

Pastry
(that)
Appeals



PURITY FLOUR

"More Bread and Better Bread"

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"Bodega"

"In some Spanish-speaking countries a 'bodega' is any sort of warehouse, but in the part of Spain—Andalusia—where this story is located it appears to signify only a shed, or cellar, or warehouse in which wine is stored. And Ibanez sees this wine shed or warehouse with its tiers upon tiers of casks or bottles as a mighty, sinister Presence striking its roots deep into the soil, breathing destruction, and with its heavy hand crushing the poor and helpless into deeper misery. And yet there is no more propaganda against wine-drinking in the work than there is against bull-fighting in 'Blood and Sand.' The story merely makes a careful, realistic, judicial study of the lives, the conditions, and the unfolding relations of several large groups of people in a wine-making district.

The Land of Sherry

"The scene of the story is South-eastern Spain, not far from Cadiz, and the action takes place in and around the City of Jerez de la Frontera, which,

some centuries ago, when it was spelt with an 'X' which was pronounced 'Sh,' gave its name to sherry. Central in interest is the great wine-making and wine-dealing house of Dupont, with its wide-spreading vineyards, its bodegas filling an entire section of the city and its agencies scattered all over Europe.

"Nearly all of the characters are in some way connected with this huge commercial enterprise, upon vineyard or farm, or in wine sheds or offices, or related to the head of the firm. As in most of Ibanez' fiction the interest inheres more in the delineation of the characters and their influence upon one another than it does in the development of the story. And this novel is particularly rich in its character portrayal.

Rich in its Characters

"Among its people is a man, the Marquis de San Dionisio, who bears a curious resemblance to the cynical old hard-riding Spanish-South American ranchman of 'The Four Horsemen' in the riotous virility of his primitive nature.

He has developed, however, not on wide and lonely pampas in grim combat with nature and animals, but cushioned by luxury in the land of the vine. Till death overtakes him he races at furious speed from orgy to orgy with a hulloaloo that greatly entertains the city and the countryside, and his two daughters carry on the family reputation with almost as much energy as their father had shown.

"In striking contrast is the revolutionary agitator, Salvatierra, a wandering, hovering, elusive figure of ascetic habits, deeply beloved by all who have been associated with him. Every now and then he appears, a pale, cold flame like some flitting will-o'-the-wisp, but always in his wake unrest stirs in the breasts of the wretched, and there are attempts at revolt pitiful in their futility. Salvatierra is the only one of the book's scores of characters of every social and economic grade who refuses to drink even the mildest wine. In his eyes' the wine warehouse was the modern counterpart of the feudal fortress that held the

masses in slavery and abjection, and he cursed the power that alcoholic poison wielded over the people, transmitting its evil from generation to generation.

Appalling Misery

"There is much realistic description of the appalling misery in which the wretched laborers, men, women, and children, on vineyard and farm toil through weary day after day and sleep like animals in the promiscuous association of their quarters. The food served them is barely enough to keep life in their bodies, and in this half-starved condition they dream of wine, beholding in it the strength of their existence, the delight of their thoughts. The glass of wine stills hunger and with its fire for a moment gladdens life. There is one rich employer, cousin of the head of the great house of Dupont, who is a roystering young person, a patron of bull-fighters, and delighting in madcap and strenuous forms of vinous exhilaration. It gives him the greatest pleasure to gather in the wretched laborers and