

CHESTERTON ON DICKENS; A BRILLIANT APPRECIATION

In Which Mr. Chesterton Turns the Limelight On Aristocracy
—Dickens' Characters Were Not Caricatures.

Mr. J. K. Chesterton was the chief speaker at the Dickens birthday commemoration in Manchester, Eng., recently.

Mr. Chesterton said there was an eternal snobishness in human nature. They were always tending to think a little too much about rich people. He did not say anything too well of rich people; that was quite a different thing. The objection to aristocracy was quite simple. It was not that aristocrats were all asses and blackguards. It was that in an aristocratic state people sat in a cage, darkened theatre, and only the stage was lighted, and they saw five or six people walking about, and they said "That man looks very heroic striding about with a sword." Plenty of people outside in the street looked more heroic striding about with an umbrella; but they did not see these things, all the lights being turned out. That was the really philosophic objection to an aristocratic society. It was not that the bourgeoisie were better than the aristocracy. It was about as clever as one's own brother or cousin. It was because one's attention was confined to a few people that one judged them as one judged actors on the stage, forgetting the rest of the body else. There had always been that great tendency to snobishness, to forget the people with moderate incomes, and to remember the people with lots of money.

It was the tendency to write all their novels on the assumption that all baronets were at least six feet high, whereas in fact they were not even of normal stature. That tendency had been in all history, and had existed, though not more than at the present time, in the feudal days. Nevertheless, if they wanted to know how aristocratic, and exactly how bad their underclass was, they should consider a figure which he had read some days before, known to him as the Chaucer's Canterbury Tales was not any more chivalrous than Colonel Newcombe. That was quite true. But the real difference between Colonel Newcombe and Chaucer's knight was that Colonel Newcombe never would have gone on the Canterbury pilgrimage. After Chaucer's time this snobishness of this class feeling had risen until it had overpowered them all, and they were the snobs they were.

Dickens and the Vulgar.

Here and there, there appeared in history one of those great voices which called them back to their common humanity. It was one of them that they were celebrating. The comparison between Chaucer and Dickens was one which might be carried considerably farther. For all the great and ordinary vulgar accounts against Dickens (he said "vulgar" because they were generally advanced by weedy, cultured people) could be equally advanced against Chaucer; for instance, the fact that Dickens saw first of all about a man the trade he worked at. The answer was that that was the way living men saw living men. It went to the power of the people who did not earn their own living, but attempted to teach other people to do so, had increased, and therefore literature about straightforward and rugged and unadorned speaking people had proportionately

decreased. There was just that same thing in Chaucer and Dickens. He had heard Dickens blamed for what was called his superficiality. That, again, they would find in the great medieval poet. Dickens was in the nineteenth century what Chaucer had been in the fourteenth. Chaucer had been so strong and living that his influence had lasted for hundreds of years after, for several decades, and people had done nothing but imitate Chaucer. Dickens' art had been so violent and living that it had had an even stronger effect still, so that very few people had tried, and certainly none had succeeded, in imitating Dickens.

The Charge of Exaggeration.

There were some people who would tell them that Dickens' characters were monstrously exaggerated. The literary art did not propose to describe things as they were. The literature proposed to discuss people as they appeared to other people. People saw other people as exaggerated; and literature did not correspond to life or to truth, but to speech and an oratorical style. There was a very important point. Literature was not supposed to be somebody telling a story about somebody else. The second thing to remark about, with Chaucer, if one mark that at times Dickens did exaggerate, having an extraordinary genius for invention, but the degree to which he exaggerated had been enormously exaggerated in its own turn. It was, for this reason, because they had the misfortune to live in a snobbish country. The rich had always been idealized, they liked to look at them. The result was that they had in their public schools and universities the attempt to produce a considerable degree of the pretence of uniformity. They had now in the upper classes a vast amount of what was called good form, which was simply everybody trying to be mistaken for everybody else. They tended to judge all idealistic, and if one class, if they once came in contact with the mass of mankind, if one began to discuss finance with a charwoman, or good reasons why one should not be a snob, they would find out that they were not so much different from the masses that formed the vast mass of mankind, one would find one's self inside a page of Dickens.

It was very hard to pick up all the things that Dickens would do the world. He had taught all to regard their own private life. Dickens had created what might be called the great comedy, for all the people who might be regarded as a bore. He had created comedy in the domestic life. The right way to regard the odd and the tiresome in one's life was the Dickens way. The fact that Dickens said first of all about a man the trade he worked at. The answer was that that was the way living men saw living men. It went to the power of the people who did not earn their own living, but attempted to teach other people to do so, had increased, and therefore literature about straightforward and rugged and unadorned speaking people had proportionately

ABSINTHE DRINKING IN FRANCE KILLS AN ARMY CORPS YEARLY

Effort Being Made to Win the Country Back to Wine—The People Going Through an Alcoholic Crisis—A Green Plague.

France is passing through what may be called an alcoholic crisis. Many of her public men declare that she is in the grasp of a much more dreaded foe than ordinary alcohol—that subtle and slow but sure poison, absinthe.

This great republic is awakening to the fact that her people are on the decline, morally, physically and mentally, and the momentous question of alcoholism is so vital an issue that Frenchmen like Bourgeois, Richard and Motet of the Academie des Sciences are using their united efforts to arouse all Frenchmen to the danger of the green plague. Here, where the wine-drinking countries, such as Italy, Spain and France, have hardly understood the word drunkenness. It was a condition rarely met with either in the workmen or in the upper class. In any of these countries if an inebriated person tottered along the street he was hailed with derision, hooted at by the small boys and was a target for the jeers and hisses of every passerby. The feeling against the man who has "taken too much" has changed within the last ten or twelve years in France.

The people of the other countries still keep to the custom of drinking only the natural light wines of their country, and they remain sober, industrious and law-abiding, but in France the gradual introduction of spirits has brought into existence a generation possessing a lower mentality, a less robust physique and filled with unquiet principles.

France is facing a big problem. The drinking Frenchman all over the world is a source of strength and respectability, but the Frenchman who is drunk is a source of evil, the sorry consequences of which are so manifest today. The whole beautiful country of France is in the throes of the green plague. A greater disaster than ever Napoleon had to fight against is in her cities with powerful allies in the towns and the countryside. Napoleon is generally accorded the credit of having been a great statesman, but he was a great fighter, and his army was the strongest in the world. He was a great fighter, and his army was the strongest in the world. He was a great fighter, and his army was the strongest in the world.

In the minds of the majority of Europeans the army and navy are the backbone of every country and there is a much reason for this. In the French army that the disastrous effects of too much alcohol or absinthe drinking are felt first. Most of the recruits indulge more or less in the poisonous drink, so that the very foundation of the army is undermined

giving over their glass of absinthe. Their absinthe is only three or four drops in a glass, and it is a drink that contains the most nauseous ingredients, a mixture that first excites the brain and ends by turning men into worse than beasts.

The alcoholic habit is a constant drain on the slender purse of the meagrely paid workman and the dire results are far-reaching. The wife becomes a martyr to the husband's habits, and the children degenerate. They are born with a tendency to disease, thereby filling the whole country with undesirable citizens. The papers are constantly filled with the cold-blooded crimes that are nightly taking place in Paris alone. These degenerate offspring of the imbibers of absinthe are called "apaches." Usually they are young fellows from 17 to 30 years of age, of French birth, and far from athletic looking.

Their manner of attack is always underhand; a warning is seldom given to their victim, and their habit is to strike quietly up to a person from behind and without a word plunge a knife in his back. Sometimes a life has been sacrificed for the sake of a few pence and again and again the courts have brought out the fact that the apache has killed for no other reason than a desire to shed blood. These degenerates are not of one sex, the women apaches are as savage and unmerciful toward their victims as the men. All of them carry weapons, generally a long knife, and when aroused to a frenzy they are the most dangerous creatures that a civilized country ever harbored.

The great doctor, Professor Hayen, says it is useless to struggle against that dread disease tuberculosis unless one gets under control the abuse of alcohol. Alcohol drinks, he says, emphatically, are responsible for a large percentage of tuberculosis disease.

In speaking of the condition of France between the years 1483-1559, said it was a period of decay and of a new birth—a time for reforming itself and setting itself on a new basis. This observation is most applicable to the present day. The whole thinking class of this great country has graced itself for a long and determined fight against alcoholism, and already its efforts are meeting with some success, but the

task is a great one and it will require heroic efforts ere the new birth can be hoped for.

The National League against alcohol, of which M. Voinin is the president, has been instrumental in bringing about a gradual reform, slow, as all colossal movements are bound to be, but still it is making sure headway in its big undertaking. The league does not advocate teetotalism. It only suggests using wine, beer and cider in moderation, but it insists on the strict enforcement of total abstinence. This organization has opened temperance cafes in different sections of Paris and also in many of the other cities in France. At the present time, however, coffee or hot wine is served. Reading-rooms have also been established in different parts of the city, rooms where the daily papers, magazines and books are provided for the use of the public. These libraries are gymnasia for the use of every one. The aim of these reading-rooms is to entice the workman to spend his spare hour at these places. On each visit of a workman an illustrated card is given him. No matter how often the subject differs it always shows the laborer who abstains from alcohol the terrible consequences of over-indulgence, while underneath is the object lesson, usually a poverty-stricken workman, a hideous spectacle—the victim of drink. As an inducement for the people to give up drinking, the league has offered for the return of a certain number of these illustrated cards, new clothing, household utensils and even furniture are given in exchange for them.

Then great work is being done in the schools. It is by the present generation of children, who are being instructed in the abuses of alcohol and the terrible consequences of over-indulgence, that the future stamping out of the green plague is expected to be accomplished. These children have entered into the movement with all the enthusiasm that even tariff reform has evoked. It is a noble and useful work.

France as a nation, uses more absinthe than all the rest of the world put together. Statistics show that last year 5,000,000 gallons were consumed.

It is a heavy tax on the liquor has been proposed, thus putting it beyond the reach of the poorer classes, but as yet no serious steps have been taken to make it a law.

How Glasgow is Governed.
A STRANGE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

Tenants, Not Landlords, Pay the Bulk of the Taxes—Triumphs of Public Ownership—One-Fourth of the Area of City Exempt From Taxation—Necessity of the Budget.

Mr. John R. Robinson, editor of the Toronto Telegram, writes to his paper from Glasgow, that the Glasgow City Council is a noble city, with its "innumerable caravan of docks" and its boast of "twenty miles to Greenock," with the ear never out of sound of the hammer and the ship-building yards on either bank of the Clyde.

A cloud on the glory of Glasgow is the number of shoeless children or "hoolies" haunting the streets, even in the pavements that fall to grow warm and bright under the smiles and tears of the "mild genial winter" that haunts the valley of the Clyde.

His assessment of the city activity as a leader in the noble science of municipal government does not put boots on the cold feet or food in the hungry mouths of little children.

Glasgow's Conquests for Public Ownership.

Yet it is easily seen that Glasgow's conquests for public ownership have made life happier and brighter for thousands of human beings.

The masses of Glasgow's population would get less out of life than their share of the city's wealth. The good things that franchise-grabbing corporations could add the burden of paying dividends on \$30,000,000 of \$400,000 worth of watered stock to the inevitable hardships of life in Glasgow.

The courage of Glasgow in bringing water from Loch Katrine, its success in operating an ideal system of trams, with low fares and no street car, and Glasgow's triumphs in the supply of gas and electricity—all these great questions demand separate treatment. The question of taxation in Glasgow is worth of brief consideration. The local details of that question reveal the urgent need for the removal of appalling injustice by means of the Lloyd-George budget with its land taxes or some other curative agency.

"A Pretty Story," But Not True.

The old adage to the effect that a lie can travel round the world while the truth is putting on its boots was embellished with a fine modern illustration in the form of the oft-repeated story that

"Glasgow makes so much money out of her gas and street railway franchise that the municipality collects no taxes in the city."

It is a pretty story, and "the pity is it isn't true." Glasgow does not apply to the reduction of taxation any share of the earnings of its gas works, its electric light system, or its street railway system.

Glasgow Taxes the Rental Value.

The rental value of Glasgow's 180,000 houses and 9,555 acres of developed ground is placed at \$25,000,000 per annum.

The phrase "rental value" implies a method of assessment that is foreign to Canadian ideals.

The Canadian assessor values the land at so much, the house at so much, and the municipality collects the taxes on the gross valuation.

Old country law places the burden of municipal taxation upon the actual earning power of the property.

Where there is no earning power there is no taxation.

"Unbuilt ground" has no earning power—it is exempt.

"Vacant houses" have no earning power—they are untaxed.

Glasgow Taxes the Same as Toronto.

Glasgow collects \$5,400,000 per annum as taxation on the rental value or the earning power of 9,555 acres of developed ground. This revenue from taxation is supplemented by the "rates" on

Houses that rent for \$100 per annum and under \$150,000
Houses that rent for \$100 per annum and over 27,000

Total rate of the houses in Glasgow \$180,000

Taxation in Glasgow, stated in terms of Canadian currency, is approximately—

"Parish taxes, poor rates and schools, 12 cents on the dollar, rental value."
"City of Glasgow taxes, 18 cents on the dollar, rental value."

above figures 4,000

Total acreage of developed ground liable to taxation 11,000

Total acreage of unbuilt ground exempt from taxation 4,000

Tenants would speedily become "the town site of a revolution" if the law permitted speculators to rest upon their ownership of 4,000 acres of this city's total area while the remaining 11,000 acres had to pay all the taxes.

The land taxes of the Lloyd-George budget propose to tax "unbuilt ground" at approximately 4 mills on the dollar, and give one-fifth of the proceeds to the municipalities for the reduction of rates, retaining the other four-fifths of the land tax for imperial purposes.

The Canadian who studies Glasgow cannot understand the old country's tolerance under which 9,555 acres, or three-fourths the total area of a great city, is developed ground, built upon and liable to taxation, and 4,000 acres, or one-fourth the area of a great city, is "unbuilt ground," vacant property, exempt from taxation.

Tariff Reform Saved Unionists.

English law puts the onus of paying the taxes on the tenant, and if the tenant cannot pay the landlord is not liable, and the defaulters' taxes add to the rates which burden the other tenants.

Scottish law divides the responsibility for taxes between the landlord and the tenant, and the Scottish system is so good that Glasgow failed to collect \$137,500 of the taxes due the city last year.

The Lloyd-George budget might be a subject of controversy in Canada in its proposals to make the landlord share with the state the unearned increment of his property when that property is sold. Even these advanced proposals are just.

The conditions under which speculators can hold one-fourth the total area of Glasgow, free from taxation, until they are ready to sell, are intolerable.

It is a wonder that even tariff reform saved the Unionists from extermination on the issue raised by their ill-judged hostility to the land tax clause of the Lloyd-George budget.

REGENERATING GERMANY.

Many a chapter has been written on the regeneration of Germany. Where once barren fields stood, so barren that food-stuffs would not grow, there have arisen vast works of art, with the stacks of flowers grow where once not even a weed would flourish. And in all these plants chemists are working, controlling the products that are made, and creating new judgments, new and useful compound more work is found, and whereas, emigration was the rule in Germany thirty to fifty years ago, and its best people left it like rats from a sinking ship, today many are immigrating for it's a flourishing land which chemistry has retrieved. Germany was always poor up to ten or fifteen years ago. With one or two possible exceptions, almost all the wealth that it had had nothing to export, but today its exports are enormous, its people prosperous, in sad comparison to its neighbor, Austria, where industry is making slow progress.

Germany with Germany.—Dr. Maximilian Toch, in Science.

THE FLOW OF ROCKS.

Among the grants made by the Carnegie Institution in support of nature investigations is one item bearing this quaint title. Thus, for investigating the flow of rocks. Thus it appears that the solid rock can flow, and that it is of importance to ascertain the exact facts about this strange flowing. Such investigation is a concrete fact with the aid of hydraulic means capable of producing a pressure of 100 tons to the square inch. Under this pressure marble, limestone, granite and other solid rocks exhibit the phenomenon of flow, and it is the rate of motion is exceedingly slow. The import of these investigations relates to the shaping of the earth's crust under the force of gravity.—Exchange.

STAGE VENTURES IN OLD LONDON

Charles Frohman's Repertory Theatre—A Dozen New Plays and Fifteen Revivals in the Next Five Months.

The opening of Mr. Frohman's repertory theatre season on Feb. 20 at the Duke of York's Theatre, is the talk of the London theatrical world today, and small wonder, for never before has a manager put forth such a programme, and never before, it has been said, has a commercial manager gathered around him enough artists and plays to run a repertory theatre on a money-making basis, if the public wants it.

Last year Herbert Trench started his tenancy of the Haymarket Theatre with the idea of running a repertory theatre. His programme was a carefully varied and interesting, and one wealthy peer alone is said to have backed the idea with £30,000. After one artistic failure the second piece caught on, and when it had made its mark on the production of the "Blue Bird," it was only running to another theatre, and is still running today, while the "Blue Bird" shows no signs of wearying in its flight.

Frohman, however, is going to see if the public really wants repertory. His list contains a dozen new plays and fifteen revivals, all to be seen within the next five months, for the preliminary announcement speaks only of the period from Feb. 21 till the end of the summer.

Of the fifteen revivals only three were originally presented by Mr. Frohman, namely, the plays by J. M. Barrie, "Quality Street," "What Every Woman Knows" and "The Admirable Crichton." With one exception the other plays are all by foreign writers, the exception being "Phigiana in Aulis." Of Phigiana there will be "The Amazons," "Trelawney of the Wells," and "Fris," of Bernard Shaw, "Man and Superman," of G. B. Shaw, and "The Doctor's Dilemma," of T. W. Higginson. Of the new plays, "The Voyage Inheritance," of John Galsworthy, "The Silver Box," and "Strife," one by Haddon Chambers, "The Tyranny of Tears," and one by John Massfield, "The Tragedy of Nan." These plays, it will be noticed, include the pick of the old country theatre plays, with several of the best of the last ten years.

Of the new plays that which arouses most interest and curiosity is "The Sentimentalists," a comedy by George Meredith. The play, unfinished, but will be played as the author left it in manuscript. The fragment, which is intended for the first act of the play, is in two scenes, and is so complete in itself as to justify its production as a one-act play. The other new plays are "The Outcry," by Henry James; "Justice," and "The Eldon Son," by Galsworthy; "Misalliance," by Bernard Shaw; "The Madras House," by Galsworthy; and "Chains," by Elizabeth Baker. There will also be new one-act plays by Barrie.

One-fourth Glasgow's Area Is Exempt Land.

Glasgow still elects parish councils to administer poor rates and school taxes. Glasgow's parishes are entrenched in the municipal building, and they look after the larger concerns of the city's life.

The difference between actual value and assessed value is too substantial, and parish and city taxes are so intermingled that it is not easy to furnish a basis of comparison between taxation in Glasgow and taxation in Toronto.

It is substantially true that the parish and city rates in Glasgow work out at a tax of about 20 mills on the dollar on the actual value of the property assessed. According to this estimate the municipal taxation in Glasgow is about equal to municipal taxation in Toronto.

Leaving as developed ground 9,555

The 9,555 acres occupied by buildings pays \$5,400,000 to the treasury of the City of Glasgow.

The full inquiry of the system which the land taxes of the Lloyd-George budget tried to end is illustrated in these figures:

Total acreage of City of Glasgow Acres.

Developed ground 11,000

Unbuilt ground included in the above figures 4,000

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BRITISH WARSHIPS EQUIPPED FOR USING OIL AS FUEL

Advantages of the Change—Ship Gets Up Speed Earlier and Has a Wider Radius of Action.

New York Sun: Whether the report in London that the admiralty has decided to substitute oil for coal as fuel on warships is true or not, no one who is familiar with the experiments made by the British authorities and has observed the rapid construction of reservoirs at the naval ports to hold stores of oil would be surprised if the government confirmed the report. Two years ago it was announced that oil would be burned exclusively on the seagoing torpedo boat destroyers. The larger war vessels were to carry supplies of oil and experiment with it. Work began at Portsmouth on a system of tanks equipped with hose connections through which oil could be pumped into ships lying at the jetty, thus doing away with the confusion and dirt in coaling, and saving time and labor.

The advantages of using oil instead of coal for fuel are so great that the nation that first equips her warships with the necessary apparatus and establishes a chain of supply stations around the world will steal a long lead of naval efficiency over her rivals. That this is England's intention has been apparent for some time. All parts of the empire have been equipped with petroleum, and promoters have gone far afield in countries like Persia to find a sufficient and inexhaustible supply of oil for the navy. It has been struck in great quantities in the Persian Gulf, and the same report comes from Egypt and Australia. While the quest was going on the admiralty, with great faith in the result, has been preparing supply stations in all parts of the world.

A warship taking on oil instead of coal for fuel can at once dispense with the huge mounds of coals, and this liquid fuel can be carried as ballast in the double bottom of the ship, and as the oil is consumed water can be admitted. Coaling on the high seas has always been a tedious and complicated operation, but pipes passed from a tank steamer into the side of the war vessel will quickly fill her reservoir. Stoking with oil can

be managed easily under all weather conditions, even when the ship is steaming at full speed. Heat is generated so rapidly with oil that a battleship need not stop to top speed very much less time than when the stokers are putting in coal, no matter how fast they work. Thus the cruiser Duke of Edinburgh in the 1907 manoeuvres, with oil as a fuel, made 23 knots an hour against a head sea in a critical moment, and the battleship King Edward ran away from a coal-using enemy. To bring the comparison home to our own navy, if Sampson's fleet had been able to stoke with oil on July 8, 1898, it would have made much shorter work of the Spanish squadron. Oil is said to be more economical than coal, for the furnace can be fed automatically with oil without waste. It is true that coal in the bunkers furnishes protection to the vital parts of the ship, but for this reason only is it preferred to oil.

For two years or more many of the battleships and cruisers of the British navy have been carrying a store of oil to supplement the coal supply. Vessels of the King Edward class have been refitted so that either coal or oil can be burned exclusively. Stoking with oil, the destroyer Swift maintained for some hours the speed of 38.3 knots, or nearly 45 miles an hour. The battleship Dreadnought has done far better work with oil than coal. Still, in spite of the demonstrated advantages of liquid fuel, it may be doubted if the British navy is prepared to dispense with coal altogether. It would require not only the possession of ample sources of supply in the different parts of the world but a very nice squad of mechanics to keep the fuel stations replenished and ready for service. Oil could be more easily destroyed than coal, and it would be necessary to protect and guard the tanks. A supplementary store of coal might be the means of saving a ship or even deciding a campaign.

With its habitual foresight the British admiralty is not likely to place its trust entirely on oil, no matter how abundant the production of oil in its possession might prove. But all signs—the refitting and storing of ships and the building of reservoirs of capacity at Chatham, Portsmouth, Plymouth and on the Norway coast—point to a decided preference for liquid fuel over coal by the British admiralty.

Toothless Age Coming

American People Losing Their Grinders—Dental Decay Going On in All Nations.

That Americans are losing their teeth, and that not only they but all civilized peoples must take care or they will become permanently toothless, is the warning sounded in a leading editorial by Good Health (Battle Creek, Mich., January). Say the editors:

"The American people are losing their teeth. The same process of dental decay is going on among all civilized nations. The investigator of the future who goes to the ruins of the ancient mound-builders with those exhumed from present-day cemeteries, and compares the skulls of the two races, the massive and symmetrical jaws, for the reason that each jaw contains sixteen teeth, well developed and well worn by much usage, but in the modern race, and held in place by strong roots. The present-day skull rarely, if ever, contains 32 teeth, or if it does, it is but a short time that the teeth are four, one at each end of the arch, and the rest are missing. The teeth are owing to the fact that they begin to decay before they have emerged from the jaw. It is very rare indeed that a person is found who possesses 32 sound teeth. The wisdom teeth are almost always defective and a source of much trouble. The roots are not properly developed, and there is often decay before they have emerged from the jaw. In a few instances, nearly all the teeth are found to be defectively organized, misshapen and misplaced."

These dental defects, the writer goes on to say, are not merely inconspicuous. Defective teeth mean defective power to masticate, with impaired digestion and impaired nutrition. But worse than this, defective teeth are a source of trouble, rather than dental decay, the result of indigestion. An unhealthy state of the mouth is itself

simply a part of a general vital depreciation. Decay of the teeth is generally accompanied by a coated tongue and other evidences of bacterial invasion of the body.

"The above facts," presented as evidence that the modern civilized man must begin to give attention to his teeth and give them extreme care or he will lose them, are taken from the work of the dentist, Dr. J. M. Barrie, who has been to the teeth of the orang-utan, or the chimpanzee. But the modern civilized man, long neglected his teeth, and has cultivated degeneracy to such a degree that the utmost care must be given them to prevent their total loss. "The mouth and teeth should be thoroughly cleaned before and after each meal. At least twice a day the teeth and gums should be thoroughly brushed with a proper brush. The brush should not be so sharp and stiff as to cut the gums. The use of chemicals for cleansing the teeth is wholly unnecessary and may be seriously harmful."

"The teeth should be also well polished, and glistening. When rough or slimy, deterioration is taking place. The most important thing to do for the protection of the teeth is to adopt such a dietary as will secure a clean tongue. As long as the tongue is coated and the mouth is seething with destructive bacteria, which are capable of producing dental decay, the alimentary canal and the whole body are in a state of degeneration. The food of the food or drink which passes through the mouth carries into the stomach with it millions of these disease-producing bacteria, which, finding their way into the intestine, multiply themselves in prodigious numbers, giving rise to intestinal auto-intoxication, and all this mischief which grows out of this condition of the mouth is far more important than that of the hands and face or any other portions of the body. Children should be taught the proper care of the mouth from early childhood."—Literary Digest.

SLAVERY WHERE THE COCOA GROWS

Awful Conditions on Portuguese Cocoa Islands Exposed by the Cocoa King, Wm. Cadbury—Disgrace to Civilization.

"Labor in Portuguese West Africa," is the title of a book just published by William A. Cadbury, the great cocoa and chocolate manufacturer and philanthropist.

It contains the story of what he saw and heard in the cocoa plantations of San Thome when he went out to West Africa in the autumn of 1908 on a voyage of inspection on behalf of the English cocoa manufacturers. As all the world knows, Mr. Cadbury found that the conditions under which labor was recruited on the mainland for the San Thome cocoa plantations amounted to slavery, and that the death-rate on that island and on Principe was sensationally high. Neither the Portuguese Government nor the planters showed a sufficiently clear determination to put a speedy end to these conditions, with the result that, as is also well known, the British manufacturers in a body declined to buy any more cocoa from those parts. It is hoped that the American manufacturers will soon follow suit.

In the present volume the facts are presented without any sensational overcoloring. The facts in themselves, however, suggest terrible things. In the island of St. Thome, for instance, which is "as salubrious as a West Indian island" and where the people suffer from no lack of food, or, except occasionally bad conditions of housing—the imported laborers die at the rate of 100 per 1,000. "Without a constant stream of immigration the entire surviving population from Angola would disappear in ten years," Mr. Cadbury

thinks that the circumstances in which the labor is recruited are chiefly to blame.

What those circumstances may be guessed from such a fact as that Angola, as in parts of the Belgian Congo, "will not longer be along the main track." Some of the people sell themselves, others are sold into slavery; and at any rate, to sign away their freedom in entire ignorance of what they are doing. An awful mixture of rum bottles, shackles, and bleeding bones" marks the track along which the recruiting agents take the coast. "In his despair he sometimes wished that the islands were swallowed in the depths of the sea, and all their trouble ended." The conditions have been all the more terrible because of the obstacles put in the way of the Angola natives ever returning home again.

WALKED TO PARLIAMENT.

All members of Parliament did not ride to London from their constituencies in the old days. Mr. Barclay, of Ury, who represented Kincardineshire in the eighteenth century, always walked the whole way, doing his 50 miles a day with ease. Marathon runners may note that his refreshment on the journey was a bottle of port, poured into a bowl and drunk off at a draught. George III. took much interest in Mr. Barclay's achievements, and said: "I ought to be proud of my Scotch subjects, when my judges ride and my members of Parliament walk to the metropolis." The former allusion was to Lord Monboddo, who always rode to town instead of driving, considering it unmanly to sit on a box drawn by brutes.—London Chronicle.