In the Limelight

"SILENT ADMIRAL" HONORED

Amiral Sir Arthur Knyvet Wilson, grand commander of the bath, grand commander of the Victoria order and holder of the Victoria cross, who had just been appointed a member of the committee of imperial defense, would probably have gained fame as an inventor apart from his career in the British navy, for several instruments of destruction in connection with battleships are the product of his brain. He is also renowned among his fellow-officers and men as being fonder of gun practice than preaching, and has thereby earned the nickname of "the silent admiral." He is 67 years of age, and possesses an iron will and a rough exterior. He is extremely popular with Jack Tar, running Lord Beresford close in their affections.

By those who ought to know he is regarded as the finest naval tactician and strategist alive, though he himself would modestly award this palm to the German Admiral von Koester, whom he considers the greatest of living commanders.

Among his inventions the one for which he is best known is the double barreled torpedo tube. When some one else suggested the adoption of the steel net to protect ships from these terrible submarine weapons, he in turn went one better and invented automatic shears which, attached to the nose of the torpedo, cut through this defense. Not content with this, he determined to outdo his own invention and his uncuttable net was the result. He is responsible for several other inventions of this kind, torpedo warfare having always been his special study.

"Tug" Wilson, as the popular admiral is known among his friends, has seen a great deal of active service. He entered the navy in 1855, and served in both the Crimean and China wars. He was present at the bombardment of Alexandria in 1882 and fought at El Teb in 1884. He has acted as a lord commissioner and comptroller of the navy, commanded the channel squadron in 1901-03, and became admiral of the fleet in 1907. This last appointment was a signal honor bestowed upon him by King Edward, who, although the veteran admiral had reached the age limit of 65, exercised his royal prerogative and promoted him to that position, thus placing Sir Arthur's services at the disposal of his country for another five years.

It was during the battle of El Teb, while serving with the naval brigade, that he earned that most coveted little bit of bronze—the Victoria cross. The battle had been in progress some time and the British square—hitherto impregnable—was broken by the repeated mad rushes of the dervishes. Half a dozen Soudanese, seeing the gap, rushed in, and Capt. Wilson—as he was then—tackled them single-handed. His sword broke off at the hilt, but, nothing dismayed, he continued to lay about with his strong fists, disabling several of them and giving the rallying troops time to close up once more.

FOUR SCORE AND TEN

Women suffragists in all parts of the country celebrated the ninetieth birthday of Mrs. Julia Ward Howe on May 27.

Mrs. Howe was born in Bowling Green in 1819. If the house still stands very few know where it is. Her father came from Roger Williams stock and on her mother's side Mrs. Howe is a French Huguenot.

She has been described as the "most wonderful American woman." Her father's house in Bowling Green was the meeting place of the literary folk of that time—Washington Irving, William Cullen Bryant and all of that coterie.

Brought up in this intense literary atmosphere it was natural that she should write anonymously for the papers and magazines of her girlhood day. Her first poem is said to have appeared when she was not yet 7 years old.

In 1843 she went to Boston and married Samuel Gridley Howe, a literary man. All of her children have been literary, but none has become so well known as the talented mother.

Mrs. Howe first became interested in the anti-salvery movement, which was starting before she married. Then she took up prison reform, woman's suffrage, world peace and she has lent her able brain to nearly every worthy movement for the good of the American people. She has not only written many books, but she has lectured over the entire country. Her "Battle Hymn of the Republic" is known all through the land.

She is still wonderfully active mentally for a woman of 90 years, and sometimes she plays a few moments on her guitar. Her memory of the past is said to be astonishing, and those who are permitted to see her consider the privilege a great treat.

LED "JAMESON RAID"

Dr. Leander Starr Jameson, who has been the leader in the movement which has just resulted in bringing the various different states and colonies of South Africa into one British colony, is a former premier of Cape Colony. Moreover, he attained that position after the close of the Boer war, a few years after the time of the celebrated "Jameson Transvaal raid," which left him perhaps the best hated man in all South Africa. He was sentenced to ten months' imprisonment by his home government when that raid failed, and was banished from Africa by Oom Paul Kruger. He came back as a volunteer surgeon, however, during the Boer war and stayed to see his old influence restored and multiplied.

Under his plan of consolidation, Cape Colony, Natal, the Transvaal and the Orange Free State make up the new political organization that becomes a single colony, and that united the British and Boer peoples. There are to be three capitals, one executive, one legislative and one judicial; two official languages, English and Dutch; and the whole arrangement closely resembles in many respects the organization of Canada.

Dr. Jameson is a Scotchman and first went to Africa for his health.

PROPOSES INDIAN STATUE

Rodman Wannamaker, son of John Wannamaker, has started a movement to have erected in upper New York bay, a bronze statue to the Indian, greater and more imposing than that of the Goddess of Liberty. If Mr. Wanamaker's plan is realized, and he has been assured that it will be, but a few years will pass when the huge bronze, representing the muscular Indian, will stand where the Hudson empties into the bay.

Rodman Wanamaker is the younger son of John Wanamaker and is associated with the greater mercantile enterprise of his father in New York and Philadelphia. He established the Paris branch of Wanamaker's and set a precedent which all other big stores in France were obliged to follow. He brought about the practical reciprocity between this country and France, which has worked to the advantage of both countries. The commercial achievements, quite as much as his patronage of art, has won for Mr. Wanamaker one of the highest honors in the dispensation of the French republic. He was made a chevalier in the legion of honor ten years ago in recognition of his service in the encouragement of art.

LONDON'S LITTLE HOUSEWIVES

GIRLS LEARNING HOW TO PROVIDE A DINNER

LEARNING TO PREPARE AN INFANT'S FOOD

Years ago Solomon set the value of a good housewife above that of rubies. To-day, being scarcer than at the time when he expressed his historic opinion, she is even more precious. There is a human touch about the old joke wherein the newly-married husband finds trouble in masticating his wife's cake, and, being told that she made it out of the cookery book, suggests that his piece contains some of the cover of the volume.

Especially among the working-classes is a knowledge of cookery and the housewifely arts a luxury rather than a matter of course at the present day, and because of this the London county council has inaugurated a special school of housewifery at Brixon, and classes in kindred subjects at over 200 of its ordinary schools.

This being the case, when Mary Smith arrives in one of the highest standards of her particular school she is now initiated into the dark mysteries of cookery, bed-making, the care and feeding of her baby brother or sister, the making and mending of her own clothes, washing, mangling, ironing, and other things which her mother ought to have taught her, but was unable to enlighten her upon, for the best of all reasons—that she was ignorant of them herself.

Mary, if she is lucky enough to attend the special school at Brixton, learns how to be a scientific modern housekeeper. She is sent into the splendid laundry and shown how to wash special articles of apparel. For instance she is taught not to put her brother's flannel shirt into boiling water with soda in it, because its unhappy owner would never be able to get into it again after such treatment.

To Mary's astonishment there is a wrong and a right way even in such an apparently simple business as washing clothes, while, when she takes her turn in the mangling and ironing department, and learns how linen should be ironed and finished, she begins to look on a competent washerwoman as a being worthy of the deepest respect.

Of course, dressing and undressing and washing "baby" is the best fun in Mary Smith's estimation. What Mary does not know about the proper treatment of an infant would, as a rule, fill a large volume, and what she does know is hardly worth mentioning. For this reason she is not encouraged to bring a small relation for practice work; "baby" is an inanimate infant and takes the form of a large doll.

Thus, without any danger to anyone, Mary Smith learns from actually doing how to dress and undress a young child, wash it, put it to bed, and generally provide for its well being. Everything is done on strictly economical lines; a superannuated banana crate makes an excellent cradle when money is a consideration, and baby will sleep just as happily in it as in the most elaborate resting place modern skill can provide.

They also tell Mary that beer and sardines, and similar delicacies, are bad for a little thing, although grown-ups may enjoy them with more or less impunity, and so she is instructed in the art of preparing the proper food for babies, and how to make a limited outlay of money go as far as possible in feeding them.

Although healthy people can sleep on almost anything, if you have a bed in the house it is as well to understand it. There is more in making a bed than meets the eye, and at the London county council they show Mary how the best wives do it. Beds ought to be aired properly, too; and although Mary was taught how to wash the blankets and sheets in the laundry, she is told that proper ventilation is almost as necessary as proper washing. She also discovers that a bolster need not really be lumpy, and many other little details that the good housewife ought to know.

In the course of time Mary becomes an excellent cook. The instruction is practical. The cookery is based on moderate incomes and Mary is taught within her means. The great aim of her instructress is to teach her how to make whatever income she may have at her disposal in the future go as far as possible, and to spend it in the most profitable manner so as to secure the utmost value for every penny.

Also, the L. C. C. have another end in view almost as important as teaching London girls to make the most of what they have to spend.

They argue that if a girl takes an interest and a pride in household matters, whether in a home of her own or in her mother's house, she has the best possible occupation, and if she can be induced to make a hobby of housework it keeps her away from too many amusements, some of which may not be altogether desirable, and saves her from the feverish desire for change and excitement at all times, which is such an unfortunate trait in the characters of the working-classes, as of others, to-day.

They consider that if Mary is cooking the supper or putting the baby to bed she will not be at a music-hall, and that domestic pursuits are far more interesting than song and dance turns if she only knew it.

Finally, Mary Smith is taught to make and mend her own clothes. She is encouraged to make sewing a recreation after the sterner occupations of cooking and washing, and it is pointed out to her that while you are sitting down to rest you might as well do a little needlework as read a novelette. Moreover, the instructress draws her attention to the fact that if you will buy your own material and make it up yourself, you get a great deal better value for your money than if you buy ready-made clothes.

"You can't make your own boots Mary, my dear," pursues the instructress, "but you can make your own clothes, and they'll look better and last longer than any you can buy at the shops. And, by the way, this is the one and only way to make a respectable darn," etc., etc.

By the means described in this article it is hoped to train up a generation of women who know all there is to know about managing their homes and looking after their families.

NEW IDEA IN PHOTOGRAPHY.

Woman Has Discovered Method of Transferring Negative Directly to Tile.

It has remained for Miss Marion Peters of Middletown, Pa., to photograph directly upon ceramics. About ten specimens of her work were included in the exhibition of photographs that was held a short time at the Franklin institute.

It was the first exhibit of this kind to be made anywhere, for while mechanically printed photographs on ceramics are quite common this is the first time where the work, transferred directly from the negative to the tile, has been seen. The superiority of the work by Miss Peters' process is unquestionable, as it retains all the fine lines and sharpness and clearness of the negative, but also has a softness of its own that makes the pictures extremely attractive.

The most remarkable feature of her method is that the pictures are made permanent by reason of their being covered by the enamel that is inseparable from the tile. The subjects exhibited are varied and include an exceptionally fine medallion of Martin Luther, German market scenes and numerous interior and exterior views. One of the latter, a view of the forecastle of a steamship, is wonderful for detail. The forecastle is shown, and beneath that a portion of the main deck. So sharp is the work that ropes and small objects are clearly depicted, although the picture is a miniature.

Not Really Her Fault.

As a rule, the unconscious humor of children is the funniest of all. Little Lester, relates the Delineator, was trying to fix a broken toy when five-year-old Beatrice came into the room and said: "I am older than you. You are too little to do much of anything. Let me fix it."

Her papa told her it was not kind to speak that way, and to ask brother to excuse her.

Throwing her arms around his neck, she said: "Oh, Lester, please excuse me; but you see it was just this way—I had to be born first."

THE SELECTION AND TESTING OF SEED CORN

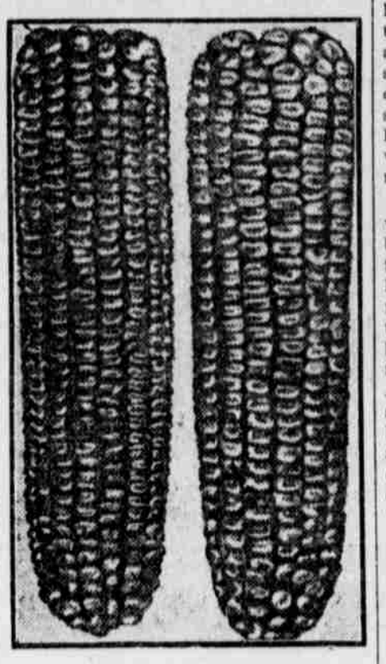
Method of Going Into the Field before Harvest Time and Selecting the Choice Ears—By Logan Owen.

Prize Winning Ears.

In obtaining seed corn from places at a distance it is always best to secure it in the ear, because in this form it can be picked over, judged and all ears that are not suited for planting may be thrown aside, while if it is shelled no such selection can be made.

The selection of seed corn by the farmer from his own crop is generally accomplished in one of three ways: First, by picking out the seed after the corn has been cribbed; second, by selecting the best ears while gathering, and third, by going into the field before harvesting time and selecting the most desirable ears. Of these three ways my experience has shown the last to be the best, because a better selection can be made when that is the only aim in view and when the entire plant, and not simply the ear, can be considered. Whatever the method, more seed than is really needed should be selected, in order that a second "weeding out" of the poorest ears just before planting may still leave enough good seed.

On our farm we have tried still another method for obtaining the best seed corn—namely, to grow it in a special plot of ground. We used the following method: Take any number of selected ears—say 50, for example—and plant them in 50 separate parallel rows, one ear to the row. This makes it necessary for the plot of ground to be at least 50 corn rows wide, and it should be long enough for the planting of about two-thirds of an ear in each row. If possible, this ground should be as far removed from other fields of corn as can be, to prevent outside pollination. To further protect from foreign pollen we have found it a good plan to take the remaining one-third of the selected corn and use it to plant a border around the breeding plot. Before the pollen matures every alternate row is detasseled, to prevent self or close pollination; also any stalks in the rest of the rows that are imperfect to a marked degree in any way should be detasseled.



Two Best Ears.

All the seemingly good ears from good stalks, in good position on the stalk, should be gathered from the detasseled rows. Out of all these ears first pick out the best ones for next year's breeding plot. From that remaining the best ears can be selected for next season's seed corn for the main crop.

In regard to the type of ear to select for seed the following points are essential: The main object in view is the production of as large a quantity of grain to the ear as possible; the ear should be cylindrical in shape, about ten inches in length and 7½ inches in circumference. Both ends should be well filled out with large kernels. The rows of kernels, as well as the kernels themselves, should be closely pressed together, in order that the ear will be compact and solid. Each ear can be readily tested for weight by weighing the entire ear first and then the shelled corn obtained from it. The grain should constitute from 85 to 90 per cent. of the whole ear. The kernels should be as nearly uniform in size as possible, to insure a good, even stand; they should be wedged shaped.

The vitality of the corn should always ways be tested. Improper drying and storing away of seed corn very often lowers the vitality of the seed, but if it is thoroughly cured and kept dry no injury is likely to take place. We have found it a very satisfactory method to string the corn and tie it up in the barn, provided it is well covered. In the spring, before planting time, every ear should be tested, especially when there is any doubt as to its vitality. We have a box fixed for this purpose; it is four feet long by three feet wide by six inches deep. We have bored holes through the sides two inches from the bottom and 2½ inches apart; through these holes we have stretched fine wire, both lengthways and crossways, thus dividing the box into 2½-inch squares. At one end these rows of squares are numbered; along one side the squares in each row are numbered. When ready to test the corn, we get enough moist, rich dirt to fill the box up even with the wire; next we number the ears to be tested. For example, the first ear is marked ear one, row one; the next, ear two, row one. When we have enough for the first row, the first ear in the second row is marked ear one, row two, and so on. When the ears are all numbered, take four or five grains from different parts of each ear and plant them in the square with the corresponding number. In this box we can test about 275 ears at one time. Of course, the box can be larger or smaller, as the case may demand.

MAKING MONEY RAISING SKUNKS

How the Animals Are Bred and Why their Breeding Profitable.

Skunk farming is becoming an important industry in some parts of the United States, and yet the man who suggested it was regarded as mentally unsound. To-day there are hundreds of such farms on a paying basis.

The average skunk produces a quart of oil and the fur or skin always brings a good price, fashion regulating the value. At the present time the skins which are the most valuable are the darker ones. A pure black skin is worth from $1.25 to $2.50, according to the quality and size; a striped skunk skin brings in the market about 50 or 60 cents, while those with a part stripe are worth in the neighborhood of a dollar.

It has been figured out that a man who understands skunk farming can begin on 20 skunks, 15 females and five males, and in a few years he can have a healthy bank account. It is not difficult to calculate how rapidly these 20 skunks will increase in number. Say you begin work early in the fall and that in December they breed. At once you have an increase of 120 skunks, putting the average of each litter at eight. In June they breed again, and if the same ratio of increase be kept up, at the expiration of a year and a half you will have 7,495 skunks.

Put the pelts at one dollar each, the pelts of 200 male skunks would bring $200; the oil at 50 cents an ounce would be worth $800. Then figuring as was done on the increase in skunks, at the expiration of a year and a half you could kill 3,700 male skunks, the pelts of which would be worth that many dollars.

The amount of oil gathered from this number would be 29,600 ounces, worth just $14,800. At the expiration of four years you would have killed 1,890,000 males, the pelts of which would be worth $1,890,000, and the oil, 15,120,000 ounces, worth $7,560,000. And you would still have 3,700,000 skunks left!

It is not surprising that skunk farming is being taken up throughout the country, and if it was possible to deodorize the skunk the industry would be even more popular.

Dry Potatoes for Food.—According to the Magdeburgische Zeitung, Consul Frank S. Hannah says that the recent experiments in the drying of potatoes under the auspices of the imperial interior department has had such good results that a new and important field of activity may be offered for the German farmers.

The potatoes are reduced by this process to about one-quarter of their original weight and can be kept in good condition in this compressed form for an indefinite length of time. The military authorities have made thorough experiments with this product and have become convinced that its nutritious value is fully equal to that of corn, and that the dried potatoes can take the place of one-third of the former ration of oats.

Farmers' Families.—It is estimated that there are about 7,000,000 farmers' families in the United States to-day, taking the word farmer in its broadest sense, and including all families living in the open country.