

SUMMER SLIP-COVERS MADE AT HOME.

This is an excellent time to get the summer slip-covers made, for dress-making will probably be at its height just at the time they will be needed—about the middle of May.

Linen in tan, or green and tan, is delightfully cool for summer slip-covers, and all edges should be bound with cotton braid which comes for the purpose.

THE ART OF SHOPPING.

There is more in shopping than entering a department and buying certain articles. There is an art of successfully carrying out this necessary and delightful business that can easily be learned.

The shopper should remember that time is money and that she should be like herself, human, and usually desiring of courtesy, and consideration.

REGISTERED SEED.

The following remarks introduce the catalogue issued by the Canadian Seed Growers' Association. Prospective buyers should communicate direct with the growers, though orders may be forwarded through the office of the association at Ottawa.

The primary aim of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association is to encourage the production and use of pure seed of high quality and of known origin on the farms of Canada.

When stock seed or registered seed of approval quality has been secured, its natural increase up to and including attention to our fire for as soon as one seed of the third generation (from stock seed) is eligible for registration as registered seed, providing it complies with the standard of purity, quality and vitality set by the association.

Information regarding the purity, general field performance and freedom from disease of the sorts worked with is obtained by experts who annually inspect the growing crops of members. The final judgment as to the eligibility of a given quantity of seed for registration is pronounced by laboratory tests of samples taken from the threshed product.

The quantity of registered seed listed in the present catalogue is relatively small. This is due, in part at least, to the fact that much seed could not be accepted for registration on account of certain deficiencies in the sample.

TACTFUL DISSENT.

Lord Charles Beresford told in his memoirs the story of an old Irish gamekeeper who always agreed with everything that was said to him.

FOR VALOUR—THE VICTORIA CROSS.

(How It is Won and What it Brings)

The present titanic conflict is likely to add a list of names to that scroll of honor, the V.C. list. No meritorious conduct or decoration awarded to our land and sea forces for distinguished services is so eagerly sought for, or jealously guarded, as that represented by these two coveted letters of the alphabet.

It has been stated that the idea of such a decoration was first mooted by the Prince Consort at the time of the Crimean War, and that he also furnished a design for the medal.

THE CROSS.

As is fairly well known, it takes the shape of a bronze Maltese cross nearly 1 1/2 inches square, and it is made from the metal of captured cannon. In the centre, on the obverse side, are the British Lion and Crown over a scroll which bears the simple words, charged with so much meaning—'For Valour.' There is a raised plain, and has a circle in the centre, within which is engraved the date of the act of bravery for which the Cross was awarded.

The first announcement regarding it was made in the London Gazette of the 5th February, 1856. It was instituted by Royal Warrant, June 29, 1856, and revised April 23, 1881. The inauguration of the order took place on the 26th June, 1857, when the sailors and troops who returned from the Crimea received from Queen Victoria the new Cross for Valor at a brilliant function in Hyde Park.

WHAT GOES WITH THE CROSS.

A monetary award goes along with the Cross in the shape of an annuity, which is granted to officers, non-commissioned officers, seamen, marines, and privates, amounts to £10 per annum, and for each bar added £5 per annum. It was decided, however, in July, 1898, that at the discretion of the Secretary of State for War, a sum of £50 a year might be granted by way of pension in lieu of the £10 before mentioned.

A hardship felt in connection with the granting of the Cross was removed by the late King Edward on the 8th August, 1902. Prior to that date sailors or soldiers who were entitled to the V.C. but died before receiving it, had their names announced in the Gazette, but their representatives did not receive the decoration.

King George has extended to the Indian troops of our Empire the possibility of winning the award. Formerly they were not eligible for this distinction, but the King-Empress at the Delhi Durbar in 1912 granted them this boon, and the present war is their opportunity of securing it.

HOW TO EARN IT.

The circumstances under which a V.C. is given are subjected to close scrutiny, so as to ensure that it is not granted except for exceptionally meritorious deeds in action. Where the daring act is performed directly under the eye of an Admiral or General in command, the V.C. can be awarded on the spot, and the decoration is carried out in a public manner in front of the naval or military force to which the winner belongs.

It will have been observed that King George took the opportunity on his visit to the front to confer crosses on the surviving winners up to that date, and some of them who have been home on short leave, have, while in London, been summoned to Buckingham Palace to have the Cross pinned on their breasts by the King in person.

In order to ensure that the recipients of the V.C. should maintain a

high standard of personal and professional conduct, any one of them convicted of crime or cowardice has his Cross forfeited, and in the case of those carrying a money award, the annuity or pension is withdrawn.

CIVILIAN WINNERS.

Three years after the institution of the Victoria Cross a statement appeared in the Gazette to the effect that Her Majesty had been pleased to declare that non-military persons, who, as volunteers, had borne arms against the mutineers during the Indian Mutiny should be considered as eligible to receive the V.C. It was under this additional clause that the three civilians, Mr. Ross Lewis Mangles, of the Bengal Civil Service, assistant Magistrate at Patna; Mr. Thomas Henry Kavanagh, assistant Commissioner in Oudh, were granted the Cross for their services at Arrah and Lucknow.

At Arrah, a dozen British and a small number of Sikhs defied for a whole week all the efforts of over 2,000 Sepoys to capture the small two-storied house in which they had been penned. When news came through of this affair a relief expedition was quickly got together under Captain Junbar. It consisted of about 400 men, with a few volunteers including Mangles and M'Donnell, who both knew the district well and were consequently of great value as guides.

A HEROIC EFFORT.

It was at this juncture that Magistrate Mangles showed the stuff of which he was made. Although stunned by a musket ball early in the fighting, he continued to take a leading part in helping the wounded and in shooting down the more venturesome of the Sepoys pressing in the rear. It is said that he kept quite a number of men busy reloading for him, and his fame as a fine tiger shot was proved on that occasion to be no empty boast by the way he bowled over Sepoy after Sepoy.

The special act for which he got the Cross was the rescue of a wounded private of the Hampshire. This man, who had been severely wounded was pitifully appealing to his comrades not to leave him to the tender mercies of the enemy, when Mangles, after tying up the man's wounds took him on his back and carried him six miles over swampy ground and under an Indian July sun, and he did not stop until he had a brief rest, he had to spend his time in keeping the pursuing rebels at bay. At long length the Ganges was reached, and Mangles found that he had then to swim out to the boats with his now unconscious load.

As it is with all truly brave men, Mangles' modesty was as pronounced as his bravery, and if it had not been for the private telling the story to the surgeon who attended him, and the latter noting it down in his diary, the deed would have gone unrecognised. Even as it was, twelve months passed before the public heard of the heroism that gave the Magistrate his V.C.

A PHILOSOPHER IN THE TRENCHES

"All well so far," writes a member of the first Canadian contingent, "and what there is in store it is impossible to foretell. One thing I know and that is if God sees fit to allow me to return I shall more than ever love my Canada, shall more than ever realize her beautiful, her glorious characteristics. If this reaches you on a cold, shivery day with bit of a blizzard raging perhaps you will be disposed to laugh when I tell you that there is no climate equal in its blessings to that of Canada. As you know I have travelled fairly extensively and I have lived, yes, lived in the term, for my stay has usually been of months, in half a dozen countries, but Canada beats them all. When we return, that is those of us who do return, we shall be proud of the fact that we gave the best that is in us in defence of the mother country, and the empire to which we belong, but we shall more than ever be disposed, at home and in church, to lift up our voices and to say 'Thank the Lord I'm a Canadian.' This is the feeling that is deep down in the hearts of all of us. It inspires us to fight the harder, to cheerfully endure the hardships of the trenches and of exposure, as we feel we are fighting in a measure out of gratitude to the country that gave us birth, but even more for the credit and honor of our beloved land."

The writer of the foregoing may also be termed "A Philosopher in the Trenches." He is clearly a patriot of the intense order. But his words should sink deep into the hearts of his countrymen. They should nerve and strengthen all of us like him to dedicate the best that is in us to the defence of our country. It is with inspiration of this sort that the Patriotism and Production campaign is being carried on throughout the country. It is to impress this idea upon the people that conferences are being held in various districts and that literature on two hundred different subjects referring to agriculture can be had by dropping a letter to the Publications Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

At the conferences is explained by men of experience, men of practical ideas, how we stay-at-homes can best second and support the efforts of those who are enduring all the horrors of modern war. All that we are asked to do is to serve ourselves with taking to the utmost of our power in husbandry, in tilling the soil, in selecting the seed, in methods of breeding and rearing our live stock—in short in doing these things that while benefiting ourselves will enable the mother country and our sons abroad to realize how thoroughly and how efficiently we are behind them.

WAS IN BRITISH ARMY AT MONS

"The Germans flowed on us like a flood, with masses of troops that were numberless. We met them with shot and shell, but as soon as a man fell his place was filled by another. They came on in a close massed formation that could not be stopped. We were outnumbered at least fifty to one, and we could do nothing but give ground before them. The battle of Mons was a disastrous retreat for us and we lost so heavily that whole regiments were wiped out in four days. I cannot describe the battle, for it was retiring and firing all the time under conditions that were horrible." This was the description of the battle of the Mons by Corporal Thomas Mann of the South Lancashire Regiment, which went into action 1,100 strong and at the end of four days fighting only seventy-three were left to answer the roll call.

Corporal Mann was seriously wounded and almost completely lost his hearing. He came to St. John as a member of the crew of the steamer Monmouth and was seen on Saturday by a Standard reporter.

"The South Lancashire Regiment," said Corporal Mann, "left England on August 4 last and was in Dunkirk on August 11. We were put in the trenches at the Mons and almost immediately were subjected to a heavy German shell fire. Then the Germans came at us in close formation, which paid no was in its place. Their trenches were only about two hundred yards in advance of ours and after their shell fire the soldiers came on at a run. Our fire seemed to have no effect on them and we had to retire in the face of their heavy run."

"Our best officers were lost in the first stages. We retreated to some small cover and when we took our first stand only 400 men were left. We had hardly taken our places in the trench, we scooped out, before the German shells had our range, and we were again driven back. The Germans sent their men after us but we could not hold them at all."

"There were many gallant acts in that retreat" which kept up for four days before the Germans were halted. Officers and men went down and our fellows went back to bring along any they saw wounded. It seemed instantly to expose oneself a minute but several of the men got out and back. "Of course when we went into action first we were all more or less flustered. I do not think soldiers ever get over being frightened. I was through the South African war but that was a picnic to this affair over in Europe. In Africa it was in many actions but we all were afraid at first and it was the same thing at the Mons. After we got used to the firing, the bullets and shells were all right and none seemed to mind them much."

"This war with Germany is vastly different from the South African campaign. In Africa the fighting was more cover was scarce. There was nothing to get behind and we had to stand up and take what was coming excepting when we had a chance to dig shallow trenches."

"I got through the retreat but it was awful. I lost my hearing when the big shells exploded near me." Corporal Mann received his discharge on January 4, after he had recovered from wounds received shortly after the retreat of the Mons. He was wounded in the shoulder, hip and arm besides having his hearing impaired. Among his papers is one from the Colonel of the regiment, complimenting him on his bravery, when he, with

Advertisement for Kellogg's Corn Flakes. Includes an illustration of a breakfast table with a bowl of flakes, a glass of milk, and a newspaper. Text: 'BREAKFAST Kellogg's CORN FLAKES is the standing order—other dishes are a matter of choice, but the list is complete without them. Made-in-Canada from the Sweet Heart of white corn. Thoroughly cooked and always ready to serve. 10c. PER PACKAGE'.

two others, went out under a scalding fire and brought in the body of Lieut. Ewing, who, was supposed to have only been wounded. He was publicly complimented on his bravery. Corporal Mann is no longer able to be a member of the active army of the Empire, but he now is engaged on the Monmouth assisting in the transport of food for the use of those in the Old Land. Corporal Mann said the Germans seemed to have all the ground on which the Allied troops were stationed marked out and measured and secured the ranges without any delay.

DREAMS THAT DECEIVE. It is one of the pleasant things of life to be able to lose sight of our anxieties and worries in dreaming. Some times, as we watch the fire glowing red and warm in the twilight we look into its depths and see the lovely vision of life as we would have it be. For a while the dull and the commonplace and the difficult may fade away, and we are rapt in happy contemplation. This is well it helps us to take up our lot again with renewed courage.

BLUE BLOOD. Lord Howlong—Too bad you have no royalty in the States. Miss Multirox—Oh I don't know. My father is the well known sausage King. My brother is a Prince of good fellows, and he has just married a Queen of bluesque.

Advertisement for Castoria. Includes an illustration of a bottle of Castoria with '900 DROPS' and 'CASTORIA' labels. Text: 'The Kind You Have Always Bought Bears the Signature of J. C. Ayer & Co. In Use For Over Thirty Years CASTORIA'.

Advertisement for Fred H. Trainor, plumber. Text: 'Good Plumbing You'll Like Our Style Of Plumbing, It's Different. There are many different kinds of plumbing, but ours is different from all others. It doesn't cost any more but it's better in every way. Our style of plumbing is without doubt the best you can secure at any price. Our workmen are experts, know just what your work requires and give you perfect, permanent satisfaction. Our work is the kind that stands the test of time—it's the kind you want—it's the only kind worth while. Fred H. Trainor, 80 Grafton Street. Right Prices'.

Advertisement for Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People. Includes an illustration of a bottle. Text: 'DR. WILLIAMS' PINK PILLS FOR PALE PEOPLE'.

Advertisement for Maritime Wire Fencing. Text: 'Why are Farmers Interested In Seeds and Wire Fencing. Because they must sow in order to reap; and they must have good fences to protect their crops between seed time and harvest. We have stocked a complete line of seeds of the finest quality and are in a position to fill all orders in this line. We handle the celebrated "Maritime Brand" Wire Fencing and Gates and buy in car lots and sell by the small at car lot prices. Seeds: Timothy Seed, Clover Seed, Wheat, Oats, Barley, Peas, Vetches, Buckwheat, Fodder Corn, Turnip Seed, Garden Seeds, Flower Seeds. Maritime Wire Fencing. We handle fencing 4 bars to 11 bars—all No. 9 wire 19c per rod upward. Gates in all sizes and a number of different styles—plain, single scroll top and full ornamental, Standard sizes of farm gates, 8 ft., 10 ft., 12 ft. Price lists and cuts mailed on request. F. J. Holman & Co. Ltd. Charlottetown. 9710-4-29c-hats31E12h11.'