

**The King's Illness.**

The name of Sir Francis Laking has been frequently mentioned of late in connection with the King's illness. Sir Francis is evidently the medico in whom our sovereign places chief confidence. In Queen Victoria's lifetime Sir Francis occupied a subordinate position in the Royal confidence to Sir James Reid, but since our present monarch came to the throne he has made Sir Francis not only his special physician, but a close and intimate friend. The reason why Sir Francis has thus gained such an ascendancy is very simple. He is just the sort of man the King likes most. He is after His Majesty's heart in every respect, and the King never discovered this so well as just after Queen Victoria's death, when he went to Germany for a short season, and took Sir Francis with him, feeling at that time very much below the mark. The King and his doctor are chums in the fullest sense of the term. This is because the doctor, while giving the King the very best medical tips about his health and how to keep it, is not by any means a faddist, and never preaches. The general advice which he openly offers is, "Do what you like, eat what you like, drink what you like, smoke what you like, but do the whole thing sensibly, and then you will be all right." Latterly the King has felt the necessity of having Sir Francis in such close touch with him that he has even had a telephone line run between Sir Francis' house in Pall Mall and the Royal residence. When asked what were the secrets of long life Sir Fran-

cis said that there were three of them. "The first of these," he said, "is the conservation of energy, the second is moderation, and the third is system. The greatest of the three is the conservation of energy. And you mustn't worry. That is all."

Sir Francis, whose name was mentioned last week in the cabled list of Coronation honours as the recipient of a baronetcy, has been unremitting in his attention on his sovereign during this trying time. Associated with him were, of course, many others, notably the eminent surgeon, Sir Frederick Treves, who has also been created a baronet. It was the latter who performed the critical operation on the King.



**HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF NORFOLK.**

To the Duke of Norfolk, as Earl Marshal of England, His Majesty committed the sad task of announcing the postponement of the Coronation. The Earl Marshal was commanded "To express His Majesty's deep sorrow at the fact that, owing to his serious illness, the Coronation must be postponed, but to state that the King's earnest hope is that all the celebrations in the country will be held as arranged, also that the dinners be given to the poor."



**SIR FRANCIS LAKING.**  
The King's Favourite Physician.



**THE SERIOUS ILLNESS OF THE KING (THEN PRINCE OF WALES) IN 1871. CROWDS READING THE BULLETIN AT MARLBOROUGH HOUSE.**

For a counterpart of the deep anxiety which has held all hearts since the seriousness of the King's illness became known we must go back to December of 1871, when the Prince lay sick unto death. The intensity of the public feeling on that occasion was indescribable, revealing among all classes a wondrous depth of affectionate loyalty to their future sovereign. (This Picture is from "The Illustrated London News" of 1871.)