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Lens, in the New Statesman, points out very emphatically the seriousness of the eugenic problem caused by the war. During 1915, he notes, England lost about 90,000 men, about half as many again as the deaths from tuberculosis. But neither tuberculosis nor anything other than war, as Sophocles first observed, takes other than our best. Here, then is a calamity unparalleled in our history, alike in numbers and quality. Wellington, be it remembered, thought to the last that the British army should consist of the scum of the earth. Only birth can compensate for death, and yet during 1915 the birth-rate was the lowest on record—21.9.

It is told of Sardou that, at one time, before his literary success came, he was greatly distressed by being ordered by his doctor to rest for a year, a holiday that neither his purse nor his nervously creative temperament welcomed. He decided to go on working, if need be, to the death, and became so fragile that upon one occasion he was arrested by the police as a girl masquerading in men's clothes. One day he got hold of a discarded donkey, mounted it, and set off for fresh air and sunshine, saying: "Go where thou wilt, my friend; I confide myself to thy taste and good behaviour." The donkey took him to a splendid old villa at Marley, and there he sat contrasting his own lot with that of those who could dwell in such houses. He went on with his pilgrimage and his writing. Many of his plays were refused. Then came the day. He was acclaimed as a dramatic king; gold was poured out to him, and he returned with the self-same donkey and bought the house.

The great American artist, Sargent, who has been living for some years in London, Eng., occupies 33 Tite Street the house in which the not less famous artist, Whistler, once lived. Whistler's dining-room, a long, narrow apartment with pale yellow-washed walls, was the rendezvous at that time of all sorts of wonderful and radical souls, and we are told, people almost fought invitations to breakfast there. Unhappily the artist's financial condition did not always warrant unchecked hospitality, and on one occasion the bailiffs were actually in possession at the time of a big and distinguished breakfast party. Quite undaunted the inimitable Jimmy persuaded the baliffs to act as extra waiters and factotums, and "as soon as the guests had departed off he went to his alley in the Fulham Road to produce another masterpiece and so free himself for the forging of fresh burdens."

Ray Stannard Baker ("David Grayson") tells us how once he and Colonel Goethals went to look at a half-mile stretch near the Culebra cut where they had to keep 8,000 men at work, because every night as much land slid into the canal as they could get out in the day. Goethals asked the foreman, after a particularly bad land-slide, how things were. 'Oh,' answered 'the foreman, Hagan, 'we've had a bad slide, and our dredge is buried there, but everything's fine: we're digging!'

thing's fine; we're digging!

There is a whole lot of land slid down upon us, and that terrible avalanche in Europe is covering up our tracks, our tools, our civilization, but, my friends, we are digging! We have lost time and tools, but we haven't lost the trick of renewing our efforts. We are digging, and God is superintending the job. Oh, you men and women, roll up your sleeves, and help—we're digging!—Christian Advocate.

The Man Who Dropped the Match.
Those who know the fascination of pondering on the great 'ifs' of history will find their thoughts set working to

will find their thoughts set working to some purpose by the news that the wretched Serbian student Prinzip, whose shot at Sarajevo on June 28, 1914, set Europe afire, is dying of consumption in an Austrian jail.

It is arguable that no single action in all recorded time has so changed the fate of the world as his. It may be that the Great War would have come in any case. That we can never know. But the murder of the Archduke was the immediate cause of it as certainly as a dropped match is of an explosion in the powder magazine where it falls.

If Norman William had died at Senlac.

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