

The Sailors' Creed.

The arms of God enclose the night,
The night covers the sea,
The sea surrounds the tossing ship,
The ship it holdeth me.

This little metaphor of life
Guides me in all I do,
It reminds me of my sailor's lot,
And shapes my ways of thought.

I would not let myself forget
That human crafts are frail,
And that a sudden storm may lash
The sea on which I sail.

And by and by, when I am called
To leave my faithful bark
My seaman's pluck must falter not
To trust the trackless dark.

For this I know, that while the dark
Shall swallow up the sea,
Around the silent, shoreless night
The arms of God will be.

A Maze of Telephones.

STOCKHOLM RETICULATED.

Probably the first thing which a visitor to Stockholm remarks after his arrival is the appalling number of telephones scattered about the hotel in the corridors and rooms.

In his bedroom he will perhaps find one, and just outside the door another. He cannot move twenty steps without discovering a new one. While, when he goes out into the streets he will see little shelters, each of which holds an instrument.

If his washerwoman does not send the linen back punctually he rings her up to ask the reason. If he wants company at dinner or lunch he invites a friend through the telephone. It is here, there, and everywhere.

In Stockholm there are more subscribers to the telephone than there are in New York and Chicago together. It is used very advantageously in the rapid discharge of work by the State authorities.

There are arrangements made by which telegrams, instead of being sent to the house, are communicated per telephone to the receiver direct from the post office.

In short, the telephonic system of

communication has been carried to the highest pitch of perfection in the Scandinavian Peninsula.

But even now it cannot be said that the system has attained its greatest dimensions if one is to judge from last year's figures, from which it appears that no fewer than 12,000 fresh installations were made in Sweden, the majority in and around the capital.

Almost every village is connected by telephone with its nearest neighbours even in such distant parts as Lapland.

At the present time there are only two really big telephone companies in Sweden, the General Telephone Com-

pany and the National Telephone Company, a Government concern.

The former has about 33,000 subscribers, and its system is confined to a radius of seventy miles from Stockholm. Over the rest of the land the Government has a monopoly of the telephones.

Within the seventy-mile radius of the capital there are only 12,000 subscribers to the Government company, but outside the radius 50,000 more have joined the system.

A certain amount of rivalry naturally exists between the two companies in Stockholm, with the result that the cost

of the telephone is cheaper there than in any other city in the world.

The General Telephone Company charges 11/ for the installation of the apparatus in a private dwelling, and thereafter an annual charge of £2. In business houses, where more than one instrument is required, the cost varies from £3 3/ to £5 10/. The Government, on the other hand, charges £2 15/ per annum, and no installation fee, without any distinction between private dwellings and business houses.

In Stockholm itself the General Telephone Company owns no fewer than 22,000 miles of double wires, and within the seventy-mile radius it possesses 7500 miles more, most of which are laid underground in cables, each cable containing two hundred and fifty double wires.

It is a fact worthy of remark that nearly all the cables are made in England or Germany, Sweden, in spite of her enormous telephone system, not having a single cable factory. But all the instruments, exchanges, etc., are manufactured by the world famous firm of Ericsson, so well known in connection with some of the largest systems in England and other places, including New Zealand.

In the exchange room a hundred girls are always at work. They are relieved four times a day. Everything is done by the company to make the life comfortable. Two large sitting-rooms, furnished with lounges, easy chairs, pianos, etc., are provided for them when off duty, and a large comfortable dining-room for their meals.

Last year the Government tried to buy the General Telephone Company out. But Parliament refused to vote the necessary three-quarters of a million sterling—a course which it will yet regret, as in 1930, when the concession expires, and the Government has the next chance to buy, the price will be much higher, as the business increases tremendously every year.

De Gawk (as they conclude to sit out the rest of it): "It seems so strange. I waltzed with her only last week, and now she is dying."

Miss Pert: "You should tell her doctor that. He's been very much puzzled by her case."



A CHIEFTAINESS, BY C. F. GOLDIE.



"MORNING," BY E. W. PAYTON.