

Durrant's Press Cuttings,

St. ANDREW'S HOUSE.

32 to 34, Holborn Viaduct.

ANL

3, St. Andrew Street, Holborn Circus,

W.C.

The Lady.

89 & 40, BEDFORD STREET W.C.

Cutting from issue dated 7 JAN 1915 191



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MRS. HUBERT SMILEY, THE ONLY DAUGHTER OF MR. CHARLES GILL, K.C.
From the painting by Philip Lasko.

I am sending you the photograph of a picture that Laszlo has just done of Mrs. Hubert Smiley. The great Hungarian artist is a naturalised Englishman, and has lived and worked in England for many years past. His wife was a Miss Guinness, and his children have been brought up in this country. Mrs. Smiley is the only daughter of Mr. Charles Gill, and married a younger brother of Sir John Smiley a few years ago, and is the mother of a dear little son called Michael. The portrait, which is really an admirable and lifelike one, was painted just before Christmas, when staying with the Smileys at Woolton House, Newbury. In point of fact, he did it all in three visits, just going down to them for the "inside" of the weeks.

Mrs. Smiley has been working very hard indeed lately at recruiting, and one night last week there was an entertainment at the Corn Exchange at Newbury, including a concert, which she organised herself with the sole object of obtaining recruits. It was hard luck that the entertainment took place in desperately bad weather. A blizzard of snow and rain swept over the country, and it blew a gale. Under such awful conditions it was marvellous that the hall was full, but they certainly prevented "boys" coming from the outlying villages. Nevertheless, the audience was a very good one, and the entrance of a number of wounded soldiers, who came from Kingsclere House Hospital with Lady Rosemary Portal and a staff of nurses, was the signal for sympathetic cheering; and it was evident that the sight of them touched and appealed to the people. Mrs. Hubert Smiley had secured some notable artistes, and musical talent was represented by Miss Phyllis Dare, Mr. Paul Rubens, the composer, and several

others. Mr. Forster made a speech, and referred to the enthusiasm with which Mrs. Smiley had organised the great gathering. Then Mrs. Smiley herself made a spirited and arresting appeal to the men to take up arms in defence of their country, and to continue the splendid response to the call to arms made throughout the country, as men are still wanted. She spoke, too, of the fine patriotic feeling shown by our Colonies, who have given us lavishly men, money, and material. Her speech, which was direct and inspiring, caused great enthusiasm, and was followed by others, and then came the entertainment, in which several patriotic songs were sung, and Miss Phyllis Dare gave a charming little sketch, accompanied by Mr. Paul Rubens, and later sang Paul Rubens' well-known recruiting song, "We Don't Want to Lose You," which roused the audience to such enthusiasm that when the appeal for recruits was made from the platform, there was a rush of young fellows to the sergeant's table, and the first to reach the platform received a watch and a kiss from Mrs. Lionel Harris, who made a stirring speech earlier in the evening. Then followed many others, and the people in the audience cheered as each recruit's name was taken down, every fifth man receiving a watch, whilst the rest got pipes, pouches, pens, and other useful gifts. Thirty, forty, and close on fifty were enrolled, and then, to make the rest come on quicker, Miss Phyllis Dare took an "extra turn" in a recruiting sergeant's cap with the chorus of her song, and called for a recruit who should be her "very own." Two gallant fellows started at once, but the one who was first there was under military age. But as he had proved himself such a sportsman, he was promised he should be a bugler, and he got the watch and a kiss from Miss Phyllis Dare! It was a very inspiring and memorable evening, at the end of which cheers were given for Mrs. Smiley and the artistes who had so kindly given their services.