CURRENT COMMENT

MR. GUTELIUS SOMEWHAT BELATED.

Mr. Gutelius was like the lady in Hamlet who protested too much. He would have been more convincing had his bias not been so obvious. He had no use for publicly owned radials and could see nothing for them but ruin and failure from any point of view. His attitude before the Commission appointed to investigate the Hydro Radial proposals was identical with that of the critics of the Hydro-Electric proposals fifteen years ago. It was impossible for the plan to succeed, they said. The estimates would be fabulously overstepped. The debts would bankrupt the municipalities and destroy the credit of Ontario. There never would be more than 10,000 horse power used by the system. Expert engineers were hired to write to the papers and make these statements over their own names and these statements were flung at every advocate of public ownership of electric power and distribution. Had a commission been appointed then and listened to the expert testimony, there would have been no general distribution of power, the $35,000,000 saved in the last ten years to power users would have been in the pockets of the power monopoly, only it would have been collected from a fraction of the present consumers at enormously greater prices. Mr. Gutelius is well trained in the corporation methods and he sees things with a corporation eye. Fifteen years ago he believed that Sir Adam Beck could make a success of Hydro power distribution and he has not changed his mind. He believed then as it was asserted that any reduction in the price of power and light would bankrupt the companies, and he is still of this opinion. Mr. Gutelius is a steam railroad man, and he has been managing steam roads all his life. The last five years, he said, had been the most unsatisfactory ever experienced. On the other hand the last five years of publicly owned electric service have been the best, and five years of radial operation between London and Port Stanley have shown constantly increasing business and profits.

ANARCHIC DEVELOPMENTS IN INDIA.

There is probably no European alive who so fully understands the situation in India as Mrs. Annie Besant does, and her analysis of the situation is one that should be widely studied. She has had in the last twenty years more influence with the native races than any other European, and her advice on the Home Rule for India problem was largely followed by the British Government. Gandhi and his following who have inaugurated a new revolutionary movement in India are opposed to everything that the Government proposes and their "non-cooperation" or boycott policy is spreading among the schools and colleges receiving Government grants. They emptied Aligarh college and were likely to succeed elsewhere. Mrs. Besant says: "The parents are naturally terribly upset by the loss of all they have done for their sons' education, and numbers are arriving in Aligharh to take their sons home and thus save them from being drawn into further follies . . . . The fun of tilting against the Government has captured the immature minds of the youngsters who, innocent of the ruin involved in Mr. Gandhi's subtle proposals, only see the side attractive to all high-spirited youths of bating the Government. This same cruel use of youths was made in Bengal against the ill-advised Partition, and resulted in the internment of thousands of students, with the result that Bengal is now in the background, void of energy in the political field. The generation that would have been leading Bengal in the van of the propaganda for freedom is broken and dispirited, and there is a gap between the older politicians and the coming politicians that these should have filled." Mrs. Besant declares that this non-cooperation movement is not one of party politics, but has passed into a phase in which it menaces the very existence of India, her spiritual life, and her spiritual mission to humanity. India, she says, "the contemporary of Babylon the Great, of ancient Egypt, of Greece and of Rome in the days of their glory. India, sleeping for nigh two centuries, but now awake and on her feet; this India is now the mark of all the 'Powers of Darkness of this world,' driven back in the West by the downfall of autocracy in Germany, and now turning their defeated, but still tremendous energy on India, by whose undoing and hurling into chaos the onward march of the world may yet be checked for centuries to come." These evil powers, she proceeds, have caught hold of this movement of Non-cooperation, because it is a channel of hatred, their favorite weapon, and are pushing its leaders onward, step by step, into wilder and wilder methods. The gospel of Tolstoi, so fascinating in its beginnings, but so fatal in its inevitable ending of anarchy, the dragging of all down to the sordid level to which society had cruelly reduced its producing class, was one of the causes of Bolshevism in Russia. That infection has been brought over here by Tolstoi's disciple, M. K. Gandhi, with all the fascination of its philosophical side and the deadly implications covered by that philosophy, while the masses have not yet become obedient to the Inner Ruler Immortal, the Hidden God in man. The profound truth hidden in every man makes the great force of the movement; the ignoring of the truth that God manifest in His world works by evolution to prepare men for such manifestation in themselves, in the deadly error which leads to anarchy. Men not yet Self-ruled from within, and thus determined to righteousness, must be ruled by Law from without." Mrs. Besant calls on all who follow her to range themselves under the banner of ordered and progressive Freedom, and to oppose the threatened anarchy, unknown in India until brought there by the disciple of a western anarchist. The west also must learn the lesson of the danger of anarchy, and to understand that every man is a potential anarchist who does not govern himself and practice the Golden Rule.

BUILDING THE PROFITABLE FLOCK

By W. C. SMITH.

During the latter part of March and the month of April I was asked to cull a number of farm flocks. I informed my inquiries that this was the wrong time of the year to do culling, because almost any old hen or pullet should be laying at this time, but the majority of those who came to me persisted that they were getting no eggs and said they wanted their flocks culled out regardless of season.

In most of the flocks I visited, some two dozen, I found the prevalent trouble to be the immaturity and the improper feeding methods of the stock kept. In practically every one of those flocks the egg yield was being made at a loss and could be accounted for either by the lateness of the hatching season of the year before or by failure to keep the pullets growing toward a normal maturity.

Notwithstanding the effort that has been made to give publicity to and show the necessity of an early hatching season, I find very few March-hatched chicks in my work of culling. The great majority of farm flocks—I am speaking of general farms and not of poultry farms—hatch their chicks in April, May and June, with the greater part of the second month. Whether or not this is true in all sections I do not know.

Now these pullets hatched in May and June, especially, must have very favorable growing conditions. They should be kept growing and every precaution taken that they suffer no setbacks. The same is true of all pullets whenever they are hatched, but the earlier ones may come through and suffer some limitations in regard to their care and still mature in time to begin laying in the fall or early winter. The late pullets will do this. They must have the care necessary for good and consistent growth, for in the majority of cases the heavier breeds will not come into laying even with good care in less than about seven months.

The best way to bring these May and late April pullets to the proper maturity to make profitable layers is by the hopper method of feeding. Given a variety of both whole and ground grains in hoppers, plenty of shade, house room and some attention, the late hatches will surprise the owner who has been struggling along with the old method of hand feeding grain.

Hoppers are not expensive. Any sort of a box that will protect the feed, allow the chicks free access and prevent any considerable wastage will answer the purpose, but it is a mistake to believe that whole grains alone will serve, even if hopper fed. These pullets need mash and meat in some form. The range rarely furnishes a sufficient supply of insects and bugs to supply this animal food and either milk or commercial meat scrap in some form should be used as a supplement to that gathered on the range. I used and recommend a dry mash developed from the small grain grown on the farms when we have them—a mixture of ground corn, oats to which have been added wheat bran and scraps. However,no one best mash can be recommended and commercial mashes can often be used to an advantage where the grain is not on hand on the farm or grinding is an expensive procedure.

With pullets properly matured the culling will eliminate those which are most apt to prove unprofitable and it should by all means be done in the early fall. Hens, too, should be culled at this time and the drones and boarders sold. As culling for egg-laying ability is done by external characteristics, especially the capacity and pelvic bone tests, these can be more naturally judged at this time than at any other. It is the low ebb of egg production and, as the body characteristics of a hen change considerably as egg production increases, it is poor policy to wait until she is producing or about to do so before attempting to cull the flock. Pullets can, of course, be culled at any time before they begin laying but the best time is when they are just at maturity. This also does away with boarding the unprofitable females through a longer period than is necessary.

If females are carried over until spring before being culled the loss sustained is readily recognized. More than that, unless the late April, May and June hatched pullets are given advantages that tend to promote growth, and if they come into the laying house in a state of immaturity, there is little chance of any method of culling being able to save loss that might have been avoided if these things had been more closely and intelligently watched.

Public Health Talks

(By Dr. J. J. Middleton)

Provincial Board of Health.

Questions Pertaining to Medical Subjects Will Be Answered in This Paper If Letters Are Sent to Dr. J. J. Middleton, Parliament Buildings, Toronto.

The fight against tuberculosis is being won. It is now necessary for everyone, whatever his walk in life, to co-operate with the health authorities in their efforts to completely destroy this terrible scourge. For it is the little, everyday circumstances and habits that count so much in controlling the disease in any community.

All promiscuous spitting must be stopped, for many people who expectorate in trains, street cars, on sidewalks, etc., have consumption, but do not realize what a danger they are to everybody round about them. These germs of tuberculosis let loose in this way, dry in the air, and are easily carried about in dust and breathed in by others.

Every chance must be given to children to escape the disease by keeping the milk supply absolutely free from tuberculous germs, and pasteurization—that is subjecting the milk to a temperature of 65 or 70 degrees C for five minutes—should be resorted to in every instance where there is the slightest possibility of contamination of the milk supply. By this means all dangerous germs will be killed off, and any likelihood of conveying tuberculosis or other diseases removed.

A large percentage of gland and joint tuberculosis in children can be traced directly to tuberculous milk, and the public health departments in city and province are now adopting rigorous measures to segregate, make tests for tuberculosis and even destroy or isolate all cattle condemned, or suspected of carrying disease.

During school hours well-ventilated class rooms must be provided, with intervals for deep breathing in the open air allowed regularly during the school day. A scheme of physical culture graded to suit school children of every age should also be made compulsory, and by this means encourage chest development and adequate expansion of the lungs.

At home the welfare of the children should be fostered by medical inspection of the houses as to poor sanitation, ventilation, over-crowding, dampness, insufficient sunlight and any objectionable features that would tend to develop tuberculosis in the young.

Healthy home surroundings, coupled with rigid inspection of factories, workshops and mines as to ventilation and sanitation, as well as protective measures for the individual in some of the dangerous occupations where the air of the workplace is filled with unhealthy dust or vapors, are doing much to reduce the toll of death from consumption in every civilized land, and if a government scheme of compulsory physical culture for youths and young adults can be inaugurated, the benefits from a health point of view will be enormous.

Before the outbreak of the world war the campaign against tuberculosis was making remarkable progress in all civilized countries. In England at that time the death rate had declined so consistently that Dr. Corbbett, of Cambridge, the eminent authority on tuberculosis, confidently stated that in ten years at the then rate of decrease, the number of cases of tuberculosis would be practically neglible. But along came the war and blasted all these hopes. Cold, wet, exposure, food restrictions, all took their heavy toll of human life, and poison gas used in the latter stages of the great conflict, brought on the inevitable aftermath of asthma, and tuberculosis of the lungs. The death rate from consumption during the war rose tremendously in all combatant countries but since the cessation of hostilities and the return of the people to more or less normal methods of living, the mortality is again decreasing. This happy condition of affairs is in no small measure due to the anti-tuberculosis campaigns which are resuming activities after being side tracked during the war.

In Ontario practically all the cost of the effort against tuberculosis with the exception of an annual grant of $10,000 from the Dominion Government to the Canadian Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis has been borne by the province but much assistance has been received from voluntary societies and from the efforts of the Canadian Society for the Prevention of Tuberculosis. But this is not enough. The prevention of tuberculosis is a national problem and should be undertaken in the broadest spirit by the Government of the Dominion with the co-operation and earnest support of the entire country.

Even under present circumstances the campaign in Ontario is being carried on energetically. The number of Sanitoria in the province has increased from ten in 1910 to twenty-five in the present year, and an amount of $4,000 is provided by the Government towards the cost of building a sanitorium, and the sum of $3.50 weekly has been donated towards the cost of each patient. As a result of this policy the annual grants for maintenance have increased year by year from $26,073 in 1910 to $279,491.22 in 1919.

As compared with ten years ago when the accommodation for patients in Sanitoria in Ontario was six hundred and fifteen, it is now about two thousand, and in addition the Government has given during that period the sum of $32,000 towards the establishment of these institutions.

Let every individual give the Government all the help and encouragement possible. Learn to protect yourself from tuberculosis and teach every tuberculosis person you know to protect himself and others. The fight against "The White Plague" is being won.

Bradstreet's Trade Review

TORONTO reports to Bradstreet's say that the big news in business circles has been the removal of the luxury tax on the great mapority of the articles which ha dbeen subject therto. Liquors, medicines with olcohol, fruit juices, perfumery, playing cards and confectionery are the chief lines on which the tax has been left, although it is understood that efforts are being made to have this removed on some of these, such as confectionery. While at the time of writing it is somewhat early to say much regarding the material effect of the lifting of the thax, there is no doubt that the psychological effect has been tremendous, not only on the retail and wholesale trade but on a large section of the buying public. A number of large retailers at the beginning of the week stated that the increase in sales had been very great and that it was much easier to sell goods now that customers did not have to be confronted with the tax. The only drawback to the lifting o the tav has been that it came a little late for the Christmas trade. Although there may still be an inclination in some quarters to hold off purchasing till after the holidays in the hope of further price cutting then this will not be nearly so marked now, as the public feel to a large extent that the ban has been lifted on the spending of money. Wholesalers are now looking for heavier orders from their travellers.

It is expected that one result of the heavier movement of merchandise which is hoped for, will be an increase in manufacturing operations which will do much towards reducing the volume of unemployment which at present is large and the situation serious. There is no doubt that there is a great deal of hardship in the city at the time being through many men being out of work. The general slowing up in all lines of activity has been gradual but extensive and petitions are being sent to the government to take action to relieve the distress. Collections are still slow which is probably due to the small trade which retailers have been doing. A moderate volume of good sane buying of goods on a pre-war scale would be of much advantage in steadying conditions generally and easing the acuteness of the situation.

HAMILTON reports to Bradstreet's say that here as in practically every city in the Dominion the removal of the luxury tax on the vast proportion of articles of everyday merchandise has had the effect of stimulating trade and increasing sales at retail stores, which is expected in time to be reflected at wholesale houses. Merchants say that in many cases it was harder to sell the tax itself than the goods and with the tax off a good increase in business is looked for. While some lines of industry are dull there are at the same time a number of bright spots to be picked out and at least one concern which had shut down a couple of weeks ago for the purpose of taking stock has resumed operations with a complete working force. The sugar market shows signs of steadying and prices at the moment of writing seem to be more stable than was the case some weeks ago.

Movement of some lines such as jewelry this season has been very good. The drug trade has been rather slow as far as actual staples are concerned, although fancy articles are moving freely. Collections are poor and credit men find it necessary to make considerable effort sometimes to get in the money.

SINLESS SUNDAYS SAYS ALLIANCE

Rev. Harry L. Bowlby.

"No matter what popular opinion may be" in the gist of the Lord's Day Alliance utterances, "the United States must return to a purer and more sacred Sabbath." This statement, following the opening of headquarters in New York with National Secretary Rev. Harry L. Bowlby in charge, has excited the big town folks as no other recent event. For under the cloak of "dry cleaning" the United States through federal and state laws, New York has discovered that the drive of the Lord's Day Alliance of prohibiting all Sunday amusements is the ultra aim against the use of tobacco, especially the cigaret. The Fifth Avenue Coach Company has taken a vote of its thousands of riders and will continue to permit smoking on the three rear seats atop their own buses.

DON'T MONKEY WITH A GOLF BALL.

The interior of a golf ball is filled with a liquid under pressure which is often poisonous and can always be relied upon to make trouble if it gets in the eyes, nose or any break in the skin.

A child recently died in England from the effects of the explosion which occurred when the little one had eaten its way into the centre of the sphere. Some years ago a golfer was injured in the eye by the discharge which took place as he whittled his way into the core of a golf ball. Golf balls are only for golf.

WONDERFUL DEVICE.

By a device recently invented an armless person is able to feed himself, write, light cigarettes or perform other duties. The device is operated by the crippled person's feet. A small bar inserted between the big and second toes enables the operator to direct the apparatus which consists of arms extending over a table, one for picking up food and other articles, and the other for holding a pen or pencil.

PRICE OF COAL OIL SHOWS A DECLINE

WASTE MATERIALS CONTINUE TO RECEDE IN PRICE BUT SEASONABLE GOODS ARE IN DEMAND.

A decline has taken place in the price of coal oil which has been stationary for the past five months, but gasoline prices remain unchanged. Tractor oil prices show a slight reduction.

Fewer price changes are noted this week and most of the alterations are on lines such as bar iron and steel, sheets and plates and ingot metals, which show slight reductions.

Revisions made in pipe fittings show some small reductions, but pipe continues to hold firmly. Bar iron and steel have an easier ton and reductions have been made in the price of sheets and plates. Some ingot metals, including tin, have declined, and lower quotations are made on solders. Waste materials continue to recede in price. The volume of business in seasonable lines continues good and many lines such as skates and hockey goods are still scarce.

FARM LANDS WITHOUT CROPS.

About one-fifth of a billion acres of the cut-over land and woodland in the United States might be cleared up and the stumps removed so that the land would be available for productive farming. If all this agriculturally suitable forest and cut-over land could be made into farms averaging 160 acres, it would provide 1,250,000 farms, an increase of about 80 per cent. over the present number. It is believed unlikely that more than 50,000,000 acres, or enough for perhaps 300,000 farms will be the government assumes responsibility.

AN INEXPENSIVE CATTLE SHELTER

To be effective, a shelter must provide comfort for the cattle and as such must be warm, dry, clean and airy. Of these characteristics the least essential is that it be warm. If the shelter be dry and of such a nature as to protect the animals from wind and storm they do not suffer much from low temperatures.

Such a shelter may consist of as little as a corral 40 feet by 80 feet and eight feet high, with 20 feet one end covered over with straw. If the location is among the trees the walls may be made of wire or poles but otherwise it is better made of boards. Along one side buid a frame of 2 x 4 inches two feet apart and two and a half feet from the wall to serve as a manger. The feed may be put into this over the fence from a sleigh or wagon. Along the other side make a tight manger one foot deep with bottom two feet wide. This will serve for feeding chop, which may be carried there in a sack.

One essential for successful feeding is to have available water, and a trough should be provided with a constant supply of water and a tank heater. It will be found that in cold weather the cattle will drink often but not much at one time. If they are watered once or twice daily they gorge themselves and suffer much from low temperature.

AMERICAN BREAKFASTS FOR DOUGHBOYS.

The French cooks could never get in line with the American breakfast which was demanded by the American soldiers and others from this country who were called to France during the war. The French breakfast consists of a roll and coffee, while Americans demanded eggs and bacon as well.

THE ROUND TABLE

"WHERE WE MAKE FRIENDS OF BOOKS."

Dear Elinor Murray:

I think the idea of a round table talk on books a very good one and the ocal booksellers in each town might with advantage to themselves put the dea into work.

The average Canadian is not a reader of books and it is to their disadvantage at missing the true companionship of a real good book by a good author. Anything to encourage reading helps immensely in uplifting the people.

Fifty years ago the bookseller's store was the recognized meeting place for the Elite of the Town and your suggestion would revive the same. It is for the reading public to come forward and render service to meet and encourage those who hitherto have neglected the reading habit.

I think that probably specimen volumes of new books would be given by the publishers to such reading circles. Reviews of the same could be published by the local newspapers and thus a wide circle of readers would be formed and no doubt "The Round Table Talk" about books would benefit by new members.

Wishing you every success.

Yours faithfully.

W. A. GARDNER.

Few of us have not read the romantic story of "The Scarlet Pimpernel" and for those of us especially, and all others as well, there is a distinct and interesting connection between that famous story and "The First Sir Percy," by the same author—Baroness Orczy—which is a romance of an ancestor of "The Scarlet Pimpernel." "The First Sir Percy," a roving, romantic, fighting, loving Englishman who left his native land to take part in the strenuous wars between Spain and the Netherlands in the early seventeenth century, did not travel under his own name; but took up with two companions and was known to them as Diogenes.

The story opens with the accidental discovery, by Diogenes, of a plot by which two traitors to the Prince of the Netherlands, hope to kill the Prince and conquer his fertile lands for the Spaniards. Diogenes had fallen in love with the daughter of the Burgomaster of one of the important Netherland cities, and was on his way to mary her. Her brother is one of the traitors who is plotting against his own father's and his prince's life. The marriage is performed, and Sir Percy and his bride are preparing to leave for England, where the bridegroom would fight no more, when word is brought of the Spanish invasion of the Netherlands.

From then on the action is speedy and gripping. Fighting men, traitors and patriots vie with each other in prowess and sacrifice in order that their own particular cause may triumph. For a time the Spaniards have the upper hand, and the arch-traitor of the lot threatens to carry off the Englishman's bride and take her for himself. His own brother-in-law, turned traitor, partially blinds the bridegroom by the aid of a secret Spanish powder, and Sir Percy falls into the hands of the invadors who threaten to hang him. By using his wits, and with the loyal support and obedience of his two companions as well as the loyalty of his bride, Sir Percy triumphs at last, the traitors are punished and the Prince of Orange and the Netherlands delivered from the Spanish yoke.

The story is grippinfg and equally as entertaining as "The Scarlet Pimpernel," and will be as popular. The historical narratives are complete and correct, and altogether the story is one that every lover of adventure should read.

When two people fall in love with each other they do not usually sit down and figure out whether their love will last. Neither do they decide to let things stand for six months or a year in order to see whether they will meet someone who appeals to them more than the one with whom they are in love at the moment. Yet that is what two not-too-young lovers did in Ethel Penman Hope's novel, "The Eyes of the Law," and in so doing they started something that they almost couldn't finish.

Each went to a southern summer resort, to where also went other people, one a young woman suspected of stealing a pearl necklace, another the wife of a New York business man who thought he was untrue to her, and another a detective, who turned out to be not so clever as he thought himself. When the New York wife registers under an assumed name, which happens to be the same as that of the young woman who is suspected of theft, and poor detective is up against a pretty tough proposition. For awhile the principal characters in the story are almost forgotten; but they do get mixed up in things pretty well, and finally assist in straightening out the tangle. The story is simple; but interesting and makes a good night's reading.

"The First Sir Percy," by the Baroness Orczy; published by Hodder & Stoughton, Toronto; price $1.75.

"The Eyes of the Law," by Ethel Penman Hope; published by McClelland & Stewart, Toronto.

ELINOR MURRAY.