



ANTI-ALCOHOL MOVE IN ITALY

Taking Strong Root in That Country, According to Notes of Temperance Progress in Europe.

The movement against alcohol is taking strong root in Italy, according to some interesting and detailed notes of temperance progress in Europe gathered by observers on the field for the encouragement of temperance workers in America. The report states that in various centers anti-alcoholic leagues are being established. Of that at Vincenza, which was started in a meeting largely attended by civic associations and presided over by Count Valmanara, the eminent modernist and author, Antonio Fogazzaro was elected president. In Milan some of the most active social workers of the city have entered a new movement. Among these are Cassina, the head of the Milanese labor party and former president of the labor exchange; Dr. Ferrar, physician to the well-known relief society, "L'Umanitaria"; Lazzari, another noted labor leader and lecturer on social questions; Molteni, a Catholic socialist, and one of the best known publicists in North Italy; Pastorelli, an engineer, editor of an ethical review published in Padua, favorably known by his brochure, "L'Alcool Diluito" (diluted alcohol), and Professor Pasquali, director of schools in Brescia and a writer on alcohol whose works are known outside of Italy.

Many tourists, it is further stated, think that Italy has no special need of temperance reform. But those whose knowledge of the Italian people is more intimate are of a different opinion. Thus Giovanni Alcoli, writing of alcoholism in Milan, declares that there are 4,200 places where drink is sold in that city (that is one to 120 of the population); that the consumption of wine is 58 liters per capita and of liquors, 4 liters; that 1,390 arrests were made in the year for drunkenness; that in two years, 907 Milanese died of the alcohol sickness—cirrhosis of the liver; and that one-half of the patients in the provincial asylum came from this drink-sick city. Antonini, the editor of the Friuli socialist organ "Il Paese," says: "The alcohol insane in our asylum have more than doubled since 1905. The alcohol-interested industrials continue to poison us because they have their defenders in parliament. We must begin the fight for abstinence, not from the top, but from the root (i. e., from the people)."

And in a recent number of "La Luce," the Waldensian religious organ, a writer relates concerning the rural communities of Italy: "They drink wine at dinner, at supper, in the hay fields during the dog-days, at breakfast, between meals. They soak their bread in wine. The father drinks, the mother drinks, the children drink, down to the little one of a year old. I saw recently a poor little creature of three who could not walk, his whole body being so swollen. He lay outside his home on an unclean mattress in the shade. He was suffering from chronic inflammation of the intestines at three years. The doctor said he was an "alcoholizzato" (drunkard) and was incurable, and would never walk. Wine heredity and the wine his parents had given him from his first days were the cause. "One rarely sees our peasantry staggering. They have drunk so long that they can support much with very little inconvenience. But what a sad thing it is! The men seem steeped in wine."

MUCH CRIME DUE TO DRINK

Marked Decrease in Convictions for Drunkenness in City of London—Detailed Returns.

According to returns prepared for the home office by assistant clerks at the Mansion House and Guildhall Justice rooms the number of persons prosecuted in the city of London (proper) during the past year was for summary offences, 4,590, as compared with 5,533 in 1908, and 6,959 in 1903. The number of persons convicted of those offences (including 906 in respect of drunkenness) was 3,285, against 4,145 (1,108 for drunkenness) in 1908, and 5,063 (2,226 for drunkenness) in 1903. Of indictable crimes 1,068 were reported, as against 1,017 in 1908, and 1,994 in 1903. The number of apprehensions in connection with these was 570 last year. In 1908 there were 664 arrests, and 1903 773. The day population of the city is over 300,000; the night population 26,923. The principal feature in these returns as noted in press comments is the very marked decrease in convictions for drunkenness, which were last year considerably less than one-half of those recorded six years ago.

Temperance Pays.

According to the United States census bureau, the workers who live in nonlicense cities earn more than those in license cities. The figures are given for Massachusetts, and show that each individual worker in the nonlicense cities earns 74.09 more a year than a worker in license cities.

DETERIORATION IN OLD FAITH

Priests of Buddha in China Unworthy of the Great Traditions of the Past.

Buddhism in modern China has fallen into a shocking state of degradation and decay, according to the correspondent of the London Times, who is traveling across the Celestial empire. He writes: "At the first inn, where hot cakes were being sold, my men rested. There was a temple here and I went across to see it. The priest politely invited me into the guest room. He probably did not expect me to enter, but I did so, and found in a small room some 20 men smoking opium or drowsing after the debauch. And it was the priest who had supplied the opium and the opium pipes. Could the Buddhist faith as exemplified in its degraded ministers in China sink much lower?"

"On the fourth day out we reached the Kuan Yin Tang, the hall of the goddess of mercy, a fine temple, which is, however, in a filthy state. Its two hexagonal towers are used as a common lodging house. In this degraded temple the goddess herself and all her female attendants are represented with the smallest of small feet. Frescoes of considerable force and even of beauty adorn the walls of this decaying building, which the expenditure of a few hundred dollars would restore to its pristine glory. A few cents would make it clean, but the cents are not spent. It is no one's business. Opium is smoked in the dirty rooms."

Again: "Next day we reached Hu Yin Miao, one of the finest temples I have seen in China. It lies within an enclosure comparable with that of the Temple of Heaven in Peking and has splendid halls and courts and pavilions. Yet what a ruin! The roofs have decayed or fallen in, the triumphal archways are tottering. Maturity is dried in courtyards fit for a palace. I have seen no more striking evidence of decay. Truly Buddhism in China is sadly deteriorating."

USED SNOW AS A LEDGER

Unusual Business Methods of Merchant in Western Canada Recorded by Traveler.

Americans have made Winnipeg, Regina, Moose Jaw, Saskatoon, Edmonton, and the majority of Americans have cleaned up fortunes in the last few years because of the Canadians themselves. I will give one instance of fortunemaking, which clearly comes under the head of "unusual business methods," a writer in the Bookkeeper says. In a thickly settled prairie district not far from Moose Jaw a few Canadians had opened up a coal mine, the product of which they sold to the surrounding farmers. Settlers would come in wagons and sleighs and load their own winter's fuel, which cost them from one to two dollars a ton, according to the run. It was early winter when I first made the acquaintance of this mine and its remarkable "superintendent," and my first reception from this individual was a fierce yell on his part and the frantic brandishing of a long stick and the words: "What the devil are you doing? Can't you see? Are you stone blind?"

I was literally walking through his books! Since morning—and this was three o'clock in the afternoon—he had been keeping a record of outgoing sleighs and wagons of coal in the snow! About 20 farmers were drawing that day. With his stick he had written the initials of each in a clean spot in the snow and with that same stick had registered the number of tons they had taken away. I had spoiled one-half of his "books" and it was an hour before he became at all affable. I was still more astonished when I entered the "superintendent's" little board office. The walls were black with pencil marks, figures and names. A fire would have burned down his "book" of two years past.

Manufactured Rubies.

Rubies weighing 80 carats can be built up. These rubies after they have cooled are split lengthwise. They are cut and polished, the final polishing being done with tripoli and water. The cut gems ready for the market are worth about 40 cents a carat.

This price is insignificant as compared with that of the natural Burma ruby, whose market value is almost fabulous. Chemically, optically and physically the "scientific" rubies are identical the same as the natural stones. Even in both forms the microscopic air bubbles called "frogs" or "inclusions" are present.

Lacroix, the geologist and mineralogist, asserts that the artificial ruby cannot be distinguished from the natural, while Plinier, a leading gem expert of Paris, claims that they can readily be distinguished. At any rate the pawnbrokers of Paris have placed rubies under the ban, and it is almost impossible to secure loans when rubies of any description are offered as security.—Popular Mechanics.

London's Expensive Fogs.

It is estimated that a genuine London fog costs the city \$750,000 in loss and interruption of business. In 1905 there were 44 fogs recorded. Since that year there has been a steady decrease in the number until this year there have been almost none and this is directly attributed to the work against the smoke nuisance. It is an accepted fact now that the fogs over London would be no more dense than over adjoining counties if it were not for the quantities of London smoke which have mixed with the fogs.



DRINKING IS BANE OF NATION

Alarming Increase of Custom Among Women of Leisure — American People Should Take Warning.

Business bars drinking men. Competition has become so keen that every line of business is beginning to shut its doors absolutely to the drinking man, and only men of steadfast habits can find employment. Thus, while business competition is promoting sobriety among men, among women of leisure there has been within in recent years an alarming increase of the drink habit. The frequency with which even respectable women drink cocktails, whisky straight, wines and liquors of all kinds as a matter of common observation, and scenes that shocked us ten years ago are now passed by without comment, writes Doctor Madison C. Peters in Chicago Tribune. Indeed, so common is drinking that the situation is often a source of embarrassment to the woman who does not drink.

If "history is philosophy teaching by example," the American people should take warning, for there is no plainer lesson taught in the republics of history than that luxury, extravagance, and immorality consequent upon vast wealth in the hands of a few are the certain forerunners of decay.

The plain lesson of history is that the last symptom of national decline is found in womanly folly; corruption may spread far and wide and do much harm in the community, but there is hope for both the church and the state so long as the wives and mothers, the daughters and the sisters retain their moral integrity. When that is gone all is gone. Purity and worth find their last retreat in the home; if driven from thence they are doomed to die, and with their death perish the prospects of the land.

Man's ideal of what woman ought to be is based upon his belief of what she normally is—better than himself. His own selfish desire is the chief factor in dragging her down from the pedestal upon which he himself placed her, and yet with that strange inconsistency which characterizes him he will idolize her if she resists.

If sin seems blacker in woman than in man it is simply because she is by nature purer and has farther to fall. If man seems to condemn sin in the woman more than in the man he is paying to her, for that reason, his highest compliment.

Intoxicants are dangerous enough to men, to women they are especially so. Romulus sentenced women to death for intoxication as the beginning of unfaithfulness to the marriage vow.

The lack of moral balance and defective will produced in the woman by drink are more marked than in the man. Woman's emotional organization is more susceptible than that of man, hence the special danger of drink to the woman.

The disastrous results of tipping among women are already too well-known to physicians, and experience shows that while men who drink often reform women who become victims to drink seldom do.

That women drink as freely and frequently as the men is a sign that you can see for yourself in the fashionable cafes in our great cities, where wealth abounds and beauty smiles. I speak from what I have seen myself. I dare not trust myself to describe the things I have seen among women young and tender, upon whose more impressionable temperament and finer organization the destroyer had taken firm hold, and among women no longer young, but whose soul and sense were dead long before their eyes were closed.

CHINA'S STRUGGLE ON OPIUM

World Now Convinced of Nation's Determination to Wipe Out Terrible Curse.

It took years of effort on China's part to convince the world that she was in earnest in her determination to blot out the opium curse. But the world knows it now. Under the imperial edict, the acreage on which poppies can be grown is to be decreased each year until after ten years have elapsed it will be illegal to raise poppies anywhere in the Chinese empire. Opium refuges are being erected in the principal cities for the shelter and treatment of those who are endeavoring to free themselves from the habit. It is a frequent occurrence for the smokers of whole towns to bring their pipes and pile them up in the market place and burn them as a sacrifice on the altar of their own freedom. In many ways China's war upon opium is the most sublime struggle which was ever fought; it is a harder battle than ours against the saloon. The whole future of the Chinese people is dependent upon their victory in it.

Beer Barred in Navy.

Vice-Admiral Sir George Neville, commanding the third and fourth divisions of the British home fleet, has issued an order stating that the custom which exists of issuing beer to ship's companies on completion of coaling is not in accordance with the spirit of the king's regulations, and is to be discontinued in ships under his command.

HER SONG TO THE CONVICTS

Deserved Appreciation of Good Work to the Credit of Miss Geraldine Farrar.

Geraldine Farrar has sung to many distinguished audiences in Europe and in the United States, but she never sang to a more appreciative audience or to greater and better and nobler effect than when she appeared before the convicts of the United States penitentiary in Atlanta. For them she sang the old songs—"Annie Laurie," "Suwanee River," "My Old Kentucky Home," "By the time she finished the last song," says a dispatch from Atlanta, the audience, composed of nearly 1,000 convicts, "seemed to be in one great sob, and tears were streaming down the cheeks of Miss Farrar." And the warden of the penitentiary is quoted as saying that "her singing was worth more than a hundred sermons." The old, familiar heart songs awakened memories of days when many of these men now paying the penalty of law breaking had an honorable purpose in life, when they looked forward, before temptation came, to careers of usefulness and worthy achievement. There are men in the Atlanta prison who once were conspicuous in the field of finance and business. In them the old songs must have not only revived recollections of better days, but served also as an inspiration for better living when the prison doors are opened and are free. Miss Farrar did a noble and helpful thing when she sang for the convicts. She exemplified exquisitely the spirit of pure and undefiled religion. She has had notable triumphs on the operatic stage. She has stirred her audiences with her dramatic force and her thrilling voice. But never did she move men's hearts so deeply, never did she use her art to grander and more exalted purposes, than when she sang to the convicts in the Atlanta penitentiary. She has done a good work.

NOT AFTER SPIRITUAL ADVICE

Pastor's Ministrations Unneeded in This Case, Though Sickness Might Be Desperate.

Just how naturally some inferences may be drawn was illustrated by a story told by City Clerk Thomas C. Mooney of Burlington. One evening some time ago, Mr. Mooney said, a man drove up to the residence of a preacher in a small town over in Jersey and after violently ringing the doorbell told the parson that Bill Bowker's Sally was awful sick with colic or something of the kind and wanted him to come right out.

The good dundie knew Bill Bowker, also his wife Sally, and, thinking that spiritual advice was wanted, he picked up a prayer book and accompanied the farmer to the wagon.

"I am sorry to hear that Sally is sick," remarked the preacher in a sympathetic tone as he was about to step into the vehicle. "Do you think that her condition is dangerous?"

"Can't tell," replied the farmer, "she has been layin' down in the stable all the afternoon."

"Lying down in the stable!" exclaimed the parson with a look of mingled amazement and horror. "What in the world is she doing in a place like that?"

"Why, what do you expect?" was the surprised rejoinder of the farmer. "Where in their thunderation else would ye keep a mule?"

"O, I see," smilingly responded the parson, as light suddenly dawned upon him. "You have struck the wrong house; what you are looking for is the veterinary surgeon who lives next door."—Philadelphia Telegraph.

Queen Victoria and Politics.

For some years after Queen Victoria succeeded the Whigs were the allies of the sovereign; the Tories were her antagonists. In 1840 the queen, in a letter to Prince Albert, expressed her party preference with the utmost candor. "The Tories," she wrote, "are really very astonishing; as they cannot and dare not attack us in parliament, they do everything they can to be personally rude to me." "The Whigs," the letter ran, "are the only safe and loyal people and the Radicals will also rally round their queen to protect her from the Tories; but it is a curious sight to see those who, as Tories, used to pique themselves upon their excessive loyalty doing everything to degrade their young sovereign in the eyes of the people." So closely did the queen associate herself with the Whigs that she regarded a dissolution as an event directly affecting her credit and position.

Hybrid Indian Names.

Minnehaha—laughing water—what prettier name, in sound and in sense, could there be? But the saddest thing about American nomenclature is the way in which languages have been cross-bred, with deplorable results. All these Indian "Minnie" names are delightful when left alone, and the white man did well in naming the state of Minnesota after the river, which, being interpreted, is "sky-tinted water." But then he must go and contrive "Minneapolis" for its chief town—a shocking mixture of Indian and Greek. What lovely names they must have missed when they imported their Jackson ideas to dispossess the red man's language.

Internal Telephony.

"Why didn't you listen for that small voice within called conscience?" "I did," replied the discovered and therefore repentant grafter; "but I guess the line was busy."



VALUE OF TOTAL ABSTINENCE

Interesting and Able Address Delivered by Sir Alexander Russell Simpson, M. D., D. Sc.

An interesting and able address on the value of total abstinence was recently delivered by Sir Alexander Russell Simpson, M. D., D. Sc., dean of the faculty of medicine, Edinburgh university, before an immense assemblage gathered for the Scottish national Sunday school convention, held in the great Scottish center. Speaking from the standpoint of morality and science, Sir Alexander said in part:

"About a quarter of a century ago some friends in Kingston, Ont., took me on an excursion on the St. Lawrence river. The speaker of the Canadian parliament, who was of the company, made me take notice, as we sailed out from the town, that the first imposing building we were passing was a distillery. Near by was an infirmary, then a lunatic asylum, then a prison, and after these a cemetery.

"I take it for granted that every teacher before me has so far considered the relation of the use of alcoholic liquors to disease, derangement, degradation, and death, as to have seen the advisability of becoming a personal abstainer. Supreme among the dangers that beset all our lives is the danger inherent in the common use of alcohol. Whatever be the form in which it is taken—wine, beer, spirits, or what else—it is a more common cause of loss of health, of loss of reason, of loss of character, of loss of life, than any other of the influences that tell upon our complex mechanism. An intoxicated man is simply a man that is in the clutch of a poison.

"This leads me more immediately in the direction in which I suppose you expect me, as a member of the medical profession, to offer some suggestions as to what instruction it might be desirable to impart to our young charges if much of the result of all your labor is not to be blotted out of their lives in later years through ignorance of the influence of alcohol on the body and even more on the mind of the man.

"To begin with, young people should be taught that wine is not a necessity of life. It is no more necessary for man than for any of the creatures around him. There are tribes and communities who live and thrive without it. The want of it is never felt by one who has not begun to use it. No household that excludes it from its dietary suffers in anything from its absence. The child reared in abstinence has missed nothing that could have helped its growth and development, or, I will add, its happiness.

"We deny it a place among the necessities of life. But there is no denying it a place among life's luxuries. We must be quite honest with ourselves and with the young, and recognize that those who habitually or occasionally drink wine do so because of some gratification it affords. But it is a costly luxury. The temporary gratification it yields puts a tax upon the life. It is the most dangerous luxury in which a human being can indulge, because of the risk to life and health attendant upon its use, apart altogether from its contramoral and antispiritual influences.

"In a graduation address 18 years ago, I took occasion to congratulate the young doctors who during their student curriculum had had the wisdom and the courage to be members of the Total Abstinence society, and to say to all the graduates: 'You will not be long in practice before you will prove these five things:

"1. That alcohol, habitually used, can of itself produce disease from which the abstainer remains exempt.

"2. That it will aggravate diseases to which all are liable.

"3. That it renders those who habitually use it more open to attacks of various forms of illness.

"4. That the alcoholic has a worse chance of recovery from a fever or an injury than an abstainer.

"5. That in the crisis of disease the alcoholic gets less benefit from stimulants than the abstainer."

"It may occur to some one to ask, 'But what of the people who take their daily glass of wine and live to old age? Well, with the splendid equipment of blood and blood vessels with which they were endowed by nature, how much longer might they not have lived on had the deteriorating element been kept out of their system? They are likeliest to come near the natural limit of longevity who all their lifetime keep their blood and tissues clear of the effect of alcohol.

"It is sometimes claimed for wine as a virtue that it stimulates the appetite. Here again experiment and observation show that if it irritates the stomach to secrete more fluid, the secretion is of lowered digestive quality. Instead of helping, it hinders digestion. It tempts the drinker to take in what his stomach cannot properly digest."

Pertinent Questions.

What fools the citizen by talk of revenue? The saloon. What makes a man a demon in private? The saloon. What would reduce our taxes and replenish pocket books and banks? The abolishing of the saloon.

SURPRISE FOR THE BARBER

Wielder of Razor Had No Idea How Many Strokes of Implement Were Necessary.

The barber was just about to lean over and ask the customer in a low whisper if he didn't want a facial "massage." But the customer forestalled him by looking up suddenly and asking a question himself.

"How many strokes of the razor are required in shaving the average man—or, rather, how many strokes do you make in shaving me, for instance?"

"O, I don't know," replied the barber. "Never thought of it."

"But you must have some rough idea. You've been in the business a good many years, I take it."

"Yes, about nine years."

"Well, how many strokes do you think it takes?"

"O, mebbe 150—or 175; not more'n that."

"You're wrong," laughed the customer. "Some time ago I fell into the habit of counting the razor strokes when I'm being shaved, just as a means of resting my mind; you can't think about your business when you're counting the short, quick strokes of a razor. So I've got to be something of an authority on the subject. Counting it as a stroke every time the razor is moved forward and drawn back again, it takes between 600 and 700 strokes as a rule—that is on my face it does—my beard's pretty tough. Of course, when I shave myself with a safety razor it doesn't take anything like as many because you can cover more facial territory at a single stroke. I have been shaved in a barber chair with as few as 500 strokes, but as a rule it is nearer 700. Kind of surprises you, doesn't it?"

"It sure does," says the barber.

REMOVED STAIN FROM NAMES

Titles Bestowed in Derision Made Honorable Through Deeds of Distinction.

When in 1566 the count of Barlaamont characterized the league of Flemish nobles arrayed against his Spanish sovereign as "a band of beggars" the league, until then without a name, enthusiastically adopted the one the haughty servant of Spain had given them and called themselves the "League des Gueux." They made the name a badge of honor for all time. In a similar spirit the French and American soldiers in Rhode Island during the war of the Revolution christened themselves the "sansculottes" at a feast they gave where potatoes and similar viands constituted the menu, with the distilled juice of the corn, and any man considered himself disgraced if he appeared with a whole pair of breeches. This name, originating in this country, was transferred to France, where it was applied as a term of reproach by the aristocrats to the revolutionists of 1789. That the revolutionists did not so regard it is indicated by the fact that in the new calendar they adopted, beginning with September 22, 1792, they applied the term "sansculottes" to the five (or six) supplementary days placed at the end of the last month to complete the year, each of the 12 months having 30 days. These examples from history show how names given in dishonor can be redeemed in honor, a reflection in which those who think they are misnamed may find consolation.—Army and Navy Journal.

Helping Out the Gun.

Gadebusch, in the Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, in celebration of the birth of the grand ducal heir decided to fire the regulation salute of 101 guns. An ancient cannon was hauled out for the purpose, and the firing began. Unfortunately the powder ran short after the ninety-third shot and there was no means of obtaining any more in the town. The burgomaster was in despair, especially as 93 shots indicated that the grand ducal baby was a girl. At this moment the municipal bandmaster came forward with a luminous proposal, which was eagerly accepted. He dispatched his big drum major to the market place, where he struck eight powerful strokes on his instruments to make up the 101 shots, and thus the situation was saved.

Winter Home of Deer.

The winter home of the American red deer is very interesting. When the snow begins to fly the leader of the herd guides them to some sheltered spot where provender is plentiful.

Here as the snow falls they pack it down, tramping out a considerable space, while about them the snow mounts higher and higher until they cannot get out if they would. From the main opening, or "yard," as it is called, tramped out paths lead to the nearby trees and shrubbery which supply them with food. In this way they manage to pass the winter in comparative peace and safety.—St. Nicholas.

An Experienced Waiter.

At the first meal on board the ocean liner Smythe was beginning to feel like casting his bread upon the waters. His friends had told him that when he began to feel that way he should stuff himself. He tackled a cutlet first, but it didn't taste right. He observed to the waiter, "Waiter, this cutlet isn't very good." The waiter looked at Smythe's whitening face, then replied: "Yes, sir; but for the length of time you'll 'ave b't, sir, it won't matter sir."—Lippincott's.