

Grit.

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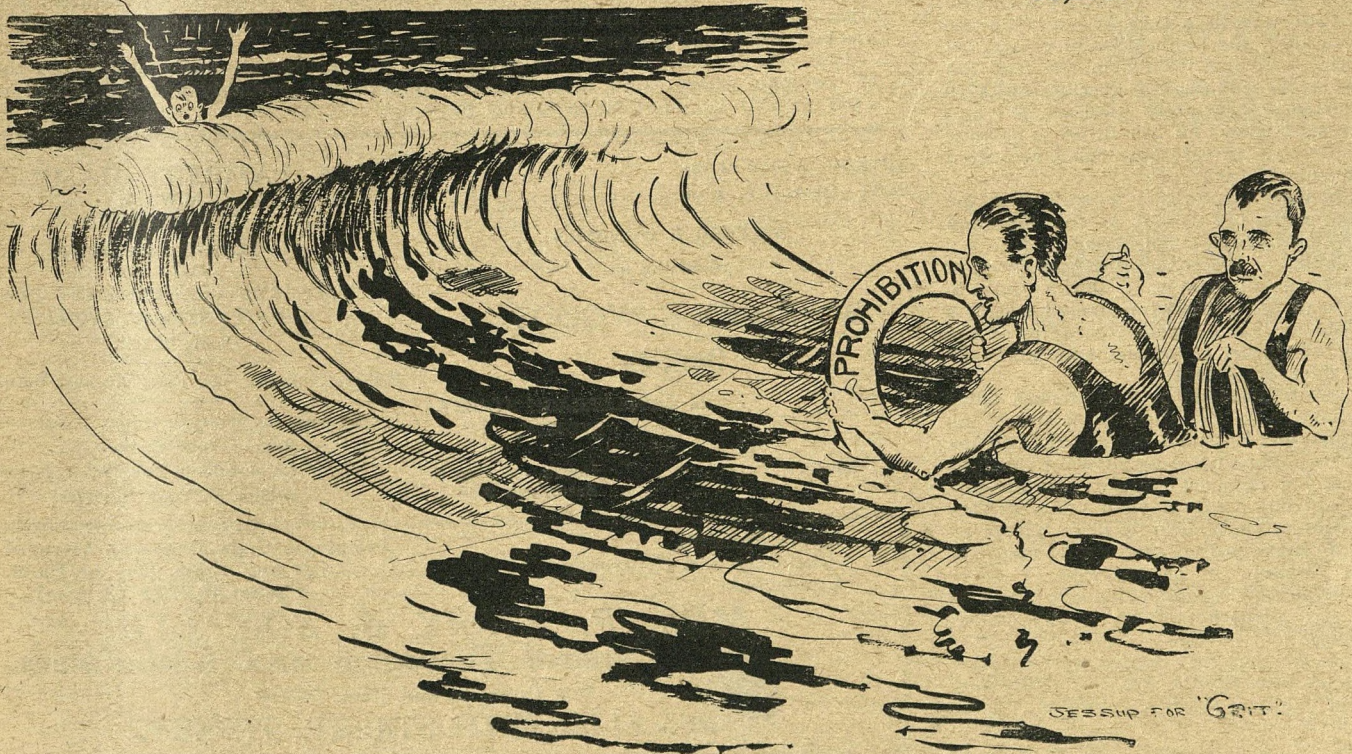
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ALCOHOL IN MEDICAL PRACTICE.

REVIEW IN THE "MEDICAL JOURNAL" OF AUSTRALIA.

Dr. Weekes has written a book in order to emphasise the opinion that the belief in the stimulating properties of alcohol on the heart, respiration and on the vital activities in general is largely based on a delusion.* He further contends that the medical profession is recognising the futility of employing alcohol as a stimulant and that therefore its use in private and hospital medical practice is gradually diminishing.

He quotes a number of authorities in support of his views. Alcohol instead of being a stimulant is said to be essentially a narcotic of a mild kind and its action on the nervous system depends on its power of deadening the higher centres. The value of alcohol as a food and as a therapeutic agent in circulatory diseases, pneumonia, gastric disorders, diabetes and so forth is considered. The author arrives at an unfavorable estimate.

As to its use in infective diseases and other conditions as a temporary measure, attention is drawn to the triple action of alcohol. There is the depression of cardiac power which follows initial action; repeatedly administered, it induces myocardial degeneration; it impairs resistance to infection.

Dr. Weekes has collected a large amount of information from the authorities of medical institutions both within and outside the Empire to show the diminution in the therapeutic use of alcohol. Thus in the Rudolph Virchow Krankenhaus in Berlin in 1900 139,618 litres of beer were used as diet and 5953 litres of wine and 280 litres of cognac therapeutically. In 1923 no alcohol was used in the hospital.

In Japanese hospitals it is said that the only use made of alcohol is for injection in cases of trigeminal neuralgia.

A summary of the consumption of twenty-one Australasian hospitals shows that in 1900 the cost per patient for alcohol was 11.9 pence, and in 1923 6.3 pence, in spite of the fact that the price of alcohol had increased to a considerable extent.

The figures obtained by Dr. Weekes point to a considerable variation in hospitals as to the amount of alcohol consumed. He regards these divergencies as showing that the use of alcohol is based more or less on empirical personal grounds than on a deliberate consideration of definite scientific principles. He believes that in the vast majority of cases alcohol can be replaced by other more reliable drugs, which are not likely to lead to the formation of habit and consequent abuse.

In view of the very many authoritative opinions as to alcohol being a narcotic and depressant rather than a stimulant, there can be little reason for its routine use as a stimulant by medical men. When used in emergencies careful consideration should always be given by the practitioner to the possibility of the acquirement of a habit by the patient.

There is one point which should be borne in mind in medical practice. There is considerable evidence to prove that the sudden deprivation of alcohol in one accustomed to its immoderate use may precipitate an attack of delirium tremens as in a case of pneumonia or severe trauma. The gradual diminution of alcohol to such a patient is therefore desirable.

* "Alcohol in Medical Practice, with a Chapter on the Evolution of Medical Opinion," by Courtenay C. Weekes, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.; 1925. London: H. K. Lewis and Company, Limited. Crown 8vo., pp. 196. Price: 3/6 net.

DEFYING "DRY" CANBERRA.

U.L.V.A. PARTY AT THE FEDERAL CAPITAL.

The following statement is taken from the "Wine and Brewers' Journal":

The newly-elected Federal President of the United Licensed Victuallers' Association, Mr. J. P. Flannagan, in company with Alderman N. H. Connolly, Mr. Wally Weekes, Mr. J. D. Durham and ladies, toured the Federal Capital Area and did the sites very thoroughly a few weeks ago.

The party arrived shortly after the British Parliamentary Delegation, and were quite convinced by evidences to be seen on every hand that Canberra is anything but dry. The absurd regulations appear to have precisely the same effect as Prohibition in America. Saturday is reserved by a large number of residents for a visit to Queanbeyan for the purpose of "stocking up" for the week-end and the following week.

A palatial bar is being installed at Federal Parliament House, no doubt in readiness for the inevitable end of the dry regime.

An interesting and historic snapshot was taken of Mr. Flannagan seated in the Speaker's chair in the Legislative Chamber.

Mr. J. D. Durham, New South Wales Secretary U.L.V.A., couldn't resist the temptation to take the Presidents enjoying a whisky and soda in the "dry" area of Canberra. MR. CONNOLLY AIDED AND ABETTED THE BREACH OF THE LAW BY BRINGING THE WHISKY:

(The photo was reproduced of the three Presidents, with glasses in their hands, indulging in whisky and soda. Underneath are the words: "Three of a kind at Canberra." Mr. P. J. Flannagan, Federal President, U.L.V.A.; Mr. J. T. Donnison, J.P., ex-Federal and ex-State President, U.L.V.A.; and Alderman N. H. Connolly, New South Wales State President, U.L.V.A.)

When winemen and their friends visited the oldest church in Australia—St. Matthew's, in Windsor, on the Hawkesbury—while on a motor trip during "wine week," Mr. C. S. Panton, General Secretary of the Federal Viticultural Council, pointed out to them an ancient tombstone—some of the graves date back to 1792—which bears a curious epitaph.

In quaint writing and spelling the usual details regarding the deceased man are set forth. Then follows the information that he was a good citizen, excellent husband and a kind father "until the cursed drink distressed his mind." Mr. Panton, somewhat cynically, pointed out that this was apparently a remarkable instance of a wife having the last word, and having it recorded in stone.

Mr. H. E. Laffer took the opportunity to photograph the group round the tomb of the man whose mind was at times "distressed," probably by rum, which was the most popular tipple of those far-off days.

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WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN?

THE SOMETHING ADDED.

By ROBERT B. S. HAMMOND.

A man in the hospital minus a limb, sick and in pain, is in fact a man, but not one you would envy. He may have special knowledge and large financial resources, but he is using neither—while in fact he is a man, in experience he is useless, unhappy and to be pitied.

A repentant sinner who has confessed his sins and put his trust in the Lord is in fact a Christian, but in experience he may be like the man in the hospital.

My being a Christian in fact depends on what Christ has done for me, my being a Christian in happy experience depends on what I do for Him.

Paul and Barnabas were undoubtedly Christians, unusual Christians, and yet in Acts, chapter fourteen, Paul asserts, "We are men of like passions with yourselves."

What then had their religion done for them? It had added something. It always does.

They were sinners like other men, but they were pardoned sinners. Here was a difference, all the difference in the world; there was the added pardon.

They had not deserved it—none do. They had not earned it—none can.—They had not bought it, for it is not to be purchased.

Pardon is of the grace of Him whose property is always to have mercy. They were men like all other men, but there was this difference: they were friends of the Wonder Man of all the ages, He of whom it alone can be said that "He is the friend that sticketh closer than a brother."

They were men like all other men, struggling, contending with problems, fighting against enemies both within and without, but with this difference: they had a "hope that never disappoints," an assurance of victory, a certainty of a triumphant finish.

A Christian is not exempt from any of life's experiences. He has not fewer, but rather increased temptations. A dead fish goes with the stream and knows no opposition. A live fish battles with the current and runs the gauntlet of the fisherman. A Christian is truly a live fish, but he has a Saviour.

He knows sorrow, disappointment, treachery, weariness and every attack on human frailty, but he has a Friend who "never leaves him nor forsakes him."

He knows darkness, danger, uncharted journeys, but the star of hope is never dimmed, the victory is never in doubt.

PRIVILEGE.

A Christian is a child in a family. There will be members of the family both younger and older, varying in every experience of grace, and while the outstanding mark of being in the family is "privilege," the outstanding obligation is to fit into your place in the family.

We grow impatient, resentful and hopeless about beggars, but the child has ceased to be a beggar and cannot come too frequently or lean too heavily on the love that yearns over it.

"His father ran to meet him." Thus was the prodigal welcomed home.

"All that is mine is thine." Thus was the disgruntled elder brother provided for.

The beggar is dealt with on the basis of justice, tempered with mercy, but the child is provided for of love. Love is ready to forgive, love delights to give, love is privileged to sacrifice.

A Christian has been born into the family of love and is surrounded by a wealth of privilege which, however, can only be enjoyed as we respond to our obligations to the other members of the family.

DUTY.

A Christian has taken the oath of allegiance to the King of Kings. He is now called upon to "fight the good fight of faith," to "endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ."

He has much to learn of discipline, much to face of danger, much to acquire of skill, and the keynote of this experience is duty. Obedience to the Great Commander is by no means simple or easy, but it is imperative.

St. Paul impresses upon Timothy that "no man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."

It is so easy to become involved in the attractive, promising, seductive "affairs of this life," but the soldier has other ambitions than acquiring a competence and filling a home with luxury. There is in duty, when you embrace it, a hardness like the stone in a luscious peach. This hardness, like the peach stone, contains the seed of wonderful things.

DEPENDENT.

A Christian is a member of the Body of Christ. Every member differs from another member, but always is each dependent on the other. The eye is beholden to the hands, the hands wait on the feet and the less favored parts frequently assert themselves as being essential to the health, happiness and usefulness of the body.

The keynote in this Christian experience is dependence.

St. Paul, who frequently uses the simile of the body, says: "He it is who gave to the Church apostles, prophets, missionaries, pastors and teachers to fit his people for the work of the ministry, for the building up of the Body of Christ. And this shall continue until we all attain to that unity which is given by faith and by a fuller knowledge of the Son of God; until we reach the ideal man—the full standard of the perfection of Christ. Then we shall no longer be like in faults, tossed backward and forward, blown about by every breath of human teaching, through the trickery and craftiness of men, towards the snares of error; but holding the truth in a spirit of love we shall grow into complete union with Him who is our Head—Christ Himself. For from Him the whole body, closely joined and knit together by the contact of every part with the source of its life derives its power to grow in proportion to the vigour of each individual part, and so is being built up in a spirit of love."

MAKE YOU PERFECT.

The mountain gives little promise to the sculptor, but deep within its embrace is the glorious marble. With slow toil, with high explosive a vast piece of stone is torn from it.

Laboriously it is transported. Cumber-some, ugly, rough and shapeless it comes to the hand of the sculptor.

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patient accuracy. Scattered on every side are fragments and waste, but these are forgotten as a figure takes shape beneath the master hand.

Other tools are now necessary, and even slower becomes the progress. There is no place for hurry.

At last, beneath the draping of the flag, the great work lies hidden.

The crowd gathers, the spirit of expectancy mounts high, a hand removes the flag and all are held in silent wonder as the beauty of the masterpiece is revealed—a thing of beauty and a joy for ever.

So is the Christian in experience, separated from the world, transported in the Church—God's workshop—worked upon by the many circumstances of life, lovingly chiselled with pain, patiently smoothed by sorrow, lovingly polished with mercies, until finally the veil which is our flesh is taken away and we stand revealed as His workmanship and fitted for a place in the Eternal Home.

PROHIBITION WITHOUT COMPENSATION.

To be decided by Referendum, with bare majority, in State and Local Areas, and to operate within two years.

OUR POLITICAL DUTY.

By CRAWFORD VAUGHAN.

Excepting in unusual circumstances only once in three years are Prohibitionists given the opportunity of expressing politically the faith that is in them. To neglect to use that opportunity is to betray the cause which we profess to have so dear at heart. Those who put their allegiance to party before their allegiance to principle are accepting the kingdoms of the earth only to lose something far more precious—faith in their own ideals.

Admittedly it is difficult to cast party aside for the sake even of a great measure of practical Christianity like Prohibition. If it were not difficult there would be little virtue in following the gleam. In the days of slavery emancipation men had to forget their parties and remember only the unhappy slaves. To leave men and women in bondage to liquor in order that we may support our own party colored ticket in the polling booth is surely inconceivable in anyone professing Christian sentiments. Where party and principle blend as they do in many electorates Prohibitionists are in a happy position.

For once at least determine that the policy of Prohibition shall have first claim upon your activities and your vote in the coming contest. We demand only the democratic right of the electors (1) to vote on Prohibition without Compensation, and (2) to determine by simple majority whether No-License shall apply or be repealed in any electorate. Your candidate need not be a Prohibitionist—although he will be all the better if he be so. All we ask is that he will trust the electors to determine their own licensing future. No Labor candidate can consistently oppose this application of the principle of the Referendum, and no Nationalist or Country Party candidate can consistently say to the electors to whom he is appealing for votes that he will not give in return a vote to the people on Prohibition without Compensation in accordance with his Party's published platform.

Our first work lies in developing the organisation of the Prohibition forces by the formation of local committees. Will you help form a committee in your town or centre? Send in your name to this office without delay with a list of supporters. Time is golden at the present. Selection of candidates is already taking place in many districts, and in some electorates selection by the dominant party is tantamount to election. You can busy yourself in the local committee of your party and push the claims of those who stand for the rights of the people to govern themselves instead of being governed by the liquor interests.

Confidence in our strength in the electorates can be gathered from the last vote on Local Option given in 1913. On that occasion 245,215 votes were cast for No-License, or 36 per cent. of the total poll. The following nine electorates cast a majority for No-License: Ashfield, Burwood, Dulwich Hill, Gloucester, Gordon, Goulburn, Petersham, Ryde and St. George. Mosman carried Reduction, and in 21 other electorates over 40 per cent. of votes were cast for No-License, while in 35 others over 30 per cent. of the electors voted for the abolition of the liquor bars.

The poll was a small one, voting not being compulsory, but it is sufficiently good to lead us to work to convert the substantial minority votes of 1913 into majority votes in the Prohibition poll of 1928. We first require, however, to clear the way for the 1928

THE "DRY" TRAIL.

NORTH AND SOUTH IT LEADS.

Moree is regarded as one of the richest centres of the State. The statement is given without proof. In one respect the town is, however, unique in its possessions. The Bore Baths are likely to make Moree famous. They are a wonderful asset, not appreciated as fully as they ought to be.

From some wonderful supply stored away in the earth comes this flow of water, clear as crystal. Tapped many years ago, it has continued to flow with scarcely diminishing volume. It is hot—just sufficiently so to make it pleasant for bathing. In addition, there are in it certain mineral properties which have given relief and even cure to

THE NATIONAL PARTY AND PROHIBITION.

The published platform of the National Party contains the following plank:

1. A Referendum on the question of the continuance or abolition of the liquor trade to be held at intervals of three years, not to be taken on election day, and to be decided by an absolute majority; the question of Compensation to be dealt with on a separate paper asking, "If Prohibition is carried, are you in favor of paying Compensation?" "Yes" or "No."

2. Prohibition to be dealt with as a matter of Federal as well as State politics.

16. The abolition of all wine bars.

In view of the above will you ask Nationalist candidates seeking selection in your electorate whether they will vote in accordance with their own platform?

pain-racked bodies. They have come from many places and parts of the world to test the qualities of this water and benefited.

There are many bores throughout the North-West from which come a supply of artesian water that has been a tremendous boon to the district. The Narrabri area is even more specially favored. There it is a sub-artesian supply, which can be tapped even at about 20 feet down, and every house may have its own windmill or hand pump. That in an otherwise dry region there is this abundant supply of water beneath the earth is one of the wonders of the district, as well as one of its great assets.

The opportunity of travelling through this district permits one to see many resources and possibilities, but chiefly of meeting with

poll by eliminating the preposterous Compensation provisions which are made obligatory to the carrying of the Referendum. Parliament alone can remedy this grave defect in the legislation. It is therefore essential that we should secure the return in March next of a majority of members pledged to give us our fundamental rights to govern ourselves in the matter of liquor control.

This page is devoted to the activities of the N.S.W. Prohibition Alliance—Edited by Henry Macourt, Publicity Officer.

people who are doing much for development and progress. Grit and gumption, and plenty of optimism are needed, for there are many discouragements.

On our trip every public school which could be reached was visited. The permission to speak to the children was readily given. Indeed one could not but mark the great courtesy of the teachers. In the twelve days we were in 18 schools giving addresses to children in various classes. There were many indications that temperance teaching was being carefully given in the ordinary routine of the schools, and references were made in several instances to Dr. Harvey Sutton's valuable articles in "The School Magazine." The children were quick to grasp any new point or to give out the knowledge already gained. There should be commendation for the Education Department for many-sided curriculum, and particularly for the teachers who are able to carry it out.

From Mungindi to Albury is a far cry. At the same time as the Prohibition campaign was being pushed to the northernmost parts of the State, Rev. H. Putland and Mr. A. G. Saunders were lecturing and preaching in the area between Wagga and Albury and Corowa. Mr. Putland had a valuable week-end at Wagga, the best part of which was an open-air meeting, splendidly organised by our old friend, Mr. H. C. Stitt. A big crowd and a good message combined to make it abundantly worth while. Sunday services were fine, and on the Monday evening Mr. Putland conferred with local friends concerning the general situation, particularly in relation to the coming election. Another conference is being arranged for a later date.

Visits were made also to The Rock, Dounside, Henty, Holbrook, Culcairn and Brocklesley. We appreciate greatly the valuable co-operation of local friends, whose interest makes these tours as valuable as they are. A plea for a more general sense of responsibility is put forth. This is absolutely necessary to secure an effective and widespread campaign. How valuable it can prove was clearly shown in the tour of the North-West, where the lecturer was made to feel he was not only a comrade in a great social enterprise, but as having come to assist the local friends in their work. Every avenue of service there was opened, and every encouragement given. Such friendship and co-operation gives threefold value to the work of the Prohibition Alliance.

BOOTS OR BEER?

It requires four times as many men to manufacture boots as beer. Last year the brewers gave employment to 1122 men, and the boot manufacturers, with the same output, employed 4800. (See N.S.W. Year Book.) If the 12 millions a year were spent in boots instead of beer, there would be much less unemployed.

Have you ever noticed the huge profits made by the liquor exploiters, and how poor it keeps the people who supply these enormous profits? It's rank hypocrisy for the immensely wealthy brewer to appear so concerned about the WORKER. What they ARE really concerned about is DIVIDENDS.

The liquor exploiters think they can fool all the people all the time. Don't let them fool you.

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Our Weapons: Education and Legislative Action.

This Page is devoted to the activities of the Prohibition Alliance—Edited by Henry Macourt, Publicity Officer.

THE STATE ELECTIONS

VOTE PROHIBITION BEFORE PARTY

PROHIBITION—STARTLING CONDITIONS.

The following letter was sent to "S.M. Herald" on 29/11/26:

The Editor, "Sydney Morning Herald."

Sir,—The interesting statement of the American Moderate League, concerning the effects of Prohibition which you published on Saturday, would be "startling" if it had not already been answered by so high an authority as Professor Irving Fisher, of Yale. Professor Fisher, who occupies the Yale Chair of Economics, and was also Chairman of the Committee on Alcohol during the war, under the National Council of Defence, has met the Moderate League on their own ground, and in his work, "Prohibition at its Worst," which is just to hand, it so happens that he answers almost categorically the assertions which evidently so impressed Sir Percival Phillips, the special correspondent of the "Daily Mail." As you have very properly revealed one side of the shield, may I briefly reveal what is on the other side? Moderate League's assertion: "Drunkness has already increased to the pre-Prohibition level." Fisher's facts: "No data is furnished to justify this assertion. New York, one of America's wettest cities, shows convictions for drunkenness as follows: 1916, 16,355 and 1925, 6816, despite an increase in the population from 5,312,000 in 1916 to 6,352,000 in 1925."

Assertion: "There are more drunken children and drunken motor-car drivers than ever before." Fisher's facts: The records of Children's Courts in New York show 8722 children arraigned at the Children's Courts in 1914 and 2492 in 1924, or 103 per 10,000 juveniles in 1914 against 27 in 1924. Professor Fisher admits that 1000 more drivers were convicted of drunkenness in 1924 than in 1914, but the Moderate League make no allowance for increase in population, for the enormous increase in number of cars used, especially by amateurs for the stricter enforcement of the law, nor for the greater toxicity of bootleg liquor.

Assertion: "The 'next generation' will drink more than the present." Fisher's answer: "The Finger Prints Bureau Magistrates' Court, New York, show a steady and pronounced decrease of first offenders (for drunkenness) from 24 per 10,000 in 1914 to 6 per 10,000 in 1924." Despite the increased population in the years named the actual number of first offenders fell from 10,216 to 3517, second offenders from 2290 to 1138, and third offenders from 1139 to 530.

Assertion: "The report is based on records of police departments with regard to drunkenness, which in 384 instances extend back 13 years." Fisher's facts: The Moder-

ate League's statement regarding 350 cities "includes statistics for about 50 cities which have not been authorised, and in some cases have been definitely repudiated by the local police authorities." Mayor Dever of Chicago, who is not a dry, before the Senate Committee, referring specifically to the Moderate League's figures of arrests for drunkenness in Chicago, said (1p. 1380): "How worthless such figures are. There are no such records as arrests for drunkenness in Chicago, and disorderly conduct is a dragnet for almost everything. . . . We have no records of drunkenness at all!" Professor Fisher then shows that 86,000 arrests for disorderly conduct, although tagged as such by the Moderate League, "are entered as drunkenness arrests in the League's aggregate total on which the chart for the 350 cities is based."

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Assertion: "The alarming increase in drunkenness among minors is corroborated by police officials and public welfare organisations." Answer: "The 'Literary Digest' of New York, which every journalist will recognise as being thoroughly impartial, secured testimony from 213 college heads representing 44 States, and drew the following conclusion: "There are actually fewer drinkers in the colleges now than in the days when there were only one-third of the present number of students." The allegation concerning the prevalence of pocket flasks amongst university students is overwhelmingly refuted by the leaders of universities, as revealed in the answers to the "Literary Digest" Questionnaire.

Assertion: "There has been an increase in

drunkenness in former dry States." Fisher's facts: Professor Fisher furnished charts to refute this, and says: "What is not debatable is (1) that there has been a very substantial reduction in arrests for drunkenness, and (2) a still greater reduction in drinking." As Professor Fisher says: "Arrests for drunkenness are all against Prohibition years, because of the stricter enforcement of the law against drunkenness, the greater toxicity of bootleg liquor, and the great increase in population, for which no allowance is made by the Moderate League."

Assertion: "No country has ever witnessed such an immoral disrespect for any legislature as is shown by the majority of American citizens for the Volstead Act." Fisher's facts: "It seems safe to conclude that the total consumption (of alcohol in beverage form) to-day is certainly less than 16 per cent. of pre-Prohibition consumption, probably less than 10 per cent., and possibly less than 5 per cent." I might add that drunkenness is an offence whether in a licensed or a Prohibition country, and in N.S.W., out of a population of 2,000,000 there were 29,000 convictions for drunkenness last year; whereas in New York City, out of a population of 6,000,000, there were only 6816 convictions under far more drastic conditions of arrest.—I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

CRAWFORD VAUGHAN.

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GREAT BRITAIN.

OPIUM MONOPOLIST.

By J.W.T., for "Grit."

Great Britain is the world's largest opium manufacturer and derives revenue from the sale of the drug in the following colonies and mandated territory; India, the Straits Settlements, the Federated Malay States, the Unfederated Malay States, British North Borneo, Sarawak, Brunei, Ceylon, Mauritius, Hongkong, and Iraq.

In India the manufacture and sale of opium is a Government monopoly. It is necessary for a grower to have a license to cultivate the poppy, and when the crop is ripe for bleeding a Government official collects the crude opium and takes it to the Government factory, where it is manufactured into the commercial drug. The Opium Department controls the export of the drug, as well as the amount consumed in India. There are 6394 licensed shops where opium may be freely purchased, according to the limits defined by the law. Now the law is very elastic; it says that a person may have in his possession an amount varying from 360 to 540 grains. But if he can get rid of that amount in an hour he is at liberty to purchase the same quantity again! Some years ago the Indian Government decided to reduce the consumption of opium in India by increasing the price of the drug! The officials responsible for this move were fully aware that the unfortunate natives addicted to the poppy would be forced to pay the price. The result was not a lessening of the consumption of opium, but an increase in the revenue of over 66 per cent.

In 1922 Indian finances were in such a precarious condition that a special committee was appointed to investigate. Lord Inchcape headed the investigators. After thoroughly overhauling the affairs of the Opium Department they came to this conclusion:

"Having viewed the expenditure under the opium head, we recommend the possibility of reducing the price paid to cultivators of opium be carefully watched, with a view to reduction. We are informed that there will be a reduction of about Rs. 20 laths in expenditure for 1923-24, and in view of the importance of safeguarding this important source of revenue we recommend no further reduction." There is no question about the morality of such advice. It means that the drug traffic directly contributes an enormous amount of revenue to India, and British statesmen approve and foster the nefarious business. The following figures give some idea of India's drink and drug problem. The table represents excise revenue paid on alcoholic liquors, opium and drugs prepared from hemp and the coca plant (from which cocaine is produced):

1917-18	£10,162,000
1918-19	11,558,000
1919-20	12,840,000
1920-21	20,436,000
1921-22	20,334,000

The number of shops for the sale of intoxicating drugs in India for 1919-20 was 17,190 (inclusive of 6394 opium shops). The coca plant, which is indigenous to South America, has been introduced to India for the purpose of producing cocaine. Surely the responsible men in charge of Indian affairs can see the drift of this grab-all-we-can-now policy in finance. While it shows an actual profit in hard cash, indirectly it is costing the nation many millions, and will continue to do so.

In 1912 The Hague Convention dealt with the opium question in an agreement, the provisions of which placed the onus on Great Britain (among other nations) to stamp out the habit. The League of Nations

Opium Committee has attempted the same thing, but while Great Britain—as the senior partner in the opium business—supports a lot of pious resolutions she also makes haste to prepare a bucket of "eyewash" with which to "satisfy" investigators.

In the Straits Settlements (which includes Singapore) the manufacture and sale of opium is a Government monopoly. The revenue derived is as follows (in dollars):

	Dollars.
1918	15,706,741
1919	17,511,229
1920	19,983,054
1921	15,236,538

British North Borneo is administered by a trading company of that name under Royal Charter granted in 1882. The company draws revenue from these three sources—amongst others—**opium, gambling dens and pawnshops.** The Chinese population gamble in licensed houses, and when they lose their money they go to the pawnshops to pledge their belongings to continue gambling. The total revenue for Borneo in 1920 was £425,333. Opium, gambling and pawnbroking produced £193,954.

In the other colonies mentioned at the beginning of this article the same conditions obtain, the latest recruit being Iraq (Mesopotamia). When this territory came under mandated British control there was instituted a Government opium monopoly immediately.

Public opinion must be brought to bear on this question sooner or later, but it is the business of officials concerned to keep the public in ignorance of the conditions as much as possible. The business of Prohibitionists in this country is to form an anti-drug section on their programme and spank the infant drug problem **right now.** It's useless waiting until it grows to maturity and then offering to fight it on its own ground.

There is a grim pharisaical touch in the following incident (quoted by La Motte) when we compare it with Great Britain's opium activities: "The 'Times' of July 20, 1923, contained an account of a man convicted of having opium and opium-smoking implements in his possession, who was given three years in jail. The Recorder, in passing sentence, said that there was no doubt that the practice of taking cocaine and smoking opium was doing much to demoralise society. Feeling that this was so, Parliament this year increased the personal penalty from six months' imprisonment to ten years' penal servitude. Parliament was determined—and he, in his humble way was determined to assist the Legislature—in excising this moral cancer from the social system." If it were not such a terrible problem we would feel inclined to laugh at the good man's ignorance.

BOOKS TO KEEP.

- "The Great To-day and the Greater Future," by Henry Ford.
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ALCOHOL AND THE MOTOR CAR.

By C. W. SALEEBY, M.D., F.Z.S., F.R.S.E.

To devise perfect "tests for drunkenness" will be found impossible: man is too complex, and men are too various, for that problem to be really soluble; but we can do better than supply the police and their doctors with means of testing the sobriety of the driver of a motor car, for instance, after an accident; we can state the scientific facts which teach us how to prevent altogether the accidents, at present innumerable, which are due to alcohol.

Every day, all the world over, more and more men and women are assuming the control of powerful engines upon the public roads, and every day the number of lives and limbs lost in accidents caused thereby rises; nor is the end by any means yet. No one can question that the true and exact relation of alcohol to this new fact of the modern life of man is a matter of the first importance.

Here life and death depend upon two factors—speed of response and accuracy of judgment. How does alcohol affect these vital, mortal matters? We know, and know exactly, unquestionably, in principle and detail; and our knowledge has been tested in many ways and in many countries during several past decades. The students of the nervous system long ago devised means of measuring what is called reaction time. Electric signals are used, and an electrically controlled clock, having a single hand which revolves over the dial in one second, divided into hundredths by the markings upon the dial. When the subject of the experiment is being tested we, for instance, show him an object, and ask him to move a switch with his finger as soon as he sees it. The feat may take about a third of a second—say, thirty or forty hundredths as recorded on the dial, where the hand begins to move when the object is shown and is arrested by the act of response. Knowing the behaviour of nerve fibres, we can prove, by appropriate means, that all but a tiny fraction of this time is taken in the brain. The nerves are merely conductors, and their rate of conduction is extremely fast and extremely constant. It is the behaviour of the nerve cells concerned in sensation and volition that really matters. When discrimination and judgment are introduced into the experiment—as in asking an engine driver to move one switch if he sees a red object, but another if he sees a green—we are no longer studying "simple reaction time," but "com-

plex reaction time," a far more protracted affair, involving new factors, susceptible to many influences.

Recently discussing this subject elsewhere, I wrote the following summary of the findings, upon which I cannot improve:

"Alcohol lengthens the simple reaction time, and far more does it lengthen the reaction time when factors of discrimination or judgment are involved. The classical experiments are those of the world-famous Professor Kraepelin. Towards the end of the nineteenth century he studied the matter. He was, like the overwhelming majority of doctors at that date, a believer in alcohol as a 'stimulant' and 'tonic' and so forth. He found the facts very otherwise! Always the speed and accuracy of response are impaired by alcohol; but the most remarkable fact of all is that the subject of the experiment imagines himself to be doing better than usual. The cold clock, the judgment of which is uninfluenced by 'the mocker,' knows and shows the truth."

The references appended to this article will enable the reader to study this most fascinating and important piece of physiological research for himself at his leisure. The findings, as given above, are here stated with complete certainty; they are not questioned by any competent student or critic of any school anywhere. They mean vastly more in and for our day than when Kraepelin first discovered them in the laboratory a generation ago, when motor cars were unknown.

The good driver must have, above all, quick reaction times, both simple and complex. Keen, accurate, and the speediest possible discrimination and judgment are essential. He must notably judge the speed and distances of moving objects, not merely to win the point or hit the boundary, as in tennis or cricket, but in order to preserve his life and the lives of all persons in his neighborhood. Alcohol in the smallest doses, and from the first, impairs these precious qualities, upon which everything depends. Every day, all the world over, drivers and passengers and pedestrians are killed or mutilated in large numbers as a direct consequence of this physio-toxicological fact. The question, "Was the driver drunk?" is a futile and irrelevant one in such cases. We should remember the remark of Francis Bacon: that the success of any inquiry we put to Nature, in our search for the truth,

depends upon rightly putting our question to her. Here the question is not whether the driver is excited by alcohol, or whether he cannot pronounce test words clearly, or walk along a chalk line. All those are obviously irrelevancies. The question is whether or not the speed and accuracy of his reaction time and judgment were so impaired by the alcohol that the accident occurred. Drunk or not drunk he may have been; but the fatal fact, only too often, as we shall soon be forced to recognise, is that it was the alcohol in his brain that cost the few hundredths of a second delay in applying the brake or in turning his wheel; or that made him feel safe or gloriously bold in driving at a speed which his really sober judgment would have prohibited.

Industrial accidents interest most of us but remotely, and not a few who read of them do not seriously care about the lamentable facts, for they do not touch us; but it has long been well known that alcohol prejudices the lives and limbs of workers amidst moving machinery in a factory, and now the same underlying facts of applied toxicology are being brought home to all of us upon the public roads. Mr. Henry Ford remarked, a few years ago, that mankind must either give up alcohol or modern industry and the motor car. There is no escape from this conclusion.

Many years have passed since, in the United States, the Brotherhood of Railway Engine Drivers banned alcohol altogether—a decision which long preceded, and had nothing to do with, the recent adoption of Prohibition in that country. If you are fortunate enough to make friends with the splendid young men—the elderly ones are still young really—who take you across the Atlantic, you learn that on the voyage they do not drink; and as you lie in your cabin at nights with the fog-horn sounding, the ship going dead slow, close to where the Titanic met her fate, and recall the icebergs you saw the previous day, you are glad to remember that not even the most moderate and seeming harmless doses of alcohol are in the brains upon which your life depends.

The serious men, who know their responsibilities, whether they drive railway trains or motor cars or railway engines or steamships, have made up their minds long ago. The amateur who joins them on the road must join them in the only practice of safety. As I have said elsewhere, the time will come when we shall have to require that people who drive powerful and dangerous engines on the public roads must be without the drug which physiological inquiry has proved to be a nerve intoxicant even in the smallest doses. In this matter the difference between life and death is measured in hundredths of seconds, which the presence of alcohol in the brain consumes; and we, whoever we be, must not take offence at Nature, who has made the facts so.

Meanwhile, petrol grows more expensive and scarcer; and enlightened students look to alcohol, derived from the starch and sugar which the green leaf evolves by means of the sunlight, as a means of power which cannot fail us so long as the sun shines and its vital and synthetic powers are properly used by mankind. Alcohol will be increasingly used as a source of power in our locomotive and other machines, and we shall see the point of the familiar American epigram that the place for alcohol is in the engine, not the engineer.

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A Personal Chat with my readers

CHRISTMAS GIVING.

In years past many of the readers of "Grit" have given me the privilege of conveying their goodwill to the poor and needy with whom I have so much to do. I greatly dislike any parade of poverty, and equally do I wish to discourage those unfortunate people who would exploit Christmas generosity.

I believe a new dress is as joy-giving as a doll, and much more useful and lasting.

I believe to pay a week's rent means more to a harassed mother than a joint on the table.

I believe it preserves the self-respect of the receiver to convey the gift to their home rather than demand they come and seek it. Old-age pensioners, mothers whose man is out of work, widows, deserted wives, casual workers to whom holidays are a calamity, and those injured or sick are the ones to whom I would love to go in your name and do something adequate. So much of our Christmas giving is irritating and tantalising because it is so inadequate or unpractical.

Will you respond promptly so that I may know how to plan to bring a ray of sunshine to those who are in the shadows?

* * *

THE USE OF MONEY.

"The use of money," said Benjamin Franklin, "is all the advantage there is in having money." The money we use is the only money we own; the accumulations to our credit go to someone else.

Our unspent money is deferred happiness, and much of it becomes moth eaten as far as we are concerned, since it passes out of our hands unusable.

There are few things about which we are so sensitive and secretive as our money, and there are few things which so reveal our real character. The use of money is the acid that discovers whether we are gold or just brass.

I have had a curious and unfortunate experience with people of large money power. One man volunteered, after a meeting at which I spoke, to make me a substantial donation for "my magnificent and unique undertakings." I was not very excited. "Hope deferred makes the heart sick," and I have many times had my hopes deferred.

After several weeks I called upon him. He greeted me nicely and said, "I have not forgotten; I am not likely to; I will send you a cheque."

More weeks passed and I wrote him a little reminder, and he sent me a cheque for £5.

A few months afterwards he died and left behind over £50,000.

This year I received a letter containing a cheque for £10 from one who said, "I wish

it were more. I consider you are doing a unique work, but I find it difficult to give as I would like to."

Within a few months this apparently quite healthy person died and left behind £40,000.

It is many years now since I have made any direct appeal to wealthy people; my experience does not encourage me to do so.

We Christians need to be very careful. There are no arguments so plausible as those that suggest caution in giving; those that help us to dwell rather on what we give than on what we retain for ourselves. There are three kinds of giving, and since very few ever come to the standard of the first, still fewer ever attain to the heights and joy of the other two.

One-tenth is honest giving; less than that is robbing God. To give one-tenth is only to be just honest and deserving of no more comment or thanks than paying your rent or your tram fare.

To give in addition to my tenth is being generous; that is gratitude-giving. To give so as to involve myself in sacrifice is love-giving; that is a very real joy that lifts us into fellowship with Him who not only gave all that He had, but also gave Himself.

* * *

THE OTHER FELLOW.

We often think we have a "hard row to hoe," and that the higher cost of living hits us pretty hard. As a matter of fact it is the higher cost of luxury that hits most of us.

Many a happy old age pensioner should make us for ever to be ashamed of our expenditure.

Dr. Talmage, the celebrated Brooklyn clergyman, was hiding one day in a railway coach, soon after the decease of a favorite son. His grief was constant and acute, and he could not feel that anyone had ever suffered so acutely as he.

In a seat near him sat a gentleman who, Dr. Talmage thought, possessed one of the most cheerful faces he had ever seen. "How happy that man is compared with me!" he mused. "I will get into conversation with him; perhaps he may console me, or cheer me up a little."

The dialogue ran upon general subjects for a little while, and then turned upon Dr. Talmage's great loss.

"I cannot help envying you," said the preacher. "You seem, from your appearance, as if you had not a trouble in the world."

The other gentleman looked grave, and a spasm of grief went over his countenance. "I never saw a sadder face, for the moment," said Talmage, in relating this incident.

"My dear sir," he inquired, "will you tell me where you are going?"

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AND PROHIBITION.

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Editor—ROBERT B. S. HAMMOND.

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SYDNEY, THURSDAY, DEC. 9, 1926.

"Why," replied Talmage, "home, to Brooklyn, New York. I get there this evening, if all goes well."

"I suppose to a wife—perhaps a mother—a live son—a daughter or two?"

"Oh, yes! I have all those awaiting me."

"Now I will tell you where I am going. All my family are dead but one, and that one is my wife; and I am making my regular weekly visit to her at an asylum. She is hopelessly insane. But God has left me my life, my honor, and my faculties; and I am trying to keep patient and cheerful, with the hope of meeting them all again in a better world, by and by."

Talmage rose, and took the stranger by both hands. "I surrender!" he exclaimed. "My sorrow is as nothing compared with yours. I have learned a lesson, and I hope God will aid me to profit by it."

I know a woman who has only a pound a week all told to live on. She never fails to give two shillings a week to the Lord. That is a bigness that puts me so far in the background that any remembrance of her makes me ashamed of myself.

* * *

I wonder would you consider it possible to act on this suggestion.

For every new thing you get this Christmas give some old thing away. The main thing is to be better than one's gifts, to make of them a stepping-stone.

Edwin Markham has written these suggestive lines:

We are all blind until we see

That in the human plan

Nothing is worth the making if

It does not make the man.

Why build these cities glorious

If man unbuilded goes?

In vain we build the work unless

The builder also grows.

The Editor

PROHIBITION AND THE POOR.

WHAT BIG BUSINESS SAYS.

By JOE LONGTON, for "Grit."

Rastus, the father of fourteen children, all of whom had been rocked in the same cradle, was putting little Woodrow Wilson Washington Jefferson Roosevelt Coolidge Jackson, the latest arrival, to sleep.

"Rastus!" said Sunflower Magnolia Cornucopia Jackson, his wife. "Dat cradle am 'bout worn out."

"Tis 'bout gone," said Rastus. "You all bettah get 'nother, Sunflower, and dis time get a good one, one dat 'll last."

The Wets in America are out looking for an argument that will last. If it lasts until Sunflower can get another cradle they'll be in a "Land of Green Ginger and Paregoric" with ecstasy. Unfortunately, the rank and file so long subjected to their stink barrage and dripping wet propaganda have realised that their golden rule is just as ordinary yard stick. The greatest thing you can give a man is a good idea. The Wets are "shy" on thunder. Who'll oblige?

The man that never made any enemies, never made any friends, and where a man makes an enemy out of "The Mullocking Guards," as we often designate "The Battalion of Death" in America, it is quite natural that he creates an army of unbelievers. Even though Australians have the reputation for "giving any man a square go and a hearing" there is always a few that have a preparation resembling condensed milk instead of brains between their ears. Those are the ilk that have snaps on their lugs to join them together in order that the back of their heads can be kept warm. It is they that cannot believe in and trust themselves. I enclose the following excerpts and the names of the newspapers from which they were clipped. "Grit" defies contradiction.

"Prohibition and New York's Poor" is the title of an article in the October 23-26 edition of the "Literary Digest," in which appears some affidavits from benevolent and professional caretakers of society taken in a survey recently conducted by "Better Times," a weekly welfare magazine, among representatives of the 2000 charitable and welfare organisations in New York city. The replies indicate, we learn, that every effort was made to throw off prejudice and face facts squarely.

As far as she is able to judge, Miss Clara Bassett, of the Vanderbilt Clinics, believes that "the number of working days among workmen, the number of families having bank accounts . . . and longer periods of education for their children have greatly increased during the past few years, and that the change is due to Prohibition." J. C. McMenamin, long associated with the work of the Bowery Y.M.C.A., who speaks from seventeen years' experience, declares that the Volstead law is "the greatest single blessing" that has come to men on the Bowery. Similar testimony comes from Capt. J. Stanley Sheppard of the Salvation Army, who says: "Family life of the men on parole with this organisation shows that their home conditions are greatly improved."

Major Edith A. Nice, of the Salvation Army, stationed in an East Harlem district, like many of her co-workers, says:

"We are absolutely in favor of Prohibition, but it must be enforced. The saloon must not come back nor the Eighteenth Amendment be repealed."

"The general feeling of our workers," says Miss Stella A. Miner, of the Girls' Service

League of America, "is that the families with whom we deal in our protective work with girls are in better condition since the Volstead law has been in effect. Drink and resultant poverty enter less into the home problems." Dr. John L. Elliott, of the Hudson Guild, admits the injurious effect of the bootlegger and the local still, but concludes:

"Evil as are the effects of the violation of Prohibition among the people where I live and work, and serious as the situation is as it affects crime, health and moral standards, trying to judge as fairly and impartially as I can, there is no question but that the situation in the Chelsea district, distressing as it is in many ways, is incomparably better than it was years ago. . . . On the whole, the tenement-house districts of the neighborhood which I know, and of the city as a whole so far as I can observe them, are in a better condition than they ever were before. It is true that Prohibition is only one of the grounds for this better situation. . . . But to my certain knowledge a great number of men who always stopt in at the saloon on their way home and almost emptied their pay envelopes now bring their wages home. They and their families are in better health, and are living more peaceably than they did before."

Most emphatic in their stand are the social workers of Bellevue Hospital, who reply that the families among whom they work "are better off since Prohibition became a law than they ever were before. They are better housed, better fed, much better clothed, and, as a very significant fact reaching far into the future, more of their children are in the high schools." The group, discussing health conditions, quotes the admission figures to Bellevue Hospital—11,307 alcoholics in 1910, and 2381 in 1920.

The managing director of the Sydney "Sun" knows a good place to borrow a little dough. He knows as well as I do that you waste your time "putting the bee" on a drunk or a drunken nation. This excerpt from the "Los Angeles Times" quoting Sir H. H. Denison, reminds me of the priest that said, "Don't do as I do; do as I tell you." This is distinctly a hearty endorsement of Prohibition for which I thank Sir H. H. Denison and the Sydney "Sun":

AMERICAN LOAN TOPIC IN SYDNEY.

Australia may borrow in United States rather than Great Britain.

Sydney, October 22.—The possibility of future financial commitments of the Australian Government making it necessary to borrow from the United States instead of London, in view of the more stringent terms and other difficulties on the London money market, is being discussed here more frequently. Sir A. A. C. Cocks, who, when New South Wales Treasurer, favored the idea of his State borrowing from New York, again advocated this course in an address before the Millions Club of Sydney.

"Australia purchases goods from America," he said, "why not borrow there?"

Sir H. H. Denison, managing director of the Sydney "Sun," who shortly is to assume the duties of Australian Commissioner to the United States, said that Australia will need to borrow 200,000,000 dollars next year for general development purposes. In view of the tendency to borrow from America he probably will be entrusted with the management of the flotation of these loans.

BIGGER FAR THAN HORDERN'S.

Marshall Field & Co. dwarf Horder's business, and it is interesting to read what their chairman has to say of Prohibition:

"A 2900-mile automobile tour of the East has satisfied John G. Shedd, chairman of the board of Marshall Field & Co., that Prohibition is making the nation prosperous," he said in an interview in the current "Economist."

"Savings have been growing steadily from year to year, and this growth in the accumulation of the labor classes has been notable since Prohibition closed the corner saloon. The benefits of Prohibition which have accrued to workingmen and their families in the last seven years cannot be stressed too strongly."

RIPPLING RHYMES.

More Victims.

Some forty men were lately slain by poisoned alcohol; their twisted forms were sadly lain within the churchyard wall, and there they slumber while the rain and dews of summer fall. They all expected many years of life and love and fun; the morning saw them blithe as steers that in lush pastures run; the evening found them on their biers, their mundane journey done. A thousand times they had been told that danger lurks in booze that's made in cellars foul and old, in noisome dens and stews, that it is prone to knock them cold and set fire to their shoes. A thousand times, in public prints, they'd read the warning note that bootleg booze, of divers tints, should flush no human throat; old Death behind the drinker sprints, resolved to get his goat. The men who live in Delaware read tales of death in Maine; some delegates who thirsted there drank booze and thus were slain; but things so distant do not scare the gay and breezy swain. No doubt the forty who were downed by some unholy brew had read the warnings that abound, that always are in view; "such stories are but empty sound," they said, "they are not true. We have not seen men falling dead from drinking of the wine or tanglefoot when it is red with colors alkaline; so let us have no fear or dread, but drink the bitters fine." Then each produced the ample purse in which his wages lay, and lilted merry quip and verse and stowed the gin away, and then went riding in a hearse to wait the Judgment Day. Oh, such a warning should persuade the careless thirsty gink, that he should stick to lemonade, the colorless or pink, or in the babbling brooklet wade, when he would have a drink. —Walt Mason.

WISE OLD HORACE.

Turning back to the wise sayings of Horace Greeley one finds this chunk of wisdom: "The illusion that times that were are better than those that are has probably pervaded all ages." Yet these old-timers keep on telling us about the good old days and how badly off we of the present are, if we only knew it. And how it galls them to be told that we don't know it.

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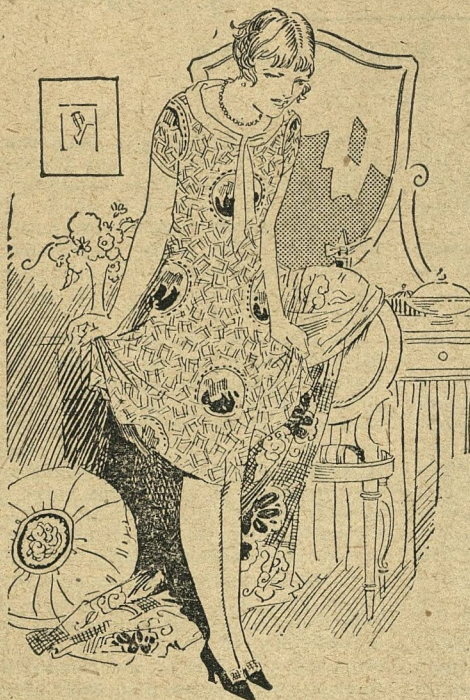
New South Wales Alliance— PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS MEN'S AUXILIARY.

A successful lunch hour meeting was held at the Sydney Steel Works, Marrickville, last week. The attendance was increased by the presence of the bricklayer apprentices who are being trained under the Technical College. The men heard Mr. Vaughan with great interest, and came forward for literature in large numbers. Mr. Vaughan said that of England's annual liquor of £316,000,000 it had been computed by reliable authorities that at least £200,000,000 was paid by British wage earners. Of the £31,000,000 annually spent in booze in Australia probably not less than £20,000,000 came of the Australian wage earners. This colossal sum, which was diverted from the workers' homes into the pockets of the Beer Barons and Whisky Lords of the Commonwealth and overseas was almost equal to the total interest on the Commonwealth War Debt. It was equal to 5 per cent. interest on £400,000,000. Professor Irving Fisher in his great work "Prohibition at its Worst" had shown that although the former expenditure on liquor had amounted to 2,000,000,000 dols. a year in U.S.A., the value of Prohibition to America could be set down at 6,000,000,000 dols. annually two-thirds of which was due to increased efficiency. One should deduct from this the expenditure on bootleg liquor, which Professor Fisher had proved could not be more than 16 per cent. of the pre-Prohibition cost, and was possibly less than 5 per cent. Against the added cost of enforcing the law were to be placed great savings in charity and benevolent expenditure, which had been reduced to negligible amounts through the extinction of liquor. Mr. Vaughan asked the men "to give Prohibition a go," for the sake of their families and Australia as a whole. The policy of the Alliance was thoroughly democratic. They believed in "trusting the people," and in the coming elections they simply asked candidates, whatever might be their views on the liquor question, to give the electors the democratic right to vote on Prohibition without compensation, and to allow a simple majority to prevail in No-License polls. Labor men could not consistently deny this righteous application of government by the people. He challenged the right of any Labor man to support a great predatory monopoly like that controlling the liquor traffic. He challenged the right of any Labor man to oppose giving the electors the right to vote on Prohibition without compensation, and finally he challenged Labor's right to deny majority rule in local option polls. If any Labor representatives denied these rights claimed for the electors by Prohibitionists, their betrayal of democratic principles would have a boomerang effect.

IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Voters of New Westminster, British Columbia, recently defeated for the second time a proposition to open the bars in their city. The New Westminster vote following close upon a similar ballot in Revelstoke was interpreted by members of the Government as indicating a strong public reaction against the present loose beer law.

It is expected that Vancouver, the largest city in the province, will be the next place to vote on the question. Prohibitionists there are circulating a petition in favor of a new referendum on the issue in the expectation of voting the present beer bars out of existence.



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It will surely pay and please you to become one of that vast majority who prefer Bond's "Sylk-Arto" Hosiery for its many obvious advantages.

See the "Sylk-Arto" range of 80 6/11 glorious shades at any drapers - - -

Bond's SYLK-ARTO HOSE

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PROHIBITION MEANS PROSPERITY.

The United States has been under Prohibition for more than six and a half years. If the dry regime is ruinous, as wets assert, there would be evidence of the blight. Where is the industrial and commercial depression predicted if saloons, breweries and distilleries were closed? Where are the millions of unemployed to be found in the United States as are found in Wet Europe? Digest the figures below and then agree with Babson, Irving Fisher and other economists that Prohibition is the country's greatest asset.

The national wealth of the United States at the end of 1925 was approximately 375,803,826,000dols.

The total amount of bank deposits, according to the currency reports June 30, 1925, was 46,765,942,000dols.

Deposits in the Savings Banks of the United States at the end of 1925 were 7,977,617,000dols.

Deposits in Building and Loan Associations, January 1, 1926 (estimated), approximately 6,000,000,000dols.

Total amount of money invested in life insurance at the end of 1925, 72,000,000,000 dols.

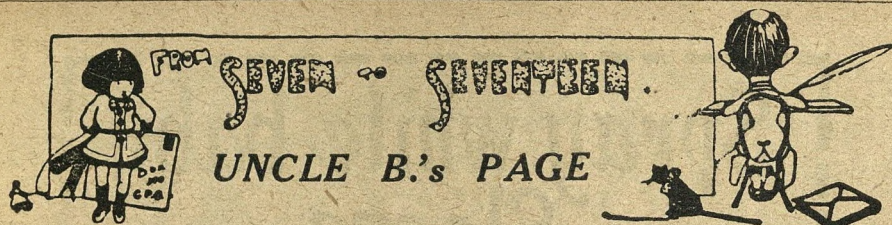
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PASS "GRIT" ON



THE RIGHT SORT OF AMBITION.

By HERBERT N. CASSON.

"Will you please write an article on Ambition?" writes a subscriber in Portsmouth—a young man who has just started his business career.

Well, to begin with, ambition is a thing that very few people possess.

Most people think they have it, but they are mistaken.

Probably not more than one man out of ten has any ambition at all.

Ambition is not merely wishing and hoping and painting pictures in your mind of what a great man you will be.

Day-dreaming! That is not ambition.

Being discontented with what you've got! That is not ambition.

Reading about glorious deeds and imagining yourself doing things like that! That is not ambition.

No. Ambition is active, not passive. Ambition is the process of self-development.

It is a day by day matter. It is something you DO, not something you wish.

A rabbit might sit near its hiding-place and wish to be a lion, but that wouldn't be ambition.

A young man might muddle unhappily through his day's work and wish to be a millionaire, but that wouldn't be ambition.

Ambition is wishing plus will-power and perseverance.

An ambitious man is one who does his job better to-day than he did yesterday.

He is a man who is improving—gaining—climbing—moving steadily up towards the top.

No lazy man is ever ambitious. He only pretends he is, to excuse his laziness.

It is only another word for growth, is ambition. And growth depends on courage and industry and reading good books and commonsense, and keeping at it.

If a young man wants to become more ambitious he can do so by following these two simple rules:

(1) Learn something new every day.

(2) Do something better every day.

So, as you can see, ambition is a daily process, and not merely wishing that you were the Duke of Westminster.

The test of true ambition is action.

It is not a common thing, you see. There are about 12,000,000 men in Great Britain, but probably fewer than 1,000,000 of them are ambitious.

But the Ambitious Few are worth all the rest put together—make no mistake about that.

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All boys and girls between the age of seven and seventeen are invited to join the family of Uncle B. Write only on one side of the paper. Send the date of your birthday. There is no fee to pay. If you do not write for three months you are a "scallywag."

Address all letters to Uncle B, Box 390F G.P.O., Sydney.

OUR LETTER BAG.

ANON.

26 Alfred-street, Mascot: One of my brothers has the measles; he had the doctor to him last Thursday morning. About a fortnight ago the Lyceum Hall celebrated the Anniversary Day service by having a programme of artists, and the Military Band played many patriotic songs. One of my brothers went for a Sunday school examination and passed it. The Congregational Sunday School had their anniversary about a month ago. They were going to have the last Sunday broadcast to let an old lady hear the service, but they could not get the broadcasting station to broadcast it. Captain Woolley, who is in charge of the English public school boys, came to the Lyceum Hall and gave a brief address on boy's work. The Drummoynes' High School Choir rendered musical items. About five weeks ago the Rev. Richard Piper came to the Conference Hall to give a lantern lecture on Fiji and Samoa. He showed the people some slides of the missionaries, too. My two brothers went up for the Q.C. this year, but we have not heard the results yet. I saw the White Train when it came to Mascot. Nearly all the people crowded round to see it. I went in and saw all the things that were worth looking at. I was sorry when it was finished.

(Dear Anon.—When people do not sign their names to their letters it is said to be "anonymous," or "anon." for short. Your interesting letter was "anon." I am always glad to hear of such meetings as my Ne's and Ni's enjoy.—Uncle B.)

* * * *

ANOTHER ANON.

Havelock-street, West Perth, Perth, W.A.: I am afraid I owe you and my "Grit" cousins an apology for not writing. I am really going to try to write more often. My mind has been occupied by all the different examinations that come at this time of the year. If I come out top of the class this year I will be very proud, as our class, being the top class of the school, is hard to get promoted into, and if I come out top I will be dux of the school. We have got a "smoker" parrot (who, by the way, does not smoke) from the country, and dad and I have just finished making a big new cage for him. When we transferred him from the tem-

porary one he had been in to the roomy and more comfortable cage we had made for him he was at first somewhat bewildered. Dad has been impressing on my mind the necessity of reading good literature by good authors, and try to give up reading "Deadwood Dicks," such trash that my mind is often apt to turn to. At present I am reading a book all about the Prohibition fight in U.S.A. I have also read "The Blue Lagoon," by Stacpoole, and "The Wonderful Visit," by H. G. Wells. I greatly enjoyed reading "The Tale of Two Cities," and also I am fond of all of Mark Twain's that I have read. Of course, I've read plenty of boys' books by Ellis and Ballantyne, etc. Among the books I intend to read is "The Life of Sheridan and His Dramatic Works." Dad tells me it is a very interesting book, and he thinks I will like it. My stamps have not received much attention during the school exams, but I am going to do a little more to them when I get more time. I have got a set of Russian stamps that are printed on the backs of banknotes, or supposed to be. Do you think they are forgeries? One of our fantail pigeons died, and dad replaced it with two others. These, however, "got while the going was good," and we have not seen them since. Toby, our cocker spaniel, is growing up to be a lovely dog now, and I can see myself entering him for the Royal Show and pulling off a first if not a champion. When are you coming over this way again? Let me know and I can get a holiday from school to meet you. I'm afraid I have about run out of excuses for getting holidays. Could you pass on a few ideas? If I get a half-holiday from mother and dad comes home and sees me he invariably says, "Hullo, attending a grandmother's funeral!" I remember the Christmas I came to St. Barnabas' with dad and the good time we had. I sincerely hope you have a very happy Christmas indeed. With love to you and all my "Grit" cousins.

(Dear Bob,—While you did not sign your letter I knew your typewriting! And there were other unmistakable signs. Thank you for your most interesting and welcome letter. I wish you and dad were here to help me this Christmas. I rather dread it—so much to do and so little to do it with.—Uncle B.)

* * * *

LIKING IT BETTER.

David Drewe, Merrigang-st., Bowral, writes: I am very pleased to join your family. I went to the school sports on Wednesday afternoon, and we had a half holiday from school. My mother fell and hurt her leg very much, and the doctor told her she had to stay in bed two weeks. I still read "Grit," and I am liking it better each day.

(Dear David,—I am so pleased that you are continuing to be interested in "Grit." We all hope that your mother is quite well again. I expect you were able to do lots of little things to help her while she was laid up.—Uncle B.)

PASS "GRIT" ON

N.S.W. Prohibition Alliance "DRY" AND "WET."

ILLUSTRATING THE RESULTS.

A remarkable Exposition has been held at Dusseldorf, Germany. It set forth every form of human welfare activities, and with the usual German thoroughness. The brewers have set up, in the middle of things, a 200,000 mark exhibit of their "industry," showing the up-to-date brewing machinery and the "horrible effects" of Prohibition in America, and the great dangers of drinking water, which results in cholera epidemics and other undesirable things.

On the other hand, the German "drys" have set up at a cost of 16,000 marks an exhibit in which are clearly demonstrated some terrific facts that don't agree with the gaudy claims of the brewery overlords.

It is shown by official records that in 1925 Germany spent 3,500,000,000 marks for liquor—a thousand marks for every letter in the Bible.

It is shown that in the six October festival days of 1921 Germany squandered enough for drink to build a garden town for 2000 people.

It is shown that on last New Year's night, in Berlin alone, there were 450 arrests by the police. There were eleven attempts at suicide, six killed, and 353 injured in drunken brawls.

It is shown that 133 German cities maintain municipal departments for the care of drunkards. In 1925 these departments cared for 28,500 drunks, and of these 2182 were sent to drink cures by the municipalities.

It is shown that in Berlin, in 1905, of every 1000 workmen employed in the brewing trade 412 met with accidents. For every 1000 employed in the building trades only 65 met with accidents; in the stone workers' trade 46 met with accidents, and in the glass workers' trade only 37.

It is shown that 500,000 people are cared for by public charity in various German institutions. Among these institutions are 1597 hospitals, 220 sanitariums, 811 convalescent homes, 2042 homes for the aged, 138 asylums for cripples, 219 asylums for feeble-minded (which have 34,537 inmates), 154 homes for babies, 1397 homes for school children, 84 industrial homes, 535 lodging-houses and 70 farm colonies. No attempt is made to estimate the volume of this high exhibit attributable to the drink.

Then there is a graphic exhibit of the troubles that Germany is having with bootleggers, moonshiners, smugglers and all that sort. It is shown that during the year 1923-24 the German liquor dealers swindled the German Spirit Monopoly out of 11,330,000 marks and bunkoed the Government out of 3,700,000 marks in unpaid taxes. It is shown how the German Courts are clogged with criminal cases against these German illicit liquor dealers, and that 5900 such cases are now pending in the German Courts.

Then, as if all was not enough, the German "drys" have got up a remarkable cinema exhibit showing daily on the screen the vicious effects of beer upon the human body.

Germans have been wallowing in beer ever since the days of Julius Caesar, and this is shown to be the net results up to the year 1926 according to this national "Welfare Exposition."

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Manufactured by CLIFFORD, LOVE & CO., LTD.



The blessing in poverty is like a man attacked by hornets. Except for the hornets, he couldn't travel so far and fast.

Alas! rich relatives are usually distant relatives or close relatives.—[Birmingham News.]

Women are said to be great bargain hunters, but you would never know it by some of the men they pick out.

Anyway, the hen is the only institution that delivers a breakfast food in a natural sanitary wrapper.

Animal instinct isn't worth much. Look at what some dogs love.

The chief objection to the mosquito is that he says it with music.

One trouble with this world is that there are too many folks who use their horn when they see a pedestrian, instead of their brake.

Among things smaller than the atom are the electron and the man who gets mad because his wife won't vote his way.

PARADISE ENOW.

"Catch any fish on your last trip?"

"No; but one big fellow rose up and gave me an awful dirty look."

FAITH AND WORKS.

Father Lorry, who was hurrying to catch the Dublin Express, overtook his bishop, who was going to take the same train. "We've plenty of time," said the latter, pulling out his watch; "we've seven minutes yet, so we'll walk along together." They arrived at the depot, however, just in time to see the train disappear. "Do you know, I had the greatest faith in that watch," said the bishop. "And, my lord," returned Father Lorry, "what is faith without good works?"

Little Ruth, bringing her mother a cup of tea: "I couldn't find the tea strainer, mother, so I used the fly swatter."

COMPLIMENTARY.

Observing a young lady standing alone, the young man stepped up to her and said, "Pardon me. You look like Helen Black."

"Yes," she replied, "I know I do, but I'd look far worse in white."

UNSUSPECTING.

The other day Maurice Pivar, head of Universal's editorial department, was married. On the day after he was nailed by an insurance man, who tried to get him to take out a policy.

"My goodness," gasped Maurice. "I never sized her up as being that dangerous!"

FOOD FOR THOUGHT.

An Irishman who had just arrived in New York was taking his first walk under escort of his brother, who had been living there for several years. In the window of a grocery store he saw a great mound of fresh cranberries.

"What are them?" he asked.

"Thim is cranberries," said his brother.

"Are they fit to eat?"

"Are they fit to eat?" repeated his brother.

"Why, whin thim cranberries is stewed they make better apple sauce than prunes does."

ANY CORD WOULD DO.

"It is my greatest wish that the party shall hang together," said the man on the platform.

"Hear, hear!" came a voice from the back seat.

"I don't mean in the sense in which that idle scoffer back there would have you understand," went on the speaker with dignity, "but that they may hang together in concord and accord."

"I don't care what kind of a cord it is," came the voice again, "as long as it is a strong cord."

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DAILY INSPIRATION.

By FAIRELIE THORNTON.

SUNDAY.

"The wrath of the Lamb."—Rev., 6, 16.

Some are apt to take all the soothing texts of Scripture to themselves, and overlook the rest. Jesus is so often spoken of as "The Lamb of God," a lamb being the emblem of gentleness and docility, that the "Gentle Jesus, meek and mild," of our childhood's prayer has sometimes led men to forget that God cannot look upon sin with any degree of allowance, and to imagine He is too kind to punish sin. God's love is so great as to hate the sin which mars man's bliss with a perfect hatred, so great that He gave Himself in the person of His Son to redeem man from all iniquity, to "purify unto Himself a peculiar people zealous of good works," "free from the law of sin and death." They misunderstand the love of God altogether who imagine that He will allow people to go on in sin unpunished. Sin punishes itself. He who refuses to accept the deliverance from sin provided by the sacrificial death of Christ, he who cannot stoop to enter the gate which is sprinkled with the blood of the Lamb, but who counts that blood an unholy thing; he who chooses the broad way of wider views of the inherent goodness of man, and sets out to work a righteousness of his own, will find no admittance in such filthy rags to the marriage supper of the Lamb, and can never join in the song, "Worthy is the Lamb to receive glory and honor," with the redeemed who have "washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." Against such will that terrible thing, "The wrath of the Lamb," be revealed.

MONDAY.

"As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you; continue ye in My love."—John, 15, 9.

Nobody cares like Jesus,
Nobody else could care
As He who knows our weakness,
And doth our sorrows share.
Nobody else could ever
Feel for us as He feels,
He who this earth has trodden
Still soothes and helps and heals.
Nobody sees like Jesus
Just what we really need,
Nobody else can understand,
Or if they do will heed;
He knows the secrets hidden
Within the human breast,
And longs with mighty yearning
To give the sinner rest.
Nobody loves like Jesus,
With love which naught can chill.
Few when their friends are faithless
Can keep on loving still.
Oh, love so great, so mighty—
So great it hates the sin
Which separates Him from the one
Whom He has died to win.

TUESDAY.

"And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, but not with a perfect heart."—2 Chron.

History repeats itself, and the history of the Kings and their subjects of the old Testament is the history of to-day. Some did that which was right in their own eyes, others did that which was right in the sight of the Lord. Of one we read, "As long as he sought the Lord, God made him to prosper." Of another, "He was marvellously helped till he was strong, but when he was strong his heart was lifted up to his destruction." In his case, as in many, it was proved "Pride goeth before destruction, and

a haughty spirit before a fall." "Amaziah was twenty and five years old when he began to reign . . . and his mother's name was Jeohaddan of Jerusalem. (How often is the mother's name mentioned no doubt for a purpose.) And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, but not with a perfect heart." Like many another, he began well, but after a time the heart which is not steadfast will turn aside. Proud of his victory over his enemies, he despised the admonitions of God's servants, the prophets, who were ever sent then as now to direct people into the right paths, but he would not hearken, and as is the case to-day with those who do not serve God with a perfect heart, he served the gods of the country round about. How many are afraid of being singular! They must do as others do; echo other's opinions. This world is the god they serve. Be broadminded is their cry, compromise with the world and its ways, don't be old-fashioned and follow the Puritans of old, who possessed far more grit and stamina than they possess. What do they not owe to those Puritans? Perhaps all the good that they possess, all the privileges they enjoy. It would be well for such if they would open their long-closed Bibles and read the fate of those of old who forsook the Lord and served other gods.

WEDNESDAY.

"The truth shall make you free."—John, 8, 32.

Oh, heart of mine, keep true
Whatever others do.
True to thine own true God,
True to His faithful Word.
The truth shall make men free,
Truth must triumphant be,
Though thou shouldst stand alone,
Never the truth disown.
Be true, sincere, right through,
O heart of mine, keep true!

—From "Love."

"Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life."—Prov., 4, 23.

THURSDAY.

"God is love and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God and God in him."—1 John, 4-16.

"Are you God?" said little four-year-old Dora, as she sat on her grandma's lap, who was trying to give her some idea of what the love of God was like. "Are you God?" she asked as she looked up into her grandma's face. Would that all our children could see God's love in us, and that we could thus love them to Jesus, the Friend of little children. Too many are brought up in the fear of God which hath torment, and not the fear which dreads to offend Him because He is so loving that they cannot bear to hurt One they love. This is the fear of God which is the beginning of wisdom, whose ways are paths of pleasantness, and whose ways are ways of peace. Let us teach them that God so loves them that He hates to see them doing wrong things because it makes them unhappy, and He loves to see them happy, that He so loves that He gives them all they enjoy through their parents and friends, that He so loved

that He came down as a little child and so understands all their childish feelings, that He lived and died that they might live with Him one day in a more beautiful world even than this. God is love, love itself, and all true love must come direct from Him, and is but a spark from the great ever-burning fire of the love of God.

FRIDAY.

"Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us."—1 John, 3-1.

God is love—this world of beauty,
Things to charm the eye and ear,
He created for man's pleasure,
Put him over all things here.
Doth not this affection prove,
This proclaim that God is love?

God is love—O wondrous tidings!
And he loveth even thee,
For He gave His Son so precious,
Just to save and set thee free.
Doth not this affection prove,
This proclaim that God is love?

God is love—its very essence.
Thus all love must flow from Him.
Earthly loves may change and falter,
But His love can ne'er burn dim.
God, the King of heaven above,
Is the King and God of love.

SATURDAY.

"Pray for them which despitefully use you."

Perhaps no one does that to you—despitefully uses you. But there may be someone who likes to give you a sly dig in some weak part, now and then; some friend, so called, who is in the habit of saying unpleasant things which wound and rankle, some who are not as kind to you as they might be, or even some fellow worker who will never miss an opportunity of saying some detracting things against you behind your back, and you discover some unsuspected treachery, even from those whom you have served faithfully and well. The wound rankles, and though you try to persuade yourself you have forgiven, yet there is no true forgiveness in your heart toward that person. "How can I love," you ask, "when there is nothing to love?" You can pray for that one, pray that the mind which was in Christ may in you toward that person, and that all animosity on either side may be taken away. As you pray, you will pity and forgive. In all spite there is an element of envy and secret admiration for the other possessing some quality in which the person who aims the spite is lacking, so it is the sincerest form of flattery. Your enemy, therefore, deserves more pity than blame. The one who does a wrong is in a far worse case than the recipient. By retaliation, even in thought, you are making yourself equal in sin with your enemy; in passing it over you are superior. Cherish no resentment. "Love bears all things." Pray for that one, not with the self-righteous prayer and spirit of the Pharisee, but in the Publican's cry, "God be merciful to me a sinner, and to whosoever sins against me."

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PROHIBITION LAW PROTECTS YOUTH.

DECLARES A. A. STAGG, PHYSICAL DIRECTOR, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO,
AT HEARINGS BEFORE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE.

"God only knows what conditions would be, with the enlarged freedom which young people now have, if Prohibition were not in existence," declared A. A. Stagg, physical director of the University of Chicago, in his testimony before the Sub-Committee of the Senate Judiciary Committee. "There would be an immeasurably greater amount of drunkenness and debauchery than there is now.

"In fact, it is my conviction that it is the greatest sort of blessing that Prohibition has been a law during this unstable period when the youth of to-day have such vast freedom.

"It is this breaking down of the home and this irresponsibility on the part of the parents toward their children which creates the problem of to-day, and not the Volstead Act. The statement that Prohibition has produced these conditions is an absurdity and pure bunk.

"The trouble with Prohibition is not Prohibition itself, but that it has not been given a fair chance. Before there should be any consideration of a change in the Volstead Act there ought to be an honest and conscientious effort made to enforce the law.

"This is not just my opinion; it is the opinion of some of the officers of the University of Chicago, and I have reason to think it is the opinion of millions of people in this country who are interested in giving the youth of the country every chance to grow up under the most favorable conditions, something which it cannot be truthfully said they now have.

"I come before you with no bias, and I am a member of none of the organisations that wanted me to come here. I was born in a poor neighborhood of factory workers given to beer drinking, and as a boy I used to see the heads of nine out of twelve families in our block drunk and fighting. I saw multitudes of keg parties and saw young men drunk. The whole point of that is that some say you can't get drunk on beer. Well, I saw the boys and men get drunk—and women, too.

"I have been at the University of Chicago thirty-four years and before Prohibition I used to see scores of the men drunk, coming along Fifty-fifth street from Lake Park Avenue in Hyde Park. Since Prohibition I have seen very few drunk.

"There has been an immense change, and I know a large number of students personally. Furthermore, I am convinced that there is not anything like the amount of drinking in the middle west among the younger generation that there was before Prohibition.

"As to obeying the law, a whole lot of folks haven't been playing the game on the square nor according to the rules. This whole nation should set aside personal wishes and co-operate for the law. I think it is terribly important that a moral wave, a religious wave, sweep this country. Parents are running away from their responsibilities."

HELP THE POSTMAN.

This year the Postal Department is engaging in a special campaign with the object of ensuring the delivery of Christmas greetings and presents before Christmas Day, and steps are being taken to distribute a leaflet to every house, hotel, lodging house, etc., throughout the whole of the State, appealing to the public to make their Christmas postings early, so as to avoid the delays which must inevitably occur if the postings are not made until the few days immediately preceding Christmas.

So that gifts may be posted early, and yet remain unopened until Christmas Day, the Department is permitting any postal article other than a newspaper to be endorsed with the words, "Not to be opened until Christmas Day," or other words to that effect.

The postal staff is required to deal with an enormous quantity of Christmas gifts, etc., and if the postings are not made until a day or two before Christmas Day, it is an impossibility to effect delivery before the holidays. It is therefore with a view to preventing disappointment to the public and avoiding dislocation in regard to ordinary commercial postings that the special measures referred to are being undertaken.

DRINK AND OUR RAILWAYS.

THE RAILWAY COMMISSIONERS' IDEA OF SAFETY FIRST.

Dr. Arthur asked the Minister for Railways: In furtherance of the reply to question No. 21, Questions and Answers, No. 17 of 9th November, 1926, is it a fact—

(1) That the driver and fireman found under the influence of liquor on the Melbourne express on May 23, 1924, and who were dismissed from the service, have been reinstated?

(2) If this is a fact, what positions do they now occupy?

(3) If reinstated, by whom were they reinstated?

Answer.—I am informed:

(1) The driver was re-employed as a cleaner on January 29, and promoted to driver on February 25, 1926. Approval was given for the fireman's re-employment as a temporary cleaner in May, 1926, but he failed to pass the necessary medical tests.

(2) See answer to question (1).

(3) The Commissioners.

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"Grit" subscriptions received to 2/12/26, and where not mentioned the amount is 11s.: H. S. Ranford, 31s., 30/12/26; S. McHarg, 12s. 6d., 7/11/27; E. D. Clout, 18s. 6d., 21/8/26; Mrs. Eyles, 30/12/27; Miss Lovell-Smith, 30s., 20/6/27; Mrs. Glibbery, 11s., 15/11/27; E. Hulme, 42s. 6d., 20/12/26; Miss C. Polson, 20s.; Barham Branch, N.S.W. Prohibition Alliance, 12s., 30/12/27.

SOLVING THE MYSTERY.

Recently the widow of a farmer, striving to keep the farm going, had some difficulty with her hens, and wrote the following letter to the Department of Agriculture:

"Something is wrong with my chickens. Every morning when I come out I find two or three lying on the ground cold and stiff with their feet in the air. Can you tell me what is the matter?"

After a little while she received the following letter from the Department:

"Dear Madam: Your chickens are dead."

A burglar recently stole several artificial legs. Maybe he was a pedestrian and wanted to carry some spares.

PARENTS OR GUARDIANS.

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