

Health for the Home.

A WORD ABOUT THE EARS.

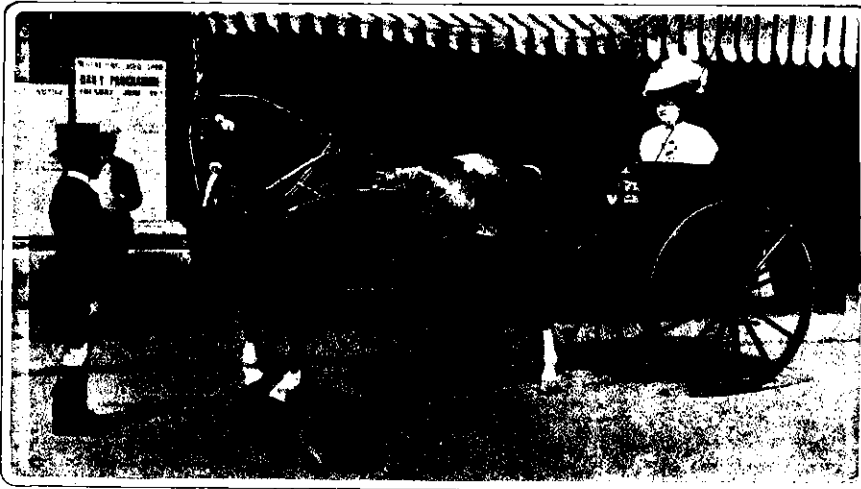
Of late days I have been struck with the large number of inquiries which reach "Lloyd's Newspaper" having for their object a request for information concerning common ear-troubles. In order, therefore, to reply to many readers I purpose to devote this article to the consideration of such ailments, hoping thereby to save some at least from suffering needlessly, and to warn others of the danger they incur in failing to obtain proper treatment at the hands of ear-specialists. The eye and the ear are organs which will not bear trifling with, and it is an act of supreme folly on the part of those who are afflicted with affections of either organ of sense, to delay in obtaining trustworthy medical opinions regarding their cases. The great pity of it all is that I read of cases which, allowed to drift on under home treatment, that is rarely of any service and often does harm, end in the loss of sight or in the destruction of the hearing powers.

By far the most common ailment of the ears for which advice is sought is the affection known as "running ears." There is little need to describe the symptoms of this trouble, for it is all too frequently represented in all grades of society. The main feature is that a discharge, usually of a very offensive na-



RIDING ASTRIDE.

The ungraceful but safe custom of ladies riding astride is gaining ground in England, in spite of precedent and convention. The two young ladies in the photograph are Miss Norah Wilmot and Miss Kathleen Wilmot, daughters of Sir Robert and Lady Wilmot, of Bracknell, Berks, a very old family.



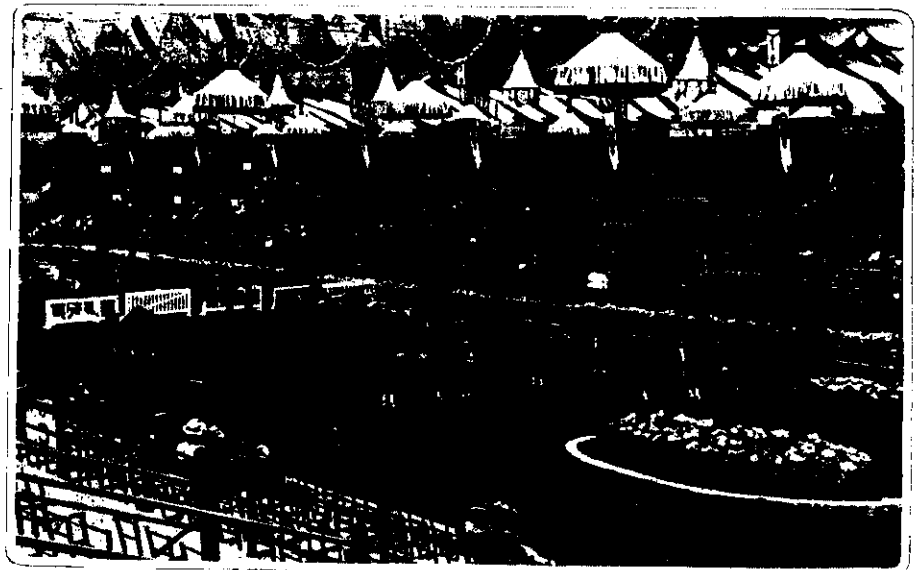
MRS. POTTER DRIVING MR. WALTER WINAN'S FIRST PRIZE PONY AMORELLE.

ture, occurs from one or both ears, a state of things which, if allowed to proceed unchecked, must result in the destruction of the ear-drum, and entail loss of the hearing-power, to say nothing of certain other results to which reference will presently be made. Ear-discharges may arise from various causes, the most common being earache or ordinary ear-inflammation, and the special troubles set up in the ear after or during the course of scarlet fever or measles. What happens in the latter case is that infection by the germs of the fever or by other germs associated with them, takes place from the mouth. Let us remember, first of all, that the ear passage is like a street without an opening at the foot of it. It is a blind alley, or cul-de-sac, for it is blocked, so to speak, by the "drum" of the ear. This is the delicate membrane which receives the waves of sound and transmits them to the inner ear, where they become modified, so that when sent on to the brain we can translate them into the sounds we appreciate and know. Clearly, if anything happens to prevent the ear-drum from vibrating, or if it is in any way injured or destroyed, the sense of hearing will be seriously affected or may be lost altogether.

From the other and inner side of the ear-drum a tube passes, to open on each side at the back part of the mouth. This tube is called the "Eustachian tube," after the anatomist who first described it. Its use is to equalise the pressure of the air on each side of the ear-drum, and thus to maintain it in a state suitable for discharging its duties. Now, when the throat infection occurs in scar-

let fever and measles, the germs gain access to this tube; they pass upwards to the inner ear, and there set up inflammation. As a consequence, "matter" or "pus" is formed, and this matter in time breaks through the ear-drum and comes to be discharged from the ear-passage. This is the ordinary history of a case of "running ears." We can readily see what this process of discharge will mean to the drum. The longer the discharge continues, the less likelihood will there be of the drum healing up, and destruction of the drum will occur if the "running" be not checked, with inevitable loss of hearing. This is not the only danger. A "running ear" is apt to affect the brain, and if any "matter" be carried to the brain fatal inflammation may be set up, abscesses being formed in the brain, which necessitate a serious operation if life is to be saved at all.

The ordinary treatment of ear-discharges is utterly wrong. In the first place, if cotton-wool is worn in the ear it will simply keep the discharge pent up in the ear and make matters ten times worse, increasing, also, the risk of affecting the brain. Again, all kinds of applications, such as lotions, drops, and the like, can do no good, for the plain reason that they do not reach the actual seat of the disease. The "matter" con-



THE INTERNATIONAL HORSE SHOW AT OLYMPIA.

SPORT IN THE OLD COUNTRY.