

## Triplets.

BY ALBERT THOMAS.



WE wonder if our readers will be as surprised at the illustrations in this article as we were when the triplets began to pour in. The photographs, we mean, not the triplets themselves. Had they come in person we should have been compelled to hire more office room and take on a few more clerks to deal with the sudden influx of welcome visitors. We were surprised, in the first place, at the number of fine, strapping triplets that seemed to be scattered throughout Great Britain and other countries, and more than surprised to find how old some of them had grown.

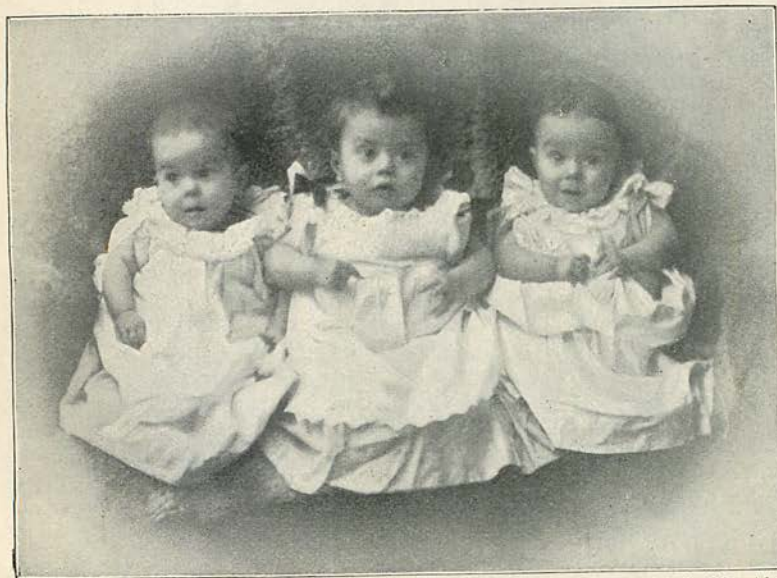
What a happy home it must be that contains the three babies shown below. They belong to Mr. and Mrs. Walsh, of Warwick—two girls and a boy, named respectively Theresa Monica, Edith Timilda, and Philip Reginald Walsh. Mr. E. G. Talliss, of 45, High Street, Warwick, who has sent us the photograph, writes that they were born on November 13th, 1896, and were but twelve months old when the photograph was taken. At the present time they are twenty-one months old. All can talk and walk, and



THE BADEN-BADEN TRIPLETS.  
From a Photo. by Albert Schmidt, Pforzheim.

each has a good many teeth. The boy is a strapping child, and can even whistle. Needless to say, the Walsh triplets are a great attraction to the people of Warwick, and many congratulations have been showered upon the mother, who now has eight children. Such wide-awake youngsters would be the pride of any nation.

We may now pass to three sleepy ones, lying snug in their little German bed. For the triplets shown at the top of this page were, indeed, "made in Germany," and are all future Bismarcks, being boys. To O. Zographo, of Augusta Platz, Baden-Baden, we are indebted for the photograph. The boys are the sons of a jeweller in Baden-Baden, and were born in Pforzheim, in the Grand Duchy of Baden. The photograph represents them at the age of three months, the birth having taken place in June, 1897. When they were six months old they were stricken with illness, but happily recovered, this good fortune being celebrated by the preparation of a post-card, illustrated with a



From a Photo. by

THE WALSH TRIPLETS OF WARWICK.

(C. Martin, Warwick.)



From a Photo. by] - THE DIAMOND JUBILEE TRIPLETS. [A. Pithie, Alloa.

photograph of the little fellows. This card was then sent to all inquiring and admiring friends. One of these cards was sent to us, and proved exceedingly interesting, marking, as it did, a new departure in the story of the mails.

The Baden-Baden trio might well be called the "Diamond Jubilee Triplets," if the Kaiser, and not the Queen, had been celebrating the sixtieth year of a momentous reign. But their German origin debars them from this coveted distinction. We do not know, of course, how many triplets were born in Great Britain during the last year of grace, but here is one set born on May 12th, 1897, that has thriven wonderfully, as became children born in such an historic year. They are the daughters and son of Mr. Walter McAdam, book-binder, of Candle-riggs, Alloa, Clackmannanshire, Scotland, and are very properly named Victoria, Alexandrina, and

Albert McAdam. The photograph was taken when the triplets were nine months old, and anyone can see by their chubby cheeks that they were then in a perfect state of health.

Regarding the pretty little triplets shown in the accompanying photograph, we have received the following interesting and explanatory letter from Dr. J. A. Wetherell, of 210, Holderness Road, Hull: "In the June issue of THE STRAND is exhibited a photo. of triplets, and it is asserted that they are as fine a set as any ever brought into the world. I cannot conceive a finer set than the inclosed. They were only two months old when the photograph was taken. They were all boys, and the father and mother shown in the photo. are Mr. and Mrs. Moxon, of

Old Town, Barnsley. Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen beneficently bestowed the so-called 'Queen's Bounty' upon the happy mother." Dr. Wetherell also points out the interesting fact in connection with the history of this family that the triplets were preceded by twins, and that Mrs. Moxon's sister had twice become a happy mother of twins. It is thus that bounteous Nature bestows her prizes.

A charming little letter has been sent to us by Miss Doris M. Millar, of Heathdown, East Heath Road, Hampstead, N.W. Miss



From a Photo. by] THE MOXON TRIPLETS OF BARNSELY. [Warner Gothard, Barnsley.



From a Photo. by

THE HAMPSTEAD TRIPLETS.

[Porter Bros., Hampstead.]

Doris, who is but twelve, says: "I am sending you the photograph of another set of triplets which I hope you will put in THE STRAND MAGAZINE. The triplets' names are Ernest Alfred Nichols, Amelia Diamond Alice Nichols, and Frederick Robey Nichols. Mr. and Mrs. Nichols live at one of the Mount Vernon Cottages, Hampstead, N.W. The accompanying photograph was taken when the triplets were eleven months old, by Porter Brothers, Hampstead. The triplets are now sixteen months old, and have just recovered from a bad attack of whooping cough. They were very delicate when they were three months old, but as they have so successfully recovered it is likely that they will easily recover from other illnesses. They are now healthy children, one boy being already able to stand." Mr. Henry E. Millar writes on the back of his little daughter's note: "She is anxious to get something for the parents of the triplets, who are only working people, and can ill afford the ex-

THE PARROTT TRIPLETS OF LANGLEY.  
From a Photo. by Leech, Macclesfield.

pense involved. The father is a plumber's labourer." Let us hope that the trifle which we may send to this little girl may make three children happier, and, perhaps, lead to better things.

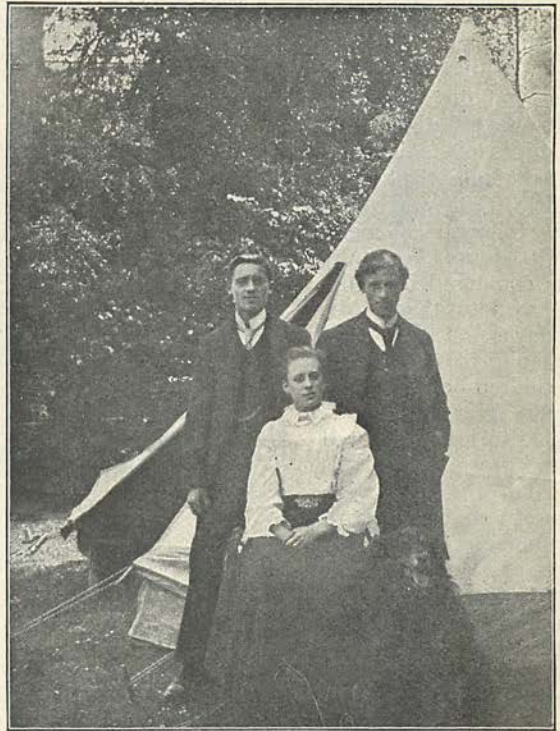
It is generally supposed that all triplets born in Great Britain are the recipients of a small amount from the Queen's Bounty, and in the newspapers we

may periodically note the statement that Mr. and Mrs. So-and-so have had the honour of receiving such a grant. The general statement is, however, unfortunately untrue. The bounty for triplets is customarily given only to those people in medium or poor circumstances. We have knowledge of a very well-to-do gentleman in Surrey whose home a short time ago was gladdened by the advent of two little boys and a girl. Simply in order to celebrate the occasion and to give the children something of which they might be proud in after years, the gentleman applied to the proper authorities for the bounty, but was refused owing to the fact that he had no pressing need for the money. This, of course, is as it should be; but if the bounty were systematically awarded for every trio of children born at one time, it would be fairly easy to get information as to the total number of triplets born every year—a thing not easily to be verified at the present time.

Our next instalment of triplets represents the Misses Harriet, Jane, and Lizzie Parrott, daughters of John and Harriet Parrott, formerly of Kinder Fields Farm, Sutton, near Macclesfield. These young ladies, according to a letter kindly sent to us by Mr. R. E. Hancock, of Didsbury Road, Stockport, were born November 28th, 1883. Their mother died a fortnight after their birth, at the early age of twenty-eight, and their father died a few years later, leaving in all six orphan children. The triplets have been brought up by their grandmother, Mrs. Samuel Millward, of Langley, near Macclesfield, where the children themselves now reside. They are widely known throughout the district, and their grandfather, the late Mr. Thomas Parrott, was town clerk of Macclesfield for fifty years.

We now come to some of the surprises. As we have said, triplets, like other good people, are supposed to die young, but since the photographs have begun to pour into this office, we have acquired a special knowledge upon this subject that compels us to reiterate the untruth of this belief. Triplets may be very good, but some of them grow to a green old age.

let us move on. The accompanying photograph shows the children of Matthew and Mary Wilding, now living in Darwin Street, in the parish of St. George, Shrewsbury. They were born on November 15th, 1880, at 4, Tankerville Terrace, Drinkwater Street, Frankwell, Shrewsbury, and, accordingly, are now in their eighteenth year. The Rev. C. H. Drinkwater, of St. George's Vicarage, Shrewsbury, has sent us the photograph, taken by himself, from which our interesting reproduction of these handsome children was made. We trust we may take the liberty of adding that their full



THE WILDING TRIPLETS OF SHREWSBURY.  
From a Photo. by Rev. C. H. Drinkwater, Shrewsbury.

names are Miss Ethel Kate, Mr. William Ernest, and Mr. Matthew Charles Wilding,

and that their popularity in Shrewsbury is very great.

Even more remarkable is the accompanying photograph sent to us by Mr. G. Mayes, of the well-known firm of G. Mayes and Sons, watchmakers and jewelers, at Halstead. Mr. Mayes writes: "The inclosed was taken in 1884, when we were twenty-one years of age, and a copy was forwarded to Her Majesty the Queen, which she gracefully acknowledged, as per inclosed copy of letter. We were born on August 25th, 1863, consequently are just thirty-five years of age, and are all three healthy. We are life-



THE MAYES TRIPLETS OF HALSTEAD.  
From a Photo. by Brown & Son, Halstead.

abstainers. Previous to our birth twins were born, so that the family increased rather rapidly. Our father and mother are both alive and well, and are in the seventy-sixth year of their age." The copy of the Queen's letter, to which Mr. Mayes refers, is dated Balmoral, September 17th, 1884, and reads as follows: "General Sir Henry Ponsonby is commanded by the Queen to thank Mr. Mayes for the photograph of his three children born in 1863, who, Her Majesty is glad to learn, are well and prospering."

In dealing with such a large and numerous subject as triplets, it is difficult to know whether to reject some of the photographs or to insert them all. But after due deliberation we have decided upon rejection in order that foreign countries may not get an exaggerated idea of the population of Great Britain. Yet we feel that in so doing we are depriving the aforesaid foreign countries of a great benefit. No country, we dare to assert, could gaze upon the bonny faces in these photographs without a feeling akin to jealousy. We feel sure that Frenchmen with their aesthetic natures would appreciate the pictures. But we must pass on to another interesting variation of the subject. Since the inception of the Magazine our readers have been familiar with our portraits of celebrities at different ages, and on account of their

great success we have decided to inaugurate a new feature called "Portraits of Triplets at Different Ages," to run for one issue only. Our first instalment is seen on this page, and we may here state that it will give no slight pleasure to our readers if they will carefully study the faces of these beautiful and thriving children as they advance in years. The children here shown were photographed by Messrs. Travers and Co., of 43, Plashet Lane, Upton Park, who have sent us the prints. Mr. Travers writes: "I am sending you two photographs of triplet girls taken by us. The carte-de-visite was taken on March 11th, 1895, their ages then

being thirteen months. We advertised a 'free baby day,' and the mother brought them (amongst nearly three hundred other babies) to have a free photo. The cabinet was recently taken, and the children are strong and healthy girls. They are now

over four years of age. Their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Cadby, live at 35, Langthorne Road, West Ham Lane, Stratford, E." Mrs. Cadby has had twins before the triplets were born, and in all twelve children, eight of whom are living. Four weeks before the birth of the triplets she lost a little boy and the twins, so, you see, the triplets came as a gracious gift to fill the vacant places in the Cadby home." May these little girls live long and prosper.

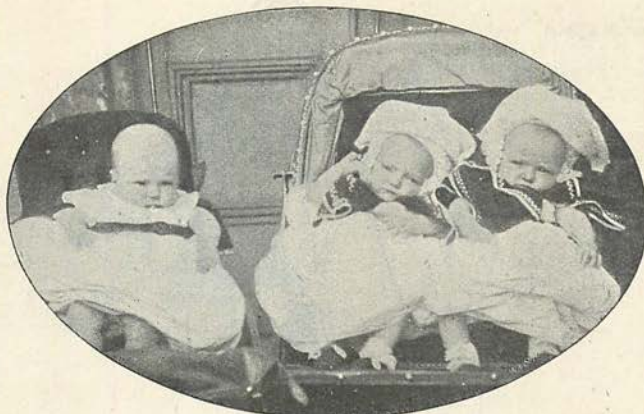


THE CADBY TRIPLETS OF STRATFORD—AGED 13 MONTHS.  
From a Photo. by Travers & Co., Upton Park.



THE CADBY TRIPLETS OF STRATFORD—AGED 4.  
From a Photo. by Travers & Co., Upton Park.

The most complete set of photographs of different ages has come to us from Mrs. Julie Bradley, 119, Middleton Street, Moss Lane East, Moss Side, Manchester. The triplets were born February 17th, 1875, and were named Agnes, Eliza, and Michael Bradley. Mrs. Bradley is the widow of the late Michael B. Bradley, surgeon, of Stockport.



THE BRADLEY TRIPLETS OF MANCHESTER—AGED 6 MONTHS.  
From a Photo. by H. Hurst, Stockport.

a thing which many mothers leave undone, and her children will thank her for it in after life. There is nothing that an aged person revels in so much as in the story of his life told by photographs. It is a perennial source of pleasure, and



THE BRADLEY TRIPLETS—AGED 4.  
From a Photo. by Bradley, Maidenhead.

Our photographs show these interesting children at the ages of six months, four, eight, and fifteen years; and the second photograph, showing them at the age of four, is one of the most effective poses for children we have ever seen. In having her children photographed so frequently, Mrs. Bradley has done



THE BRADLEY TRIPLETS—AGED 8.  
From a Photo. by Baum, Manchester.



THE BRADLEY TRIPLETS—PRESENT DAY.  
From a Photo. by George Bradley.

many a mother who reads this article will regret that her children were not oftener placed before the camera. Mothers of triplets will probably feel this regret threefold, if arithmetic be correct.