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in riotous living last year may soon find a more worthy channel through which to serve its owners and society in general.

An Ancient Religion's Hold.

About twenty-five hundred years ago was founded a great religion which is today the most prevalent of all on the face of the earth. It has held to the dogma of the absolute equality of all men, and all its converts have been made by preaching and never by force. For more than two thousand years its followers exceeded in numbers those of all other religious teachers and leaders combined. The country in which this religion was born is the only one which still has the same religion it had at the beginning of the Christian era.

The founder of this extraordinary enduring and widely spread faith gave it a name that means "Intelligence." He was of royal blood, and until his twenty-ninth year enjoyed the pleasures and indulgences common to the wealthy princes of his time. Then he tired of worldly things, renounced twenty or thirty wives he had collected, and turned his mind to religion. It is related that the sight of a gangrened corpse led to the radical change in his life. At any rate, he then realized the vanity of humanity and acquired a distaste for frivolity. After a thorough course in self-denial he changed his name under the shade of a tree. Under the shade of a tree he conquered his fear of death. Under the shade of a tree he preached his first sermon. Fifty years later he died, knowing he had firmly established his new belief.

Eight days after this remarkable man's death his corpse was cremated and his religion taken in charge by a council of five hundred ecclesiastics. This religion, proclaiming the absolute equality of all men in this life, in a country ruled by caste, also proclaimed celibacy and chastity as the most important of human virtues. It held (and still holds) that there is a supreme power, "but no supreme being," no "self-existent, eternal, personal god." The Past, the Present, and the Future are its only trinity. It admitted nothing of chance, but declared everything not understood the effect of some unknown cause.

Ardha Chiddi was the name of the man who originated this great religious force which has dominated the minds of untold millions. It spread rapidly from India into Ceylon, Tartary, Tibet, China, Japan and Burma. Fifty years ago it was professed by more human beings than any other religion, and probably is yet, if all its sects are included.

At the birth of his religion Chiddi changed his name to Gotama, which means "he who kills the senses," and later to Mouni, meaning "the penitent." The name he gave his religion is Buddhism, and buddha is the Sanscrit word for intelligence. Buddhism succeeded Vedism, another faith long held throughout the far east, and a notable phase in the gradual development of the human intellect. A writer who regarded all religions as episodes said: "In life there is no going back; the morose old man can never resume the genial confidence of maturity; the youth can never return to the idle and useless occupations, the frivolous amusements of boyhood; even the boy is parted by a long step from the innocent credulity of the nursery." And so, he believed these old peoples of Asia can never be brought to the beliefs and intellectual status of our present Christian civilization. "It remains for them," he said, "only to advance as far as they may in their own line, and to die," which is a view abhorrent to Christian missionaries.

In time Buddhism, despite the tenacity of its hold on the Asiatic peoples, will yield to the Christian religion and civilization. It must do so under the law of competition which applies to religions as to all things else. It has failed to advance men in industry, learning, science, invention or happiness. It has not "made good." The Christian nations have outstripped it in everything worth while.

Two Sides of International Marriage. The hazards of international marriages in which American women of wealth join with foreigners are again made conspicuous by the application for divorce of the Duchess of Marlborough, formerly Miss Consuelo Vanderbilt. Even the life of England, nearest our own of all across the seas, is often unhappy for transplanted American girls. Luxury and wealth do not, cannot, take the place of our wholesome domestic life.

On the other hand, who can doubt the triumphant love that will reign in the homes of the 5,000 doughboys who have brought to America wives born and bred in England, France, Italy, Switzerland, Holland, Spain and half a dozen other foreign countries?

Why? Because the young and poor American who must work his way through life makes the best and truest husband on earth.

The Singing of Lloyd George. Lloyd George, instead of taking a walk or playing golf for exercise, sings. His voice, when he lifts it in song, is not regarded as melodious by trained vocalists, which is passing strange for one of his nationality, and remarkable when one contemplates its effects on the House of Commons in forensic efforts.

The British premier is said to hold that singing does everything for the blood that dumb bells or other forms of exercise do, so he sits and sings hymns—not from religious feeling, but because he is unfamiliar with opera. It would be interesting to know what kind of sacred music he lets his voice loose on when he thinks of Mr. Wilson during his exercise periods. Is it devotional, penitential, militant, or triumphant? Make your own guess.

Woman's Triumph Near at Hand. Ratification of the suffrage amendment is likely within the next ten days. Extra sessions of the legislatures of Delaware and Washington, where the votes to put the amendment over are awaiting formal record, are called for March 22. With those states on the roll a struggle of seventy years will be ended—one to be compared in length and vicissitudes only with those against slavery and traffic in liquor.

What the sociological results of this new departure will be only time can reveal. The woman in politics looms large. What her influence is expected to be may best be judged by the character of the opposition which has delayed her entrance into full political rights.

Reaping the Whirlwind. Germany is now in a condition that may bring to her full realization of the sins of hypocrisy, impiety and idolatry she practiced during the years in which she prepared to destroy her neighbors. In the name of the false

German Gott she bowed before and worshipped war. Now the familiar text is applicable to her: For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind; it hath no stalk; the bud shall yield no meal; if so be it yield, the strangers shall swallow it up.

The whirlwind takes the form of violent disturbances now, of dismaying portents of civil war. It will assume other shapes later. And ever, amid all the German agitations, physical and mental, the burden of indemnity incurred by the people of the Fatherland in their wicked waste and destruction of French property along with their own prosperity, must recur to them the truth that if their whirlwind should yield meal "strangers shall swallow it up."

Purchase of the Gas Plant.

As the city commission has decided to proceed with the purchase of the property of the Omaha Gas company, a controversy of long standing is coming to an end and the goal of "dollar gas" seems that much nearer. It would be supererogatory, indeed, to here review the history of the purchase, but it may be remarked that the time dates back to the signing of the compromise ordinance in 1893, when the franchise was extended for twenty-five years and a sliding scale of prices fixed. At no time did the people ever look forward to anything but the ultimate possession of their own plant for the production and distribution of gas. Municipal ownership long ago took a deep root in Omaha, as was manifest in the acquisition of the water plant, and now further shown in the purchase of the gas plant.

The future of the enterprise may not easily be forecasted. Naturally, the public expectation will turn to a reduction in the cost of gas and some improvement in the service. One of the greatest victories ever won for the people by The Bee had to do with forcing the compromise in 1893; another when it secured the adoption of a "B. T. U." standard for the quality of the gas served, and in the final movement it believes it assisted some in bringing about the purchase by its consistent, temperate advocacy of that course. Whether all that is hoped for will be immediately realized may not be said. Certain problems of manufacture and distribution must be worked out, some administrative details adjusted, before definite announcement can be made on this point.

Members of the Water board, which body will have management also of the gas plant, aided materially in bringing about the result. Their decision in favor of the award undoubtedly carried weight with the commissioners and made the purchase possible. Experience in management of municipal activities determined the outcome.

The big thing is that within a very little while the people of Omaha will be buying gas from themselves, and what they pay for the service will go into the public coffers. The service that has been rendered them for these many years by the Omaha Gas company should not be forgotten in the joy of purchase. It performed a great function in the communal life of Omaha, and it is a matter on which both sides may be congratulated that the end was reached with so little friction and so much of agreement.

"Such Stuff as Dreams Are Made Of."

Sympathy has always gone out to the subnormal child, the one congenitally deprived of a sense, and particularly has this tenderness included those without sight or hearing. Not to be able to enjoy all the beauties of nature, to have a full part in the many joys that surround the child, to know and feel the pleasures of the normal involves a tragedy the depth of which may never be sounded. Those who do possess all their faculties scarcely can imagine, let alone estimate, what it is to be without one, so it is not likely they ever fully appreciate the extent to which the victim feels the deprivation.

A British psychologist of note has given the subject considerable study, and the result of his investigations serves only to heighten the sense of tragedy. He finds that the blind or deaf child in its dreams turns to possession of the missing sense—pitiful evidence of their desire to be normal. Analysis of the sensations experienced by these afflicted in their subconscious moments indicates highly imaginative rather than accurate impressions of what might be known, could the dreamer see or hear. The child blind from birth is less prone to dreaming than the one who is deaf, and their relations do not justify the conclusion that they actually see when dreaming. Deaf children are more given to imagining conversations, and record some lengthy dialogues or monologues, usually involving something of which knowledge may be had during waking hours.

The doctor merely records the phenomena he has observed or inquired concerning, without setting down any conclusions. If the scientific mind does not react to the facts presented, the layman will hardly be likely to formulate any opinion of value. But the fact itself illustrates the poignancy of suffering borne by the subnormal child in its association with the normal, and this may explain some of the freaks of demeanor which have been ascribed to other causes. It should arouse in the healthy a more inclusive sense of obligation to the defectives, much of whose delights consists in "such stuff as dreams are made of."

The Maryland, a new dreadnaught for the American navy and reputed to be the most powerful battleship in the world, has just been launched. This is an effectual guaranty of our pacific purpose.

A prohibition agent is appealing to members of the Mississippi legislature to tell him where they get it. You can guess the answer.

The Treaty of Versailles is to be consigned to "a grave in the government archives." Americans will add "R. I. P."

Omaha tennis players are coming to life again, if you think there is nothing in the resurrection theory.

The weather bureau promises a week of fair and normal weather. It is nearly time.

If we must have a coal strike, it will be more welcome in April than in November.

Herr Ebert started something when he called a general strike to resist Herr Kapp.

"Old Doc" Bryan makes his position plain.

How to Keep Well

By Dr. W. A. EVANS

Dr. Evans will answer personal inquiries from readers of The Bee, provided a stamped envelope is enclosed with the question. He will not diagnose individual ailments or prescribe for them, but will give careful attention to all questions subject to these limitations. Address Dr. W. A. Evans, The Bee, Omaha, Neb. (Copyright, 1919, by Dr. W. A. Evans.)

WHEN EPIDEMICS REST.

In the sixteenth century a very peculiar disease swept over England and Wales. It was known as the sweating sickness, and killed many thousands, taking its place in history as one of the most fearful of all the aftermaths of war.