

For

DURRANT'S PRESS CUTTINGS,

St. Andrew's House, 32 to 34 Holborn Viaduct,
and 3 St. Andrew Street Holborn Circus

TELEPHONE: CITY 4983.

The Referee

Victoria House, Tudor Street, E.C.

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A WOMAN'S NOTE - BOOK.

By ELAINE.

ONE of the very first big functions after the opening of the British Empire Exhibition will be the Empire Ball, in aid of the People's League of Health, to be held on April 30, at The Hill, Hampstead, the beautiful home of Viscount Leverhulme, which he has lent for the purpose.

More and more interest is being taken in this league, the main purpose of which is to disseminate the knowledge of how to prevent disease rather than to cure, and which already owes a debt of gratitude to a large section of the medical profession and others, who have laboured untiringly to this end.

Miss Olga Nethersole, the organising secretary, tells me that many brilliant features will mark this function. There will be a wonderful national pageant, in which many of those taking part will appear in the character of the person he or she considers has had the greatest effect on national history. The first prize is being given by Philip de Laszlo, who will paint a portrait of the winner in the costume he or she has chosen—a notable gift, and worthy of the cause for which it is presented.

One competition after another is announced for the British Empire Exhibition. The latest is in connection with the Imperial Baby Week, which will be held at the Wembley Exhibition during the last week in July. There will be prizes in each of three classes, a special £100 in each class, and the Champion Baby of all will receive £200. It will be interesting to see to which part of the British Empire this prize will go.

Those who took the motor road to Brighton last Thursday surely experienced all the vagaries of the four seasons of English climate—and then some. At the start, a nice spring day promised—the birds sang, the sun shone, and all was as per approved Spring Rhapsody. But before long a cold rain changed into great soft flakes of snow, which fell thicker and thicker, till at nearing Crawley it lay inches thick. Cars loomed out of the white cloud with headlamps, and even radiators, huge mounds of snow, which changed on the glass into hanging sheets of ice. Nearing Brighton the clouds parted and spring came again. On the front the sun shone with summer warmth. On the homeward road a clinging white mist rose all around from the sodden fields in true November style, while, as an extra, a wonderful double sunset appeared, the glow in the East being as strong as the rose and orange and yellow in the West. Oh, to be in England—

A determined bid is being made for the British textile trade at the British Empire Exhibition, and the various Chambers of Commerce of the textile towns are already giving a foretaste of their exhibits.

Princess Mary, who last week attended the special display of the laces and materials manufactured at Nottingham and Bradford at Claridge's Hotel, has always been keenly interested in the matter of British materials, and those who saw the beautiful frocks shown by Reville's at this show, made from Nottingham lace and other British materials, will realise the wonderful future which lies before these English products.

Materials in the piece attracted much attention. "Harewood" cloth—which is a cross between knitted fabric and a soft, sponge cloth—much interested Princess Mary. Another softly draping material is a satin-backed wool, and is appropriately given the name of "Anzac."

Many of the beautifully printed crepes de Chine and silk moirés compared very advantageously with the French fabrics. Heavier materials, such as men's suitings, prove very suitable, in their lighter weights, for women's costumes.

But with the promise of a very full summer on the social side, with garden parties and the races, the chief interest of the show centred in the exquisite exhibits of Nottingham lace. Mr. Reville, who has always been a great admirer of this medium for graceful light frocks, has surpassed himself. Not only



Gown of black satin charmante, the trimming consisting of flat black satin leaves veined and outlined with pearls and standing out in bold relief against a white satin background.

Original designs for THE REFEREE by "Helen."

is the fabric extremely beautiful, but the art of dyeing these laces has reached a height of perfection.

Most of the lace gowns shown were dyed to the same shade as the silk or satin foundation. A fascinating Ascot model was in delicate mauve, composed of several tiers of lace, with which was worn a picture hat of deep, rich purple, emphasising the fairy-like delicacy of effect.

A cape to match accompanied a black lace gown, which, in contrast to the transparency of material, had a collar of fur. A matron's gown was designed in gold-tinted lace, in combination with amber velvet, while a brown frock, carried out in lace of a rather heavier quality, had a cape arranged to give the effect of huge wings when the wearer's arms were outstretched.

A lovely evening gown consisted of wide tiers of fine black lace, attached to a foundation of flesh-coloured ninon, with novel and unexpected effect.

Beautiful ostrich feathers from the South African ostrich feather farms were employed in a variety of ways, gigantic feather fans of most intricate shadings being carried by many of the mannequins, and ostrich feathers for hats and up-to-date elaborations of feather boas were also much in evidence. These gracefully drooping feather-trimmed hats are particularly beautiful in conjunction with filmy lace dresses, and will, without doubt, figure largely at Ascot and many out-of-doors social functions this summer.

CORRESPONDENCE.

OLYMPIA BALL.—A correspondent is anxious to get in touch with the winner of the first ladies' prize at THE REFEREE Ball on Jan. 9, who appeared as a bird. Would the winner, Miss de la Force, be good enough to communicate with ELAINE at THE REFEREE?

ELAINE.