

QUEENS OF CHARITY REPLACE QUEENS OF FOLLY

Most Serious Bunch of Consorts Ever Known in European History—Elizabeth of Belgium Heads the List—Lost Hair by Catching Typhoid Fever While Nursing Poor Child—Carmen Sylva's Work for the Blind and Suffering—Helene, of Italy, of Heroic Nature, Known as "the Angel of Charity"—Czarina of Bulgaria the Guardian of Blind Folks and Deaf Mutes—Mary, of England, and Cecilie, of Germany, the Friends of Working Girls—Ingeborg, of Sweden, Feeds Hungry Children.

RUSSELS, Sept. 25.—(Special).—Never before has the world seen such a set of serious Queens on the thrones of Europe. Their royal brows seem to be "sickled o'er with the pale cast of thought," and in most courts today good works are preferred to fun and folly. That being the case, human interest has now to be sought, not as in times past, in the indiscretions of Queens and the frailty of court beauties, but in the exploits of crowned heads intent on alleviating the sufferings of mankind. Possibly it is the modern way of the monarchy to justify its existence before a restive public opinion.

Right in the forefront of philanthropic endeavor is Queen Elizabeth, of Belgium, who a year or two ago contracted typhoid fever as the price of her devotion to sick, visiting among the poor. Much of her soft, blonde hair had to be cut off in consequence of this illness, and the curls she wears all over her head to cover the deficiency have set the fashion in Belgium for this mode of coiffure. A novel hair decoration, designed by King Albert, has also helped to hide the ravages of fever. It consists of a long bar of diamonds from which drape a network of brilliant, with a fine stone forming a central point, the fringe of jewels falling over the soft curls with such bewitching effect that every Belgian woman of note has copied the fashion.

How closely the Queen of the Belgians comes into contact with some of her poor subjects is proved by the following pretty story. Every summer she sends many poor children to the seaside, but always contrives to see both the mothers and the children herself beforehand. Not long ago, one of these little ones, seeing the Queen in the palace, looked up into her face and said, "Oh, madam, how beautiful you are."

"Not so beautiful," said the child's mother, "as when Her Majesty came as an angel, but dressed like a workwoman, and nursed these back to life. Her tears fell for me brighter and more precious than all her jewels." In looking after the sick, Elizabeth of Belgium has an advantage over her sister Queens, for she is a physician, and the daughter of a physician. Her father, Duke Carl of Bavaria, was a famous oculist. Two philanthropes

upon which she spends a great deal of time are the Albert-Elizabeth dispensary for consumptives, and a school of millinery and dressmaking for young women in straitened circumstances. As she frequently attends the school to give the pupils practical hints in designing, the girls become particularly well qualified, for she is the best-grown Queen in the world, and speaks with all the assurance of a Worth.

Apart from these two well-known charities, the "people's Queen," as she is called, is in the habit of doing good by stealth, in ways that often elude the newspaper sleuths. In illustration of her thorough methods, it is pointed out with pleasure that she learnt Flemish in order to speak to the poor in their own tongue. But she acts as well as speaks in a language the whole world can understand, as when she took a violin to a sick woman fond of music and played her some simple airs.

Another Elizabeth also lives close to her people. "Good-bye, Mother Queen. God bless you," is the parting expression which her people send after the Queen of Roumania, when "Carmen Sylva," as she is known to the literary world, takes leave of them for rest and recreation in a foreign country. Her writings are known the world over, but her kindly deeds are little heard of outside the frontiers of her small kingdom. Praise her books and she is bored. But praise the "City of the Blind" the Vaire Lumineuse she has called into being, and a smile of delight comes to her sensitive lips.

Blindness to one endowed with the artistic vision must always seem the worst affliction that can beset the human lot, and a full realization of such a physical defect inspired Carmen Sylva to establish for the blind this real haven of refuge. The Vaire Lumineuse is unique in that it provides not only for the blind, but their relatives, wherever feasible, are given work in the institution at selected industries. Before the city of the blind was built the helpful side of the Queen of Roumania gave form and expression in the installation of a printing press for the blind at Bucharest. Although she specializes in the care of those doomed to live in perpetual darkness, her sympathies embrace all forms of suffering and need. Often she is to be seen in the uniform of a trained nurse, ministering to the sick, as well as in the guise of a skillful needlewoman and silkwearer, instruct-



QUEEN HELENE OF ITALY, WORSHIPPED BY HER SUBJECTS AS THE ANGEL OF CHARITY

ing Roumanian girls in serviceable occupations.

Heroism of Italy's Queen.

Deeds of kindness more heroic in character stand to the credit of Queen Helen, of Italy, who, nurtured in the black mountains of Montenegro, has the strongest physique of any of the European consorts. Her daring and courage were first exhibited to the world in a railway collision at Castel Guillelmo, a heart-rendering catastrophe in which several passengers were killed outright and many were mangled. Accompanied by the King, she rushed to the scene and worked all night, helping to extricate the mangled from the wreckage, and then administering first aid to the rescued. The earthquake at Messina also called all her great energies of helpfulness into play, and it was there, while working side by side with doctors and ministers, that she earned the title of "The Angel of Charity," a name she more than lived up to while fighting the cholera in Italy in the early part of this year.

There is another Queen Helen who almost rivals her namesake of Italy in good works. Before her marriage with Czar Ferdinand of Bulgaria, the present Tsarina was a Princess of

Reuss. At Sofia she runs an institution for the blind, and another for deaf mutes, and like her royal sister of Roumania she personally attends to the inmates with motherly solicitude.

In Britain, where the King is called "the fount of honor," the royal consort can as truly be styled "the fount of mercy." Queen Mary's part is nothing so easy and picturesque as merely to play "Lady Bountiful," although many a check goes from her private purse to deserving charities.

She makes no sudden entrances into the limelight as her mother-in-law was prone to do, for she detests notoriety. Her principal care is for the wounded on the battlefields of labor, and for the poor work girls of England and their mothers. She wants to help them wage their battle of existence, and it is an open secret that while at Carharvon for the investiture of her son, she inquired closely into the cause of the labor deadlock in the Welsh coal fields and definitely made her wishes known that masters and men should come to a speedy agreement. It is through Lady Bartha Dawkins, her favorite attendant, that Queen Mary keeps in touch with the 200 or 300 working girls who wait every

morning in All-Hallow's Church, London Wall, for their places of business to open. Their presence in London an hour or so before their work begins is due to the fact that for the sake of economy they travel to the city by the early workmen's trains. After a short religious service, the girls occupy their time in making garments. "Doing the Queen's sewing" it is called, for all the garments they make are put at Queen Mary's disposal. Lady Bartha Dawkins periodically reports on the movement, and often leaves a handsome check to be used in the girls' interests.

Work of English Queen.

Queen Alexandra has naturally been less in the public eye since King Edward's death, and the semi-obscure into which she has retired now more or less, hides her benefactions from the world. Of all the European Queens she is perhaps more closely identified with hospitals than any, both as a liberal supporter of their funds, and as a visitor. On several occasions, in answer to a direct appeal, she has gone direct from her palace to the bedside of a child in a London hospital, with flowers and kind words for the little sufferer.

She is said to have a sharp temper in private life, but all her womanly

qualities find simple and direct expression when she is by a sick bed. A story is told of her in this connection, relating to an incident during the last year of her husband's reign. Believing in the old adage that charity begins at home, she always visited her servants when they were ill. On one occasion a member of the Windsor castle household was confined to her bed in a remote and rather inaccessible part of that stately pile.

The old physician who attended the patient grumbled at having to climb the steep stairs to her room. "You may well complain, doctor," said the sick woman; "Her Majesty, who visits me every day, says she finds the staircase very trying." Swallowing the implied rebuke, the physician grumbled no more, lest he should incur the displeasure of his royal employer.

Like Queen Mary of England, the Crown Princess Cecilie of Germany takes a deep interest in the welfare of young working girls, especially in finding jobs for the out-of-works. Happening one day to see the advertisement of a vacancy in a newspaper for a department store girl, she applied in person.

"I've seen your advertisement for an assistant," she said to the storekeeper, "and—"

"But my poor child," said the storekeeper, touching her shoulder kindly, "you are not strong enough for the work. Come again in a month, and then I may be able to consider your application. If you will tell me your name, I'll make a note of it."

"Cecilie," replied the Princess.

"What does your husband do?"

"At present nothing," but later he'll be Emperor."

The storekeeper was stupefied, but explanations followed, and a place was found for the Princess' protegee.

Lesser known royalties are also to be found in the thick of philanthropic endeavor. Princess Ingeborg, wife of Prince Charles of Sweden, is called "Princess Ray of the Sun" because of her devotion to the welfare of children. For she is determined to see that they have plenty of wholesome food, and efficient nursing when ill.

Cooking is an art very near to the heart of the Duchess d'Aoste, sister of the Duc d'Orleans, who has established economic kitchens at Naples and some of the neighboring towns. Precept and practice go hand in hand with her, for she herself has cooked in the kitchens, and given lessons in the culinary art. She is renowned as the only woman of royal rank who has punched dough in public.



PRINCESS INGEBOURG OF SWEDEN, PROVIDER OF FOOD TO HUNGRY WAIFS

ing Roumanian girls in serviceable occupations.

I'm Looking for a Dear Old Lady

Featured by Isabelle D'Armond

Words by J. W. HAMER
Com expressions.

Music by AL. PIANTADOSI

1. I'm looking for a dear old la - dy, With a daugh-ter, fond and true;..... A
2. I'm look-ing for a fair young girl - ie, Who could be a faith-ful wife;..... A

girl who thinks her moth-er Is an an-gel through and through..... I....
girl who has no yearn-ing For the whirl of the bright gay life..... She don't

want a girl with ten-der heart, And when I'm struck by Cu-pid's dart, From
have to be a fash-ion plate, I don't want a girl right up - to - date, I

such a girl I'll nev-er part; I'm look-ing for a dear old la - dy.
want a girl for a life-long mate; Whose moth-er is a dear old la - dy.

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CHORUS.

I'm look-ing for a dear old la - dy, With a sweet and kind - ly
face;..... I'm look-ing for a dear old la - dy, With her lit-tle cap of
lace;..... I don't care if her silk-en hair..... Is as
white as the driv-en snow;..... I'm look-ing for a dear old
la - dy, If you find her, please, let me know. I'm know.....
a tempo.