

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

One of the most depressing things in connection with Christmas shopping is the fact that it is almost impossible to buy British made goods for good British money, as apparently the policy of modern "stores" is to cram every department with freely imported foreign made goods.

Listen to this tale of woe. We had an hour to spare in which to buy Christmas gifts and household goods. We entered a shop where for 40 years we have found reliable British goods.

We needed a hot-water can—made in Belgium. An enamelled kettle—made in Germany. A tea tray—made in Japan. Glass—made in Czecho-Slovakia and Italy. Pottery and china—made in Austria and Italy. Toys—made in Germany. Clocks—made in Switzerland. Soaps and scents and shoes—made in France, Editor's scissors—made in Germany. Silver—made in Denmark, and so on. We called a shop walker, remonstrated, and *did not spend a penny!* No wonder our people are on the dole.

But surely we women ought to combine to insist upon being served with British goods in return for British cash.

No wonder we are the most highly taxed nation in the world.

The total sums paid to the United States Government on account of the British War Debt to date, exceed the total sums received in respect of Allied War Debts and reparation by the amount of £140,000,000. The accumulated deficiency is close on £200,000,000, if interest on past payments and receipts is taken into account.

Our contribution to the expenses of the League of Nations has risen to £120,000 per annum, punctually paid no doubt, and far in excess of the contributions of many affiliated nations.

By and bye, let us hope, this patient milch cow will kick over the bucket, to say nothing of jumping over the moon. It is high time.

Mr. Greenwood, Minister of Health, announced in the House of Commons that the number of widows' pensions in England, Scotland, and Wales, granted since June, 1929, was 357,313.

The Royal Institution has received an intimation from the Pilgrim Trust that the Trustees have allocated the sum of £16,000 to meet the deficiency on the fund for the reconstruction of the Institution. The Trustees state that, in making this grant they had regard to the distinguished scientific services rendered to the whole community by the Royal Institution for over a century, and to the approaching Faraday Celebrations.

The Trustees of the Pilgrim Trust have given £5,000 to the Young Women's Christian Association toward the cost of the new central club which is being built in Great Russell Street, W.C.

The Trustees recognise the desirability of a club of this type "to serve the needs of women and girls gathered from all parts of the country."

The British Academy have awarded this year's Rose Mary Crawshay Prize for English Literature (£100) to Miss U. M. Ellis-Fermor, Reader in English Literature in the University of London, for her work on Christopher Marlowe and her edition of Marlowe's *Tamburlaine*.

A recital from the works of Thomas Arne, composer of "Rule Britannia," was recently given at St. Paul's Church, Covent Garden (Arne's parish church).

Increased interest has recently been taken in this patriotic 18th century composer.

Sir E. Graham Little, M.P., has been re-elected President of the University of London Graduates' Association.

The rector of St. Bartholomew's the Great, famous all over the world for the dramatic story of its foundation, has serious news for the lovers of this splendid old church. The death watch beetle is responsible for grave and extensive damage to the roof, and a most alarming state of affairs has been made manifest. Blocks of wood, some 6 in. thick, can be squeezed by the hand to powdered dust. The Rev. E. Sidney Savage invites donations as a Christmas and New Year act of good will to repair the damage. We hope contributions great and small may be eagerly sent to him at the Vestry, St. Bartholomew's the Great, West Smithfield, E.C.1. The reward will be in helping to stabilise one of London's architectural masterpieces. We feel sure Bart's Nurses will do what is in their power for Rahere's Church.

A TRUE TALE WITH A MORAL. THE BANNER OF STEWART OF APPIN.

Three tattered banners, precious relics of the battle of Culloden, have been handed over by the Stewart Society for permanent preservation in the Scottish Naval and Military Museum at Edinburgh Castle.

They are the banner of Stewart of Appin and the colours of Barrell's Regiment, known at the time as Barrell's Blues, to whom the Stewarts were opposed at Culloden.

The Stewarts of Appin formed part of the right wing of the Jacobite army, which was commanded at Culloden by an ancestor of the Duke of Atholl, Chairman of the Military Museum at the Castle, where the flags are being placed under the condition that they shall never be separated and never removed from the Castle without the consent of the Stewart Society.

It is also requested that in any account of the flags which may appear in the museum prominence be given to the name of David Livingston, who, at the risk of his own life, saved the banner of Stewart of Appin.

Isla Stewart, matron of Barts, was a Stewart of Appin, and hereby hangs a tale.

In the historic struggle of the nurses to do their duty as conscience dictated in the affairs of their own organisation the Royal British Nurses' Association came a clash over the amendment of the bye-laws in 1897. A medical autocracy was for the moment in power, functioning from behind a royal petticoat. We appealed and were rebuffed, and then it became known we were determined to exercise our right to vote as we chose. So one fine day two powerful Medicos entered the office of the Matron of Barts and told her that "if she dared to vote against the Princess" they would have her removed from the honourable post she held!

Rising from her chair this great little lady opened the door.

"I'll have you to know I'm a Stewart of Appin" was her dignified reply to threats—that covered all. At whatever risk to her own interests she must uphold the banner of Stewart of Appin and act as directed by conscience. Those were stirring times of test of character in the nursing world. We are glad we lived through them.

WORD FOR THE MONTH.

A Heroic Note.

The Dean of St. Paul's, preaching at St. Paul's, said: "On this last Sunday of the year, at a time when we are all engaged in a sort of spiritual stocktaking, computing our spiritual gains and losses in the last twelvemonth and making new resolutions for 1931, the words: 'To him that overcometh,' forming the refrain of the message to the seven Churches, sound a heroic note. The same old

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