

LACK OF FAITH IN GOD THE DANGER OF MODERN MEDICAL RESEARCH AND PRACTICE

Dr. John H. Cotter, of Poughkeepsie, was elected president of the Dutchess County Medical Society on its 100th anniversary. In his address he said:

"Experience teaches that, if we succeed in the future, we must avoid the mistakes of the past. And to my mind one of the greatest mistakes has been made by some of our most gifted thinkers and writers who have spent their lives in trying to prove that this world and all it contains is merely a matter of chance. In other words that there is no creator.

"By their teachings many have become infected with the idea that belief in the unknowable is a sign of ignorance or superstition. These men spent their lives in this work. And yet, all that the Christian thinker can deduce from their teaching is that they did not believe because they could not create. Many scientists who devote their lives to research along those lines relating to medicine, became infected with this belief, and from it sprang a want of confidence in ourselves. It is necessary that the physician should have confidence both in himself and in the means which he employs for the treatment of disease. The more confidence he has the more he will be able to accomplish.

"Did we begin with a belief in our helplessness, we should never make the experiment that would dispel the illusion. Again, when we lost confidence in our own ability, we lose hope. And, if the physician loses hope, how can he expect to inspire his patients with hope for their own well-being? It is my belief that all this doubt, this lack of confidence in ourselves and want of ability to inspire our patients with confidence in us and in our work, should be laid at the doors of those few scientists, or would-be creators.

"On this subject Lord Kelvin, one of the world's leading scientists, has lately given the following warning to a class of medical students: 'Let it not be imagined that any hocus-pocus of electricity or viscous fluid will make a living cell. Let not youthful minds be dazzled by the daily newspapers claiming that because Berthelot and others have made food stuffs, they can make living things, or that there is any prospect of a process being found in any laboratory for making a living thing, whether the minutest germ of bacteriology or anything smaller or greater. There is an absolute distinction between crystals and cells. Anything that crystallizes may be made by the chemist. Nothing approaching to the cell of a living creature has ever yet been made. The general result of an enormous amount of exceedingly intricate and thorough-going investigation by Huxley, Hooker and others of the present age, and by the nineteenth and eighteenth centuries, is that no artificial process whatever can make living matter out of dead.'

"This being an age of action, we have become too active, and give no time to meditation. We seem to imagine that meditation is a kind of mental laziness. But to regard meditation and action as opposite is a mistake. Even though we fail to solve the problem, our time is not lost, for by meditation the mind grows keener and stronger and after a time spent in meditation we are able to accomplish tasks that would otherwise be impossible. What exercise is to the muscles, meditation is to the mind. If this were practiced and encouraged by the physician, perhaps many cases of insanity and suicide both of which are on the increase, would be averted."

THE CELTIC ELEMENT IN FRENCH LIFE AND LITERATURE

(Sacred Heart Review)

When M. Le Braz was at Harvard recently he lectured on the part played by Brittany in the history of French nationality. The Celtic Breton, according to M. Le Braz, deserves well of the French nation for he has contributed much to its upbuilding and maintenance. The motto of the Bretons is, "We are French, but we are Bretons as well," and keeping true to the French nation they have not ceased to preserve the old Breton customs, traditions and habits of thought which distinguish them, as does also their language from the inhabitants of the rest of France. "In their capacity as the Frenchmen," says M. Le Braz, "the Bretons furnished many and famous leaders of thought for the Revolution, and as Bretons they furnished the Chouans, who fought long and bravely, not for the old royalty, but for the priests who were their intellectual

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leaders, and the representatives of a religion dear to their hearts. This ability to remain Breton, to keep the language and the soul of their forefathers, is the element that has made Brittany render such eminent services not only to the history, but likewise to the literature of France.

"The share of the Celt in the formation of French literary spirit is far greater than is usually conceded, and indeed more considerable than the French themselves believe. The first great poem of France, the 'Chanson de Roland,' is undoubtedly the work of a Breton bard, a French Breton, to be sure, but still a Breton."

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WHENCE THESE RICHES

Great Part that Electricity Plays In National Prosperity

(Electrical Review)

When people buy, business is good, and people are now buying and business is good throughout this country and Europe. There is no tulip craze or chasing after idealities, but purchases are made to an extent which taxes the productive resources of manufacturing establishments, whose output is generally sold far in advance.

It is evident that the balance of the increment of the productive capacity of humanity is increasing, and this augmentation of the average potentiality of the individual is the only measure of this enlarged difference between production and consumption which constitutes the increase of prosperity. It must not be overlooked that material possessions have not been destroyed in these territories by wars or extensive fires. Both of these annihilations of value have been fore-runners of financial crises; other losses are mere transfers of property.

It does not answer the proposition to attribute this fortunate commercial condition to machinery, for there have been no radical improvements in methods of manufacture or transportation of freights by land or sea during the last twenty-five years sufficient to introduce materially different conditions.

The term "labor saving machinery" is largely a misnomer, for while the reduction of hours of labor in the face of the increased numbers of workers among growing populations has been compassed by the combined application of improved machinery and modern methods of organization, yet the function of machinery has served to increase

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production and to facilitate distribution to an extent which quickens the luxuries of one generation into the necessities of the next.

If there is now an increased surplus without any recent evidence of a corresponding addition to the rate of individual production, or any diminution of consumption of living expenses, then it is amongst the wastes of recent years that search must be made for the cause of this increment. The first analysis reveals the solution, and that is in the service of electricity applied to mankind, which has cut down wastes which were hitherto unavoidable.

The trolley railway service, particularly in suburban travel, enables people to live on cheaper land, in cheaper houses, or in comparison with the same sites of habitations has diminished the unproductive time in travelling to and from their work. There are many people employed in New York whose travelling time has been reduced two hours a day by methods of inter-urban transit made possible only by electricity. The use of the telephone is still the basis of wonderful anecdotes of how persons save days of travel about a city by a few local calls. Through the service of this instrument, or rather the system of which it is the nucleus, many of the vast army of messengers have been assigned to directly productive employments.

The vertical railway, as Otis Tufts properly entitled his invention of the passenger elevator, sufficed to make commercial buildings exceed three storeys in height, but it is held that the modern skyscraper could not be used to house its thousands devoted to the intensities of commercial affairs within its score or more stories had it not been for the facilities of communication afforded by the telephone service, because there is not sufficient room in such buildings for elevators adequate to transport the number of messengers which would otherwise be necessary for communication between these offices and their clients.

The condition of the messengers in place of telephone service in a skyscraper presents a hypothetical aspect akin to that of the substitution of oarsmen for the propulsion of a steamship, in which they would far exceed the capacity of the vessel, as it would require 20,000 men, working in eight-hour relays to produce the 30,000 horse power used on the large Atlantic liners. It has been found in the course of studies by municipal engineers upon the sidewalk capacities of cities that the facility of communication afforded by the telephone has diminished the relative number of persons walking in the business districts of cities during office hours. The work of these specialists has been directed to providing means for abating the congestion at the beginning and end of working hours, and electricity is applied again to methods of rapid transit at these localities by introducing as many points of departure as possible, within these congested districts.

For long distance travel the telephone is a substitute which has added to productiveness in the measure to which the time that would otherwise be occupied in travelling may be devoted to profitable employment. Of electric illumination in its especial application, wherever the difference between daylight and other methods of lighting impaired or even stopped ac-

The institutions of the National Sanitarium Association, including the Muskoka Cottage Sanatorium and the Muskoka Free Hospital for Consumptives, are under the distinguished patronage of His Excellency Earl Grey, Governor-General of Canada, and Countess Grey.

Readers of this announcement will be glad to know that there has been an encouraging response to our request for help for the

Muskoka Free Hospital for Consumptives



Since this institution was opened, a little more than three years ago, 560 patients have been cared for. Over 2,000 patients have been treated in our two Muskoka homes within the past seven years.

Not a single applicant has ever been refused admission to the Muskoka Free Hospital for Consumptives because of his or her poverty.

Our plea for help is that the Muskoka Free Hospital for Consumptives cares for patients that all other hospitals refuse. If the needed money is forthcoming, this dread disease might be stamped out.

Dr. T. G. RODDICK, an eminent physician of Montreal, ex-president of the Canadian Medical Association, and ex-president of the British Medical Association, stated at a meeting of the Montreal League for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, his firm belief that in twenty-five years, provided proper means are adopted, a case of consumption would be a curiosity.

Within the month the accommodation has been increased by twenty-five beds, adding to the burdens of maintenance, but in the faith that a generous public will come to the aid of the trustees.

Contributions may be sent to Sir Wm. R. Meredith, Kt., Osgoode Hall, Toronto, or W. J. Gage, Esq., 54 Front St. W.

curate line of work, we are without apology always descending, and shall continue to do so until these wonders shall cease to be of service to mankind.

Call it Quits

"Mabel," said Archibald, "now that we are engaged we should have no secrets from each other, should we, dear?"

"No," said Mabel, after she had assured herself her little sister was not listening in the next room.

"Well, then," he continued, "do, please tell me just how old you are."

"With pleasure," said Mabel. "But first, Archibald, please tell me just how much you get a week?"

Archibald pondered. His mind ran ahead into the future.

"Forgive me, Mabel," he responded, "it was none of my business to ask."

The polished Christian comes from the mills of adversity.