



## Life, Literature and Education.

Dr. Amyot, Bacteriologist of the Provincial Board of Health for Ontario, speaking before the Progressive Club, in Toronto, recently, referred to milk as the "greatest medium in the world for culturing bacteria." This word, to the wise, from such an authority, should be sufficient.

"A man, a visitor from the country, was found unconscious in his room at the Daly House this morning, with the gas turned on." This item, from a recent Toronto paper, is one which, unfortunately, is duplicated in the daily news reports many times every year. It seems almost incredible that, at this stage of the world's history, everyone does not know enough about gas to understand that it must be turned off, not blown out. One would think that the repeated accounts of such accidents would be warning enough, but alas, there are those who do not read even the newspapers. If rural teachers took the matter in hand, and remembered to instruct the children upon this point while teaching the principles of ventilation and hygiene, many a catastrophe might be averted. Gas, like fire, is a good servant, but a bad master, and death is usually the price paid for ignorance in regard to it.

The newspapers, of late, have been recounting, with more or less gusto, the details of a great international auto-race in the United States, with prizes ranging from a \$5,000 gold trophy to divers cash prizes, aggregating \$8,000. Incidentally, the question suggests itself as to why there should be such a craze at the present day for mere speed. Men forge forward in automobiles, goggle-eyed, gaze fixed on the road, at a mad rate which utterly precludes the enjoyment of the peaceful scenery or little homely incidents by the way—and, imagine they are having a grand time. . . . Sherrings and Tom Longboats stretch their legs and run, making so many miles in so many minutes. The contest is a mere matter of legs, of muscle; not even cool questions of judgment, to the same extent as in archery or target-practice, are a necessity, and yet the country goes wild over the winning of the Marathon race. . . . Lou Scholes wins the Diamond Sculls, and one of the largest cities in the Dominion—a city which would scarcely pause from its work to hurrah for an Osler or a Rutherford, or a Graham-Bell, which would scarcely recognize even Edison himself by more than an invitation to speak at the Canadian Club—turns out en masse to greet him.

True, really great men—men who do things worth while for the people now and for all time—do not want to be received with a blare of trumpets; they rather shrink from public receptions and the gaze of the multitude. But the point is this, that the difference of appreciation shows a lamentable weakness in the people them-

selves. Brawn, in conjunction with mental power, is a goodly thing; brawn, when put to a good purpose, even at the direction of someone else's brain, is a goodly thing; but, after all, what would the world be were it not for the thinkers, the men who have invented, and discovered, and applied, and made life a better, nobler and healthier thing for the world's great millions? . . . In our zeal for the Spartan, let us not forget the Athenian. . . . In our sympathy with the players and "rooters" at a baseball match, let us not pause to admire, now and again, the spirit of the youths who sat at the feet of Epictetus and Socrates, and which is not all extinct, even in this twentieth century. There are still men, perhaps more than we think, who have not given up the search for wisdom and truth.

A young girl who "ran away from home," and was found in one of our Canadian cities, with a sad tale of youthful depravity to tell, turns out to be a "Home" girl, although bearing her foster-parents' name. This is but one more example to illustrate the foolishness of conferring the family name upon children from such institutions. No doubt, numbers of them are to be depended upon, have sprung from a stock respectable, though poor, and will bring nothing but credit upon the name they have assumed. Upon the other hand, since there is no possibility of tracing the genealogy of such wails back, there is always the risk of taint. More often than not, what is "bred in the bone" may be depended upon to "come out in the flesh," and the safest way to safeguard the family name is, ostensibly, to reserve it to those to whom it legitimately belongs.

Acting under instructions from Dr. Hodgetts and the Attorney-General, Colonel McCrae, Chairman of the Guelph Township Board of Health, not long ago swore out an information against the corporation of the City of Guelph for creating a public nuisance by running sewage into the River Speed, and it was shown that the establishment of filter-beds was the only means of effectively combating the evil.

The River Speed is not the only waterway in Canada despoiled by such conditions. There is many another which, flowing pure and clear until a city is reached, passes below it a thing of filth and pollution, contaminating alike to man and beast. A river as it should be is one of a farmer's most valuable assets, providing at once drainage for his land, water for his stock, and the rich pasturage which usually grows beside a waterway, to say nothing of its scenic value, and the associations which, as long as life shall last, shall congregate, in the minds of the children of the family, about memories of the old swimming-hole and skating-path. All told, it adds hundreds of dollars to the value of any farm, and increases the chances for selling it, that be desired—many times over. When polluted by the filth of a city, however, every advantage disappears, and value is depreciated, rather than increased, by its presence. Our waterways should be jealously guarded, and

if cities will not voluntarily attend to the proper disposal of their sewage, they should be made attend to it. The comfort and sanitation of the country is by no means less important than that of the town.

Three hotelmen in one small city in Ontario were fined heavily for selling liquor on election day, contrary to the Elections Act, and several others were fined for purchasing it. Such procedure is eminently right and proper. No small percentage of wrong-doing in our country exists because of laxity in the enforcement of laws—laxity due, possibly, in a majority of cases, to the wilful blindness of those into whose hands has been placed the responsibility of seeing that the law is upheld. Query—Does it never occur to those of the latter who find themselves thus wilfully or weakly negligent, that the only course to be taken in honor by the public official affected with such excessive tenderness of heart is resignation? When a man is too weak or too partial to enforce the law which he has been entrusted with enforcing, it is surely time for him to make way for someone who can and will do it.

The local-option campaign is again under way in Ontario, about seventy municipalities being already listed for the fray. In connection with the subject, a quotation from a writer in New York Independent—a man who, while seeing all the evils of drink, makes no secret of having been caught in its toils, and of having patronized blind pigs, etc., in nearly every State in the Union—may be interesting. Referring to the fact that liquor can be obtained in almost every prohibition town in the United States, he says: "All such facts as these will be seized by friends of the saloon to show that prohibition is a failure. To my mind, however, the proof is just the contrary. My common sense tells me that drinking is less in the blind pig town in the wide-open town. All that social side of saloon-life which I depicted in my other article, all those features which make the saloon the 'poor man's club,' all the sitting about for hours at cards, and the almost continuous treating which makes these long sessions so productive of drunkenness, all those late hours in the saloon, with lights, killings and thefts, are eliminated in the box stall or a livery stable or the prescription room of a drug store. There is no attraction in any such place except the drink itself. The social side of the drink problem is practically eliminated, and only the physical one remains. Knowing as I do that the treating described in my other article is responsible for a very great part of all drunkenness, my reason tells me that, wherever drinking is forced into the blind pig, intoxication must be reduced. It is not law, but law enforcement, that counts.

The Governmental system of official house-cleaning evidently proceeds on the vacuum plan, as the result of disclosures in connection with the Department of Marine and Fisheries at Quebec, has already resulted in suspension from office of two

members of the agency, with a possibility of subsequent dismissal. Captain O'Farrell, Government Light-house Inspector, and several other employees emphatically deny having ever received money in any irregular way, and threaten action for damages against Mr. F. X. Droulet, the chief informant; nevertheless, though these may be guiltless, the investigation, which is proceeding briskly under Mr. Justice Cassels, and Mr. George Watson, K. C., reveals much which may well cover those connected therewith with confusion, one of the especial forms of graft revealed being the acceptance of moneys, as bargain-closers, from contractors to whom the officials of the Department gave orders for goods.

Judging from an impartial viewpoint, there is no course which will strengthen the hands of either political party so surely as the persistent weeding out of iniquity wherever found, even to the undoing of many of its own ranks. The great body of the people, disgusted with trickery and self-seeking that has too long polluted almost every department of Government and business, are crying out more and more for civic righteousness. As Dr. Herridge, of Ottawa, in his Thanksgiving sermon, expressed it, "The moral sense of the country demands house-cleaning wherever it is needed, either to the right or to the left of the speaker's chair," and that demand must yet be met. . . . In this connection, the recent action of the Westmount Liberal Club, in adopting a resolution to request that steps be taken against corruption in politics, and that such measures as necessary be taken to insure the maintenance of the best ideals of public life, must meet with the endorsement of every honest man, whatever his party in politics may be. May we have more of such resolutions, and may they bear much fruit.

The Kaiser's indiscretions in conversation have of late been leading to issues which must teach His Majesty that even the august Emperor of a realm as powerful as Germany has less freedom in many respects than the most humble artisan in his dominions. Not long ago, his garrulity in regard to matters connected with the South African war set Britain by the ears, and a timely warning was conveyed to His Majesty by his own subjects that he should exercise more discretion in future. A later instance seems evident in the fact that the interview with His Majesty, announced to appear in The Century, has failed to materialize. The Century's representative obtained the interview—very much of an interview, if deductions may be made—it was printed, and the sheets partially bound, when, presto! the magazines are loosened again, the questionable portion removed and burned, along with the proof sheets, while the plates are melted. Obviously, such precautions have been taken only at the express demand of the German Government, and under fear of the provocation still further of European complications should the article appear. In the meantime, the situation, the Kaiser's remarks: "There is no question of doing in favor of more persons in the world." . . . Of which is the world-wide