

It must be confessed that, arrived in London, she, in her inexperience and her unaccustomed wealth, and under the influence of her vulgar and fast friend Lydia, did not achieve that social standing which she craved. But we have no space to dwell on that period in her history. As she was a charming, pure-minded girl, she came out unscathed from her somewhat risky experience.

It was at this stage that she became acquainted with Alexis Triona.

John Briggs, alias Alexis Triona, or Alexis Triona, alias John Briggs, whichever you please to begin with John Briggs the chauffeur presented an MS. entitled, "Through Blood and Snow," written under the name of Alexis Triona, to a famous London publishing house. It purported to be the personal experience of his early war days as a Russian officer; of the circumstances that sent him into the Imperial Secret Service; of his incredible wanderings, sufferings and escapes. The book created a furore, and Triona's future was made. He dropped "John Briggs," and also the calling of a chauffeur. He had a charming, boyish personality, which captivated Olivia's adventurous spirit. She, believing him to be highly-born and connected, hid from him the fact of her pig-killing father, though otherwise she was of a frank, open nature.

"They had been married all of a sudden, both caught up on the wings of adventure; they were young, free as air. They went to their little toy home on the sea coast, 'Quien Sabe,' whose questioning name pointed to mystery."

There were just three rooms in all "It's the craziest place I've ever seen," said Myra. "People will be living in old aeroplanes next."

But the very craziness of the habitation made for their selfish joy. The universe, just for these twain, had gone joyously mad.

The exposure of Alexis as an adventurer and a fraud came before very long. Their desire to tour the world was one of the determining factors, for Alexis had reckoned without the passports, and "John Briggs" stared him in the face.

Little by little his deception came to light—no Russian, no secret service experience—but a naval rating, who in Russia had taken from the body of a dead man the note book of experience which his brilliant mind had woven into his famous book.

Of course, the shock to Olivia's love and faith was tremendous; she had loved Alexis, she had no use for "John Briggs."

We must leave the reader to discover the *dénouement*. But we wish that space would allow us to do justice to the incomparable Myra; she is worth creating and we will conclude with a characteristic of her.

Olivia says, "Myra, dear, you'll have to pack up quick; we're going to Honolulu to-morrow!" "You must make it the day after," said Myra. "The laundry doesn't come home till to-morrow night."

H. H.

COMING EVENTS.

October 21st.—The Matrons' Council. Meeting. Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital for Women, Euston Road. 3 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m. Address by Miss Beatrice Harraden on her "Trip to Poland," and Music.

October 27th.—General Nursing Council for England and Wales. Monthly Meeting. Ministry of Health, Whitehall, S.W. 1. 2.30 p.m.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not in ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT, 1922 : NURSES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—I am directed by the Minister of Labour to refer to Section 10 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1922, whereby employment as a female professional nurse for the sick, or as a female probationer undergoing training for employment, as such a nurse is, since the 1st July, this year, excepted from the provisions of the Unemployment Insurance Acts.

I am to inform you that the authorities of St. Thomas' Hospital have raised the question of the insurability of nurses before the 1st July, 1922, and the Minister has decided that a Senior Staff Nurse at St. Thomas' Hospital was, before the 1st July, 1922, insurable under the Unemployment Insurance Acts. Against this decision the authorities of St. Thomas' Hospital have lodged an appeal, and the main ground of their appeal is that the Senior Staff Nurse is employed in domestic service.

I am to add that this appeal will probably be heard early next month.

I am,

Madam,

Your obedient Servant,

F. H. DURHAM.

Ministry of Labour,
Employment and Insurance Department,
Queen Anne's Chambers,
28, Broadway, Westminster, S.W. 1.

[Since receiving this communication from the Minister of Labour, we have not had time to consider the appeal from St. Thomas' Hospital, but think there must be some error in designating the Senior Staff Nurse as in domestic and not professional service.—ED.]

PROTEST AGAINST STREET COLLECTION FOR NURSES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—Will you of your courtesy allow me to protest in your paper against the practice of

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)