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The editor of THE CRITIC is responsible for the views expressed in Editorial Notes and Articles, and for such only; but the editor is not to be understood as endorsing the sentiments expressed in the articles contributed to this journal. Our readers are capable of approving or disapproving of any part of an article or contents of the paper; and after exercising due care as to what is to appear in our columns, we shall leave the rest to their intelligent judgment.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

DANISH MARGARINE—The butter-makers of Denmark have long held an enviable position in controlling the British butter market, but of late there has been an unexpected demand for Canadian butter in its stead. As yet the supply has not equalled the demand but there is the prospect of a steady trade being opened in that line. The Danish producers have learned to make margarine and during the last year they exported some 16,000,000 lbs. of that unpalatable article to Great Britain. Much of it entered the United Kingdom under the name of butter and the housekeepers who have purchased it as such are indignant at the swindle. If Denmark is to hold the butter trade she must close her margarine factories, or else her people must agree to swallow the whole output of rancid grease. Should she not consent to either of these restrictions the trade will naturally fall to our Canadian producers.

THE ABSOLUTE COST OF LIVING—It would be extremely interesting to know what amount of money it is necessary to expend each year in order that life may be preserved in the human body. The amount would probably be surprisingly small even when the cost of food, clothing, shelter, and heat was estimated, for when one considers the actual cost of living it is evident that the absolutely necessaries of life are exceedingly cheap and that the luxuries, many of which are not generally esteemed as such, swell the bill of expenditure. Last week a farmer in making a winter purchase of flour and meal had occasion to compare his bill with one for the same amount of goods dated ten years ago. The cost of nine barrels of flour and four barrels of meal then mounted up to \$110, while the bill of last week for goods of the same quantity was only \$44.55; it would seem from these figures that the item for food in the absolutely necessary expenditure need not be a large one.

BAD ADVICE FROM A LAWYER—A novel law-suit before the Supreme Court in New York will interest many who have felt at times a strong desire to enter action for a similar cause. The plaintiff claims that by taking the advice of his lawyer he has been subjected to great inconvenience and to a direct money loss of some \$2,000 and he asks that the lawyer who gave him the advice on which he acted shall be compelled to make good his loss. It appears that the plaintiff, Dr. Moffat, wished to procure a divorce from his wife and acting on the advice of Lawyer Mayo he removed his residence

to the State of Connecticut, believing that after a three months stay he would be able to secure a divorce. After the final move was made he learned that the necessary term was three years and not three months, and as he could not afford to leave his practice, which was largely night work, for so long a time he returned with his children to the Metropolis. He claims that had proper advice been given him he would not have been put to the useless expense of removal.

WESTERN PEACE—Civic affairs must be in a pretty condition in Chicago. The last report is that in order to secure even a semblance of order the city is put under martial law each day between the hours of one and six a.m., the police force acting as garrison. All persons found on the streets in these wee sma' hours are required to give an account of themselves and if the police have reason to doubt the sincerity of the answers, or if burglar's tools or murderous weapons are found upon them, a speedy arrest follows. Not only have violent deeds abounded but the police docket is full every day of cases of sneak thieving, etc. The latest development has been a polite young gas inspector who under pretext of inspecting the pipes in the various rooms of Mr. Armour's palatial mansion managed to remove, in a most quiet and gentlemanly way, the magnificent jewelry belonging to the wife of the famous millionaire. This style of burglarizing can be worked most successfully in Chicago, for unless the victim is knocked on the head or ordered to stand and deliver he will not believe that he is being victimised. Refined methods of burglarizing, etc., will without doubt surprise our Western friends.

THE OFFSPRING OF THE FRUIT GROWERS—We trust that many of our young provincialists will profit by obtaining a course of instruction at the college of horticulture at Wolfville. The Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association is to be congratulated on having awakened a brisk interest in this generally neglected branch of education, and on having vigorously pushed the matter until the funds for the establishment of the course were procured. The promoters hope that within a year or so the college will be regarded as belonging to the Maritime Provinces and that New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island will not only send many students but that they will also share in bearing the financial burden. For the present winter an excellent course of study is outlined and the services of Prof. E. E. Faville, of the horticultural college at Ames, have been secured. Among the horticultural subjects laid down are systematic and economic botany, plant physiology, bacteriology, etc., and in this connection a practical laboratory course will also be pursued. As the tuition for the course is entirely free there will be little excuse for our young fruit-growers if they do not manage by some means to take advantage of this excellent opportunity of obtaining much valuable information.

CREMATION AND BURIAL—The question as to the disposal of the human body after it has become lifeless clay is one which is continually under discussion, and there are many who are violently opposed to the sanitary process of cremation. It is chiefly on sentimental grounds that the objections are urged and we fully sympathise although we do not agree with those who believe only in the "secret and decent chemistry of nature." Sir Henry Thompson of London is the authority for the statement that "no dead body is ever placed in the soil without polluting the earth, the air, and the water above and about it." If this be so, and Sir Henry is backed in his opinion by many eminent authorities, then each graveyard is a constant source and menace of disease to the community in which it is situated. There is no doubt that the germs which develop into diphtheria, fevers, small pox and cholera are preserved alive in the present process of burial and many cases are known to the medical profession of grave diggers, who, in opening graves, have been seized with the disease which had caused the death of long interred beings. In the city of Philadelphia, where typhoid fever is always found, it has been demonstrated that the disease is caused by the impure water in use. The Schuylkill River which supplies the city is the natural drain of seven immense graveyards and there has even been found in the water not only the pollution of disease but also a trace of oil of cedar, presumably from the cedar coffin cases of the cometics. Nothing but the constant cremation of the bodies of all who die of infectious diseases can check this constant progress of disease. There are also those who oppose the idea of cremation on the ground that it is unscriptural and that it presents in some way an insuperable obstacle to the resurrection of the body. This objection is hardly tenable when we consider that many of the most glorious of saints and martyrs were tried by fire and that their ashes are all that is left of their mortal bodies. The germ of immortality whatever it be, and wherever it may be, is inviolate and the man who departs from this life in the full faith of the life hereafter need have no fear that in considering the welfare of the community he is imperiling the future of his soul.