

Sentencing of Drug Addicts to Prison Is Called a Crime

British Doctor Says Self-Respect Should Be Restored to Victims Before Cure Can Be Made.

London, April 1.—(By Mail)—"A person struggling alone to loosen the bonds of the drug habit is engaged in a task like that of Sisyphus himself," declared Dr. H. A. Burridge, in a paper read before the Medico-Legal Society, and published in "The British Medical Journal."

"Until self-respect has been re-established there is no hope of a cure." It was an absurdity, he said, if not a crime, to commit these people to prison, where the last shreds of their self-respect would be lost.

Contrasting British and American methods of dealing with drug addicts, Dr. Burridge said that on this side of the Atlantic the American principle of correlating treatment with penal repression had not been followed, nor had there been sufficient survey of drug addiction before legislation enactment.

"Not only the medical but the legal mind in the United States regards the drug addict as a sufferer rather than a criminal," he said.

"This dangerous drug act seems as if it might become a 'dangerous to doctors act,' and half the members of the Medico-Legal Society might presently be employed in keeping the other half out of prison."

The result of an official inquiry in the United States was:

There is no known specific remedy for drug addiction.

The cocaine habit more readily responded to treatment than the narcotic habit.

The best results were obtained when the victim was in some kind of custody, not in prison, but in a controlled sanatorium.

American experts regarded heroin as the most dangerous drug in the category, because of its attractiveness to the young.

"My suggestion is that they should be committed by the magistrate to a home," added Dr. Burridge, "and preferably a farm. Perhaps six weeks later they should be brought before the same magistrate, who would sit with a medical assessor, and evidence would be given by a medical officer of the institution to which they had been committed."

"Upon the decision of the magistrate they could be released on their own recognisances or committed for a further period."

A new fire alarm box has been installed in Douglas avenue, between Bentley street and the bridge. Another box will be put up in Millidge avenue.

Robert Page Lincoln, C. S. Landis, J. W. Wilson, F. Y. Williams, and other regular contributors whose work is always a popular demand, have splendid contributions in the May issue, and there are a host of others, William MacMillan being the author of a very fine story, "Woo-Na, the Polar Bear." There is an interesting, illustrated article on "The Banff Winter Sports Carnival," not to mention the Kennel Department, edited by Frank H. Walker, and many other features. Rod and Gun in Canada is published monthly at Woodstock, Ontario, by W. J. Taylor, Limited.

LABOR IN CANADA.

Vancouver Sun: Labor, organized, is a great force for good or a great force for evil. By keeping labor clear of all exploiters, all "reds" and all bolsheviks and attacking economic abuses with economic weapons, Canadian workers can be a force beneficent to themselves and to all industry.

C. K. James, winter season storekeeper for the C. G. M. M. for four years, has been reappointed to purchasing agent with headquarters in Montreal. He is a son of Frederick W. James, also of the C. G. M. M. Mr. James has been residing in Douglas Avenue.

Provision has been made by the Nova Scotia Legislature for granting a retiring allowance of \$2,500 a year for Dr. Alexander H. MacKay, supervisor schools, when he wishes to give up his post.

All the sheriffs of the province have been reappointed, according to a statement made yesterday by Premier Veniot.

ROD AND GUN

There are numerous features combined to make the May issue of Rod and Gun in Canada one of merit, and one that will greatly please sportsmen all the way from the Atlantic to the Pacific. In this issue, a new department "Outdoor Talks" begins, and it promises to be an addition to the magazine that readers will enjoy. It is edited by W. C. Motley, the well known British Columbia sportsman and it is almost certain to meet with instant approval. Bonnycastle Dale.

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ZANGWILL FEARS ZIONISM WILL FAIL IN PALESTINE. London, April 1.—(By Mail)—Israel Zangwill, in an interview with "The Westminster Gazette," dealing with the Zionist movement and the recent debate on the subject in the House of Commons, said he was afraid the movement would not culminate in success. "It was declared in the House of Commons that Palestine was ultimately to become a Jewish land as England is English. This whittling away of the land, however, would make Zionism now almost without interest, were it not for the heroic labors of University-bred young men and women who go out to build up a Jewish State with their bare hands. "The present preponderance of six or seven Arabs to every Jew might not indeed, prevent the Jews from becoming the dominant power, both industrially and politically, if there were no democratic regime. "But, under modern constitutional government, I do not see that the state which will arise can be anything but preferably Arab—if, indeed, it does not become preponderantly British."

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Former Landowner In Russia Tells of His Life as Peasant

Father and Sons Work From Dawn to Night on Small Farm, Then Do Labor as Thrashers During Fall.

London, April 1.—(By Mail)—The following is quoted by "The London Times" from a letter written by a former Russian landowner who is now leading the life of a peasant with his father and brother on an allotment forming part of the family estate: "I would like to describe to you in detail our life and occupations, so as to give you an idea of how so many educated and cultured people live in Russia nowadays."

"As you know, when the Revolution came, my father, my three brothers, and I managed to receive the permission of the Government to stay in the country upon our estate (although it is not ours any more). We were given a standard allotment from our former land on condition that we worked it ourselves, and we settled down to the new life."

"Of work there was plenty and at first it was hard to give up old habits and tastes and to live like peasants; besides our little piece of land, through our want of skill, refused in the beginning to yield enough to make both ends meet. Gradually, however, we began to get accustomed to the new labor and things began to improve."

"Work is distributed in this way. Father is our shepherd. Each morning he takes the Bible, a copy of Pascal, and a small piece of bread, and goes off with the few cows and sheep we have. He is the sower as well, so that when sowing time comes one of us has to take his place and mind our little herd. One of my brothers keeps house, attends to the vegetable gardens, of which we have two, milks the cows and feeds the chickens; another looks after our two horses, and the third and myself do all the rough work in the fields."

"This division of labor is observed until the hay harvest, when all of us, except father, have to work from dawn to dark, for we have no hired laborers, and have to rely on ourselves to get all the hay stored away by the harvest time. Then the hardest time begins. At sunrise we are already in the fields, reaping till sunset, with only a few minutes at midday to swallow the bread and milk we bring with us for nobody has time for lunch. When night comes there is not much rest either, for the peasants let their horses loose, and we have to patrol our fields in turns, chasing them away. Just before dawn we go home for breakfast and come back immediately after."

"When all the harvest is cleared from the fields, thrashed and stored, we usually take with me the one thrashing machine we have left and go to work in villages as a hired laborer. The peasants willingly give me work and I pass from one village to another till the autumn. During this nomad life I usually stay with my employers, who feed me and pay me in kind, a percentage upon the grain thrashed. To do the peasants justice I must say that they always treated me well, gave me plenty to eat and often even killed a chicken or a rabbit in my honor. During the first summer they also gave me a pair of boots, as I had no footwear of any description."

"In autumn, after going home with my hard-earned grain, I can afford a little rest and an able even to read and study in the evenings. But rest in our kind of life is not to be encouraged. As long as one is absorbed in work the whole day and is almost dropping with fatigue when bedtime comes there is no time to think; but in the long autumn evenings, when the family gathers around the little oil lamp, or when one lies awake at night not tired enough to fall asleep at once, all kinds of thoughts come to torture one. Pictures of the past rise before one's eyes, the military school, the regiment, the war. . . . One involuntarily begins to draw comparisons between the time, not so long ago, when life seemed full of promise and the dreary, hopeless existence of today."

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