

Green Lane Congregational Sunday School.

FROM 2YA.

Monday, April 4: We are to have a delightful little cantata this evening called "The Lacemakers," which will be performed by the little people from Miss Seymour's Studio. The music will be supplied by little boys with mouth-organs. Uncle Jeff and Kipling Lady will be here to tell you fairy stories and send you greetings.

Tuesday: The Wellington College Boys will be in the Studio tonight to entertain you with chorus work, under the baton of Mr. Hislop. Jumbo will be here to greet them, so we who listen-in should all have some fun.

Wednesday: Aunt Daisy will have been to the Zoo to see what new stories Mr. Halligan has to tell about Nellie and the other animals. The "Cheerful Chirpers" will sing cheerful old songs. Birthday Greetings, of course.

Thursday: A special treat in store for you to-night. The boys from the Salvation Army Home, Eltham, are visiting the Capital City, and have promised to give you a programme this evening at the Children's Hour. There will be items by their brass band, chorus work and recitations. These boys know a lot about cricket and are real sports.

Friday: Tweedledum is bringing in a large party of little people from the Taita School, who have prepared a delightful programme for you with choruses, fun and frolic.

Saturday: There is a surprise party being brought to the Studio this evening, and every item is to be a surprise at Aunt Molly, Uncle Jasper, and the radioland children. It's no use trying to guess; everywhere Aunt Molly, Uncle Jasper and Spot have guessed has been wrong. Wait for 5.15 after the Birthdays.

American Radio Programmes

Advertising Increasing

IT is estimated by the chairman of the Radio Group of the New York Association of Advertising Agencies that from 10 per cent. to 15 per cent. of commercial programmes broadcast in America are given over to advertising announcements. The proportion of the time of individual programmes thus used is increasing—the result of economic conditions and the difficulties of manufacturers in selling their products.

Recent protests against this state of affairs include that of Commander J. W. Reeves, United States Navy, who, writing to the Inter-State Commerce Committee in charge of radio matters in the Senate, says: "The public is paying for entertainment, but not getting it. The public is paying for its receiving equipment, but, due to this advertising 'racket,' is prevented from using it. This state of affairs demands relief—not half-measures, but definite constructive relief. Public opinion is unwieldy and slow to move, but once aroused there is no question about the result."

Malta—Its Hopes and Problems

(Continued from page 1.)

in Malta was Latin.

There are two classes of people in Malta. The upper class, who are descended from the Knights of St. John, have Norman, Spanish and Italian blood in their veins. As you know, the Knights of Malta came from all the Catholic countries of Europe to engage in the crusade with the object of wresting the Holy Land from the Turks. They based themselves first in Rhodes and other islands close to Palestine, but on being driven back by the Mohammedans, they established their stronghold at Malta and were never dislodged. The nobility of Malta (which is recognised by the British Crown) is largely descended from the families of the crusaders. The Maltese are, of course, largely Roman Catholic. The lower classes are a handsome race of men, Italian in appearance. During the long wars against the infidels the Knights of St. John refused to admit negroes to Malta, and so the Maltese have escaped that touch of negroid blood which is quite obvious amongst their neighbours, the people of Sicily.

Important catacombs in Malta—artificial caves of burial or refuge—and antiquities, have been dug up which prove the great age of the early settlement of the island. There are clear traces of the Phoenicians, those first navigators who moved off westward from the shores of Palestine, found their way through the Straits of Gibraltar and actually mined tin in Cornwall. Malta could not help being a depot of great importance as long as the centre of the world was in the Mediterranean. There was a Carthaginian garrison there during the war with Rome. It levied such heavy taxes upon the people that the Maltese betrayed the garrison to Rome. Just before Christ, Cicero was quaestor of Malta, and when he was sentenced to exile, he chose to go there to live. The Roman Publius was chief of Malta when St. Paul arrived there. He became the first Christian bishop of Malta. The Vandals and Goths, who overran the whole of western Europe in the Middle Ages, do not seem to have occupied Malta.

Malta Becomes English.

It was in 1090, just after the conquest of England by William of Normandy, the Count Roger took Malta from the Arabs. It passed through various hands until in 1530 the Knights of St. John obtained their grant and established a sort of dynasty which lasted for 250 years. They had scarcely got settled down when the Sultan Selim made his great effort to dislodge them. The siege of Malta, which is the theme of many literary romances, began in May, 1565, and lasted for four months. It was fought most bitterly on both sides, and thousands of the Christians and Turks were killed. When finally the Turks were repulsed the Knights of St. John were at the pinnacle of their glory. And, as usually happens in such cases, their gradual decline began almost from that date. Still they were well able to defend themselves until the days of Napoleon. Here again it was Malta's

key position on a new commercial route to the East that decided its fate. When Napoleon was planning his thrust to the British Empire in India by way of Egypt, he made his first stop at Malta and took possession of the island without any resistance. The last of the Grand Masters of the Order of St. John was of German extraction. Napoleon did not stay in Malta, but passed on almost at once to Egypt and Syria.

This episode indicated the new importance of the islands, and Nelson, who was commanding in the Mediterranean, took it upon himself to assist the Maltese. At the peace of 1802 Malta was recovered from the French, but they were unable to fend for themselves, and finally at the peace of 1814 the islands passed to Great Britain.

"An Expensive Colony."

For some decades after this Malta had no obvious importance. It was merely an expensive colony which the British taxpayer had to finance to put on its feet. The Knights of St. John had never favoured education for the masses. Indeed, they always kept themselves apart from the native Maltese, and there was no blood mixture. The turning point of Malta's importance came at the time of the Crimean war. Practically all the British and French troops for the Crimea went past Malta, and it became a key position again in the chain of military communications. From that time onward it has always been strongly fortified, and has had the character rather of a garrison than a colony. The fine harbour of Valetta was well equipped with dockyards for the British Navy, and the security of Malta was always jealously guarded, especially during the days of rivalry with France.

The Language Problem.

THE troublesome political questions which have agitated the Maltese during the last fifty years arose chiefly from the language question. As I have said, the natives had a patios of their own. They had not been taught either English or Italian. The trouble came to a head in the early eighties, when an order was issued by the British Government that no Maltese sailors were to be enrolled in the Navy because they spoke a language which their officers could not understand.

This order brought to the front a very interesting character in Maltese history, the present Lord Strickland. Young Strickland was then a student at Trinity College, Cambridge. He was born in Malta, his father being a British naval officer, and his mother a lady of the Maltese nobility, the heiress of Sir Nicholas Bologna. When young Strickland read of the prohibition against Maltese seamen in the British Navy he started from his college in Cambridge an agitation in the London "Times" which brought the whole question into the foreground. He loudly demanded equality of rights for Maltese and English, and while still an undergraduate at Cambridge, he was elected to the Legislative Council of Malta. (Many years member of H.C. and Malta L.C.). This was the

beginning of a long fight for the rights of the rank and file of the Maltese people.

In the early days of the British colony an attempt had been made to convert the native patios into a literary language by adapting the Arabic characters. Finally one of the leading native administrators, Savona, had the courage to advocate the teaching of English straight out. It was firmly opposed by a small but influential minority who were in favour of Italian. Strickland afterwards came into office in Malta himself. He began his reform by teaching the young Maltese in the first instance to read and write in their own tongue, and to choose later whether they would learn English or Italian as a second language. Before long, in spite of pro-Italian agitation, 89 per cent. of the parents wanted their children to learn English. It is curious that this matter of language should thus have become the main ground of the fight that has raged in Malta for fifty years.

Responsible Government.

ABOUT ten years ago a new constitution was given to Malta which allowed them more of what we call responsible government. At this time English was declared to be the official language, though Italian was still recognised as one of the languages of culture. The economic condition of Malta was gravely affected by the reduction of naval and military expenditure, and a constant emigration of surplus population seems now to be necessary. This distress has contributed to the troubles of the last few years, which culminated in the suspension of the constitution two years ago. Since then a Royal Commission has inquired into the affairs of Malta, and it is now announced that its recommendations will in general be adopted. Incidentally it is decided, in the interest of the Maltese and of education in Malta, that in future English will be the only language taught in the elementary schools besides the vernacular Maltese.

Thus we find in Malta:

- (1) A small island whose only importance is its position.
- (2) A congested population which must find an outlet of sea.
- (3) Hopeful emigrants forbidden to leave because they cannot speak English.

It is a strange conflict of economic distress and exaggerated nationalism.

Barriers to Immigration.

BEFORE the war there was no trouble about surplus population because in those days anybody could go where he liked. But, after the war, quite suddenly barriers were raised in all the new countries against a certain type of immigrant. Competent as the Maltese were, they lacked the sort of training that America and Australia and Canada wanted. Above all 90 per cent. of the people of Malta were illiterate. The rejection of these unfortunates by immigration countries "opened the eyes of the Maltese to the shame and reproach of illiteracy." The Government then ignored all opposition and courageously went ahead and established night schools for the express purpose of educating those who wished to emigrate. There was a scramble of young men and women to attend them.