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The Torpedoplane.

Zeebrugge, Cuxhaven, Wilhelmshaven, and Kiel are the only points on the German offensive on sea, or on the Allied side, which are not now under check and control by the Allies. Kiel, near the Baltic terminus of the Kaiser Wilhelm Canal, and Wilhelmshaven are great naval stations where the German navy has taken refuge almost continuously from the beginning of the war. German sea power, with the high importance exception of the submarines, may be said to be under control of the Allies, but from Cuxhaven the mouth of the Elbe and from Zeebrugge in Belgium, German submarines issue forth for their forays against the commerce of Great Britain and France.

There is a growing belief that the torpedoplane is the only weapon of which the Allies can make effective use against these German naval bases or any one of them. An attack upon the German naval bases, or Cuxhaven, Wilhelmshaven, or Zeebrugge, is impossible because of powerful land defenses and a sea of mines, the safe lanes through which are known only to the Germans. Zeebrugge can be attacked only from the air because of the shallow water which extends several miles from the coast. That the torpedoplane, invented by Rear Admiral Percy B. Fiske and patented by him in 1912, can be successfully used in naval warfare has been demonstrated two occasions. Four Turkish ships were sunk in the Sea of Marmora by British torpedoplanes in August, 1915, and a German torpedoplane destroyed the British steamer Gena near Zeebrugge on May 1 of the present year. The Germans and the English have been quick to avail themselves of this American invention; we have copied a frequent experience in seeing foreign Powers make use of American inventions which advance the military naval art, while we ourselves neglect them.

Zeebrugge is a little over 75 miles from the British coast. Cuxhaven and Wilhelmshaven are less than 50 miles from Heligoland, the great German island fortress which protects the Kiel. It is about 90 miles from that island. It is the belief of Admiral Fiske that from a sea base of British torpedoplanes established 50 miles west of Heligoland torpedoplane raids upon three German bases might be carried out with destructive effect. Torpedoplanes could easily make the distance from England to Zeebrugge in their work and return. At that point it is believed that they might destroy many submarines by hovering in the offing, where, owing to the shallow water, the U-boats would be unable to submerge; for five or six miles they would be in plain sight of the foe.

Mr. Park Benjamin, who is a very old authority in naval matters, is confident that the torpedoplane is the most promising means at the present moment which the Allies can employ to destroy the nests from

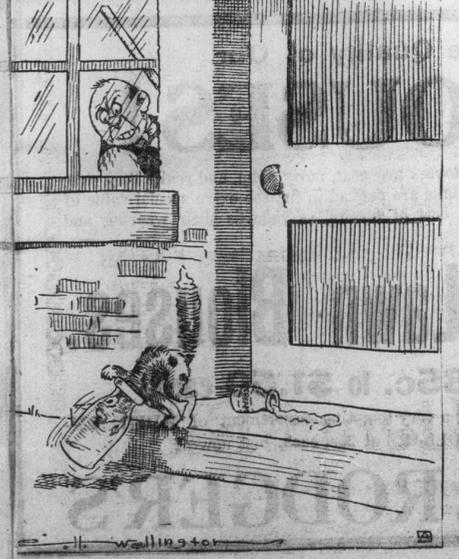
which the sea vermin emerge and to attack the places of refuge of the German high seas fleet. Shortly after the destruction of the British steamer Gena, Mr. Benjamin said: "The German fleet is reported to be in the Kiel Canal and in Wilhelmshaven. It is apparently practicable to drop the mobile torpedoes into the canal. No aiming is necessary. Even if after immersion they run into the banks and explode, they will tear therefrom great masses of earth and masonry revetment, thus choking the passageway, as the 'Culebra' silted the Panama Canal. This would cut in two a fleet therein and prevent junction of the divisions, enabling each to be dealt with separately. Such torpedoes will destroy everything afloat they may happen to encounter. To drop them into Wilhelmshaven is to blow up any vessels within their range, any the closer together the ships are moored, the more of them will be destroyed."

In an article in The Independent of June 30, Mr. Benjamin repeats his argument for the speedy building of torpedoplanes, and Admiral Fiske in his letter to the Aero Club of America makes a terse and convincing presentation of the case for this new weapon. This is the first three-dimensional war, and it is perfectly evident that the German bases cannot be successfully attacked by instruments of destruction that move only on the horizontal plane. Airplanes using only bombs have not sufficient power and are too easily driven off by guns trained against them. A seaplane launching a 200-pound torpedo against any enemy warship or in a harbor where enemy warships have taken shelter is a vastly more formidable weapon.

Admiral Fiske points out, too, that there is great probability that the Germans even now are preparing to make use of this weapon against the British high seas fleet. It is hardly necessary to say that the Power which first makes use of the torpedo launching craft will have gained a notable advantage over the foe. We can build them quickly, and we have an abundance of torpedoes. A dozen torpedoplanes can be built for the cost of one submarine. If England had two or three hundred torpedoplanes at this moment, there is a very great probability that the published lists showing the destructive work of the submarines would in the next few weeks record an important falling off, even if the sinking of merchant ships by U-boats did not cease altogether.—N. Y. Times.

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And the Worst is Yet to Come.



Is Dying Painful?

Discussing, in Reverent Fashion, a Question that is not Inappropriate at Present.

Is death—the act of dying, the cessation of physical life—painful? The question is one of supreme interest for many who have lost loved ones in this terrible war would feel a great lightening of their burden of grief if they could be assured that death was not an awful and fearsome concentration of soul-and-body-rendering agony. The answer can be given at once. Death is painless!

The act of dying must, of course, be separated from the days, hours, or minutes that precede it. That period may—almost must—hold something of pain, yet there is this consoling thought—that when physical suffering reaches a certain point, a merciful unconsciousness almost invariably supervenes. The heart-breaking groans of wounded men are not always conscious groans. They are often Nature's vocal protest against the disturbance of the vital machinery of the body, and a sufferer who feels no pain may utter them.

Picturesque Fiction.

The foregoing applies to men who lie wounded and dying on the battlefield or in the trenches. In our hospitals, if pain is not quite banished, it is greatly alleviated and made bearable.

How physical pain affects each of us varies greatly. According to what we are by temperament and character, inherited or acquired, so we face or flinch from pain. The same rule applies to the act of dying. We may be temperamentally unafraid of death, or our self-made characters may be such that we can face death without fear. Death, therefore, holds no terror. And even in those cases where death does hold terror—there are those who are terribly afraid of the act of dying—it can be said at once that the terror, the fear, is one of prospect, of contemplation only, and not of actual experience. The act of dying, the moment when the heart ceases to beat, has nothing of pain, nothing of suffering, nothing of horror. The "rending of soul and body" is picturesque fiction, holding nothing of fact.

Alluring and Pleasant.

All deaths are in reality sudden, although we apply the word to one type only. A bullet through the brain or heart may cause "sudden death" in the sense that the physical machinery stops suddenly; but the death that follows an illness is really equally sudden. The machinery stops just the same, and with equal suddenness, even if it has slowed up before the actual stopping.

What we call "death" is, after all, merely the culmination, premature or natural, of the dying that is going on within us each minute. Every blow we strike, every thought we think is accompanied by the death of a certain amount of muscular or nervous tissue. In health the "death" is followed by new life—the tissue is renewed. There is no more pain in the death of the whole physical organism than there is in the death of one cell.

In that act of dying there may be pre-death pains, but the act itself is painless. Those who have been close to actual death, and restored, have stated that their sensations—the death sensations—were pleasant, almost alluringly so. It is not quite easy to realize, but the fact remains that "death" is quite natural, and that which is natural, part of Nature's ordered, never holds pain. It is when Nature is outraged, or her workings interfered with, that there is pain and suffering.

The End of a Chapter.

Death is but the end of a chapter in the Book of Life. The act of dying is painless. There is no death agony. Kindly Nature has seen to that. Medical science—Nature in fuller action—helps. Mental pain, spiritual desolation, there may be, but there may not even be those. God is nothing if not absolutely just. Those who have laid down their lives for us, and for the Right, as assuredly they have done, died good deaths, and shall not lose thereby.

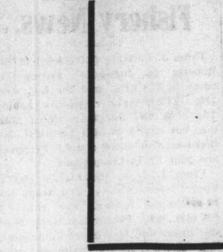
Let those who scoff account for this—that not one soldier of the King has been afraid to die, or thought that when he died, far from home and the loved ones, he would never see them again.

Like children we fear the unknown, but find the thing we dreaded not so terrible after all.—Answers.

Household Notes.

If you get ink on a white silk blouse, dip the spot at once into boiling-hot starch and the spot will disappear. If hot weather causes your doors or table drawers to stick, rub brown soap on them, and they will move smoothly. An inexpensive umbrella stand is made of a shallow, black baking tin, with a cheap towel rack screwed to the wall above it.

Everybody's FLOUR



Paints Bright Pictures of War Progress.

Pleasure and Treasure-Hunting Submarines and Wireless-Driven Airships are Germany's Dreams.

Amsterdam, June 15 (Correspondence of the Associated Press).—A German scientist's imaginative after-war picture is a feature of a recent number of Zukunft. The author, Professor Moritz Lesser, is a member of the Faculty of the University of Bonn. The Professor pictures a world at peace, making use in friendly international relationship of the technical discoveries which have been made during the war for the development of commercial enterprise. The article reads in part as follows:

"Three months after the end of the war the Directors of the leading banks and corporations of Germany held a meeting to the number of 3,000 in the Reichstag, with the Home Secretary for Chairman, and founded a company 'For the Development and Use of Inventions Discovered During the War.' The object of the company was to employ in peace the technical progress which had been accomplished under stress of war, and the capital subscribed was forty times as great as required.

"One object of the company was to build submarines for pleasure trips and search for treasure lost during the war. The great shipping companies followed suit by building deep-sea submarines in which one could sail without seasickness. These ships travelled on a cable laid under the sea, and were worked by an electric current from the land. They journeyed at incredible speed, making the journey from New York to Hamburg in forty-eight hours.

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Why Not Yours?

"It was found possible to build a submarine which sank to a depth of more than a mile, and from this sprang the international company for raising ships sunk during the war. The parcel traffic no longer needed, and large sums of money were made from this salvage work. There was also huge profit in taking passengers in these ships for trips of exploration and sightseeing along the bottom of the sea. Ships were found which had gone down centuries ago, and one expedition recovered the treasure of a continent which was sunk in a Spanish Armada. Moreover, rich veins of coal and iron and other minerals were discovered in the sea.

"Meanwhile wireless telegraphy was perfected until it was possible to send a current around the world. It was also possible to supply airships with the current. A company was founded for a passenger and parcel service without port, which began serving important parts of the world. The parcel traffic no longer needed human pilots, because the airships were guided from the land by a wireless contrivance.

"At the same time the Peace Conference at The Hague, which represented all civilized nations, decided on the disarmament of all the world without any restrictions. By this time every great power had established a fleet of unmanned airplanes, loaded with thousands of bombs which were to be let loose by wireless current at the first mobilization of an enemy over all his important towns. In this way every hostile town and base would be reduced to ruin in a few hours. This meant that there could no longer be any war."

Other imaginary inventions described by the writer include an American "spectral film," which brought the pictures of distant events as they happened to the theatre and private houses.

Another invention dispensed with the use of coal and gas by preserving the heat and light of the sun. Traffic problems in the world's great cities were solved by setting pavements and streets in motion. The article concludes:

The German Mystery.

Leading members of the Catholic Centre Party in Germany go to Austria and hold conferences with leaders there. Austria is the great Catholic Empire, and has at present a ruler who is obviously tired of the war. Hardly have the Centrists returned before Catholic South Germany produces surprising manifestations. The newspapers which have heartily supported Pan-Germanism suddenly abandon their policy and come out against the Government. Then Matthias Erzberger, the Centrist leader, formerly a supporter of the Government, makes a resounding attack on it, and from the replies made to this unprinted speech it is evident that he demanded internal reforms as well as the abandonment of submarine warfare.

Information from Germany is so fragmentary and so filtered that all we can do at present is to note these facts, not to theorize about them. If the Vatican, through Austria, is at last exerting pressure on Berlin to end the inhumanities of U-boat war and to make the German rulers recede from their determination to wreck the world rather than give an inch, a great hour in the history of the world has struck. But it is impossible to form any conclusions until there are more facts. What is certain, however, is that, in spite of all the boob-hooping, under orders, of the American war preparations by the German press, these

Why Not Yours?

preparations are taken seriously. Why is there a sudden outburst against submarine warfare? Because it was that which brought America into the war, and because those who make it mistakenly imagine that if the submarine outrages ceased America would be in the mood to make peace. Certainly the dread of America must be strong upon them if they are so anxious, and not only the dread of America but the dread of America's early participation in the fighting, for if they thought we would not be effective until next year they could afford to let the submarine war go on until the time was near at hand.

There have been curious evidences, for a long time, that something more than popular unrest was stirring in Germany. The people are not a power there, but there are powers, and it is among these powers that mysterious rumblings have been heard. Last April the journeys of Count Hertling, the Bavarian Premier, to Austria created great disquiet and many rumors. Then came the Berlin Post's story of how Bavaria had been kept in line by a promise to give her part of Alsace-Lorraine, which, whether true or not, caused much unrest in Saxony. Meanwhile the constant upheavals in Austria and the constantly recurring reports about the disaffection of Emperor Charles, and especially of the Empress, have kept a monotonous accompaniment to the suppressed noises from the Catholic South of Germany. It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that a large and influential part of the German population is out of sympathy with the Kaiser's methods and is growing more so all the time.

It would be the best thing that could happen to the world if the Vatican, which has so much influence with Austria and South Germany, should accept the truth that the only way to the peace of Europe is for Germany to recede from her position. Meanwhile it is impossible to refrain from conjecture about why Mr. Lloyd George should have chosen such a singular time as the end of June to inform Germany that if some other Government than her present one was seated in office the Allies would be willing to give that new Government easier terms. The thing is true, and any time is good enough time to say it, but Mr. Lloyd George is not in the habit of uttering eternal truths that have no application to the passing hour. Did he know something that the rest of the world does not know, and was his announcement intended, not for the universe in general, as it seemed to be, but for some particular ears in, say, Austria?—New York Times.

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The "American Peril"

New York Evening Post: An American Peril is now confronting the Kaiser in France; only, as in the case of Russia, it is of quite the peril that was foreseen. Not Delarika has entered the fight, but American Democracy. It is not the democracy of the new Russia, as Mr. Root so wisely pointed out to the men at Petrograd, but it looks to the new Russia with infinite sympathy and, according to our powers, with understanding. We indeed may the Kaiser complain of the policy of "encirclement." He is caught in the democratic ring. William II. may take such comfort as he can out of the thought that he has helped to transform the brutalized mujik and the money-grubbing Yankee into champions of an ideal.

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