls in the bathroom apply with redoubled force to the kitchen. Wooden floors and unwashable walls offer lodgment for all kinds of germs, and the heat ever present in this room offers the means for those germs to lead a thriving existence.

The ideal sanitary kitchen should have walls and floor covered with tiles set in hard cement. Then will they be sterile so far as germs are concerned, easily washable, and unaffected by the vapours that arise from the cooking of food. An endless amount of scrubbing is thus done away with, and the bright, clean, cheerful appearance has an excellent influence on the servants who live in it. The up-to-date and well-equipped kitchen comes nearer solving the difficult servant problem than any other factor.

J. J. W.

## BOOKS RECEIVED.

- We have received the following books, &c.:
- From George Allen and Unwin: **THE PROBLEM OF NATIONALISATION.** By Viscount Haldane. With an Introduction by R. H. Tawney and Harold J. Laski. 1s. net.
  - From A. Brown and Sons, Hull: **POEMS AND PROSE PIECES.** By Boys in the Lower Forms, Hymers College.
  - From Cassell and Co.: **ALMOND-BLOSSOM.** By Olive Wadley. 8s. 6d. net.
  - From Chatto and Windus: **SECOND PLAYS.** By A. A. Milne. 7s. 6d. net.
  - From the Clarendon Press, Oxford: **TWENTY YEARS. Being a Study in the Development of the Party System between 1816 and 1835.** By Cyril Allington. 12s. 6d. net.
  - From Collins' Clear-Type Press: **THE WAR IN THE AIR.** By H. G. Wells. 2s. net.—**WHEN THE SLEEPER WAKES.** By H. G. Wells. 1s. net.
  - From Constable and Co.: **IMPRESSIONS AND COMMENTS.** By Havelock Ellis. Second Series, 1914-1920. 12s. net.—**THE EVOLUTION OF NAVAL ARMAMENTS.** By F. L. Morrison. 18s.—**LIFE OF VENIZELOS.** By S. E. Chester. 21s. net.
  - From W. Heffer and Sons, Cambridge: **EUCHARIST AND SACRIFICE.** By F. Crawford Burkett, D.D. 1s. net.
  - From Hodder and Stoughton: **THE IMPERIAL PRESS CONFERENCE IN CANADA.** By R. Bert Donald, LL.D. 25s. net.
  - From the Ido-Kontoro Luelsingin (Suomi): **OPENING SPEECHES DELIVERED IN THE FIRST ASSEMBLY OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.** By G. Motta and P. Hymans. English and Ido. 2s.
  - From Methuen and Co.: **...** Compiled and adapted.

## ARMENIAN REFUGEES IN MESOPOTAMIA.

To the Editor of the Manchester Guardian.

Sir,—When Mr. Lloyd George and M. Briand, at the last London Conference, saw fit to reject President Wilson's scheme for the creation of an Armenian State, many people, while deploring the decision, found satisfaction in the thought that the League of Nations had been authorised to undertake the task. Some, however, more intimate with the situation in the Middle East, took a more gloomy view of the policy. To them the more threatening aspects involved in an attitude of delay were immediately apparent. I am not referring to those realists who, judging the League of Nations by its actual record, concluded that a reference to that body of the Armenian question constituted the virtual abandonment of the problem. How far events will justify the latter view remains to be seen. But already the result of the Allied decision, which appears so much of an abstraction in London, is coming home with terrible effect to men, women, and children of Armenia scattered in refugee camps in the Middle East.

During the years of the Great War and for some time after the Armistice these people had looked forward to the time, fast approaching as they thought, when they could foregather in their own country. Few of them realised that no honest attempt would be made by the Allies to fulfil their obligations. What is now happening may well be exemplified by the latest news which has reached me from Mesopotamia. Here has been quartered in the neighbourhood of Bagdad a group of 14,000 refugees, including 900 orphan children. These have suddenly been ordered to leave Mesopotamia and proceed to Armenia by, it is said, the British Government. But where is "Armenia"? The British Government may or may not have reasons to justify this edict, but to order a return to Armenia, whose creation it has more than once been a party to preventing, is to add a touch of irony to an already impossible situation. Whether can these refugees retreat and set up homes? Certainly not in the vilayets of North-east Asia Minor, usually known as the homelands of the Armenians. These are occupied and administered by Kemalists forces. Nor can they retreat to Russian Armenia, which is now an appanage of Soviet Russia, or at least as much as has not been handed over to Turkey. A recent agreement between Russia and Turkey provided for the cession to Angora of the provinces of Kars and Ardahan, in Russian Armenia—a shameful betrayal on the part of M. Chicherin of his promises to maintain intact the integrity of the Erivan Republic.

The only means of succour which remains for this Mesopotamian group of refugees lies with the British Government. It can allow them at least to settle down in Mesopotamia, somewhere in the neighbourhood of Bagdad, where large tracts of territory need to be cultivated and where model farms could be set up. To permit this is not to raise or to be involved in any question of "high" politics, but to make amends for a disastrous policy of delay, and at least to make a fine and rare gesture of humanity.—Yours, &c.,

T. P. CONWILL-EVANS, Secretary British Armenia Committee.

96, Victoria Street, London, S.W. 1.

## THE HALLE CONCERTS.

To the Editor of the Manchester Guardian.

Sir,—As constant subscribers to the Halle Concerts we would propose that a public meeting be called to formulate suggestions, with a view to relieving the financial situation of the Society, for it is inconceivable that the present difficulties cannot be overcome. A levy of 5 per cent might be put upon season tickets for, say, five years, such levy to be used by the Society for its needs. Thus all subscribers would become guarantors in a minor degree. Surely in a city like ours it is unthinkable that we should be unable to support an orchestra of such world-wide fame as that founded by Sir

## MISCELLANY.

It seems possible that we may be approaching the twilight of one of the oldest and most commonly relied on of European expedients, if we are to judge from the generally expressed weariness of the French on the subject of conferences. A conference has been the happy thought of European politics for many centuries, and the Paris Conference of 1919 differed only in detail from the Field of the Cloth of Gold. Many reputations have been built up by conferences and many more have been shattered, and it may at least be claimed for them that, if not always more effective, they have been usually less expensive than wars. But it would certainly be a curious thing if conferences were doomed through the particular aptitude of one man for "conferencing." Whatever may be the verdict of history on Mr. Lloyd George, it certainly is true that he has a real genius for a conference, and the petulant comments of the Paris press suggest that this is the real stumbling-block.

For the writing of stately minutes Mr. Lloyd George has no great faculty; what he likes is to get people into a room and to turn on them all his batteries, while there have been occasions when his persistence has won at least the possibility of agreement from an apparent deadlock. So we get the situation that our allies, or some of them, consider that they are handicapped in conference, and that the existence of one too magnetic personality sets them too much at a disadvantage. So that Mr. Lloyd George may have killed conferences by his too great success as a "manager" of them—just as certain of the great conversationalists of the early Victorian era killed conversation.

Pearls are not the only precious stones that, according to tradition, suffer a natural increase, if they are correctly treated. For long ago "Sir John Mandeville" told that diamonds were like pearls in this respect. "And albeit," he wrote, "that men find good diamonds in Ind, yet nevertheless men find them more commonly upon the rocks in the sea and upon hills where the mine of gold is: And they grow many together, one little, another great. And there be some of the greatness of a bean and some as great as an hazel nut. And they be square and pointed of their own kind, both above and beneath, without working of man's hand. And they grow together, male and female. And they be nourished with the dew of heaven. And they engender commonly and bring forth small children, that multiply and grow all the year. I have oftentimes assayed that if a man keep them with a little of the rock and wet them with May-dew oft-sithes, they shall grow every year, and the small will wax great. For right as the fine pearl congealeth and waxeth great of the dew of heaven, right so doth the very diamond; and right as the pearl of his own kind taketh roundness, right so the diamond, by virtue of God, taketh squareness. And men shall bear the diamond on his left side, for it is of greater virtue than than on the right side; for the strength of their growing is towards the north, that is the left side of the world, and the left part of man is when he turneth his face toward the east."

He goes on to an amusing account of the virtues which the diamond brings to its wearer. "He that beareth the diamond upon him, it giveth him hardiness and manhood, and it keepeth the limbs of his body whole. It giveth him victory of his enemies in plea and in war, if his cause be rightful. And it keepeth him that beareth it in good wit. And it keepeth him from strife and riot, from evil swears (i.e., dreams), from sorrows and from enchantments, and from fantasies and illusions of wicked spirits. And if any cursed witch or enchanter would bewitch him that beareth the diamond, all that sorrow and mischance shall turn to himself through virtue of that stone. And also no wild beast dare assail the man that beareth it on him. Also the diamond should be given freely, without coveting and without

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## CERTIFICATES AND SAVING.

... Certificates sold in il was 80,638. On these y may borrow a sum of ificates sold in Salford 7. On these sales the row a sum of £4,181 for Committee notify that Savings Certificates sold