THE NATIVE PRESS.

GOOD ADVICE.

"Wady el-Nil." — The following statement was distributed last evening in Alexandria under the heading "Advice to Our Compatriots":— As it has been decided that all Government officials in Alexandria shall suspend work in their various departments, as a mark of protest against the present state of affairs; and as all classes of merchants, artisans, etc., will take part in this movement with the result that large numbers of people will find themselves without work during these two days; it is the binding duty of the community to follow the path of tranquillity and calmness. Every person should either stay in his house or visit one of his friends or resort to Mosques or Churches for prayer. This is of a native to guarantee tranquillity and safeguard public order in the circumstance.

MEETINGS IN MOSQUES AND CHURCHES

"Wady el-Nil" (from an article under the heading "In Mosques and Churches" discussing the harmony prevailing between Moslems and Copts and its results). — For what object are these noble meetings being held (in Mosques and Churches)? Do people think that they are intended to renew an interrupted fraternity or to receive a harmony which had ceased to exist? Not at all. The fraternal bonds made by nature and strengthened by time cannot be cut off; and the friendship that has been kept by tradition and become a characteristic of Egyptian nature cannot be removed from the hearts of people by any factor. The real object is, on the part of both parties, to gather the fruit of fraternity and harmony....

THE SULTAN'S MESSAGE.

The Ahram (commenting on the Sultan's message to the nation, in its issue of Tuesday morning). — We have reserved our local news column to-day with the message addressed by the Sultan to his beloved nation; and we consider His Highness' statement as a forerunner of good news to the nation which may soon come. We do not foretell events, but we consider it as an omen for good, and so receive it with the people as a whole with great pleasure and satisfaction. The Sultan of the country has uttered his word regarding the situation of his country, and some act must follow this word, to the satisfaction of all.

SELF-RELIANCE.

The "Ahaly" (under the heading "Self-Reliance"). — Self reliance is one of the necessary qualities for success in this life. This characteristic has only one name, but it indicates several features of the character of man which can only exist in full in distinguished individuals and in nations. A man who relies upon himself shows that he knows his duty, that he is able to do it, that he is ready to bear its responsibility, and that he does not believe in relying upon others in a matter concerning himself. All this proves that he who is possessed of this kind of character is spirited and is worthy of a high life, and that he is able to enjoy a great share of it no matter what obstacle may rise in his way and no matter what threats of failure and dispair the appearances of affairs may foretell. The man who relies upon himself does not make his opportunity in life dependent upon the will of others, for he finds in that some unworthy factor mingling with the loveliest of the graces of life and disturbing the sweetest of its sources. He feels miserable in himself if he fails to find his way to rely upon himself, and sees that whatever results—good or bad—he might confront are only the results of his own deeds. A mischief that comes to him in this way might give more satisfaction to his conscience than any bounty bestowed upon him by a benefactor. Self-reliance is a vital quality of full life, and life without it is always deficient. This does not mean that he who relies on himself can dispense with the help of others, for self reliance does not at all mean isolation.

EGYPT AND ENGLAND.

The "Watan" (from an article on the discussion of the future of Egypt in the House of Commons). — It is a pleasure for us to see the British Parliament giving great attention to the question of the future of our beloved country, for this discussion proves to us the good intentions of the liberal English nation towards us. We do not in the least doubt the high qualities of the responsible British people and its fairness with regard to facts and the real circumstances of this and other questions connected with the Empire.... He who adds these encouraging declarations to those made by the High Commissioner comes to a pleasant conclusion showing that Egypt's future will be established on reason and justice and will suit the position attained by Egyptians from the social and educational points of view. We have on a previous occasion pointed out that the English who are famous for their love and liberty will never dislike to make their relations with Egypt's relations of friendship, and mutual confidence and respect.... As the country has given its leadership to the Ministers and notables who are now in contact with the Special High Commissioner we must rely upon them in conducting matters according to the sense of those declarations....

HEAT WAVE AT KHARTOUM.

A heat wave which began in the middle of March had not ended on the 22nd. It reached its maximum on Thursday afternoon, the 20th when the thermometer recorded 108 degrees F. (42.2 degrees C). This was followed by a hubub on the following morning, which blew steadily for several hours. A fall of temperature followed, but the weather remained far from pleasant.

ENGLAND'S POPULATION.

RECORD LOW BIRTH-RATE.

100,000 INFLUENZA DEATHS IN 3 MONTHS.

According to a return of births, deaths, and marriages issued lately by the Registrar General, the deaths among the civil population of England and Wales exceeded the births during the three months ended last December by 79,443. This is the first occasion since civil registration was established in 1836 on which a decrease in population is shown. The birthrate for the whole year is the lowest on record.

The figures for the last quarter of 1918 are:-

Births	161,775
Deaths	241,218
Decrease in population	79,443

The increases in population on the corresponding fourth quarter was 25.5 per 1,000 in 1846. In the first quarter of 1855 the death-rate reached 29.0 and in the third quarter of 1849, during the cholera epidemic, it reached 30.5 per 1,000. Last year the death-rate was 17.6.

41 PER CENT OF DEATHS FROM INFLUENZA.

Influenza is stated to be either a primary or a contributory cause of death in no fewer than 98,998 cases, or 41 per cent of the total deaths registered during the period under review. This number is far in excess of all previous records.

The births registered in the fourth quarter of 1918 were 6,676 fewer than in the preceding quarter, but 8,104 more than in the fourth quarter of 1917. The rate per 1,000 for the whole year was 17.7.

Of the 161,775 births during the whole year, 10,367 (or 1,647 more than the number in the corresponding quarter of 1917) were illegitimate; the births of males numbered 83,095 and females 78,690.

The birth-rate is the lowest on record.

Infant mortality, measured by the portion of deaths under one year of age, was equal to 109 per 1,000, being 2 per 1,000 below the average in the ten preceding fourth quarters.

For the whole year in England and Wales there were 662,773 births and 611,991 deaths registered, the natural increase of population being therefore 50,782. The average annual increase in the preceding five years was 237,664.

The number of persons married during the year was 573,614. The marriage rate in England and Wales during the year was 15.3 per 1,000. Infant mortality was 97 per 1,000 registered births.

Commenting on these figures a medical man recently wrote:- Although it is not a matter for serious alarm, the high death rate, coupled with the phenomenally low birth rate which the recent return of the Registrar-General reveals, must be squarely faced. So far as the death rate is concerned, it cannot be said of those who have been killed in the war that these losses were due to any action of the law of "the survival of the fittest." the war has admittedly taken the strongest and most competent.

Curiously enough, the same may be said to a large extent of the deaths occurring in the recent influenza epidemic. One would have expected that children and old people would have supplied the majority of the victims, but experience shows that this is not the case. Young adults in the apparent fulness of their strength and vigour have contributed far more to the influenza death rate than those at the extremes of life.

One lesson which the authorities ought to learn from these birth-rate and death-rate figures is that the reform of the present divorce laws is urgent. People imagine the divorce laws to be a mere ethical question. As a matter of practical fact, these laws have an enormous bearing not only on the number of children born into the world, but on the health of those children.

This question cannot be discussed briefly, but the medical side of divorce law reform is an exceedingly important one, and its importance has been emphasised and underlined by the Registrar-General's returns. It is high time that the Government took the matter seriously in hand.

A CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER.

Under the editorship of Mr. Arthur Mee, "The Children's Newspaper," a periodical for "the men and women of to-morrow," has made its appearance. The first number contains both instruction and amusement for its youthful readers, containing interesting articles on airships, aeroplanes, wireless telephony, and other scientific topics of the day, the first weekly letters by Ella Wheeler Wilcox and Commander C.B. Fry, and many new stories and photographs. There is an excellent caricature of President Wilson and, within many lighter features, a serious attempt to interest the children in the League of Nations, which has for its keynote the words: "Nothing on earth can save the League of Nations unless the children are on its side."

The Lower House of the West Virginia Legislature has adopted a resolution by 52 votes to 28 opposing the formation of a League of Nations and the entry of the United States into any such alliance.

COST OF THE WAR.

THE GREAT AFTER BURDEN.

HEAVY DEBT CHARGES.

The following is a concise and up-to-date summary of some of the chief financial effects of the war, from an American report. Rather more than a year ago the Mechanics and Metals National Bank of New York published a small pamphlet entitled "The Cost of the War," which easily led the way in the matter of up-to-date statistics with regard to war finance, and now from the same quarter comes a pamphlet entitled "The World's War Debt," which is designed to show the effect of the war upon the national debts of the world up to January last, while in the same pamphlet are contained some facts and figures with regard to the ability of the respective countries to meet the burdens which are now placed upon them as a result of the war. There is, indeed, so much in the pamphlet that is useful and instructive that we shall probably return to it on a later occasion, but at the moment it may suffice to give a few of its main facts, if only as serving to emphasize two somewhat important points, one of them being the necessity which the war debt will lay upon us for increased industry, and the other being not only the importance of Germany being called upon to pay a considerable indemnity, but of her ability to bear that burden.

GROWTH IN DEBTS.

At the outbreak of the war, we are reminded, the gross indebtedness of the seven nations chiefly engaged in the hostilities was about £5,400,000,000. To-day it is about £40,000,000,000, that total, moreover, not taking into calculation the sums which will yet have to be expended in the process of demobilisation and the arrangement of pensions, etc. The table which follows shows the manner in which the debts of the various nations concerned have advanced individually:

	Aug. 1, 1914. £	Jan. 1, 1919. £
Gross debt of United States	200,000,000	4,200,000,000
Great Britain	700,000,000	8,000,000,000
France	1,300,000,000	6,000,000,000
Russia	920,000,000	5,400,000,000
Italy	560,000,000	2,400,000,000
Entente Nations	3,680,000,000	26,000,000,000
German Empire and States	1,040,000,000	8,000,000,000
Austria-Hungary	740,000,000	4,800,000,000
Teutonic Nations	1,780,000,000	12,800,000,000
Gross Debt, all	5,460,000,000	38,800,000,000
Net Debt, all	5,000,000,000	36,400,000,000

From the foregoing it will be noted that a distinction is made between the gross and the net debt, the latter figure given in the statement prepared by the Mechanics and Metals National Bank being reached after calculating for the repayment of loans advanced by the respective nations to Allies. No allowance is, of course, made for the question of indemnities.

DEBTS IN RELATION TO WEALTH.

It now remains to be seen what proportion this growth in debt bears to the aggregate wealth of the nations concerned. In this respect, calculation, of course, is somewhat difficult, for while it is interesting to note the figures compiled in the pamphlet from which we are quoting, it must be remembered in glancing at them that the comparison is with the pre-war wealth. As the result of gross inflation the wealth of today could easily be stated at a much higher figure, but it is doubtful whether the total would not be mischievously misleading when allowance is made for the amount of deflation which may occur in the coming years. Moreover, it has also to be remembered that while in one sense our post-war wealth may have expanded through the process of inflation, our real wealth in the sense of productive power must have been diminished owing to war casualties even when all allowance is made for the introduction of female labour and the great impetus to production given during the period of the war by long hours of working, etc. Those long hours represent feverish conditions of working which cannot be perpetually maintained. The following table, however, is distinctly interesting, showing the proportion which the respective gross debts of the various nations compare with the wealth of those nations as it existed previous to the war:

	Estimated Total Wealth. £	Gross Debt Jan. 1919 £	Debt p.c. Wealth
United States	50,000,000,000	4,200,000,000	8.4
Great Britain	18,000,000,000	8,000,000,000	44.4
France	13,000,000,000	6,000,000,000	46.1
Russia	12,000,000,000	5,400,000,000	45.0
Italy	6,000,000,000	2,400,000,000	40.0
Entente N'tions	99,000,000,000	26,000,000,000	26.2
Germany	17,000,000,000	8,000,000,000	47.0
Austria Hungary	8,000,000,000	4,800,000,000	60.0
Teutonic Nations	25,000,000,000	12,800,000,000	51.2
Total, all.	124,000,000,000	38,800,000,000	31.1

INCOME AND TAXATION.

In a further chapter dealing with the cost of bearing the burden, tables are given showing what the new debt will involve in the way of annual interest charges, and attempts are also made to set out the estimated peace basis expenditure of the various countries. This latter estimate, however, is rather difficult to follow, for of necessity each nation must be better able to form its own calculations as to coming expenditure than any one country can calculate for the whole. Nevertheless, the following table, which it should be noted makes no allowance for indemnities to be received, is distinctly interesting, as showing how much of the national income is it existed previous to the war may be required in taxation to meet the new debt charges which have arisen. Inasmuch as no allowance is made for the expansion in post-war income, it is conceivable that the percentage may be somewhat less than is shown in the table, but even so the contrast in between nation and nation seems likely to be much as shown in the following figures, and that is really the point which is of particular interest:

	Estimated Annual Income. £	Estimated Taxes, 1920. £	p.c.
United States	8,000,000,000	420,000,000	5.2
Gt. Britain	2,400,000,000	650,000,000	28.3
France	1,500,000,000	600,000,000	40.0
Russia	1,400,000,000	640,000,000	45.5
Italy	850,000,000	220,000,000	26.0
Entente Allies	14,150,000,000	2,560,000,000	18.1
Germany	2,200,000,000	680,000,000	30.9
Austria-Hungary	1,000,000,000	480,000,000	48.0
Teutonic Nations	3,200,000,000	1,160,000,000	36.3
Total, all	17,350,000,000	3,720,000,000	21.4

Thus from the foregoing it will be seen that whereas notwithstanding the growth in the debt of the United States, only about 5 per cent of annual income, according to the statistics from which we have quoted, will be required in that country to meet the charge on the debt, it will be as much as 28 per cent in England and no less than 40 per cent in France.

EFFECT ON THE WAGE EARNER.

One way, says the writer of the pamphlet from which we have quoted, to realize the significance of the strain of debt charges upon the wage or income earners is to translate those charges from terms of money into the time and effort necessary to earn it. Thus if 5 per cent of the American individual's income is to be turned over for his Government's expenses, it is clear that an equivalent percentage of his employed time would have to be devoted to producing earnings to meet the necessary taxes. So the income earned by the productive effort of the average American in fifteen out of the year's 300 earning days would be necessary to support his Government. In the time and effort necessary to earn it. Thus if 5 per cent of the American individual's income is to be turned over for his Government's expenses, it is clear that an equivalent percentage of his employed time would have to be devoted to producing earnings to meet the necessary taxes. So the income earned by the productive effort of the average American in fifteen out of the year's 300 earning days would be necessary to support his Government. In the time and effort necessary to earn it. Thus if 5 per cent of the American's income goes to the Government, it is calculated that the income of 84 days of the Englishman's 300 working days would be necessary for government upkeep, while 90 of the German worker's 300 days would thus be required and the French working man would have to work 120 days in the year to maintain his Government and pay interest on the national debt.

A STUPENDOUS TASK.

In the foregoing figures, therefore, more might be quoted to the same end, there are two points which clearly emerge. One is the necessity for the workers of England realising the stupendous task which lies before them in meeting the burdens which it will ultimately be found that the war has placed upon us; and the other point is that, in spite of Germany having been the cause of the whole calamity, and in spite of the damage she has inflicted, her ability to pay—if only—by reason of her large population and great wealth—is almost the same as Great Britain, while it is infinitely greater than that of France. The whole essence of post-war finance is that everyone will have ultimately to foot the war bill by labour and production, but it should be abundantly clear that the question is one which not only justifies the imposition of a really large indemnity upon Germany, but one which demonstrates her ability to carry the additional burden.

FOOTBALL.

ALEXANDRIA UNITED SERVICES CHALLENGE CUP.

SEMI-FINAL.

To-day's match. Stadium, Chatby. Kick Off 3.45 p.m.

R.A.O.C. v. LONDON REGT.

Admission P.T. 2 1/2. Reserved seats P.T.5.

CRICKET.

21ST GEN. HOSP. v. 19TH GEN. HOSP.

Played at Ras-el-Tin on Friday, April 4. For the visitors Wood was again in fine form by making 5 wickets for 37 runs and making 37, Dolling, Relton, and Smethurst also batted well while Thomson was the top scorer for the homesters with 14 to his credit, Major Strong bowled well but was not supported in the field.

19TH GENERAL HOSPITAL.

Dolling c. & b. Hinton	36
Timmis b. Strong	27
Wood b. James	37
Relton Run out	22
Moss not out	1
Smethurst not out	18
Maingot c. Thompson b. Strong	1
Extras	10
Total for 5 wickets	133

Amptlett, Lee, Gray and Park, did not bat. Innings declared closed.

21ST GENERAL HOSPITAL

Atkinson run out	1
Thompson b. Wood	14
Cooke b. Smethurst	8
Rhodes c. & b. Woods	2
Hinton b. Smethurst	1
Strong b. Woods	1
Mason c. Smethurst b. Wood	4
Hill b. Wood	7
James, b. Relton	2
Mash c. Wood b. Dolling	0
Warburton not out	0
Extras	13
Total	66

PIGEON SHOOTING.

The following is the result of the New Pigeon Shooting Club, at Rod-el-Farag, on Sunday:-

J. Kyriacou, P.T.125; H. Cellai, 38; P. Sognell, 103; R. Zaffrani, 143; Abdel Moghaith Bey, 76; Greener, 140; Greener, 218; H. Cellai', 46; H. Cellai, 43; H. Cellai, 45; H. Cellai, 32; W. Bottom, 76.

CIGARETTE SLAVES.

In an age when so many women smoke it is refreshing to find a popular actress who is not a slave to the cigarette. Miss Ivy Shilling, the dancer, was asked to give an opinion on this question.

"My work requires all my physical and mental balance, every nerve must be alert and quick to carry the brain's message to the limbs," said Miss Shilling. "Even one cigarette has a bad effect. Very few people realize how specially fit a dancer must be. I must say I like flowers and plenty of fresh air in my dressing room; not smoke and cigarette ends. Although I don't smoke myself, at the same time I do not think smoking in moderation is injurious. So many women become slaves of the habit and carry the badge of their bondage in stained, nicotined fingers; nothing looks uglier. The real evil to-day, to my mind, is the number of quite young girls who smoke recklessly cigarette after cigarette, simply because they think it looks smart."

HEAT WAVE AT KHARTOUM.

A Franco-British committee, under the presidency of Madame Foch, has been formed for the purpose of erecting a church and monument to the memory of soldiers who fell in the course of the fighting in 1916 at Bouchavesnes, Rancourt, Sailly-Saillisel, St. Vaast, etc.

Cuticura Produces Skin and Scalp Health

The daily use of Cuticura Soap, assisted by occasional touches of Cuticura Ointment does much to keep the skin clear and soft and the hair live and glossy.

Sold throughout the world. Post Free: Cuticura Soap, 32 Page Book, Ointment 32, Chemists &c., Boston. Soap 3d. Ointment 1s. 2d.

RACING

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Messrs. ROSE & Co.

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English Bankers' references.

SPATHIS MINERAL WATERS ARE THE BEST. (ADVT.)

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OLD TOM GIN. LONDON DRY GIN. SLOE GIN. ORANGE BITTERS.

RUM. CHERRY BRANDY. GINGER BRANDY, etc.

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DEWAR'S WHITE LABEL WHISKY

Mellow, of great age, unchanged in quality but limited in quantity during the Great War.

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60 Years Old Liqueur Brandy.

As supplied to the Royal Court for nearly 200 years.

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MUNICIPALITY OF ALEXANDRIA

5 PER CENT LOAN OF 1919

L.E. 500,000

AUTHORISED BY THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT, WITH THE ASSENT OF THE POWERS BY DECREE DATED 14TH DECEMBER 1912.

PRICE OF ISSUE L.E. 96 PER CENT.

Payable on application.

Interest payable half-yearly on 15th April and 15th October.

The first Coupon for L.E.2 1/2 will be paid on 15th October 1919.

The Municipality of Alexandria invites public subscriptions to the above Loan, the proceeds of which are destined for carrying out sanitary works in the town and the protection of the Eastern Harbour.

The Loan is redeemable at par in 56 years by means of a cumulative Sinking Fund of 1/2 o/o per cent., the operation of which will commence in the sixth year after the issue.

The redemption will be affected either by annual drawings if the market price is at or above par, or by drawings or purchase on the market, if the price is below par.

The Municipality reserves the right to accelerate at any time the extinction of the Loan by means of purchase, as also to repay the Loan at par at any time after the 1st April 1939.

In conformity with Art. 31, No. 3 of the Organic Decree of 5 January 1890, issued with the assent of the Powers and constituting a Municipal Commission in Alexandria, the latter cannot raise money by Loan without the authorisation of the Egyptian Government.

The present engagements of the Municipality consist of its last Loan of £512,800 issued in 1902, of which about £38,000 has been redeemed to date, and of an advance of L.E. 100,000 made by the National Bank of Egypt, which will be repaid out of the proceeds of the present issue.

The service of this Loan is assured by the annual inscription in the Municipal Budget of the sum necessary to cover the interest and redemption: it is guaranteed, to the extent of the necessary annuity, by the whole of the revenues of the Municipality and especially by those derived from the tax on the "propriété bâtie" estimated in the Budget for 1919/1920 to produce a sum of L.E. 180,000.

Bonds to Bearer will be issued in denominations of L.E. 50, L.E. 100 and L.E. 500.

Applications must be accompanied by the whole amount payable, i.e. L.E. 96 for each L.E. 100 applied for.

The amount of the Loan being limited to L.E. 500,000, applications will be subject to reduction in the case of the Loan being over-subscribed.

Definite Bonds will be delivered as soon as possible, against surrender of Interim Certificates.

The Subscription Lists will be open on the 14th and 15th April 1919.

Applications will be received in Alexandria and in Cairo by the following Banks:-

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT,
ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LTD.,
CREDIT LYONNAIS,
COMPTOIR NATIONAL D'ESCOMPTE DE PARIS.

Alexandria, 5th April 1919. 64563-5

SEND 1150 PIASTRES FOR A RELIABLE TYPEWRITER Remington or Smith Premier packed and delivered Alexandria. Write for Bargain List A.T.G. British Ribbons and Carbons at Trade Prices, Taylor, 74, Chancery Lane, London, W.C.2, England. 63919-13*

RACING ENTHUSIASTS.

Those who cannot attend the Races can yet have a big interest by taking chances in the "Gazette" weekly competition. All entrance fees less ten per cent given to the winner.