



The Indianapolis Times

(A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER)

Owned and published daily (except Sunday) by The Indianapolis Times Publishing Co., 214-220 West Maryland Street, Indianapolis, Ind. Price in Marion County, 2 cents a copy; elsewhere, 3 cents—delivered by carrier, 12 cents a week.

BOYD GUILLEY, Editor ROY W. HOWARD, President FRANK G. MORRISON, Business Manager

PHONE—Riley 6551 MONDAY, MARCH 30, 1931

Member of United Press, Scripps-Howard Newspaper Alliance, Newspaper Enterprise Association, Newspaper Information Service and Audit Bureau of Circulations.

"Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way."

Physiology of Civilized Drinking

It generally is conceded by reasonable men that solution of the alcohol problem lies in education in the science and art of civilized drinking rather than in fanatical prohibition or ecstatic eulogy of guzzling.

Hence, we may welcome as a genuine contribution to popular education on the liquor problem the article by Charles D. Snyder in the American Mercury, based on the researches of a Finnish physiologist, Dr. P. I. Tuovinen.

The core of the effect of alcohol on the mind and body is the matter of the alcoholic content of the blood stream. There is always a small quantity of alcohol in the blood, even though none actually has been consumed. This amounts to one part of alcohol to from 50,000 to 200,000 parts of other fluids in the blood. In the case of a man who dies of alcoholic poisoning, this ratio may be raised to one part of alcohol to 200 parts of other fluids, a thousandfold increase over normal.

Dr. Tuovinen discovered the interesting fact that the alcoholic level in the blood is raised most rapidly by a highly diluted drink. Alcohol in any form of watery dilution will raise the blood level of alcohol much more rapidly than the same quantity taken in highly concentrated form.

To be specific, a highball is potentially more intoxicating than a cocktail containing the same amount of alcohol. The greater bulk of fluid gives a greater area for intestinal absorption of alcohol into the blood stream.

Taking food along with liquor reduces the rapidity of the rise of the alcoholic content of the blood. This is due to the fact that the food, as solids, must be held in the digestive tract until reduced to fluid form.

Most of the alcohol also is held here and passed along only gradually into the intestines for absorption. Food in which meats, carbohydrates and fats are notably present particularly delay blood absorption of alcohol.

The subjective effects of alcohol were found to vary directly in intensity with the alcoholic content of the blood. Mr. Snyder gives the following summary of the essentials of civilized drinking:

"The man who really lives well is the one who confines his drinking to meals, preferably the evening meal, or whenever the day's work is done. The toper, on the other hand, prefers to take his alcohol on an empty stomach, and finally eats very little food at all."

"Upon noting the first tendency in this direction, one will do well to regard it as a sign of impending addiction and resolutely put drink aside until food and exercise may be taken again with gusto."

This paragraph probably is more cogent and useful as a guide to temperance and urbanity than all the prohibitory statutes ever put on the law books relative to the use of alcoholic beverages.

Rivalry in the New Pedagogy

The rivalry in education on the Pacific coast is not limited to the annual combats of Oregon and California eleven on the gridiron. There now is in process a nip and tuck race between Los Angeles and Portland in devising methods of discouraging enthusiasm for the ideas of Karl Marx among school students.

Last year Los Angeles started the ball rolling by denying a diploma to a brilliant Communist student in Roosevelt high school. There was some protest, so a more inviolable technique was devised. A required course in civics, based on the political ethics of the Better America Federation, was introduced.

No student who failed in his course could be graduated. Communists quickly were toppled when interrogated.

But Portland followed suit with a method which put her away out in front of the great Hollywood suburb. Michael Kulikoff was captured by the sentiment and rhythm of the radical songs of Communism. So he began to teach them to his fellow pupils.

He was arrested. Conviction of criminal syndicalism was considered and deemed impossible. Deportation was out of the question, since we have no diplomatic relations with Russia.

But the authorities were undaunted. Kulikoff was taken to court. He admitted being a Communist. A physician testified that this was proof of insanity. So Kulikoff was whisked off to the state hospital for the insane at Salem to enjoy the company of those whose hallucinations are of other than Muscovite flavor.

All this is strangely reminiscent of the doings in another Salem a little more than 200 years back.

A Great Novelist Passes

"To think we again shall never read a new book by Arnold Bennett."

The number of homes in the English-speaking world that have heard the above, or something like it, spoken with simple, sincere sorrow in the last three days, is the best tribute of all to a man who, whatever his claims to immortal fame, unquestionably was one of the greatest novelists of this generation. Nor is his popularity hard to explain.

He fused realism and romanticism into something utterly delightful. Whether it was sordid, smudgy, realities of a North Staffordshire pottery district or prosaic sheets, pillowcases, spoons, forks and other vast organized intricacies of a huge metropolitan hotel, his memory missed no detail, but his imagination lifted every trifle into the glamorous, absorbing realm of the born story-teller.

Sex? He neither overvalued nor undervalued it. He used plenty of it, without pathology or prurience. He was not of those realists who think that to be real, they must be revolting. Even readers unfashionably clean of mind could read him with unfeeling pleasure.

This in itself has become something of a high literary distinction in the present era.

Romanticist as he was in much of his work, he liked to talk most unromantically about the practical side of it. He gloated over the number of words he wrote in a year. He was proud as Trollope of sheer mechanical productivity.

He loved the money he earned and the luxuries it brought him. When somebody asked him what he wrote "The Pretty Lady" for, he replied: "For £10,000." (Ten thousand pounds sterling.)

Yet any one who knows the British temperament will put down many of this famous Bennett brutalities to inborn British horror of posing as an "artist" and rhapsodizing about one's "art." There were also his bleak upbringing in Staffordshire and his hard rubs as a struggling beginner in London to keep his feet on the ground and his talks free from "hifalutin'."

The "Old Wives' Tale" is one of the finest novels our time has produced—broad, firm, sincere, yet fascinatingly varied and vivacious. The whole "Five Towns" series is work any author might be proud to leave behind him.

He knows every dull inch of his background, every drab detail of the life he described. And he burnished and brightened it all with a magic that is pure genius.

"Buried Alive" deserved all its success as a novel and play—an amazingly clever idea deliciously handled. When Bennett went in for humor as in "Denry," "The Grand Babylon Hotel," and "Mr. Prohack," it usually became that well-bred playfulness which is peculiarly the British notion of literary fun-making—rather tame and tepid for America taste, but excellent if you relish it.

Did Bennett come anywhere near the Dostoevski he so aptly admired? He would have been the first to disclaim it.

But with much of Dostoevski's genius for endowing minute detail with an unbelievable interest, with much of Dostoevski's mastery in filling big canvases, Arnold Bennett outdid the great Russian in grace, charm, and an intimacy of style that brought him almost alongside the reader's chair.

Millions of Bennett admirers have felt since last Friday as if they had lost a close friend. And that is something even supreme genius does not always attain.

A foundation has appropriated \$100,000 for a study of the history of Pittsburgh. Will it be concerned mostly with the city's dark ages?

Congressmen last year paid the government \$67,000 for having their speeches printed. And yet it is said silence is golden.

It's mostly "bill" for the young fellow who bills and coos these days.

A back answer, says the office sage, is usually said over a cold shoulder.

M. E. Tracy

SAYS:

As Between Gandhi and Britain, Who Really Stands for "Love and Affection"?

HUNTINGTON, N. Y., March 30. —If Gandhi goes to London as head of the India delegation, as now seems probable, he will appear in Loin cloth, with shaven head. Also he will carry his own pots and pans, eat food specially prepared for him by his woman companion, Nirabhai, who is the daughter of a British admiral, sleep on a straw mattress in the open, and otherwise conduct himself in such way as will make it embarrassing and difficult for his hosts.

Gandhi claims to have nothing but deep love and affection for his fellowmen. Englishmen, who set up no such pretensions, will do the best they can to make him comfortable.

Which Is Tolerant

NAPOLI, FRIED, bewitched, fish and vegetable dealer from a small town in Russia, has been appointed by the pope to take charge of the Vatican's Hebrew library. Before he would accept the appointment, Fried demanded that the Vatican provide him with a kosher kitchen, permit him to observe Saturday as the Sabbath, and grant other concessions to his faith.

As between him and the pope, who stands for tolerance? As between Gandhi, with his stubborn obstinacy of peculiar habits, and British officials, who stands for that "love and affection" which are deep enough to make things easy for other people?

Love and Manganese

AFTER experimenting with rats for some time, Dr. Elmer V. McCollum, professor of chemical hygiene at Johns Hopkins university, concludes that an infinitesimal amount of manganese may be the root of mother love.

Rats fed on a diet free from manganese, he says, not only gave up interest in their young, but finally ceased to have young.

When manganese was reintroduced into the diet, even to the extent of five one-thousandths of 1 percent, they returned to normal.

If Dr. McCollum's conclusions are correct, this world would do well to conserve its supply of manganese.

It Works This Way

WHATEVER effect small quantities of manganese may have on mother love, large quantities are needed for manufacture of steel.

American steel companies have been buying a great deal of it from Russia. Not because it is unobtainable in this country, but because the Soviet could produce cheaper.

American producers want a tariff that will stop this traffic, which makes it possible to prove that manganese has a very definite effect on brotherly love.

Superficially, least, many of our so-called instincts are affected by commodities and mechanics.

Instead of loving or hating people for what they are, we are growing more and more inclined to be guided by what they have that we want.

Clash Over Oil

ENGLAND and France have been very near a break several times during the last decade on the account of the Mosul oil field.

Thanks to "holding company" through which it was possible to split the part, they now have settled the difficulty, after paying the Iraq government \$1,000,000 a year and four shillings a ton on all oil extracted, English companies 23 percent, and an Armenian promoter 5 percent.

But the line of battle has not been run to the coast of Asia Minor and refineries constructed at an estimated cost of \$500,000,000.

The Mosul field sounds pretty big, not only because of such figures, but because of the way it has been advertised as a sore spot of international politics. As a matter of fact it is not one-third as large as the Rusk field, unexpectedly discovered in Texas three months ago.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

On request, sent with stamped addressed envelope, Mr. Ripley will furnish proof of anything depicted by him.

A LETTER TO ME—MAILED WITHOUT AN ADDRESS ON THE ENVELOPE—WAS RECEIVED PROMPTLY

MAILED IN DETROIT BY PAUL MACY

BABE HAS HIT 578 HOME RUNS—DURING HIS CAREER IN THE BIG LEAGUES

SAM HELLER—ISA HAM-SELLER IN RICHMOND, Va.

THE JACOMA CAN GENERATE 20,000 HORSE POWER—BUT CANNOT PROPEL ITSELF!

Following is the explanation of Ripley's "Believe It or Not" which appeared in Saturday's Times: Thomas de Quincy Ate a Pound of Opium a Day—Thomas de Quincy, great English prose writer, commenced making opium a part of his daily diet at an early age as a cure for rheumatic pains in the head. By the time he was 28 he was a confirmed opium fiend, able to assimilate astounding quantities of the narcotic.

His maximum was one pound, which is capable of killing 1,100 people. He is the author of 150 books, and their dreamlike prose is undoubtedly the result of his peculiar habit.

See: "Confessions of an Opium Eater," by Thomas Quincy. Alex Fidler Referred 1,137 Fights in Five Years—Alex Fidler, a Cedar Rapids (Ia.) newspaperman, refereed 1,137 fights from June 16, 1925, to June 7, 1930, an average of better than 231 bouts a year. Refereeing fights is his hobby, and he has often officiated in as many as seven in one evening.

Tuesday: "The man who broke his legs turning over in bed."

By RIPLEY

Registered U. S. Patent Office

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SCIENCE

BY DAVID DIETZ

Alcohol Is as Necessary to War as Steel Is.

THE importance of grain alcohol to the bootleg industry is well known. But it is doubtful if the importance of this liquid to legitimate industry in general is as well appreciated.

It has been said that sulfuric acid is so important to the industrial world that the machine age well might be called the age of sulfuric acid. But in the importance and variety of its uses, alcohol is exceeded only by sulfuric acid and caustic soda.

Alcohol is used in the manufacture of varnishes, lacquers, shellacs, enamels, celluloid, food-stuffs, drugs, medicines, dyestuffs and artificial silk. It is employed in the printing and photographic industries and many others.

The great uses for alcohol grow out of its utility as a solvent. A solvent is a liquid which will dissolve a uniform fluid mixture with some other substance.

Water is the best known and most common solvent. Every one is familiar with ordinary sugar or salt solutions.

Most chemical processes go on best in solution and so the beginning of most chemical manufacturing processes is the making of a solution. Next to water, alcohol is the most useful liquid for creation of solutions.

Paint Industry

THE paint and varnish industry employs alcohol coming and going. Alcohol is the base of most varnishes, lacquers, and enamels. It also is the principal ingredient of most paint and varnish removers.

As the sale of paint increases, so does the sale of paint removers. And as a result, the demand for commercial alcohol receives a double impetus.

Among the newest wood lacquers are quick-drying ones which can be shot on to furniture with air-pressure guns. These lacquers dry almost immediately and many of them furnish a brilliant finish without the necessity of rubbing or polishing.

Another important use of alcohol is in the manufacture of pyroxylin. This is a plastic substance made of nitrocellulose or gun-cotton and goes by many trade names, among the most familiar of which is celluloid.

Buttons, billiard balls, combs, vanity boxes, salt cellars, napkin rings, children's toys and a great variety of products are made today from pyroxylin.

Alcohol is required as a solvent in the manufacture of artificial silk. It also is used in manufacturing many dyes.

Thus, alcohol may play a double role in the manufacture of pyroxylin. It is a plastic substance made of nitrocellulose or gun-cotton and goes by many trade names, among the most familiar of which is celluloid.

In War Time

ALCOHOL has its war-time uses. As well as its peace-time uses, it takes about a barrel of alcohol to construct a 12-inch shell.

As chemists have observed, every alcohol plant is a potential munitions plant. The modern explosives, smokeless powder, cordite and TNT, all require alcohol for their manufacture.

Today, a nation decides upon a standard explosive for its artillery. Its big guns are then designed for this particular one.

This fact, led to difficulties for Great Britain during the World War. Great Britain had adopted a cordite for its standard explosive. Cordites require acetone in their manufacture.

IT SEEMS TO ME

BY HEYWOOD BROWN

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