

'Ave yer bought the street, Bill?

ALBERT CHEVALIER will go down to posterity as the Costers' pal and deservedly so. In using his unique gifts of mimicry—Chevalier delighted to give expression to the latest humour, so cleverly portrayed in the "gentlemen of the barrow."

The "fevvers and pearlys" of the ladies and gentlemen of that ilk are legacies from the past, to which they still tenaciously cling. This, indeed, proves them to be a class by themselves—to be reckoned with for many reasons.

First, they possess, as we all know, a sense of humour which is typical of their character and station in life.

They hate shams! I well remember on one occasion discovering two of these gentlemen in a City churchyard, where a "dinner-hour" service was being held in the open air.

Obviously their attention was drawn to the behaviour of a very self-conscious man in the congregation, who possessed a small beard, from which a low and bellowy voice was heard.

So soon as the opening hymn was started the vocalist endeavoured to find places for onlookers—"Look Bill,"



Photo:

P.A. Reuter.

The Finsbury Pearly "Royal Family" and their "moke" taking offerings to the Costermongers' Harvest Festival Service recently.

said one Coster to his mate, "that bloke over there is hitting up for a pew-opener's job!!!" So much for candid criticism!

The Coster, I submit, is seen at his best when assisting at a harvest thanksgiving service. The beautiful gifts and the genuine reverence and devotion then revealed would remind one of our Lord's own words, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord." The zeal and success achieved by the Coster on behalf of charity is made obvious when we read of the totals obtained by them, as published in the Press.

Finally, I believe the average Coster is sound of heart in many ways—hence that touching poem, put to music by Albert Chevalier.

"We've been together now for forty years!

And it don't seem a day too much;

There ain't a lady living in the land

That I'd swop for my dear old Dutch."

T. V. H. B.

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.

Princess Tsahai Memorial Hospital.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

October 5th, 1949.

DEAR MADAM,—May I request the kind hospitality of your valuable columns to announce the bazaar to be opened by Miss Wendy Hiller and Lord Winster, which is to be held on behalf of the Princess Tsahai Memorial Hospital, at the Kingsway Hall, Kingsway, on December 1st, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., and on December 2nd, from 11 a.m. Lady Winster, Princess Viazemsky, Miss Dorothy Dorsay, and other distinguished people will preside at the stalls.

Eighty-five per cent. of the target of £100,000 has now been raised, and the balance is very urgently required to meet the cost of the final equipment, which will shortly be available.

Ethiopia is making a great struggle for rehabilitation and development, a struggle which is particularly arduous in relation to the health services. The Princess Tsahai Memorial Hospital, with a British staff and British equipment, will be of great service to the public of the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, including British and other foreign residents.

It is the aim of the Memorial Hospital Council to carry out the Princess Tsahai's ardent wish to establish a trained nursing and medical service in her own country. Five years of splendid work in British hospitals had prepared her to be a pioneer in this noble task. To repair, as far as possible, the great loss of her untimely death at the early age of 23, the Memorial Hospital Council was formed here.

We hope to see your readers at the bazaar on December 1st and 2nd, and in the meantime gifts for the stalls and offers to help at the bazaar will be gratefully received by the Honorary Secretary.

Cheques and postal orders will be acknowledged with very warm thanks by the Honorary Treasurers, Lord Horder and Lord Amulree, c/o Messrs. Gould and Prideaux, 88, Bishopsgate, E.C.2.

Yours faithfully,

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST,

Hon. Secretary.

3, Charteris Road, Woodford Green, Essex.

More Blood for Hospitals.

110,000 Donations in Three Months.

MORE blood was given for hospitals in England and Wales in the second quarter of this year than in any comparable period since the war. Gifts to the National Blood Transfusion Service totalled 110,993, or 12,938 more than in the April-June period of 1948.

New donors in the quarter numbered 36,847—the biggest response since the war—bringing the total strength of donor panels to 382,382.

Hospitals are now using over 40 times as much blood as before the war—and the demand is still rising. To provide for these future needs it is estimated that over 190,000 more donors are wanted.

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