

have scarcely been able to realize one terrific invention before the next has burst upon us. The contrast with the sedate, orderly movement of the Victorian era is too much for the imagination and tells as much upon our mental outlook as on our physical state. To quote the report:

Professor Gilbert Murray discerns these indications of the breaking down of the Victorian cosmos: a great outpour of new and more or less fantastic superstitions, a large and outspoken rejection of all religion, and particularly of all morality, a casting aside of conventions, a degradation of standard, a slackening of the sense of duty, a loss of discipline in the young, a lack of interest in the main issues that the nation has to decide. There is no call for pessimism. Amid all the undoubted changes we may believe that equilibrium will be reached again. But for the time being we cannot deny that the foundations have been shaken.

It is, perhaps, mainly a question of time for things to adjust themselves. No one can read history without being struck by the innumerable parallels it affords with the rather feverish state through which the world is now passing. On the other hand, as the report well points out, human "progress" is not "inevitable". It depends upon the direct effort of individuals. For the moment it may appear that the Bible is not, in some quarters, so much believed as it used to be; but, judging by the records of this Society, it is undoubtedly bought and presumably read. And quite independently of its religious teaching, its supreme value and what has given a supremacy and endurance which no other book can equal, is its unassailable record of the fundamental necessities of men and nations and of the things which condemn them to die, or stimulate them to live and flourish, even as this remarkable Society, which exists only to disseminate these records throughout the world.

TORONTO, Oct. 17.—William Green, who succeeded the late Samuel Gompers, was to-day once more re-elected to the post of president of the American Federation of Labour.—United Press.

The Rev. Chung Wing-kwong, president of the Canton Christian College and director of the Bureau of Overseas Affairs, will receive from St. John's University the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws in December on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the inauguration of St. John's. Mr. Chung, who is a Hanlin of the old school, is one of the leading Chinese Christians of the present time.

MAJOR James Samson, general secretary of the Salvation Army in North China, who is very well-known in the north among the Chinese community, is leaving Tientsin in a day or two for Shanghai and is due here on Wednesday as representative of the International Salvation Headquarters in London to make an investigation of the work and to audit the books of the local branch of the Army. Major Samson, who will remain here about a week, is a fine singer and is well-known in connection with his work as a member of the Peking Choral Society.

EVANGELINE Booth, Commander-in-Chief of the Salvation Army in the United States, is due to arrive at Yokohama on November 1 to visit Japan for a few weeks. The headquarters of the Salvation Army in Tokyo is preparing an elaborate programme for the entertainment of its guest from America. Evangeline Booth is popularly known in the United States merely as "Commander." Born on December 25, 1865, she is the fourth daughter and seventh child of General and Mrs. William Booth, the founder of the Salvation Army. This was the year in which the Salvation Army was founded. From her childhood she associated herself with the work of the Salvation Army.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

The War on the Forest

In his extremely interesting address to the Economic Conference on China's deficiency in essential products, of which we give a report elsewhere, Mr. Shih Yung uses one phrase which must be challenged. He speaks of China being famous for her forests. That is precisely what she is not; in fact, she might almost be said to be famous for the lack of them. This point, and the evil consequences that ensue from it, is stressed again and again in that remarkable book "Modern Chinese Civilization" by Dr. Legendre, who lived for over 20 years in Szechuan and has travelled extensively in China. Dr. Legendre says that he has "passed through real forests, but only in Tibet, or in those hills of far west China inhabited by the independent tribes of the Lolos." In northern Manchuria, too, there are still great forests. But, says Dr. Legendre, "everywhere else, where the Chinese is master, the forest has disappeared. For it he is pitiless." The explanation and its sequel are given on successive pages and deserve to be quoted in full:

In this world of agriculture it is the traditional belief that "the shadow of one tree deprives one family of a livelihood." Hence for centuries there has been a systematic massacre of trees both in the plains and in the hills, so that to-day forests have completely disappeared and brushwood and bushes are rare (pp. 8 and 9).

As the return from the soil diminished more and more, the Chinese endeavoured to increase at any cost the area arable land and the tree was therefore condemned. With the disappearance of these great protectors, the rich strata lost a great deal of their fertility even when they did not become absolutely sterile; and the Chinese found himself faced with the old problem (p. 150).

The Chinese peasant has not understood nor wished to understand that forests guarantee a regular rainfall and afford the best security for annual and recurring harvests (p. 280).

Dr. Legendre adds that "induced by Europeans, a few energetic mandarins have attempted reforestation during recent years, but in the night the peasant goes out and cuts down the young trees." We hope the situation is not now quite so gloomy as the last sentence suggests. Judging by the Chinese newspapers, the annual observance of Arbor Day seems to attract a good deal of attention. But of the general treelessness of China as compared with other countries there is no doubt, or of the fatal results arising from it. The reformers might well devote some of their energy to this matter and organize a systematic campaign for more trees.

Who is Shanghai?

A caller in this office the other day asserted that Shanghai is interested in three sports only—bridge, dancing, and golf. By arguments advanced in systematic array and by specious elimination of, say, racing from the category of sport, he made an astonishingly good case in favour of his assertion, until, of course, the question arose: "Who is Shanghai?" Presumably somebody is Shanghai, for thousands of words have been written concerning the Shanghai mind, though it needed a distinguished visitor of reputed radical leanings to discover it. But who is Shanghai? Inside the Race Course one is confronted with evidence that some people here are interested in other sports than those mentioned: but are these people Shanghai? After dark it is possible to find innumerable places of entertainment functioning to crowded houses, cabarets, dance halls, indescribable dives: is Shanghai there? And it is possible that, if a total were made of all the different religious gatherings during one week in this city, there would be a record figure for a town of its foreign population. Is this, then, Shanghai? It is really a very difficult problem and one which would bear the investigation of some super-Sherlock Holmes. For ourselves we should suggest as a starting place for such an investigation the pages of a daily paper. Should it be possible to find one person who is equally interested in everything that appears therein, the commercial pages, the corre-

spondence, the leader, the outport letters, the "locals," the news from all quarters of the earth; then this person, we should venture to say, must be "Shanghai."

Miss World

They say, most ungallantly, that women lie at the root of most trouble. It is very difficult to believe such a thing of them, but it is undeniable that they lie at the root of some of the world's trouble, at any rate. Just now there seems to be brewing a serious conflict—a beauty contest to determine who shall be "Miss World," and we gather that the beauties of the Far East are preparing themselves for one of the first skirmishes of this war, which is to be fought to a finish at Galveston, Texas, in June next year. The preliminary skirmish to which we refer is the beauty contest to be held early next year in Manila in connection with the carnival there, and "flappers" from all quarters are even now furnishing their charms for this event. What would the Chinese grand dames of 20 years ago say to it? The requisites for success appear to be an unshakable confidence in one's own charms and a skin-tight bathing costume, which are very different from the cloistered seclusion and flowing robes of the oriental ladies of less than a generation ago. The winner of the Manila contest will journey to the United States and compare confidence and bathing costumes with the winners of other contests to be held in many other countries. What will be the outcome? Can, say, Miss America bear to be informed that Miss Orient is the possessor of more charms than she herself? Surely here lies the seed of another international complication.

Evidence from Suspects

An interesting means of extracting confessions from suspected criminals is reported to have been discovered in the United States, in which a mixture of scopolamine and morphia is injected into the suspect, who passes into a sort of twilight sleep in which he is said to be incapable of telling anything but the truth. Already interesting results are claimed for the innovation, and, while some of them may be exaggerated, there seems sufficient of a case put up in favour of the scheme to warrant further investigation. At the same time the widespread application of any such a practice would not appear to be in consonance with the principles upon which criminals are brought to justice nowadays. While it is true that there is still too much of the sporting element in the vindication of the law which provides so many loopholes though the guilty may escape, it is more than a little doubtful if basic principles could be so stretched as to permit the introduction during a trial of a confession admitted to have been extracted from the admittedly accused while he was under the influence of drugs. Obviously, if a man's defensive caution could be so suspended that he made statement which he would not otherwise have uttered, it would be logically fair to contend that he was not in a proper state of mind at the time he made the admissions relied on. That, of course, is assuming that the process itself could be legally applied, about which there would appear to be an even graver doubt. It would be going a very long way indeed to suggest that because a man had been arrested on suspicion he should be obliged to submit to such a test during the period of presumable innocence.

The Bandits in Honan

When will the day of reckoning come for those who are responsible for the pitiable condition of the people of Honan? For years now the province has been devastated, if not by wars, then by brigands who inevitably travel in the wake of armies, cleaning up what the rapacious soldiery happen to have left. And whose fault is it? The general upheavals which have been going on in China for the last decade or so are, of course, partly responsible, but there is proof that much of the suffering of the

peasants is unnecessary, and could be stopped with only a small effort on the part of the military leaders. Private advices from the province show that the same old game of pandering to the bandits is in progress, now as it was years ago. The soldiers seem to regard the bandits as a means of making money. It is understood, according to these reports, that the pursuers remain about a day and a half behind the men they are supposed to be after, and the brigands leave piles of loot and money for the soldiers as they come up. In the circumstances, what inducement has the soldier to wipe out the pests? If he does so, where will his money come from? The military leaders who allow this kind of thing to go on are the people to blame, and one day, we hope, their responsibility will come home to roost. In instances not so far remote we have been shown that the military leaders can, if they want to, catch and punish the brigands. It has been done when pressure has been brought to bear on them when foreigners have been captured. But they do not appear to want to. It should be added that these remarks do not, of course, apply to the many government officials who are really making a sincere effort to straighten out the tangle of the country's affairs, but only to those who are content to close their eyes to the misdeeds so openly perpetrated.

The Bolshevik Hen

There are three thoroughly good money-making schemes in the world, none of which has been properly exploited. One is the Florida orange grove. You just stick a tree in the ground and it grows oranges by oodles, whilst you do nothing except sell the oranges and cash the cheques. It is true, because lots of beautifully engraved prospectuses say so. Then there is the cat and rat ranch, which calls for a little more labour, but is even more profitable. Both cats and rats breed very quickly, so you just start with a few rats and a few cats, you feed the cats on some of the rats, sell some of the cats' skins, and feed the rest of the rats on the cats' carcasses, continuing the process. Best of all, there is the chicken ranch. You start with a dozen hens, each laying an egg a day, and you set each hen on its first dozen eggs, so that in a few weeks you have 144 chickens, plus the original stock, and then, well, again, you simply continue the process, and anyone can see that there are millions in it—dollars as well as chickens. Now, the capitalistic and imperialistic world has never been able to digest these plans, so absorbed has it been in grinding the proletariat to the bone, but one did not expect the Soviets to miss the opportunity. They have tumbled to it and one reads that they have enlisted the help of the Boy Scouts of Russia to save the world with eggs. It has been found that three eggs per hen are lost each year, so Russia is to have "controlled nests," the Boy Scouts are to be the controllers, and those hens have got to do their job by the State, just like any other decent Bolshevik. Estimating again, the Commissar for Eggs (or whatever they call the comrade) has worked it out that, through the agency of the Boy Scouts, with a trifle of assistance from the hens, there will be a matter of 50,000,000 additional Plymouth Rock and Buff Orpington comrades in a year. And in two or three years—! *Nye ponimay!*

The Soviet Vodka Monopoly

For the financial year ending September 30 the Centrospirit, the Soviet Vodka Monopoly, has decided to increase the output of the spirit from 4,100,000,000 to 4,600,000,000 litres or a total of 9,000,200,000 standard bottles. As the peasants make their own liquor, estimated to amount to as much as that turned out by the monopoly, the above enormous quantity is largely consumed by the urban population, estimated to amount to about 30,000,000. All the old liquor shops are to be reopened and 178 new depots are to be brought into operation to supply the villages and 28 for the towns. The plan is approved by the Finance Commissariat, whose receipts have fallen off badly during the past year, as a means of improving its income, but

temperance advocates in Moscow are bitterly opposed to the plan. The figures of the proposed output show that if every man, woman and child of the urban population drank his or her share of the nine thousand million bottles each would have to consume approximately a bottle a day. It seems somewhat of a large order, but possibly the Centrospirit knows what it is about, even if it is only catering to the doctrine: "If you cannot be happy, be drunk."

Opera for the Proletariat

"Because they are not compatible with the mentality of a class-conscious proletariat," the opera "Traviata," "Otello," "Aida," "The Tales of Hoffman," and "Madame Butterfly," have been banned by the Soviet. "Traviata" is an opera in which dreary bourgeois respectabilities are involved: "Otello" was, of course, employed by an oligarchic government of Venice, but could undoubtedly be touched up to meet Soviet prejudices; "Aida" could be excellently adapted by writing in a warning against winning victories for kings, as Rhadames did, and adding a further act showing a successful proletarian rebellion against Pharaoh and as for "Madame Butterfly," little requires doing except omitting waving of the imperialistic flag over the dead mother. As to the "Tales of Hoffman," if any government can successfully prevent the performance of the "Barcarolle" by any means whatsoever, we are prepared to forswear our present political beliefs and become proletarian. These example of romantic art should never be shown to the tiny *tovarischs*; their minds should be broadened and their artistic perceptions sharpened by scenes placed in factories and gaols, with cheery scenes of shooting anti-Communists in prison yards. Such food, and only such food is compatible with the mentality of a class-conscious proletariat.

RADIO

The China Broadcasting Association, 17 The Bund, Shanghai, announce the following programmes, which will be preceded by the chiming of the hour. Wave length 335 metres.

Daily Except Sunday:

At 1 p.m.—Musical programme. Monday.—Operatic and instrumental. Tuesday.—Instrumental and vocal. Wednesday.—Light music, etc. Thursday.—Various. Friday.—Vocal and instrumental. Saturday.—Light opera, band, etc. Each programme will be interspersed with orchestral music.

At 7 p.m.—Musical programme: on Wednesday and Saturday, light classical selections; other days, dance music, followed every day by the North-China Daily News news service.

At 9 p.m.—The programme as announced below.

Forthcoming Programmes

SUNDAY, October 20.—Church Services. 11 a.m. Community Church. 6 p.m. Holy Trinity Cathedral.

MONDAY, October 21, 9 p.m.—Lecture by Mr. E. C. Inaton on "Cockroaches, Bugs and Fleas"; to be followed by a musical programme.

TUESDAY, October 18, 9 p.m.—A concert has been arranged in which the following artists will take part:—Mrs. S. G. Beare (songs). Miss Audrey King (recitations). Mr. Murray Gilbert Davies (songs). Mr. Alec G. Davies (at the piano).

WEDNESDAY, October 23, 9 p.m.—A short address will be read and followed by a musical programme.

THURSDAY, October 24, 9 p.m.—A concert is being arranged by Mr. W. H. Scott.

FRIDAY, October 25, 9 p.m.—A specially selected musical programme with explanatory notes.

SATURDAY, October 26, 9 p.m.—Classical selections; dance music.

SUNDAY, October 27.—Church Services. 11 a.m. Union Church. 6 p.m. Holy Trinity Cathedral. 8 p.m. Gospel Mission.

MONDAY, October 28, 9 p.m.—A talk will be given by Mr. E. C. Inaton on "Rats and Mice"; this will be followed by a musical programme.

TUESDAY, October 29, 9 p.m.—Two piano recital by Messrs. Bill Cameron and Cecil King.

WEDNESDAY, October 30, 9 p.m.—A short address followed by a musical programme.

THURSDAY, October 31, 9 p.m.—9-10 p.m. Classical selections; 10-11 p.m. dance music.