

CHILDREN WHO WILL BE KINGS

BY THEODORE SCHWARZ

DURING the last few years there has been an unusual number of changes among the crowned heads of Europe. Within a decade, three kings have been murdered, besides an empress, a queen, and a crown prince—a sinister comment upon twentieth-century civilization. In Servia, the assassination of the sovereign and his consort brought a new royal line to the throne; in Italy and Portugal, the slain monarchs were succeeded by their sons. In England, in Sweden, and in Denmark, aged rulers passed away, to be replaced in due course by their heirs apparent. In Saxony, the present century has seen three kings—the veteran Albert, his brother George, and George's son Augustus. The peaceful revolution that made Norway independent added a new sovereign and a new dynasty to the gilded roll.

In all, during the last nine years, nine kings have been crowned, besides a new Pope, and not reckoning half a dozen changes in the headship of the minor German states.

The "old guard" of the royal brotherhood now consists of Francis Joseph of Austria, Leopold of Belgium, Charles of Rumania, Nicholas of Montenegro, and George of Greece. All these five are men of more than sixty, and have reigned for more than forty years. The two patriarchs of the group are Francis Joseph—oldest both in age (seventy-eight) and in years of service (sixty)—and the Belgian king, who is seventy-three. Other monarchs who have passed their sixtieth birthday are Edward VII—who was sixty-seven on November 9—Abdul Hamid of Turkey, Frederick of Denmark, Peter of Servia, William of Württemberg, and the insane Otto of Bavaria.

It is rather curious that after this numerous company of septuagenarians

and sexagenarians there should be a long interval before we come to the younger group of monarchs. Except a few German princelings, the next in age are Gustav of Sweden, who has just turned fifty, and the strenuous German Kaiser, who will reach the half-century mark on January 27. Three other sovereigns are in the forties—Ferdinand of Bulgaria, Augustus of Saxony, and Nicholas of Russia; two in the thirties—Victor Emanuel of Italy and Haakon of Norway; while below thirty there are only three—Wilhelmina of Holland, Alfonso of Spain, and Manuel of Portugal.

It may be noted that Alfonso, though youngest of all save his neighbor of the smaller Iberian kingdom, has reigned longer than any except half a dozen. He is the only ruler who was literally born in the purple, having been King of Spain since he drew his first breath in the palace at Madrid twenty-two years ago on May 17 last.

EUROPE'S FUTURE SOVEREIGNS

The oldest heir to a European throne—again excluding the German principalities, and also Turkey, whose dynastic arrangements are a state mystery—is the Archduke Francis Ferdinand of Austria, the emperor's nephew, who will be forty-five on December 18. Next to him, and oldest of the direct heirs, is the Prince of Wales, who was forty-three on June 3. The Crown Prince of Rumania is two months younger, and others who have passed forty are those of Montenegro and of Greece; but most of the heirs apparent are quite young. The Czarevitch Alexis of Russia is only four, and the Infante Alfonso of Spain, youngest of them all, was born only last year (May 10, 1907). Nevertheless, as will be seen from the engraving on page 399, the little Spanish prince has already been

made into a miniature soldier. The child, whose present title is Prince of the Asturias, and who, if he lives to succeed his father, will be known as Alfonso XIV,

girls, and have only just begun to walk with uncertain steps.

The severance of Norway from Sweden, and the crowning of Prince Charles



KING ALFONSO XIII OF SPAIN, AND HIS LITTLE SON AND HEIR, ALFONSO, PRINCE OF THE ASTURIAS, BORN MAY 10, 1907

From a photograph by Franzen, Madrid

wears the brilliant uniform of a Spanish officer, with shoulder-straps and belt and sword, at an age when other boys are dressed in little frocks or "rompers," indistinguishable from those worn by

of Denmark, brother of the present Danish king, as Haakon VII, took place only three years ago. King Haakon had already been married in 1896 to the Princess Maud of Great Britain, young-

est daughter of King Edward VII; and his heir, the Crown Prince Olaf, was born as a Danish prince in 1903.

Norway and Sweden are still somewhat out of sympathy with each other, because of the break in their political relations; but the crown prince of the latter coun-

than is usual among heirs to royalty, for it was not until he was nearly thirty that he married Princess Alexandrina of Mecklenburg-Schwerin. She has presented him with two sons, Prince Christian Frederick, who is nine years old, and Prince Knud, a year younger.



THE CROWN PRINCE OF SWEDEN, WITH THE CROWN PRINCESS (FORMERLY PRINCESS MARGARET OF CONNAUGHT) AND THEIR TWO CHILDREN, PRINCES GUSTAV ADOLF AND SIGVARD

From a photograph by Grajes, Stockholm

try—Gustav Adolf, Duke of Scania—has also a British wife, the Princess Margaret Victoria, daughter of Prince Arthur, better known as the Duke of Connaught. Their two children are both boys. The elder, named Gustav Adolf—after his father, and after the great seventeenth-century king who is one of the national heroes of Sweden—is now in his third year, while his younger brother, Prince Sigvard, was born in June, 1907.

The Crown Prince of Denmark, Prince Christian, is now thirty-eight years of age. He remained a bachelor longer

The Prussian crown prince, who was rather unpopular for a time, has become much better liked since his marriage to the attractive princess Cecilie of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, the younger sister of the Crown Princess of Denmark. Their little son, Prince William Frederick—born July 4, 1906—who is the presumptive heir to the German Empire and the Prussian kingdom, is a winsome, healthy boy, who already shows much quickness at learning the rather complicated ways of the imperial court of Berlin. His mother, like the mother of the present Kaiser, is thoroughly domestic in her



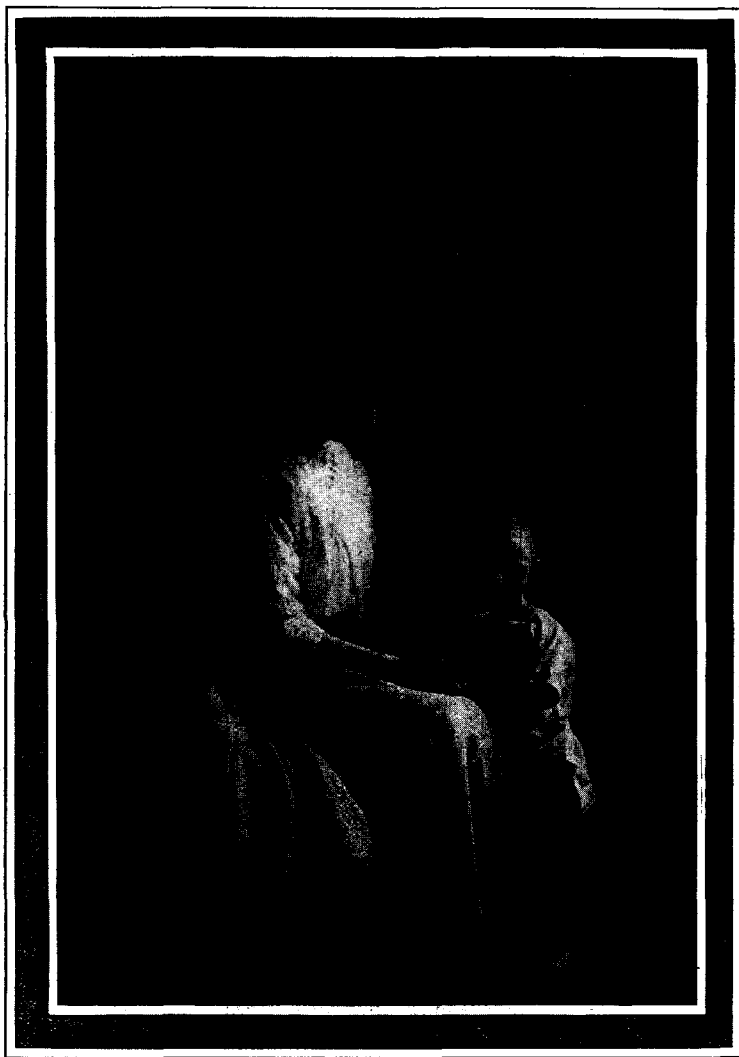
THE CROWN PRINCESS OF DENMARK (FORMERLY PRINCESS ALEXANDRINA OF MECKLENBURG-SCHWERIN), WITH HER TWO SONS, PRINCES CHRISTIAN FREDERICK AND KNUD

From a photograph by Paetz, Copenhagen

tastes—as much so as the Czarina, who is said to be never quite so happy as when she is romping with her children in the nursery.

The Czar has only one son, but the

sons, are being educated on the same lines as were followed in the training of their father, who throughout his boyhood led the simple life of an English school-boy and naval cadet.



THE GERMAN CROWN PRINCESS (FORMERLY DUCHESS CECILIE OF MECKLENBURG-SCHWERIN), WITH HER ELDEST SON, PRINCE WILLIAM FREDERICK, BORN JULY 4, 1906

From a photograph by Bieber, Berlin

royal house of Romanoff has so many branches that it is in no danger of extinction. The dynastic situation in Great Britain is somewhat similar, for though the Prince of Wales is the only surviving son of Edward VII, there are already five healthy lads in the next generation. These young princes, the king's grand-

Great Britain, Germany, Russia, Spain, Norway, Sweden, and Denmark, therefore, all have youthful heirs to the throne; and it is a good thing, not only for their own people, but for the world, that these future sovereigns should be brought up so sensibly as to insure the proverbial sound mind within a sound body.

THE STAGE

THE FILM AND THE FLESH

"ANOTHER theater turned over to moving pictures. Alas for the decay of the drama!"

Such is a typical comment on the encroachment of the film into the field of the flesh-and-blood performer. But a bit of sober reflection should convince even the most ardent advocate of the stage for players rather than the white screen that what draws people to the biograph houses is not the desire to sit in the dark and look at eye-racking pictorial monstrosities, but their thrifty eagerness to substitute a paltry dime for the dollar or two that

a regular show, containing real actors, would cost them.

An example in point is furnished by the vaudeville public's contrasted attitude toward John J. Hayes, the Marathon victor at last summer's Olympic games, and toward the films that show how he won the race. Both have recently been on view in New York, at the same performance, and for the one price of admission. The pictures came first, and the people sat stolidly watching them with only languid interest, for were they not soon to behold the real thing, the hero in the flesh?



NANNETTE COMSTOCK, STARRING IN THE NEW PLAY, "JET"
From her latest photograph by Sarony, New York