

SACRED PLACES.

The graves of the dead are sacred places to all civilised people, and in France especially the greatest care is taken of the graveyards. Our illustration, on page 239, shows one of these at Bar-le-Duc, a place which must bring peace and consolation to those whose dead rest there.

In striking contrast to the reverence of the French is the revolting news that the enemy has desecrated graveyards, and broken open the coffins of the dead for the sake of their metal fittings, and sometimes, apparently, from sheer brutality. Thus Mr. Philip Gibbs, the correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*, writing from the British Head Quarters in France describes the cemetery of a little church in the grounds of a chateau, full of vaults and tombs where lay the dust of French citizens, men, women and children who died before the horror of this year.

"The vaults had been opened with pickaxes. The tombstones were split across, and graves exposed. Into these little houses of the dead—a young girl had lain in one of them—rubbish had been flung. From one vault the coffin had been taken away. . . . I write the things I have seen not to rouse passion or to inflame hatred. There is no need of that, and I prefer to think that it is the dirty work of a few men rather than the expression of a racial instinct of brutality. But one's gorge rises at it, and at the foul spirit of war which is spread here like slime over a fair country side. . . ."

The picture of the canal at Bar-le-Duc gives a glimpse of a peaceful countryside, such as is ruthlessly laid waste and devastated by the Germans as they retreat.

Miss Stevenson, who is well known in Derbyshire, as lady superintendent of the County Nursing Association, was one of the nursing staff on board the hospital ship, "Asturias," when the vessel was torpedoed, and she had a narrow escape of losing her life. The boat in which she and others attempted to get away was several times capsized. Thrown into the water, Miss Stevenson lost consciousness, but fortunately was picked up by a patrol boat. She is now in hospital, and is making satisfactory progress.

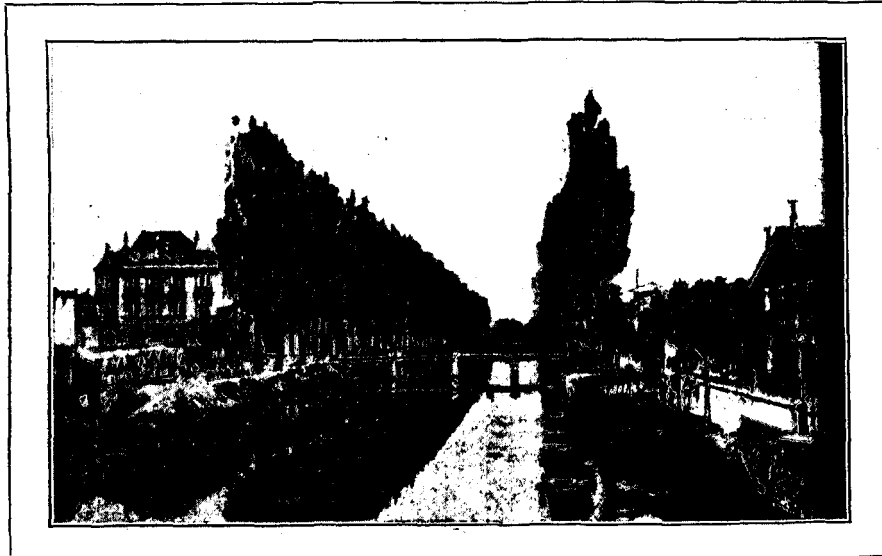
RECUPERATIVE HOSTELS FOR SAILORS AND SOLDIERS INVALIDED FROM H.M.S. WITH NERVE-STRAIN.

MEETING HELD AT SOUTHWARK TOWN HALL.

By the courtesy of the Mayor, who presided, the above meeting was held on Thursday, March 29th.

"We are met together to discuss a matter of great importance, one which should have public support and sympathy," said the Chairman in opening the meeting to an interested audience.

In a recent issue of this Journal we have briefly described the aims, objects and salient points of this organization, which is a much-needed scheme for helping that section of war victims that has



THE CANAL, BAR-LE-DUC.

perhaps the greatest claim to our sympathies. Unfortunately, several of the most prominent persons interested in the scheme were unable, from various unavoidable causes, to attend. Among them the Mayor announced the names of Sir Frederick Milner, Bart., Chairman of the Committee, who had broken down (we hope only temporarily) from overwork. In his letter of regret he stated that "it was perfectly monstrous that they (the nerve-shattered men) should be sent to asylums, where they go from bad to worse."

Lady Falle, wife of Sir Bertram Falle, Bart., M.P., was the first speaker. She spoke with great earnestness and sympathy, having had personal experience of these poor sufferers, many of whom she had seen in Portsmouth, her husband's constituency; they had drifted back to their homes, where none of the treatment and care so

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