

THE WAR.

TO ALL ALLIED PRISONERS OF WAR.

Yours is the hardest test of all to bear:
 You were as runners pressing towards the goal,
 Your pulses leaping with that ardent joy
 Born of fulfilment, gloriously near.
 —With one cruel stroke, the shining accolade,
 So dearly coveted, so nearly won,
 Was lost, before achievement was attained.
 —And now you stand aside and grimly wait;
 Patience your sword, and fortitude your shield.
 High courage leaps to meet hard circumstance.
 —Always behind the dangers of the day,
 And through the sleepless nights, the dreary dawns,
 Swift and unswerving as the eagle's flight,
 Our thoughts speed to you on the wings of prayer.
 For you we strive through blood and toil and tears,
 Fight still more valiantly, work harder yet.
 For loyalty to you defies despair.
 Deep as our trust in God—our pride in you.
 Courage! The dawn is breaking for the free.
 The invincible tide sweeps on to Victory.

H. TREVELYAN-THOMSON.

(With acknowledgments to "R.A.F. Quarterly.")

Violets Doubly Sweet.

With a personal message that they would bring to Canadian soldiers "A breath of home," the Queen has sent a bowl of Canadian wild violets to the mess of a Central Ontario Regiment, of which, she is colonel-in-chief. The violets were grown from roots which the Queen brought from Canada after the Royal tour.

The International Red Cross and our Prisoners in Germany.

It is good to know that Mlle. Lucie Odier, with Dr. Marcel Junod, delegates of the International Red Cross Committee, have returned safely to Geneva after a fortnight's tour of British War prison camps and civilian international centres. We shall look forward to their official report. Their visit was kept very secret, and they travelled with a strong "guard."

Dr. Junod and Mlle. Odier kept in close touch with all departments of the British Red Cross and St. John War Organisation and had interviews at the War Office and the Foreign Office. In particular they discussed the problem of getting food to British prisoners of war.

The Board of Directors of the I.C.N. received many courtesies from Mlle. Odier when headquarters were in Geneva, and she was a valued member of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation, which we all hope may arise like a phoenix from the flames when the world is again at peace.

Mr. Menzies' War Impressions of British Women.

Before returning home Mr. R. G. Menzies, the Australian Prime Minister, in a B.B.C. postscript said his outstanding impression of Britain to-day was the courage, the action, the endurance of the nation's women. "Wherever I go I see them and I marvel at them, and I am not thinking of any one class.

"From Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, whose cheerful and brave smile has brought comfort to thousands of people the wreckage of whose homes she has visited, to the humblest woman of the East End, the breed runs true.

"I think of the great industrial cities where many hundreds of bombs have fallen, where literally thousands of houses have been wiped out, where vast community funerals have been held and human anguish must have been supportable only because it was so widely shared.

"The brightest smiles were seen on the faces of toil-worn middle-aged women: faces transformed from homeliness to a sort of radiant beauty by sheer courage.

"I thank God for such people."

And we thank Mr. Menzies for his sympathetic perspicacity. We note he has paid us handsome compliments now that he has returned to his splendid homeland. We women thrill with the recorded deeds of valour of Australian patriotism.

A Record.

The fact that the London War Weapons Week produced £120,041,000 affords many obvious and serious reasons for satisfaction. On the Monday night after he had announced this magnificent figure Lord Kindersley might have sent himself happily to sleep with the ancient lullaby:—

Hey diddle, dinkety, poppety, pet,
 The merchants of London they wear scarlet;
 Silk in the collar and gold in the hem,
 So merrily march the merchantmen.

The Times.

War-Time Nurseries.

War-time nurseries may now be set up in any area—evacuation, neutral or reception—to look after all children up to five years of age for as long as 15 hours a day.

Until now nurseries providing full day-time care for children of all ages up to five have been mainly for children of women in munitions factories. This facility is now being extended to the children of women who go out to work all day in any kind of employment.

The Government, which assumes full financial responsibility, aims at a rapid expansion of all war-time nurseries.

The Roll of Honour—Naval Casualties.

The Board of Admiralty regrets to announce the following casualties which are not connected with any particular ship or incident, but which have been sustained in meeting the general hazards of war.

W.R.N.S.

KILLED.

Reading, Sybil, W.R.E.N.

WOUNDED OR INJURED.

Bertram, Kathleen, W.R.N.S.

Tuning In.

A Merseyside doctor hopes to enlist Government support in his search for a scientist who can adapt the principle of electro-magnetism to the rescue of people trapped under bombed buildings.

Dr. G. S. Swan, believing that thousands of lives can be saved by some form of sound detector, told the *Sunday Dispatch*: "I have in mind a modified apparatus embodying the elements of the devices used to detect U-boats and enemy aircraft.

"But I am no inventor—just a man with an idea which some technical expert can develop."

For four days Dr. Swan watched rescue workers struggling to dig two women from a mound of rubble. The rescuers had only a general idea where they lay. No sound came from the debris, but when the women were freed they said they had shouted themselves hoarse.

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