

## LIFE IN A SUBURBAN SAHARA.

(FROM OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENT.)

Nothing more impresses one with the vastness of London than its huge, suburban solitudes. The endless lines of barrack-like streets; the monotonous vistas of illuminated drawing-rooms, each the foyer of a little community of souls; and the long receding perspectives of twinkling gas-lamps, shedding their sickly beams across the dark roadways; all combine, as nothing else could, to bring home to the imagination of the observer the immensity of this London. In traversing these wide expanses of bricks and mortar, deserted, yet populous, empty, yet teeming with life, one has much the same feelings as a traveller amidst the echoing stillness of the Sahara, except that the loneliness of London is the truer loneliness, and the unseen multitude is all the more impressive because of its very invisibility. Over all hangs a brooding silence, broken only by the sigh of the breeze as it sweeps, etc. etc. LEAVES FROM THE DIARY OF A PARISIENNE.

5. 0 a.m. Aroused by a Post Office motor-van taking a short cut through the Avenue. (The roadway is being freshly macadamised.)
- 5.30 a.m. Gong-testing competition on the main road between facetious car-drivers.
- 5.55 a.m. Long-winded protest against early hours from an engine at Clapham Junction. The challenge is taken up further down the line and a prolonged duel ensues.
6. 0 a.m. Concert of clocks and steam-hooters.
- 6.20 a.m. Arrival of Corporation navvies with hob-nailed boots and big shovels. Crowbars violently flung on the flagstones.
- 6.30 a.m. Motor-buses getting into form. Alarm clocks go off every five minutes. Front-doors open and garden-gates bang. The foreman in the excavations at the South end of the Avenue holds a colloquy with the foreman behind the earthworks at the North end. The South foreman is named Bill; the other Jim.
7. 0 a.m. Milkmen. Cacophony of yells and complaining cans.
- 7.15 a.m. More milkmen. Accompaniment as before.
- 7.30 a.m. Milkmen and newsboys.
- 7.45 a.m. Postman. Crescendo and diminuendo of knocks and banging gates.
8. 0 a.m. Motor-buses, trams, trains, and early-morning sprinters, now in full career.
- 8.45 a.m. First school-bell. The children have been in the playground for some time.
9. 0 a.m. to 12 noon.—Second school-bell. Steady tramp into class-rooms. Butchers soliciting orders. Grocers soliciting orders. Greengrocers soliciting orders. Coalmen soliciting orders. Interchange of friendly badinage between the foregoing. Morning parade of vans, carts, handcarts, bicycles and luries. Steam-roller to crush the macadam. (It does.) Offers of domestic help, window-cleaning, gardening, etc. Dustmen. Symphony of tin bins rolling on asphalt. Mendicants of all descriptions. Picture-touts, flower-sellers, chip-mongers, knife-grinders, shoelace-and-button-vendors, wicker-work merchants, rag-and-bone fiends and chair-menders. Altercations with each. Gas-inspector. Cat's-meat man. Voice sadly in need of repair. Insurance agents. Errand-boys with reminiscences of popular ditties. Steady sing-song from the school, of the "twicewunnertwo, twicetwoerfour" variety.
12. 5 p.m. Exodus of joyous scholars.
- 12.30 p.m. to 1.30 p.m.—Lull.
- 1.45 p.m. First school-bell and gathering of juvenile clans.
- 1.55 p.m. Second school-bell. Recommencement of sing-song.
2. 0 p.m. Piano-organ. Instrument suffering from chronic catarrh.
- 2.30 p.m. Ditto. With mandoline accompaniment.
- 2.45 p.m. Dog-fight. Encouragement from the navvies.
- 2.53 p.m. Termination of dog-fight. Public discussion between the owners.
2. 0 p.m. to 6.0 p.m.—Afternoon parade of commercial vehicles.
3. 0 p.m. Man with a cornet. "Alice, Where art Thou?", "Scenes that are Brightest," "The Soldiers' Chorus," etc.
- 3.15 p.m. Muffin man. Bell slightly cracked.
- 3.30 p.m. Street-singers, and musical drill in the school.
4. 5 p.m. Escape of exuberant scholars.
4. 0 p.m. to 5.0 p.m.—Roller skating in the school-yard. This is great fun.
5. 0 p.m. to 7.0 p.m.—Returns from the city. Banging of garden-gates and creaking of rusty hinges. Newsboys with stop-press editions. Navvies leave work. Jim comments to Bill on the events of the day.

The rush of cars and motorbuses on the main road becomes frenzied.

8. 0 p.m. to 10.30 p.m.—Amateur piano-recitals and singing in fifty drawing-rooms. Conversations on doorsteps between arriving and departing friends. Fire engine goes by with a mob in tow. Companies of boy scouts appear and disappear at frequent intervals. Concert-rehearsal in school-room.
- 11.15 p.m. Early returns from the local music halls, skating-rinks and biograph shows. All merry and bright.
- 11.45 p.m. Late returns from ditto. The same but more so.
12. 0 mid Returns from West End theatres. Parade of cabs and auto-night taxis.
- 12.30 a.m. March-past of the singing-drunks.
1. 0 a.m. to 3.0 a.m.—Railway shunting-operations. Police-whistles and clatter of running feet. Noise of windows opening.
- 3.30 a.m. Cat-fight, followed by general melée of exasperated felines.
4. 0 a.m. Lull. G. A. A.

## A CURIOUS GUNBOAT

There has just died in Paris a man who for a brief period was one of the most popular men in France. A distinguished naval officer, he had already achieved some reputation as an inventor, when a few months before the Franco-German war he constructed a curious gunboat which figured to some purpose in the defence of Paris. This gunboat was in reality nothing but a floating gun-carriage, very stable and unsinkable, on which was installed an enormous cannon weighing 24½ tons and firing a 220lbs. shell. If for certain reasons it was not so useful in the defence of Paris as was hoped, it at any rate did good service against the enemy's works on the Basse-Seine and caused the besiegers much anxiety.

## JAPANESE SERVANTS.

It is said that Japanese servants are to be imported to meet the ever-increasing servant difficulty in England, and as an Anglo-Japanese Exhibition is to be held this year at the White City, there is every possibility that a great many handmaidens from the Far East will be led to follow their compatriots to London. Japanese servants, the editor of the *Java Times* learns, obey their masters and mistresses implicitly, and once they are shown how to do things may be relied upon to do them in the same way ever after, and if they are kindly treated they will often attach themselves to their employers, and serve them with a dog-like fidelity, which is very unusual in these days. But of course they have their faults.

## LATEST AMERICAN MAIL NEWS.

## TO THE UNITED STATES.

March 20.—Lusitania, from Queenstown, mails due in New York March 25. Mark letters "Via England," and post on Thursday, March 17.

March 22.—Kaiser Wilhelm II., from Bremen, mails due in New York March 29. Mark letters "Via Bremen," and post on Monday, March 21.

March 24.—Adriatic, from Queenstown, mails due in New York March 31. Mark letters "Via England" and post on Monday, March 21.

## SPECIAL NOTICE

Letters for the above steamers should be posted, in any boxes in Berlin or Dresden, not later than 1 o'clock p.m. on the days given.

Letters bearing a 10-pfennig stamp per weight of 20 grammes are only valid for transit by a German steamer sailing direct from a German port. They will not be sent by an English or French steamer.

## TO CANADA.

Same as to the United States, but no 10-pfennig rate!

It may be mentioned that an "Empress" steamer of the C.P.R., or a steamer of the Allan Line leaves Liverpool for Quebec and Montreal direct every Friday. Letters intended for Canada by this direct route should be posted in Berlin and Dresden not later than 1 o'clock p.m. on Wednesdays, and be marked "via England," if marked at all. The "Empress" steamers deliver the mail in Quebec and Montreal on the following Friday, the "Allan" steamers on Saturday.

## NEXT AMERICAN MAILS DUE IN BERLIN AND DRESDEN.

Tomorrow (Wednesday), by the S.S. Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse, left New York March 8.

Tomorrow (Wednesday), by the S.S. Lusitania, left New York March 9.

On Saturday, March 19, by the S.S. La Lorraine, left New York March 10.

## DRESDEN

**Pension Kosmos** DRESDEN-A. Schnorr Str. 14, I. & II., close to Hauptb. Elegantly furnished rooms with excellent board 4 marks a day. English cooking. English conversation.

## Tuition for Boys

Preparation for English and American Schools and Universities. Special attention given to German by a German master Boarders received.

J. H. Hallam, M.A. Camb. H. Virgin, M.A. Oxford. Gutzkow Strasse 19, Dresden.

**Pension Cronheim**, Villa: Eisenstuck Strasse 47, corner of Münchner Strasse. Modern style. Garden. Excellent cuisine. Best references. Moderate terms. German conversation.

**A. K. Janson** American Dental Surgeon. Modern Dentistry. Correction of irregular teeth a specialty. Prager Str. 10, I. Tel. 8544. Office hours: 9-1 and 3-5 p.m.

**SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.** Classes in English, Arithmetic, Mathematics, German, French, and Latin. A small number of resident pupils taken. German and French resident governesses. Private instruction if desired. Miss Virgin, Schnorr Str. 80 (Villa).

**Ludwig Hengehold** See Strasse 21, first floor, corner Ring Str. Fine Tailoring American cutter American workmen

**PENSION JAHN**, Nürnberger Str. 44, I. Most beautiful location in the city. Comfortable home. Excellent cooking. Moderate prices. **Cigars, Deisting, Prager Str. 42.**

## CHURCH SERVICES: DRESDEN.

**ALL SAINTS' (ENGLISH) CHURCH,** Wiener Strasse. Tuesday, March 15th. 10.0 a.m. Matins. Wednesday, March 16th. 8.15 a.m. Holy Communion. 11.0 a.m. Matins and Address. Thursday, March 17th. 8.0 a.m. Holy Communion. Friday, March 18th. Festival of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary by anticipation and observed transferred from March 25 which is Good Friday. 8.0 a.m. and 10.15 a.m. Holy Communion. 11.0 a.m. Matins and Address. Chaplain: The Rev. C. A. MOORE, M.A., B.C.L. Streblener Strasse 21, II.

**THE AMERICAN CHURCH OF ST. JOHN,** Reichs Platz 5, at the head of Reichs Strasse. Tuesday, March 15th. Service 4.0 p.m. Thursday, March 17th. Service 4.0 p.m. Friday, March 18th. Litany 3.0 p.m.—Address by Rev. C. E. Betticher "The Fountains of Italy." This is the only American Church in Dresden.—All are cordially invited. The Rev. J. F. BUTTERWORTH, D.D., Rector.

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND (Presbyterian),** Bernhards Strasse 2, at the corner of Bismarck and Winkelmann Strasse. Divine Service Sunday morning at 11, and evening at 6 o'clock. Communion service is held every third Sunday in March, June, October and January. The Rev. T. H. WRIGHT, Resident Minister.

**BRITISH AND AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVES IN DRESDEN.** THE BRITISH LEGATION: Wiener Strasse 70. British Minister Resident, ARTHUR C. GRANT-DUFF, Esq. THE BRITISH CONSULATE: Altmarkt 16.—British Consul: H. PALMIÉ, Esq. THE AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL: Ammon Strasse 2. p. American Consul-General: T. ST. JOHN GAFFNEY, Esq.

## Hch. Wm. Bassenge &amp; Co., Bank.

Dresden, Prager Strasse 12.

Payments on all Letters of Credit.

Exchange of Circular-Notes.

Cheques and foreign money on most favourable rates.

Postal Orders. English and American newspapers.

Office hours 9-1, 3-6, Saturdays 9-3.