

AT HOME WITH SIR THOMAS

Something of the Lipton Country
Seat in Southgate, England.

SHORT RUN FROM LONDON.

Osidge the Charming Rural Retreat
Where the Great Merchant and
Sportsman Spends Leisure Hours.

Special Correspondence.

London, May 1.—With the story of Sir Thomas Lipton's ambition to win the America's cup the readers of newspapers both in this country and in the United States are pretty thoroughly familiar. Perhaps so many do not know so much about the daily life of the successful merchant and genial sportsman who now for the third time is devoting his energies and a good bit of his cash to the winning of this most coveted trophy of the sea.

Sir Thomas Lipton is a man of marvelous activities. He runs more than 400 acres in various parts of the world, raises tea in Ceylon, kills hogs in Chicago, has warehouses in Calcutta and Colombo, makes ginger ale in Dublin, has canning factories all over England and Scotland, corners the bacon and eggs of Ireland, contracts for supplies for the British army and navy, makes candy in London, is purveyor of delicatessen to kings and princes and does hundreds of other things any one of which might be regarded as sufficient to keep any ordinary man busy, but yet he finds time to entertain his friends and associates at one of the most charming country houses in England.

Sir Thomas Lipton's country seat, Osidge, where he spends many of his leisure hours, is in Southgate, just outside of London, half an hour's spin with his American auto flier from the central office of his great and varied enterprises in the British metropolis. As yet only a part of Southgate has been invaded by the builder of modern houses, and although it is almost within the suburbs of London, there is here its old tavern and rows of majestic elm and oak trees shading the lanes which answer for streets. True, when the railroad came, New Southgate, as it is called, was built up about the station, with its rows of stone houses designed in imitation of London dwellings. A mile away, however, Old Southgate, so far apart from the city, that it is probably elapsing before it is converted from a hamlet into a town of today and loses the charm of an English countryside.

Hamlet is perhaps the best name for Old Southgate, as it is made up principally of dainty villas and neat cottages, and on its outskirts are a dozen or more country seats, among which Osidge is conspicuous. The visitor as he strolls along the quiet highways momentarily expects to hear the sound of the horn as the lumbering coach rumbles up to the door of the Cherry Tree inn. The coach has passed away, but the red coats of the hunters and the fitting black and white of the hound pack are frequently seen as they mount the hedges or go full cry along the road itself at times.

Frequently the hunters issue from the gates of Osidge, for Sir Thomas is fond of following the dogs. The stables of Osidge contain from 25 to 30 horses at all times, many of them excellent cross country mounts. Sir Thomas' favorite hunter is a fine black mare foaled in Kentucky's blue grass pastures. She is almost a perfect animal and can clear a six foot hedge with ease. From the next stall the groom brings out a jumper bought from the former Prince of Wales' stud and prize winner at several of the horse shows of last year. He is a noble bay, gentle as a kitten and possessing wonderful speed and endurance. The stables also contain a pair of coaches from the former prince's stables, which cost Sir Thomas about \$2,000. They are attached to his American coupe when he makes his bachelor calls.

That Sir Thomas appreciates luxurious surroundings is shown by the furniture and decorations of the drawing room, dining room and even the various chambers of Osidge. There are few of England's stately mansions which are more artistically decorated or more luxuriously furnished. Although it is one of the smaller country seats of the island, the art centers of the continent have been searched for paintings, bric-a-brac and statuary to adorn the interior, while most of the furniture is of mahogany carved in attractive antique designs.

Although the house is filled with the memories of the royal chase of England, of Lord Newhaven, the Duke of Chandos and the immortal Lamb, Sharon Turner and Thomas Hood, the most conspicuous works of art in the mansion are the portraits of Sir Thomas' mother and father. And, although the wide corridors are carpeted and hung with rugs and tapestries that are priceless treasures, with paintings by the old masters and the best of the modern school, with sculpture and bric-a-brac, the host of that palatial home takes his keenest pride and pleasure in pointing to the portraits of the old folks who lived and died on the banks of the Clyde before his great success was realized.

Throughout the house there are many

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Augustus W. Machen, general superintendent of the division of free delivery of the post office department, temporarily relieved from duty pending investigation, declares that he courts the fullest inquiry into the conduct of his office. He will remain in Washington until his case shall have been finally disposed of. Mr. Machen was thirty-two years of age when, in 1893, he was appointed by President Cleveland to the position which he has since held. Under him he has had an army of 15,000 men.

indications of Sir Thomas' tastes as an all around sportsman, although he is anything but the "hunting snipe" so familiar to the readers of English stories. His lounging room is not littered with ashes, walking sticks, pipes and glasses, but indicates the refined taste of its owner. In one corner is the private telephone which connects him with his London offices. In another is the desk of his secretary. These are the only signs that he is a business man, for the walls are decorated with hunting scenes both in oils and water colors, the work of some of the most noted modern artists. Usually his favorite fowling piece leans against one wall, while coach whips and crops are also noticeable. One side of the room is nearly filled with a library which comprises not only works by Kipling and Doyle and other authors of today, but the standard English poets, while the names of several American writers are also conspicuous.

The grounds of Osidge embrace about 150 acres, and a considerable portion of this is devoted to the raising of grain, vegetables and hay for the horses, but one of the best golf links in Great Britain has been laid off, while the grounds immediately around the mansion have been treated by an expert landscape gardener. From both the front and rear porches stretch away broad lawns bordered with flower beds and shrubbery, while statuary and fountains enhance the effect. The owner has included some American ideas in beautifying the grounds, and they do not have the primness which is so often noted in the gardens of the English. Not only are the grounds in perfect condition, but a few steps from the house itself are the hot-houses, four in number, where not only vegetables, but flowers for winter decoration, are raised in abundance. One acre is also devoted to what is called the summer flower garden, where can be seen not only English, but American, blooms developed almost to perfection by the expert horticulturist who is in charge.

Yet with all the beauty and grandeur of Osidge and its surroundings there is something lacking. It is after all only "bachelor's quarters." In the hot-houses where the Lipton orchids are fast becoming the finest in England the blossoms bloom and wither and "cast their sweetness on the desert air" for the gardeners to snuff. Not only are they gathered by soft hands that enhance their value by arrangement throughout the rooms of the mansion. There is no ripple of laughter in the corridors, no rustle of skirts on the stairs. By no chance does a carelessly discarded glove spoil the contour of a silk upholstered chair or a lacy parasol hide its head beneath the sofa cushions. The mansion at Osidge lacks the palpitating life which denotes the presence of a family, and one wonders how splendid might be the entertainments in this masculine mansion if such a one as Sir Thomas' daughter, who is in charge, were to choose should apply the touch that is missing.

But perhaps after Sir Thomas has won the America's cup, which is just now for chief ambition, he may surrender to some one of the myriads of girls who storm the Lipton citadel, which is garrisoned by one who is courtier to all, but suitor to none. "One thing at a time" has been his lifelong motto, and the one thing now is the "lifting of the cup." Although his name has been associated with several titled women who have been mentioned as the future mistresses of Osidge, he is still "heart whole and fancy free," and so he seems inclined to remain. This fact, however, does not bar the women from visiting his country seat, for the frequent house parties which are given some of the most noted sports women are usually among the guests.

Since the era of the automobile Sir Thomas has been his touring car and runabout in going to and from business over the smooth highway which extends from Southgate to London.

Osidge, however, is one of his country seats. He has another in Enfield, embracing 500 acres mainly of woodland, which is used as a hunting preserve.

While Sir Thomas Lipton is a world traveler and is familiar with every part of Great Britain and many parts of America, the quiet surroundings of Southgate best suit his tastes. Here he delights to gather about him a company of congenial people, and happy is the man or woman who is bidden to Osidge.

For removing from the stomach metallic objects that are attracted by the magnet, S. Mayon has devised a method that requires no cutting. A small electro-magnet is arranged to slide in a tube similar to that of a stomach pump, and the apparatus is passed into the stomach through the mouth when the magnet draws the foreign body into the tube. By lighting up the stomach with X-rays, the operator is able to bring the magnet into contact with the metal at the point most suitable to enter the tube.

WITH THE RADIUM PEOPLE

A Visit to the Curies, Discoverers of Wonderful Mineral.

Husband and Wife Who Have Been Joint Laborers For Many Years in The Realm of Science.

Special Correspondence.

Paris, May 1.—Few people are aware that the wonderful new mineral called radium was made known to the world through the efforts of a woman, Mme. Curie, who is the wife of Professor Pierre Curie, himself a scientist of no mean note. They are Parisians and for the moment are the most striking and interesting personages in the city. Their home is in a small cottage in the most inaccessible southern district overlooking the fortifications and far away from the intellectual and fashionable centers of the capital. Nevertheless this little cottage, as may be expected, has become a Mecca for all interested in scientific progress and research. While reticent regarding the uses to which they expect radium to be put—Professor Curie is now organizing a company to exploit the mineral—they are courteous and willing to talk concerning the discovery and the nature of the mineral.

It appears, as Mme. Curie informed me when I visited their pretty little home recently, that her experiments which resulted in the extraction and isolation of the wonderful substance were due to her having heard of the accidental discovery by Becquerel, another French scientist, that uranium, which is derived from pitchblende, emitted light rays. She at once resolved to secure some pitchblende and try to determine its chemical analysis. In the subsequent experiment she was of course assisted by her husband, and thus it is the honor of discovering radium is in the eyes of the scientific world shared jointly by them, although as a matter of fact, she can justly claim sole title.

After subjecting the pitchblende to chemical tests she finally found that it contained a mineral exhibiting an activity many times greater than the famous cathode rays.

This mineral Mrs. Curie named polonium in honor of her native country, Poland. There remained another substance, however, which possessed a thousand times greater activity, scientists estimating that it will throw off particles with a velocity sometimes reaching 120,000 miles a second. This substance is radium.

So much has been written regarding its wonderful properties that it is not necessary for me to detail them here. It might be proper, however, to mention some of the peculiar effects it has upon the nervous centers of human beings and animals, as indicating the extreme caution with which the Curies were obliged to pursue their inquiries.

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A glass tube containing one or two milligrams of radium will when carried in the waistcoat pocket produce a painful wound, requiring months to heal. Tubes of radium placed in contact with the necks of guinea pigs kill the animals in a few hours. Professor Curie says that it would probably be death to a man to enter a room containing a pound of the wonderful mineral. Each week reveals startling additions to its weird properties, and scientists are now beginning to ask themselves if Mme. Curie has not in radium discovered perpetual motion.

The talented Frenchwoman bears her honors modestly and insists that her husband is as much the discoverer of radium as she is. They have worked together for many years. She is a very attractive woman, a delicate blonde, with light blue eyes. In addition to her laboratory experiments she gives lessons four times a week at a normal school for girls in Sevres.

Professor Curie himself, if 40 years old, tall and well built. He is essentially a dreamer, but he is essentially a man of action. He is a man of ability that is lacking in him to be found in full measure in his wife. He dresses with the neatness so often found in men of genius. Altogether he impresses one as a man of marked individuality and possesses a fascination of manner which is difficult to explain. Like his wife, he is devoted to his little daughter, a child of six, and both take personal charge of her education. She was born about the time they first got a glimpse of the mineral which is destined to make their names famous in the world of science.

It must be said it is altogether unlikely radium will be a commercial possibility for some time to come. This is owing to the cost of extracting it from the pitchblende. Professor Curie estimates that the initial operation where by but two decigrams were secured cost \$2,000, but he is hopeful a cheaper process will soon be found.

RASPBERRIES.

It is possible to keep a field in good heart and make it bear fine crops for many years by careful attention to the growing wood, to the diseased plants and with plenty of manure. A single handful of high grade fertilizer per hill only takes two or three hundred pounds, and if applied around the hill in spring is paid for in berries; but I apply it for the promotion of new growth. It's not too late now. Plowing the soil toward the plants and then harrowing it down level kills weeds and hastens growth. Pinching off the soft green and stops the upward tendency and causes the side buds to start. A pinched-back, tree-shape, low bush is well balanced, and neither snow nor wind will affect it; but the main object is to increase the fruit bearing surface. If left alone, you have one long cane. Pinch off while soft, green and growing, at two feet in height, you probably will have five good laterals, or five times the surface for fruit to grow on. Cutting back the laterals in spring to 18 inches will cause them to throw out side shoots, and you have six on each side lateral, or 30 spurs for fruit bearing, as against the one long cane when not pruned. The objection of too much fruit, small in size, is overcome if the land is rich enough. The object of loss of vigor, by check from pruning, is overcome by more fertility. It is difficult to see how cutting out the soft first inch or two, with thumb and fingers, should shock the plant. Nature prunes, with wind, hailstorms, and insects which gnaw the top, lay an egg and stop all growth above the girdling.

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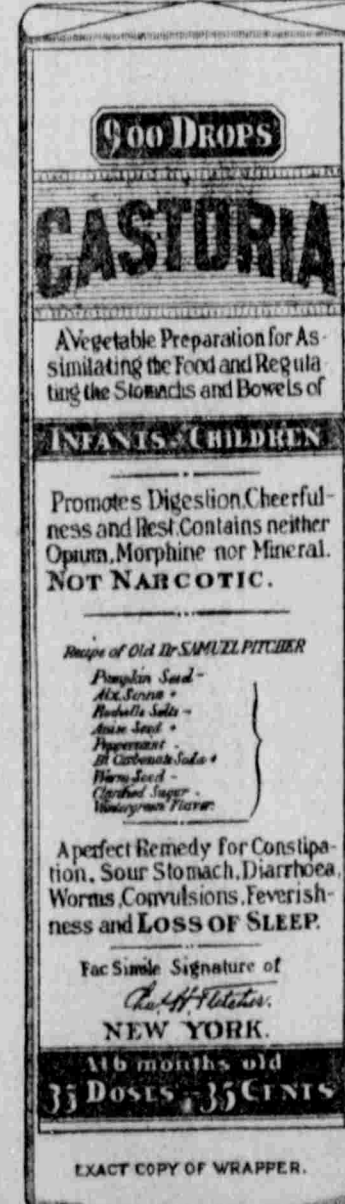
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