PERSONAL AND SOCIAL.

The Sultan spent the last two days at his Ramleh Palace.

It is again rumoured that the Sultan will make a tour in the Delta provinces shortly after the summer season.

Hussein Roushdy Pasha, the Prime Minister, arrived in Cairo in a special saloon car at 10.30 a.m. on Thursday and returned to Alexandria by the first train on Saturday.

Prince Youssef Kemal arrived in Alexandria on Saturday from Ras el-Bar where he has been spending some time.

Sir William Brunyate, Acting Financial Adviser, who has been away for over a week on a visit to Palestine, returned to Cairo on Thursday evening.

Among the latest wills to be proved is that of Lieutenant Arthur Murray Pirie, D.S.O., Lancers, of Cork street, W., and St. Mary's Medmenham Abbey, Marlow, who was killed in action in Palestine, who was well-known in connection with racing and polo playing in Cairo.

On July 2, the marriage took place of Arthur Bernard Geary, H.B.M. Vice-Consul at Alexandria, eldest surviving son of the Late Rev. Henry Geary, Vicar of St. Thomas' Portman Square, to Grace Eleanor Sunmethayes (nee Allport), daughter of the late Arthur C. Allport of Beaufort West, South Africa, at St. Thomas' Church, Portman Square. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Henry Wagstaffe, assisted by Canon Maunsell Pleydell. The Bride was given away by Dr. J. S. Collier (the nerve specialist) and he and Mrs. Collier kindly lent their house at 30, Wimpole Street, for a small reception after the wedding.

Ahmed Zeki Pasha, First Secretary to the Council of Ministers, who is now on a short duty visit to Cairo is expected back at Alexandria on Tuesday in time to attend the weekly Council meeting on Wednesday.

Mr. John Langley, Under Secretary for Agriculture, returned to Alexandria on Sunday morning after passing the last three days at Cairo.

The death is announced at the front of Mr. Nouky Naus, son of Mr. Henry Naus, the General Manager of the Sugar Refineries Company of Egypt. He was 19 years of age and voluntarily entered the Belgian Army. He was educated at Alexandria and only eighteen months ago passed the examinations for the baccalaureate in this city. The Right Honourable Lord Cecil sent a letter of condolence to Mr. Naus.

A tea party was held in honour of Mr. Ross Taylor, President of the Supplies Control Board, by the Cereal Merchants Association, at the Grand Continental Hotel at 5 p.m. on Friday which was attended by over 250 persons. Several speeches were delivered on the occasion, one of which was by Mr. Ross Taylor himself in which he referred to the good crops of wheat, durra, rice and other cereals, and stated that the prices fixed for these articles were fair and hoped that there would be no grounds for their increase.

The death is announced at Alexandria of Madame Eraste de Beneducci, wife of the late Mr. E. de Beneducci, at the age of 65. The funeral took place yesterday and the requiem mass was held at the Evangelismos Church.

Mrs. E. M. Cohn and family wish to thank their numerous friends for kind letters of sympathy received in their days of grief.

Major and Mrs. Fraser Newall and Mrs. Kennedy are staying at the Hotel Petrograd, North Audley Street, London. Major Fraser Newall and Major Kennedy are well-known in Egypt, and were both in the Egyptian Army. Major Moore of Hebron, Capt. and Mrs. Machin, Mrs. Maitland, Mrs. Ellison and many of her regular visitors to Egypt have also followed Mr. Wild to the Hotel Petrograd. Sir John Rogers and Lady Rogers have left the Hotel for Lustling Manor, Faversham. Anglo-Egyptian visitors in London will find the "Egyptian Gazette" at the Hotel Petrograd.

The Palestine War Trophies Exhibition which is being held in aid of the Funds of the British Red Cross and Order of St. John is still open daily at the Alexandria Museum Annexe.

The Oriental Carpet and Rug Stores, Savoy, Cairo, and 10 Rosette, Alexandria have a special service for dry-cleaning repairing and storage of carpets during the summer months.

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EGYPT'S PAPER IMPORTS.

CUSTOMS' AMAZING ESTIMATES.

The Customs Administration continues to pretend that the price of newsprint paper in England is advancing by leaps and bounds and that it has risen lately by sixty-five per cent. In the course of this week we received from London a consignment of paper, which had been purchased by us from the manufacturers at the end of last April. On clearing it we were informed that the Customs Administration estimated that the paper had increased in value since we had bought it in England by no less than sixty-five per cent. Since the purchase of this consignment of paper on April 26 and the date, June 11, when we were advised of the shipment the increase in the price of this class of paper in England was only 4 1/2d. per ream. Nevertheless, the Customs Administration declare that the increase has been 65 per cent.

A consignment of paper for us, which arrived at Alexandria from England at the beginning of July, was estimated by the Customs as having risen by 62 1/2 per cent. If newsprint paper had actually increased in price to such an extent within three months all the London newspapers would either have had again to double their prices or have ceased to exist.

EGYPT'S TOBACCO IMPORTS.

During last month, 6,845 bales of tobacco were received at Alexandria from foreign countries, weighing 500,589 kilos. This brings the total stock at the Customs Tobacco Stores to 125,306 bales. During June last the value of the tobacco withdrawn from the Customs amounted to L.E. 189,528, Greek tobacco to L.E.111,754, Japanese tobacco to L.E.22,[illegible], Turkish tobacco to L.E.1,958, and American tobacco to L.E.928. The present prices of the Greek, Chinese, and Indian varieties are from P.T.60 to P.T.64 per kilo for the first, from L.T.27 to P.T.40 for the second and P.T.16 to P.T.30 for the third.

MAIL FROM HOME.

A mail from home was distributed at Alexandria yesterday. It brought correspondence and newspapers from England from Friday, July 5, to Monday, July 15, all dates inclusive.

The last mail to arrive in Egypt brought the newspapers from July 1 to July 5 inclusive. This is one of the longest intervals that has yet occurred between the mails, as it is now over five weeks since July 1, the date of the previous delivery.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS' SALARIES.

The Ministry of Finance has asked all government administrations to send in detailed lists of their staffs, including employees, employees, setting forth the grades of officials and their salaries, so that it may study the question of giving new war allowances to junior officials. The lists are expected to be submitted before the middle of the present month.

COINS FROM INDIA.

According to an Arabic contemporary of Cairo, a large quantity of nickel P.T.1 coins is expected to arrive shortly at the Ministry of Finance from India.

WOMEN'S ATTEMPTS TO BURN THEMSELVES.

Three different cases are reported of native women attempting to commit suicide on Saturday last by setting fire to their clothes with petroleum. It appears that one of them, from the Ginna took Kissa, Fadima Ali el Leisy by name, had a dispute with her brother; the other two had made the attempt as a result of differences arising between them and their husbands. The victims have been taken to the Government hospital in a precarious condition.

GAMBLING AT RAMLEH.

The Greek paper "Clio" of Cairo, writes that two boys, who had been given P.T.100 by their parents to buy shoes, went to Ramleh, where a roulette table was in operation and they lost their money. The paper went out crying and a passer-by, who asked them the cause of their tears called the attention of the police to the incident.

The "Telegraphos," in publishing this says that, though the name of the place where the money was lost, is not mentioned, it is not difficult for anyone to know in what part of Ramleh the Roulette was. Everyone who paid a shilling might enter and play a roulette. The paper goes on to say that the authorities must put an end to this scandal, by closing this gambling place. The races, it says, have been prohibited, though so much of the income was going to the Fund of the Red Cross, in order to protect the money of the public, and is it not necessary that a step be made to stop the gambling-places of San Stefano and others?

A native girl of 12 years of age, Fatima Mohamed el Bisari, was playing on the seashore on Saturday afternoon when she fell into the water and was drowned.

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THE NATIVE PRESS.

MR. ROSS TAYLOR AND CEREAL MERCHANTS.

The "Minbar."— (From an article commenting on the tea entertainment given by the cereal merchants in Cairo in honour of Mr. Ross Taylor).— We are glad to see that in giving a special association for them, and we hope that they understand the purposes for which the association had to be set up, as explained by Mr. Ross Taylor, and that they were not unduly impressed either when they held the entertainment. Mr. Ross Taylor deserves to be appreciated and such appreciation ought to come from the public, for there is no doubt that he fettered the hands of merchants, by preventing them from fixing excessive prices, by dealing with them and by opening military courts for those who contravene the tariff, pressing hard upon them from all directions, in order to safeguard the interest of the public. It cannot be said that the merchant prefers to be placed under strict restrictions rather than to be left free to conduct his business as he pleases. It is worth noting that while merchants were entertaining Mr. Ross Taylor some of them were being referred to the military court for trial on the charge of due to malpraxis and contrary to the benefits of the tariff, and the organisation of the association. It is to be hoped that the merchants will be made to understand what make the others understand.

EGYPT'S SHORTAGE OF DOCTORS.

"Wadi el Nil."— It is a fact that Egyptian doctors practising in Egypt are far from being numerous enough to meet the demand. Some people may understand from the surface of the matter that this is due to the lack of the desire on the part of young Egyptians to learn medicine and acquire a thorough knowledge of the profession, and the Government is not unaware of the shortage of doctors and the total results of an inadequate medical service in the country, and though it is not know that it thinks about the cause of the matter, we see that the nation is in a position to prove that the scarcity of doctors is due to inadequate teaching and the fact that the Medical School closes its doors in the face of many students who desire to pursue the study of medicine, and comes from the side of the Government itself to show that proof has been on the side of the nation for years. We have to call attention to it. This proof is embodied in the report of the Public Health Department for the year 1916 which reveals clearly that there is great shortage of Egyptian doctors, because the Ministry of Education send away every year many students to Europe to complete their medical studies. By addressing this bitter criticism to the Ministry of Education and the Public Health Commission did not disclose anything which we did not know; but its statement is of a nature to produce a stronger effect than a criticism of this sort made by the nation.....

THE NEW COPTIC HOSPITAL.

The "Akhbar."— (From an article by Tawfik Habib" on the Coptic Hospital scheme).— The article I wrote two days ago about the Coptic hospital had stirred up the "Watan" to take part in the discussion. That journal then stepped and woke up these that have purchased the building proposed to be transformed into hospital, opposing those who argue that the building is not good for an hospital. It points out that the Benevolent Society did not decide to purchase the building without consulting the medical advisers, and in so by the doctors who saw the place and agreed that was very good for a hospital. It also objected raised in this question, were it late, for they were made after purchasing the property, and the property was good. It is true that the society acted according to the advice of certain doctors when it purchased the place, but there are other reasons justifiable, which declare that the building is not good for an hospital. The palatial building cost the society three years ago L.E. 7000, and it is necessary to get rid of it, in spite of the sophistry of the "Watan." It is important to know that the society, this year, the carrying out of the scheme should be postponed for two more years. There is no harm in the building and we have the fol. lowing proofs embracing our statement Firstly, Simaika Pasha, the Government in the house that it will give the Coptic community a good site for the building, either gratis or at a specially reduced price. Secondly, Youssef Pasha Suleiman has promised to purchase the building recently built at Abbassia, at its original value by L.E. 500. Thirdly, one of the members of the Society has promised to ask the proprietors of the building where the present hospital is housed to increase the rent of the place, which should be raised in this way. Fourthly, if the Abbassia building were turned into a hospital it would become difficult to sell it after the war for one quarter of the price because its present value depends upon its decorations and architectural beauty. The question, however, has developed into a question of personal antagonism and, so far as we are concerned, we attach little importance to personal matters.

CAIRO AMUSEMENTS.

RADIUM CINEMA.— From to-night the Radium Cinema, Sharia Emad el Din, will be screening in their well-arranged open-air establishment a film entitled "Frocks and Frills," or an Urchin Girl, starring the celebrated cinema actress, Alice Brady. This film which has proved such a great attraction in the States is a dramatic comedy in five acts written by Mr. Emile Chautard. It is described as being one of the best productions yet thrown on the screen. Other films include Charlie Chaplin in one of his best attractions entitled "Charlie in the Cure."

ALEXANDRIA AMUSEMENTS.

EMPIRE CINEMA THEATRE.— Judging by the increasing and ever-increasing crowds at Empire Theatre particularly towards the latter part of last week, Mr. Maurice E. Bandman is evidently doing the correct thing in supplying the public of Alexandria with special all—British feature production. This appears to be fully borne out by the success that has been manifest for some time and Mr. Bandman assures us that nothing in shape of big productions will be lacking for the "Empire." We had the pleasure of witnessing a private exhibition at the "Empire" yesterday when we were shown a special film that is to screened in this week's programme. The film is exclusively controlled in Egypt and the Near East by Mr. Bandman and is certainly a masterly production. The title is "A Welsh Singer" adapted from Allen Raine's famous novel by The Turner Films Ltd. and produced as a picture play by Henry Edwards. The cast is a very strong one, Florence Turner and Malcolm Cherry playing the principal parts, and to describe this picture briefly, one may say that it is one of the daintiest and most delightful films the screen has given us. It is a photo play that will do much to big simple appeal and high artistry to elevate the standard of pictures. Several other films of interest are to be screened tonight. At Charlie Chaplin, a stereoscopic film, (the first of its kind ever shown in Alexandria) entitled "The West of England" and a Topical film showing the Canadiane "Training at Bexhill." The afternoon show begins at 6 p.m. and the evening entertainment at 9. Intending patrons may book at the Theatre or by telephone No. 18-93.

CEREAL MERCHANTS' ASSOCIATION.

CONGRESS AT CAIRO.

As previously announced, the cereal merchants of Egypt held a congress at the hall of the Legislative Assembly at Cairo at 10 a.m. on Friday, August 9, which was attended by representatives of the different Provinces and Governorates of Egypt, and, in addition, by Mr. Ross Taylor, President of the Supplies Control Board and his Private Secretary, Mohamed Azzam Abdel Karim Bey. Mr. Ross Taylor was in the chair with the representatives of the Atar el Nabi and Rod el Farag cereal merchants and of the Suez Canal Governorate to his right and those of the Alexandria and Damietta Governorates to his left, while those of the Upper Egypt Provinces sat in the seats of the members of the Legislative Assembly opposite those of the representatives of Cairo and the Suez Canal Governorates. The Lower Egypt representatives sat opposite those of the Alexandria and Damietta delegates.

Mr. Ross Taylor after thanking the committee for their arduous work in preparing the Regulations for the Cereal Merchants Association, informed the delegates that the object of their meeting was to consider and decide the important questions connected with these regulations, leaving any points of detail for the central committee of their association to deal with. The first point which was therefore brought forward for consideration was the constitution of the central committee. After long discussion it was agreed that this committee should be composed of the President of the Rod el-Farag and Atar el-Nabi Associations, of the President and one member of the Alexandria association together with the Presidents of each of the associations of the other governorates and provinces. It was agreed that each Governorate and Province will be represented by one member on the central committee with the exception of Cairo and Alexandria which will have two representatives and bringing the total members of the committee to 20.

The question of the appointment of a President for the central committee was then considered. Mr. Ross Taylor was unanimously asked to be kind enough to accept the presidency and he agreed to their request. It was then decided that the two vice-Presidents of the central committee should be appointed one from amongst the Alexandria delegates and one from amongst the Cairo delegates whereupon Ismail Bey Barakat, the leading Rod el Farag merchant and Mahmoud Bey el Farghali, President of the Alexandria associations were appointed vice-Presidents, while Ahmed Azzam Abdel Karim Bey, Mr. Ross-Taylor's secretary, was appointed secretary.

It was then agreed that the licenses granted to cereal merchants should be of two kinds; a general license granted to important merchants and entitling them to carry on their trade in the whole country; and a local license to be granted to smaller merchants entitling them to trade in their locality only. The question as to whether proportions of flour will be issued with licenses was left for the central committee to consider. The minimum age entitling a person to be issued with a license was altered from 20 as in the draft regulations to 21 as a specific reduced price. Secondly, Youssef Pasha Suleiman has promised to purchase the building recently built at Abbassia, at its original value by L.E. 500. Thirdly, one of the members of the Society has promised to ask the proprietors of the building where the present hospital is housed to increase the rent of the place, which should be raised in this way. Fourthly, if the Abbassia building were turned into a hospital it would become difficult to sell it after the war for one quarter of the price because its present value depends upon its decorations and architectural beauty. The question, however, has developed into a question of personal antagonism and, so far as we are concerned, we attach little importance to personal matters.

THE FELLAH AND HIS COTTON.

We are informed that there will be no intervention on the part of the Government in the fellah's methods of selling his cotton. He will be given the liberty of selling his cotton wherever he wishes as was done in the previous years, and big as well as small merchants will proceed as in former years and sell their cotton where they choose. Small farmers are, however, to sell their cotton in the halakas where they can find sufficient inspection for guaranteeing their rights. In the big halakas samples and prices of the cotton demanded by the Government will be on view and the necessary help will be given to farmers and merchants to enable them to see these samples easily.

CAIRO SULTANIC LIBRARY.

The following are the statistics concerning the Library for July: There were 367 new acquisitions; 2,976 books were read in the reading room; 1,318 were issued on loan outside the Library; there were 3,322 readers in the reading room and 485 borrowers outside the Library; there were 2,066 visitors to the exhibition

PLAGUE IN EGYPT.

During the period January 1 to August 5, there have only been 313 cases of plague as compared with 690 for the same period last year.

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PALESTINE FOR THE JEWS.

The following letter has been received by Mr. Sokolow on behalf of the Zionist Organisation from the Prime Minister's Secretary in reply to a letter thanking the British Government for their promise to do their utmost to secure a just settlement of the Roumanian Jewish question:—

Mr. Lloyd George wishes me to thank you for what you say in regard to the friendship which exists between Great Britain and the Jewish people, of which there has lately been such abundant evidence, and to reiterate the hope that the triumph of the Allies' cause will make possible the realisation of your people's aim to establish for themselves once again a national home in Palestine.

PALESTINE EXPLORATION.

The committee administering the Palestine Exploration Fund emphasise in their report for 1917 the fact that the British campaign in the Holy Land has brought a considerable addition of work to their London office. Many visitors attended to study the new map of Palestine, which was completed for the committee just on the outbreak of war. It shows the roads and railways and gives abundant details and information without loading in clearness. The sale of books and publications was steady throughout the year, and new subscribers were enrolled in increased numbers. The steady progress of events in Palestine," proceeds the report, "inspires us with confidence for the future of this country," and the Society looks forward confidently to the day when their work will be resumed there under conditions infinitely more favourable than those prevailing in the past. There is no debt against the Society, and current expenditure is said to be carefully controlled.

LOOT FROM RUSSIAN CHURCHES.

Dr. Curt H. Weigelt begins an article in "Russian Ikons" in the "Rheinisch Westfaelische Zeitung" with these words: "How many of us who used to know nothing of such things, have now become familiar with the Russian pictures of saints since the war? Nearly all, for those nurses, of which the orthodox churches were full, are now spread broadcast through Germany, so that one meets with these silver and gold befringed pictures in any house one enters."

Dr. Weigelt states that most of these pictures are valueless except for the precious metals adorning them, while other, especially those which date from Byzantium, must be of immense worth.

A movement is afoot amongst Russian Jews to form a Jewish Legion for service in Palestine. This movement, it is explained, is the result of Mr. Balfour's statement defining Great Britain's attitude towards Zionism.

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ENGLAND IN WARTIME.

AN EVOLVING SUNDAY.

(By W.L. George.)

The man without prejudices who some Sunday morning takes his customary walk in Kensington Gardens on Coronation Day must be amused and surprised as he recalls the previous period, the denunciations levelled at Sabbatharians, the fears as to the sanctibility of golf jackets for attendance at church; as he paces a suburban street, in the afternoon, he may still more interested as he listens in vain for the sources of yester-year. Indeed, Sunday as nowhere else, whether it will ever resume its old character is doubtful, for it shed this character "for the duration" without realising how long the war might endure.

Today, almost every open space and many building plot has been partly occupied. Many an allotment holder, whom you may see from dawn to sunset engaged in new and mysterious tasks, deepdigging, lowing cows, running drills, cutting drains, tracing the subterfuge or breathing upon the green fly with the lethal spray.

A "LIVE" DAY.

The allotment holder is breaking down an old tradition, and is not without alibis. He is in many cases putting in a solid seven hours' day, but some exceed his ardour; until recently munitions claimed many willing workers for a "full shift, workers so willing that they had to be protected against fatigue; the girl on remount duty takes on Sunday her six hours' table duty, while her sister on the spot may turn aside from the milking stool and the haystack; hardest tried of all, the nurse is on that day content with her two meals of fresh air while a crowd of voluntary workers, canteen attendants, reception clerks at the railway stations, invest the week's office work in a Sunday morning. The change in national habits is profound; many are substituting the maximum for the minimum, and the Sunday morning, may employed nationally on week days, strives on Sunday to keep his affairs together.

Thus we are creating a habit of activity which four or five years of war are rooting deep into national system; it is incredible that peace should eradicate it: peace will fill the coming Sunday with an intolerable emptiness, against which we shall revolt. In 1914 we were already reacting, but then the quest war for pleasure; I suggest that after peace we shall find no use Sunday for physical and mental education.

EFFECT ON THE CHURCHES.

This must have its effect on public worship, and some of the clerics who recently protested against the Sunday labour realise it very well if the physical life of Sunday is to be enhanced, the spiritual is bound to decrease... but this does not mean that worship will suffer. Those who too readily cry out against a dull and rivid Sunday are losing sight of the fact that there has been considerably extended the opportunities of the devout, that churches are no longer confining their ministrations to a single day, that in many London churches, notably in the City, short daily intercession services are held, that in the busiest districts (Jermyn-street, at St. Martin's (Charing Cross), any man who wishes to attend a service may do so during the lunch hour. Speaking as a spectator, I am indeed convinced that the development of by Sundays has broken down the lay character of the week.

A LESS FORMAL RELIGION.

This means a decay of habitual worship, does not only to Sunday labour, but to the deflection of parental influence; now that so many fathers have joined the colours, that so many mothers engage in national work, sabbatarian pressure upon the young generation has greatly lessened. I suspect that from this will arise new habits, that worship will become less formal, will attach mainly those whom it attracts to the sacraments in a distruction of symbols, and I think this will affect even some pagan symbols as the Sunday joint; Sunday has been regarded, and incidentally the old slack Monday, that followed the old sleepy Sunday, has been rationed to zero. To a traditional mind the signs are good, for they spell a freer attitude, an unfettered usage of time, a desire to employ it pleasantly, and above all a more humane attitude: in these days, I think, men will be bound to worship or to feast by rule and more by impulse.

("Evening Standard.").

A SISTER'S SACRIFICE.

Miss Edith Aiken, aged 23 years, school teacher, has died at her residence in London, Ontario, as the result of the removal of a piece of skin from her arm to be grafted upon her wounded brother Lieut.-Colonel Aitken. The officer's condition was critical when grafting was resorted to, and because no anaesthetic could be used, Miss Aiken bravely submitted to the ordeal. Her brother is now progressing favourably. Another brother, Lieutenant Douglas Aitken, has been killed in France.

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