FASHIONABLE CAIRO WEDDING.

MISS LANGLEY'S MARRIAGE.

The marriage of Miss Thema Swete Langley daughter of Mr. John Langley, Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Agriculture, to Lieut. Sinclair, (attd. R.A.F.) which took place at All Saints' Church, Cairo, on Thursday afternoon last. The church was crowded, and the congregation was a most distinguished one. The High Commissioner and Lady Wingate were early arrivals, as also were Lady Allenby, Gen. Watson, Lady Cheetham, Sir Alexander Baird, and Sir James and Lady Willcocks. On the north side of the nave, near the chancel steps, were Mahmoud Pasha Chukry, representing Sultan Sultan; Sir Ismail Sirry Pasha, K.C.M.G.; Ziwar Pasha; Abdel Khalek Sarwat Pasha; Adly Pasha Yeghen; and Mohamed Pasha Shafik; while among many others present were Brig. Gen. Jellicoe, Capt. and Mrs. Westropp, Dr. Keatinge, Mrs. Crawley, Mr. and Mrs. de Cosson, Mrs. and Miss Horan, Mr. Aspinal, Mr. Duke, Maj. and Mrs. Spong, Mr. & Mrs. Elliot, Mr. & Mrs. E. Shearer, Mrs. Phillips, Mr. Devonshire, Mr. Merton, Lt.-Col. Watson, Capt. McAlexander, Dr. & Mrs. Madden, Capt. & Mrs. Stont, Mr. & Mrs. Rowlatt, Mr. & Mrs. G. Holland, Mr. Ward Boyes, Major & Mrs. Rabaglati, Mr. Knabenhue, and Mr. Hylands.

The bride wore an ivory charmeuse gown trimmed with Brussels lace, and was veiled in chiffon. She carried a bouquet of red roses, and as she walked up the nave, supported on the arm of her father, who gave her away, she presented a very charming picture. The honour of conducting the bride's mother up the church fell to Brig. Gen. Jellicoe, a very old friend of the family, while Lt. Aitken officiated as best man. A touch of innocence was imparted to the ceremony by the little bridesmaids—the Misses Celia and Lena Westropp, dressed in white chiffon, with hats and shoes to match. Pastel blue hat ribbons, pink sashes, and bouquets of roses completed a singularly pretty ensemble, the little girls winning all hearts.

The service was conducted by the Rev. C.T. Horan, M.A., who, at its conclusion gave a brief address in which he laid stress on the importance of character as the sure foundation for successfully waging the battle of life. On leaving the church, the happy couple passed beneath the crossed Swagger sticks of the double line of R.A.F. men, who formed a guard of honour from the porch to the waiting car in Sharia Boulac. At the subsequent reception given by Mrs. Langley, the bride and bridegroom received the congratulations of their innumerable friends. Tea was served in the garden, a large buffet of Egyptian tentiing, gaily decorated with British and Egyptian flags, having been erected for the occasion. The Welsh Band, under the experienced conductorship of Mr. White, played appropriate music. During tea-time two aeroplanes hovered overhead—"according to plan"—and indulged in numerous startling "stunts," their graceful and daring evolutions being eagerly watched and greatly admired. The departure of the newly-married couple was accompanied by much laughter and the throwing of rice. A great many of the guests then inspected the wedding gifts, which were as numerous as they were varied and valuable.

CAIRO AMUSEMENTS.

THE KURSAAL RESTAURANT.— Kursaal Buildings, offers an exceptionally well-cooked lunch and dinner daily. On account of the moderate prices and an excellent service this establishment has already gained favour with both the military and civilian element of Cairo.

THE SALLE KLEBER, CAIRO.—A very large audience assembled at this fashionable cinema theatre on Thursday evening last, when an exceptionally good programme of new films was shown for the first time and will continue during the current week. The complicated questions arising out of the armistice and the return to peace now in excellent particular interest to the wonderful film representing the manufacture of airplanes in France, a form of activity which one supposes must shortly be curtailed. The ever welcome Charlie Chaplin made the house rock with laughter in his prodigiously funny comedy "The Piano Remover." His peculiar gifts as a humourist were never better exemplified than in this screaming farce, his tricks and jokes being most hilariously received. After the musical interval by the talented orchestra under the able conductorship of M. Polhlaine, whose artistic contribution to the evening's pleasure is so popular a feature at the Kleber, the "piece de resistance" of the performance was then shown. This was the essentially modern drama entitled "The Hero of Submarine Dr.," a wonderful production consisting of a prologue and 4 parts, based on the sensational novel of the celebrated American author Captain Colton. Throughout the presentation of this veritable triumph of the camera, the audience sat spell bound with amazement at the terror of it. Surely nothing quite so true to facts has been recently seen in Cairo—even at the Kleber, where one has learned to expect the best. The audience is taken beneath the surface of the ocean, and participates in the exciting adventures of the crew in most convincing fashion. This film must be seen if one wishes to be up-to-date.

THE AMERICAN COSMOGRAPH.— The following is the programme at the above establishment commencing from the 22nd November.—Gaumont's World Events. Charlee Chaplin in "Very occupied." "The Queen's Worries" or "The Diamond Queen," being the continuation of this scandal story, featuring Miss Pearl White. "His Heirs," a super-dramatic picture in three parts.

ROAD AND BRIDGE REPAIRS.

The Public Works Ministry notifies that this opening bridge over Rayah Tewfiki at Benha will be closed to traffic from December 1, 1918, until further notice. A ferry for foot and animal traffic will be provided about 700 metres down-stream of the bridge.

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ALEXANDRIA PRIZE COURT.

AN APPEAL TO THE PRIVY COUNCIL.

H.B.M.'S PROCURATOR IN EGYPT

DEUTSCHE KOHLEN DEPOT GESELLSCHAFT; AND CROSS-APPEAL.

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, consisting of Lord Summer, Lord Parmoor, and Lord Wrenbury, on October 22 decided to reserve judgment on these cross-appeals from a judgment of Judge Grain, sitting as Prize Judge in the Vice-Admiralty Court at Alexandria, on September 30, 1916.

The Solicitor-General and Mr. Gavin T. Simonds appeared for the Crown; Sir Erle Richard, K.C., and Mr. Balloch for the German company.

The Deutsche Kohlen Company, of Hamburg, had a branch at Port Said, where it supplied coal to passing steamers. It owned and used a number of tugs, motor-boats, and lighters, none of which was registered in the German Mercantile Marine. After outbreak of war it carried on its operations under a limited licence granted by the Egyptian Government, but ultimately the business was wound up and liquidated, and the company's craft were requisitioned and used by the British authorities. The Crown claimed the condemnation of the craft as belonging to enemies. Judge Grain rejected the company's contention that the craft were, exempt from capture under Article 3 of the Eleventh Hague Convention, as being "vessels employed exclusively in coast fisheries, or small boats engaged in local trade." But he held, contrary to the submission of the Crown, that the craft were "merchant ships" within the meaning of Article 2 of the Sixth Hague Convention, and were liable only to be detained, not to be condemned or confiscated. From these decisions both parties appealed.

The arguments were originally heard in February last, but were broken off to enable the Crown to procure from Egypt certain correspondence bearing on the question whether there had been any seizure of the craft.

The Solicitor-General said that there had been no formal seizure, as any such act would have been a breach of the Suez Canal Convention, but he submitted that the steps taken by the authorities amounted to seizure in law. The possession of the craft by the naval and military forces was tantamount to seizure.

Sir Erle Richards, K.C., contended that the evidence from Egypt showed that there had been no capture, and therefore the Court had no jurisdiction, for it was necessary to have capture as a basis of the proceedings. The craft were merchant ships, which were not liable to seizure, and, besides, they had been working under a licence from the Egyptian Government, and could not therefore be seized. They were also protected from seizure by the Suez Canal Convention.

Solicitors, — The Treasury Solicitor, Messrs. Botterell and Roche.

ALEXANDRIA BOURSE.

No great change has taken place in the market yesterday, the following being the officially quoted closing prices:—

Unified advanced on eighth closing firmly at £50 5/8; Agricultural Bank drag weaker at £6 9/16, 1/16 drop while there was a further drop of two francs in Banque d'Athenes, which were neglected at £11 1/2.

In the section of Credit Foncier bonds issue 1886 were a little firmer at fr.407 while issue 1903 were weaker at fr.292 1/2.

National Bank closed at £20 1/2, 3/8 a franc to fr.9 41/2.

Alexandria Water Co. were in demand at £12 3/4 and Union Foncier 49½, closing at 59/34. 4 1/2 pence higher; Brasseries d'Egypte advanced three francs to fr.265, while Cotton Ginners were steady at £-7/8 1/64; Sidi Salem Estates dropped 1/16 to £2 3/16, Alexandria and Rosdieh Railways Co. being offered at £5 11/16.

Hôtels Hotels closed in demand at P.T. 10 1/2 and Port Said Salt were weaker at 80/64, three pence drop.

Deferred Egyptian Delta Light advanced 1/16 drop in demand at £6 while there was a further rise of 4 1/2d. in New Egyptian Co. which finished at 20/4 1/2d. and there was no change in Egypt and Lyons ass Co. which were quoted at 32/6d.

Paul Cinquevalli (né Emile Otto Paul Braun), the famous juggler, has left an estate of the value of £26,217.

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THE NATIVE PRESS.

A DYING MAN'S INDICTMENT.

The "Afkar" (from an article commenting upon the last words uttered by one of the Bebera murderers before the scaffold, a few days ago, in the Hadra prison, against omdeha).—

If you are asked whom you ought to guard yourself against in this country, do not hesitate to say, "the brigands of the Behera in the north and the brigands of Assiout in the south." The region of these two provinces have become notorious for their devilish disposition and ferocity. A man is born with it in their eyes. This is common knowledge here, but one of the Behera criminals sentenced to death told us a new story a few days ago as he stood before the scaffold, with, as it were, one foot in the grave. He said he wished he could go back to the Behera so that he might cut the throats of omdeha who were the origin of evil and creators of deputies and foments of hostilities in the province. This statement is of a nature to shake the charge generally attributed to some of the brigands of the Behera that they have personal inclination to murder. The words, uttered at the last moments remaining to the life of the man in question, must be taken into full consideration. The fact that he made no personal reference to any particular individuals shows that he never meant to express an idea of revenge, but to tell, the truth which calls for reform.... The statement made by that man is a most eloquent speech addressed to the authorities both in administrative and judicial services. It will be necessary henceforth, on the part of investigating officials, to follow the circumstances of the crime to the very end and to discover the secrets thereof so that the real originator of the crime may be discovered and not only the criminal who carries out instructions.

The "Ahaly" (from an article about omdeha apropos of the confessions made before the scaffold, and the same criminal).— Does not the Government see the wisdom of examining such statements as these, and, if they be true, of giving particular attention to the selection of omdeha? It is necessary to appoint qualified and honest men as omdeha so that they may devote their attention to public service and not personal interests. We learn that the Alexandria Governorate has listened to the last words uttered by those criminals before the scaffold, and submitted the same in a report to the Ministry of the Interior, suggesting that the country should be purified from such omdeha as those whose principles are of a nature to disturb public security. On more than one occasion we have heard from judges during the sessions of the Alexandria Assize Court, that some of the omdeha work against public security for special ends, and judges never say such words unless they find grounds justifying their statements. It can hardly be pleasing to the Ministry of the Interior to hear such remarks from the Assize Court against those who represent the Government in the districts.'

ALEXANDRIA'S SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

"Wady el-Nil."—We hear that the Ministry of Education is thinking of abolishing the Ras el-Tin Secondary School, at Alexandria, and keeping the Abbasieh School. The Moharrem Bey Primary School will, in that case, be housed in the Ras el-Tin School building. It is even stated that the idea is ripe and is almost definitely entertained by the Ministry. As for the reasons why this step is to be taken, it is reported that the Ministry of Education now finds that Alexandria does not need two Government secondary schools. It is also stated that the Ministry has the intention of increasing the fees for the Primary School to be transferred to Ras el-Tin. We report this with reserve and remark that, in case it is true it deserves consideration....

A BEYROUT GAMBLER.

The "Akhbar."— While people are receiving incredible reports from Beyrout and the Lebanon about the effects of famine and misery and ruin prevailing in that country, we see that certain persons there are enjoying remarkable comforts, as can be understood from their private letters to their friends here. The most curious letter we have seen of this kind comes from a Beyrout man fond of the Roulette game. It seems that the misfortunes surrounding him have had not debarred him from his favourite game! His letter is full of questions about friends and roulette players, and whether it was intended to open certain gambling clubs in Cairo. The correspondent we are told, is a Municipal official at Beyrout.

NO MOULED EL-NEBI.

The "Mokattam."— The Public Health Administration has objected to the holding of usual ceremonies on the occasion of the Moulid el-Nebi in Cairo, owing to the fear of the Spanish influenza in the country. It has accordingly been decided not to permit such ceremonies to be held anywhere in Cairo and in the districts—neither in the day time nor at night, so that crowding may be avoided under the present circumstance.

OFFICIALS AND INFLUENZA.

The "Ahram."—Some of the leading officials in the Ministries and chief administrations in Cairo are thinking of calling a number of ex-officials, retired on pension, to help them in their official work for the time being owing to the absence of many officials in consequence of the attacks of the Spanish influenza. The question, however, is still under consideration.

FOR REASONS NOT STATED.

The "Akhbar" (commenting on the news published by the "Ahram" that Maitre Abdul Aziz Bey Fahmy will not be able to attend the Megis el-Shaby, of which he is a member, after Sunday next as he will be otherwise occupied).—Maitre Abdul Aziz Fahmy Bey is, the Chairman of the Lawyers' Association, and a member of the Legislative Assembly. The reason why he is leaving the Megis el-Shaby temporarily, may be connected shortly together with the cause of the resignation of Ahmed Lutfy el-Sayyed, Director of the Sultanie Library.

PLAGUE DIMINISHING IN EGYPT.

During the period January 1 to November 11 this year there have been only 357 cases of plague in Egypt as against 728 for the same period in 1917. For the week ending November 11 there was only one fresh case of plague in Egypt and that occurred at Fashn in Minia.

Y. W. C. A. ALEXANDRIA.

On Monday next, November 25, at 5 p.m. Canon Gaitdner will deliver a lecture on "The Deeper Historical Causes of the war—from Cæsar to Kaiser" at the Y.W.C.A., Victoria House, Alexandria. The lecture is open to men and women and all interested are invited to attend.

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THE CAIRO BOOKMARKET.

LATEST ARABIC BOOKS AND THEIR AUTHORS.

(BY AN ARABIC SCHOLAR).

In one of my previous articles I spoke of the manner in which certain Arabic reviews of current books were written. This time I may have seemed strange to some of my English readers who are accustomed to independent, impartial appreciations or criticisms of books, and they may have doubted the accuracy of my statement. For the conviction of such, I here give the translation of an article in the November part of a monthly Arabic magazine entitled "Al-Mufid." The writer says: "While I was one day with a friend who is a great poet, a man arrived and was introduced to me as a poet. For an hour or more we engaged in conversation with my friend whom he asked to write a few lines of verse in praise of his collection of poems which he was in the point of bringing out; and he so insisted that my friend granted his request and gave him the verses which he signed. When the man departed I pointed out to my friend that he had committed a great sin against the public by praising the man's verses which he had not even seen. In extermination of his offence, my friend explained that the man had been annoying him for three months and, in order to get rid of him, he gave him the so-called poet's verses.

This is the story as given by "Al-Mufid," which adds that the value to be attached to some native reviews, and confirms what I have already said on the subject. But critics are already beginning to be intelligent, and to realise their responsibility, for I understand that a native critic has actually condemned that odes sent him for publication will, in future, be read by a committee of three scholars, and if passed will publish it. This is an example of these scholars the editor has wisely withheld from his readers.

* * *

Before turning to the latest productions of the native press, I should think it would be out of place to say a few words about the most noted Moslem woman writer who passed away about the middle of last month at the age of thirty two years. Madame Malak Abdul Sattar who was the daughter of the great Arabic scholar, Hifni Nasif Bey, formerly chief-inspector of the Arabic language in the Ministry of Education, held the diploma of higher studies, and in 1908 married a Bedouin chief, a wealthy notable of the Fayoum, and a man of as good education as any Egyptian. Married life did not absorb all her time for she took interest in education and also wrote, lectured, and composed verses. In fact she was busy writing a book on the rights of women, and an epic poem on Khadiga before she died. She proposed also to create an Industrial Home for native Mohammedan ladies, but she died too ready to give L.E.500. This is a brief outline of the life of one of the most remarkable Moslem women of modern times, and she had left a void most difficult to fill. This lady is all the more remarkable, because marriage in the East, which generally puts an end to the literary interest, of the few ladies who take to writing, as soon as they have married, she did not kill those interests in her. And when I say that the number of native ladies in the country who have a literary taste can be counted on one's fingers, and that but few of them have written books, the extent of the loss by the death of Madame Malak can be realised.

* * *

The Arabs are known for the intensity of their feelings, particularly love, as is proved by the existing ancient odes and modern songs, hardly one of which latter does not turn on love. But while so many verses have been written on love, I do not remember seeing a book on the subject till Nafathat Mahrem (the sighs of a sorrowful man), by Hamid El-Kirdawy, a Government official, was put in my hand. The author begins by saying in the introduction what love is, or rather what its influence is on man; it either makes him the happiest person in the world, or the most miserable, he says, but that it is the best and safest guide. In the various chapters of the book he explains the origin of love, its cause, what it causes in it, its symptoms and kinds, chastity, the feelings of the lover, his hopes, claims and difficulties, the happiest of his moments, his unhappiness when far from the object of his affections, jealousy, etc. He thus tells his readers almost everything about love and its joys and miseries. There is no doubt that the author speak from experience in the first place, as the name of the book implies, and in the second place, from the following passage in the concluding chapter of the book: "I wrote these lines several years ago to remember in the days of my age the days of my youth." He seems to have flown in his joys to the seventh heavens, and sunk in his grief to the lowest abysses, but there seems to be no doubt that his love was of the sacred, not the profane kind of which case his subject life is ashamed and wishes forgotten to the end of his days.

The author has illustrated his meaning by several quotations from poets, and I am confident that the book, although dealing with a subject as old as the dwellers of the Garden of Eden, will be read with pleasure, interest and, I hope, benefit especially by young readers to whom more than one lesson is given.

* * *

Two of the officials of the Ministry of Education, Mohamed Bida and Ibrahim Hamdi (their titles are not given), have written a book on girls' manners which the Ministry of Education has decided to use as a text book in its schools. This book is entitled Al-Akhlak Lil Banat (Ethics for the girls). A few years ago I reviewed in those columns a similar book on society manners, which the Ministry of Education also adopted as a text book in its schools for boys, while this latter is really intended for men whose manners, particularly in dining, the former is intended for little girls not for the grown ups. The book is divided into five parts dealing, with manners, conversations, stories, odes or rather sonnets, and biographies of noted women, Moslem and Christian. In each of the chapters of the first part, a description is given of an imaginary girl, how she behaves at home, in the school, in the street, and in paying visits, which manners, if followed by the little students in our schools, will make them well-behaved in their tender age, and respectable women when they grow up. In the chapter on the manners in conversation, the girls are told not to talk with near passersby, and if they have to converse they should do so in a low voice, not to exhibit any trinkets they may be wearing, nor parts of their clothes or hair, not to wear self-fitting "milayas" or wrappers, so as not to reveal the figure of the wearer, and transparent veils which do not conceal the face, the neck and a part of the breast." All these injunctions are strengthened and explained by suitable quotations from the Koran.

In the chapter on sonnets (one of the most important in the book) the girls are given excellent lessons on the foolishness of extravagance in weddings, the necessity of economy, the futility of resorting to the dwellers of the tombs of departed relatives, of wearing amulets, on frightening children by threatening them with the afreet and other such habits which only modern education can change.

The third part of the book is a collection of fables, short stories, dialogues and articles on good companions, kindness to animals, country life, etc., while the sonnets are simple verses easy to learn. The last part of the book gives short biographies of such noted women as the Queen of Sheba, Khadiga the first wife of the Prophet Mohamed; Aisha the daughter of Abu Bakr; Shagarat al-Durr, Queen of Egypt, Queen Elisabeth, Grace Darling, Florence Nightingale and others.

From the foregoing review of this interesting little book it will be seen that it is a vast collection of recommendations which, if taken to heart, will make of the native little girls enlightened, up-to-date members of society, free from those superstitions which their mothers believed and practiced.

* * *

The trustees of the E.F.W. Gibb memorial fund have first brought out the second and concluding volume of the work of Sheikh Ali Ibn Hassan Al-Khazragi., entitled Al-Uqud Al-Lulujia, Fy Tarikh Al-Dawla Al Rasuliya. The book, as its name denotes, is the history of the Rasuli dynasty of Yemen, and is printed from a manuscript in London, in which, like many ancient Arabic manuscripts, the dots over or below the letters are omitted thus rendering the labours of the editor, Sheikh Mohamed 'Asal, M.A. (Cambridge), of the greatest difficulty. We learn from the preface of Professor Edward Browne that the author died in 1709 and left only three books of which the present work is one. Beyond this very simple fact nothing is known of the Sheikh. This book gives a great many details about Yemen and its history during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries of our era. Several references are made, to the great tyrant, Timur, whose camp, the author says, took a pedestrian twelve days to go round, most of his army being infidels among whom were thirty thousand cannibals. The book is full of names of ulemas and cadis, which shows that the author was very much interested in them, being perhaps himself one of their number. It is thus of importance to those interested in the history of that part of the Arabian peninsula. It has a copious index to facilitate research, and was printed at Al-Hilal press, Cairo, and is published in London by the well-known firm of oriental publishers, Luzac and Company.

* * *

My object in noticing the foregoing book is also to call the attention of Egyptians to the literature of their language. As a matter of fact they are doing this by the Egyptian Government is now doing publishing books hitherto existing only in manuscripts, and I may ask if it is not a shame that the burden of such an undertaking should be borne by the Government as if it were the guardian of the Arabic language, as if that language were not the common property of all those who speak it. The Egyptians are supposed to be noted for their attachment to their language, and yet not one of them has given any money to help those ancient works which are preserved in the libraries of Egypt and Europe, and therefore accessible only to a very limited number of readers. Is it not time that a fund such as that of the late Mr. Gibb should be made for such a purpose?

SANTI'S RESTAURANT.

It will be pleasant news to many to learn that Santi's Restaurant of the Ezbekieh Gardens, Cairo, is to be kept open during the winter months. This garden restaurant, so well known for its excellent cuisine is suitably covered during the colder weather, while separate saloons are provided for private dinner parties.

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