

A Wholesome Ghost Story.

The Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland gave a complimentary dinner at the Gaiety Restaurant on Saturday to Miss Isla Stewart, its president, in recognition of her public services and to mark the completion of her 21 years' work as matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick presided.

Miss Stewart, replying to the toast of her health, said that she had had experiences that were full of human interest, but she would content herself with telling of one that seemed to be more than human. Some years ago, in one of her wards, lay a little boy who was dying of hip disease. He was an orphan with only one brother, a sailor then serving on the China Station, of whom he was very fond. One morning the boy told her that he had had such a happy night, as he had dreamt that his brother was with him at his bedside. When the night nurse came to report to her, she said that she had had a curious experience. When looking along the ward during the night she had been astonished to see a sailor in the ward beside the boy's bed. Resenting the intrusion, she had gone to the bed to inquire into the matter, when she found there was nobody there, but twice afterwards during the night she had seen the same apparition. At last she turned down the gas and altered the position of some plants. After this she did not see it again.

There are a great many things truly in Heaven and earth that are not in the philosophy of everybody, and among them it seems must be placed the tricks played

on the imagination by gas lights and pot plants in the witching hour. In this case there was no coincidence at the expense of the relation fellow who was considered to have "returned" as the French say. Moreover let us be thankful for the practical common sense of the nurses that have taken the place of the immortal "Sairey Gamp." Sairey would have invoked "Mrs. 'arris, ma'am" and told "an 'orrible tale," which nine of every ten flycatchers would have swallowed with tremors, more or less delicious. Let us rejoice also that nobody undecieved the poor little soul who was made happy by the deception of the pot plants; for, of course, so kind a nurse would not have spoiled the little man's comfort.

Liverpool and the Atlantic Liners.

"The renewed reports of a proposed transference of the Cunard Company's mail steamers from the Mersey to the English Channel may or may not be correct, but sooner or later such a step seems inevitable," says the *Manchester Guardian*. "When it comes it will be a serious loss to Liverpool, which has made gallant efforts to overcome natural obstacles and improve natural advantages. But it is hopeless to fight against geography."

One must remember that this comes from Manchester, a place which can afford to be sorry for Liverpool. At the same time it is hard to fight against geography. Liverpool did overcome geography by dredges and docks, but geography has formidable allies in the growing numbers of the mammoth steamships of our time.

As a result of long experiments made in Sicily, the Italian Ministry of Agriculture has been advised that rubber trees can be successfully cultivated in that part of Italy. The rubber secured from the experimental trees has been carefully tested by a Milan manufacturer, and has proved to be of good quality. The official report declares that conditions of soil and temperature are equal in Sicily to those in the best rubber raising countries. It is estimated that ten years of preliminary cultivation is necessary there to bring trees to profitable productiveness, and as it is impossible for the country to tide over such a period, the assistance of the Government has been asked and is being considered. As the proposition has reached the Ministry, it is said to contemplate the free Government distribution of young trees and money awards for successful cultivators.

The petroleum reservoirs of the district of Constanza, Roumania, during 1907 took care of 460,900 tons of petroleum. The quantity exported by the tank steamships represented a value of \$65,000. Important improvements are in progress at the petroleum station, and it is estimated that within a short time the port of Constanza will be able to export 1,000,000 tons of petroleum per annum.

The French automobile exports during the first five months of the year were valued at 53,691,000 francs, as compared with 71,099,000 francs for the first five months of 1907. Only Russia, Turkey and Algiers increased their imports during this period, all other countries showing a decline. The decline in the total exports for May amounted to about 7,000,000 francs.

A chauffeur in the employ of King Leopold of Belgium on June 19 was fined £22 for having knocked down and injured a bicyclist. King Leopold was cited to appear in the case, but he pleaded diplomatic immunity. The summons for him was subsequently withdrawn.

According to the last Belgian automobile census there were in that country on December 31, 1907, 3262 automobiles, or 311 more than one year before. There were also 4,002 motorcycles, 213 less than the year before.

== VISIT OF THE ==

AMERICAN FLEET

TO NEW ZEALAND

THE FOLLOWING VESSELS OF THE PACIFIC SQUADRON ARE FITTED WITH

BABCOCK

WATER TUBE BOILERS

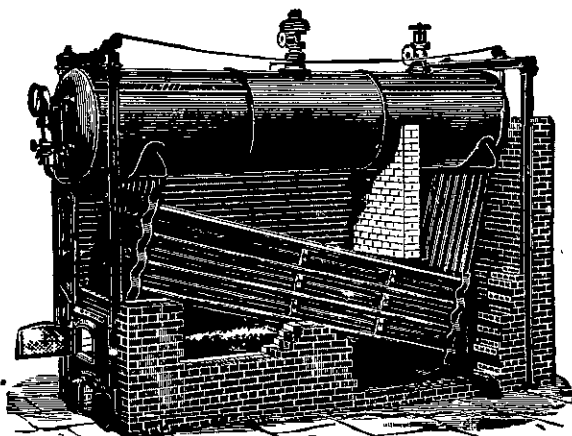


ILLUSTRATION OF LAND TYPE BOILER

CONNECTICUT, 20,000 h.p.

KANSAS, 16,000 h.p.

LOUISIANA, 16,000 h.p.

VERMONT, 16,000 h.p.

NEW JERSEY, 14,930 h.p.

RHODE ISLAND, 14,920 h.p.

NEBRASKA, 14,865 h.p.

MINNESOTA, 16,000 h.p.

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