

Topics of the Day.

By Our London Correspondent.

AN OPEN-AIR YEAR.

LONDON, March 11.

THIS is to be an open-air year in London. There are more outdoor events arranged for the coming summer than I can ever remember in one year before.

We are to have a Festival of Empire and Pageant of London at the Crystal Palace, an Army Pageant at Fulham Palace, the Japan-British Exhibition at the White City, fetes and exhibitions at the Botanic Gardens, Alexandra Palace and Wembley Park, and amongst other outdoor attractions the usual cricket matches, flower shows, coaching meets, horse parades, balloon races, and charity fetes. All these functions will, between them, draw many millions of people into the open air. The White City alone hopes to entertain 8,000,000 visitors this year.

The fact appears to be that the English are beginning to appreciate fresh air. Changes in national habits are always interesting, and a very marked change has become manifest in the last few years in the Englishman's attitude towards the air outside the suburban villa, which he calls his "cottage." He is still rather afraid of fresh air, but he is beginning to master his fears. It is quite a mistake to suppose that the Englishman has always been a believer in fresh air. There is, I know, a widespread delusion to that effect. Novels are responsible for it, I suppose, just as they have perpetuated another curious and equally erroneous legend—the Englishman's daily bath. Taking him in the mass, the Englishman does not like a daily morning bath. In many cases he uses the bath to keep his coat in. He is beginning to be ashamed of not bathing often, and he will sometimes pretend that he has a bath every day. There are signs that he is awakening out of his indifference towards hygiene.

So, too, with fresh air. The Englishman is learning to appreciate its value. Already he is much ahead of most of his European neighbours in this respect, but he has still a good way to go to satisfy colonial tastes in regard to ventilation. As a rule, he distrusts an open window, and coils every breath of fresh air "a draught." He will sit happily for hours in a crowded room with every window shut. His prejudices are the last vestige of silliness. It is almost impossible to gain a reputation for eccentricity by insisting on having a restaurant window opened.

But the old-time prejudice against fresh air is on the decline. The joys of the open road, the health of the common, the parks are attracting Englishmen in greater numbers every year. Motor-ing gave the fresh air fashion a great stimulus, and with the liking for the open air has come a distaste for stuffiness, indoors. Fresh air is winning its way. But the fight against prejudice and ignorance will be a long one.

MR. HENNIKER HEATON TO RETIRE.

The announcement of Mr. Henniker Heaton's decision to retire from Parliamentary life at the next dissolution—his notion is that the present Government will not survive beyond June or July—has created a good deal of surprise among all save his intimate friends. They have known for some time that Mr. Heaton's health has for a long time past been such as to demand, and was quite prepared to bear prior to the declaration that he did not propose to seek re-election for Canterbury.

As a member of Parliament Mr. Heaton has figured before the public as a man of a single purpose. Since he first entered the House of Commons in 1885 he has devoted all his energies to securing improvements in the National and the Imperial postal services, and few men have been more successful than he in the pursuit of a single purpose. In the House Mr. Heaton's voice has not seldom raised a storm to the very postal department matters, and on one time an eloquent hammering at these subjects caused him to be subjected to a good deal of not very good-natured banter in the Press. Many people, indeed, refused to take him seri-

ously, and others more or less openly suggested that he was inspired in his campaign more by the hope of winning recognition from the Fount of Birthday Honours than by desire to secure postal reforms.

In those days it was the fashion to gibe at "Our Eumiker" over his persistent advocacy of his scheme for making the Post Office a cheaper and more efficient servant of the public. To-day we know better, and recognise fully that to Mr. Heaton we primarily owe many of the most useful improvements in the postal and telegraph services of the Empire.

The member for Canterbury can certainly look with pride and pleasure upon the results of his quarter of a century's unremitting advocacy of cheap postal facilities.

Apart from his work as a postal reformer, Mr. Heaton has done much good work in Parliament. He has been one of the most constant attendants in the House of Commons, and spent much time on a large number of those informal committees which are from time to time formed to promote movements of a non-party character.

Mr. Heaton certainly deserves well of his country, and if at the close of his political life his public services receive some token of Royal recognition, no one

of the 17th, and their last performance in Goethe's lifetime.

So excellently was the play presented that it was as easy to follow as if the little dressed-up wooden dolls had been living men and women, and the whole was well described as "Philanthropy" (the play was in aid of the Potteries Fund and Leadless Glaze Exhibition) "combined with artistic instruction in delightful fashion."

In older days—presumably about the 16th and 17th centuries—these little marionette plays were taken about from town to town, and the two elements absolutely indispensable from the audience's point of view were humour and theology—both of those must be well to the fore from beginning to end of the performance. Crude stage managing was forgiven, but never lack of humour or theology.

Antarctic Exploration.

LONDON, March 4.

Sir Ernest and Lady Shackleton are about to leave England on a visit to the United States. They will start on their journey on March 19 on board the *Lustania*, which is due to arrive in New York on March 25.

Sir Ernest stated yesterday that if he should decide to start at a later date on another expedition to the South Polar region, the form which it would probably take would be that of a scientific expedition for the purpose of exploring the regions between Cape Adair and Gaussberg. He was looking forward with

Sir E. Shackleton further stated that the scientific results of his recent expedition were being rapidly worked out, and that by the end of March some of the reports would be published. The reports on the microscopical work and the shells would be published very shortly, and Sir George Darwin was working on the observations on the tides. Professor David, F.R.S., was at work in Australia on the general geology, and Mr. Priestley, another member of the staff, had gone out to assist him. The distribution of some of the geological collections among the principal museums of Europe and America had begun.

MAD WITH ECZEMA.

CHEST AND BACK LIKE RAW MEAT—ANOTHER WONDERFUL ZAM-BUK CURE.

"About eighteen months ago," says Mrs. C. Grovenor, of 24 Junction-road, Summer Hill, Sydney, "I had a terrible attack of burning, itching eczema on my chest and back. The torturing irritation nearly drove me mad. My chest and back was like raw meat—a mass of red, inflamed blisters. I went under hospital treatment, but derived no permanent benefit from this terrible skin scourge. My health began to break down, and I grew weak and unable for my household duties. So great was the irritation that I felt like tearing myself to pieces. Confiding to a lady friend, who inquired about my condition, of the terrible agony I was undergoing, she strongly advised me to try Zam-Buk, telling me that this balm was the best and only remedy she could recommend. Taking new hope I straightway sent my son to the chemist for a pot of Zam-Buk, and the immediate soothing effects of the first application was wonderful, and that night I had the first sleep I had had for three weeks. Persevering with the Zam-Buk treatment, before I had finished the first pot I was completely cured of this most irritating of skin diseases, for which I am most grateful."

Zam-Buk is invaluable for all injured and diseased conditions of the skin, including cuts, bruises, burns, scalds, sprains, piles, pimples, boils, eczema, ulcers, &c. Of all chemists and stores at 1s. 6d. and 3s. 6d. per pot.



Miss General Election: "You don't mean to say I've got an encore?" All the Others: "We hope not!"

will grudge him the reward. It is well-known that Mr. Heaton has declined honours on more than one occasion.

PUPPET PLAYS.

Something new in London—that is yet unborns of years old in stagecraft—has been performed twice this week before crowded audiences at Chuford's Inn Hall, viz. a puppet play.

Members of the Bkley University Extension Course—three women—manipulated the puppets from behind the scenes, and the translation of the play "The Piousness and Lamentable History of Dr. Johannes Faust" from the original German, was also the work of two women, Miss Dora Hussy and Miss Charlotte Briker.

At the performance the dialogue was read as the marionettes were moved about, and the performance was made much more interesting, if possible, by a preliminary discourse on the Faust legend, tracing it from the actual life of that peculiar, almost Transatlantic character, George Faust through the 16th century to the stage and puppet plays

much pleasure to meeting Commander Peary, who was to be one of his hosts in America, as Peary had done splendid work on Polar exploration. The task which the American South Polar expedition had set itself to perform was much harder than was generally recognised, inasmuch as no one had ever landed in the place where the exploring party proposed to land. Indeed, no one had ever seen land there, though there was a possible 150ft. high, which was called land. The Americans might find land in that locality. In the south Polar regions, a low drift, which did not occur in the North, was often found to be blowing. This got into the eyes of the dogs, whereas the ponies were above it. For this reason it was better to take ponies than dogs. He was sure that the courage and incipiently which had characterised the American North Polar expedition would be a conspicuous feature of the work of the Americans in the South. Whatever they did would be important and interesting from the fact that they would be working on land which had never been touched before, and their efforts were bound to have good results for science.

IDEAL FOOD
for children from birth is
Horlick's Malted Milk

It contains all the necessary constituents in their proper proportions. It contains no starch, and is therefore suitable for infants from birth. It forms a fine, nerve and muscle. It is all food and no waste. It is pure and free from bacteria. It is easily and thoroughly assimilated. Beware of Infant Foods containing starch. No Cooking. No Added Milk. Of all Chemists, Wholesale & Retail Stores. Samples: 62 PITT ST., SYDNEY, N.S.W. Horlick's Malted Milk Co., Slough, Eng.

HAIR PRESERVED AND BEAUTIFIED
BY USING
Rowland's MACASSAR OIL.

It prevents baldness, regulates the hair, is the best dressing for babies, hair and the children's hair is invaluable. Also in a Golden Ointment for the hair.
Solely by G. & Co., 104, St. Sold by Storekeepers, Chemists, & A. Rowland & Sons, Hatton Garden, London.

SUPERFLUOUS HAIRS
Easily and effectually removed without pain by
SAUNDERS' ORIENTAL DEPILATORY
Can be obtained from all Chemists in New Zealand.
Each packet bears the name and address—
J. Saunders, London, E.C. 4, St. John St., London, Eng.