

ATLANTICA

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DISARMAMENT À LA GENEVA — By Italo Balbo
Know Your Language! — Italy's Olympic Olive-Branch

RECENT ITALIAN BOOKS

ATLANTICA offers its readers the recently published Italian books listed below at a great saving on the regular prices. In addition, there is a 15% discount accorded on any of these books purchased through ATLANTICA'S Book Service Department, by subscribers. In this section we publish every month a list of the most important and most interesting books published in Italy during the previous month or so.

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Art & Music

Bonaventura, A. — "Boccherini" — Milano, Treves-Treccani-Tumminelli \$3.00

A fine biography as well as a critical study of Boccherini.

Capri, Antonio — "Musica e Musicisti d'Europa dal 1800 al 1930" — Milano, Hoepli \$3.50

History of the development of European musical currents from the beginning of the 1800's up to 1930. It is both a history and a critical study of the movement, as well as of the composers of each and every European country.

Del Grande, C. — "Espressione Musicale dei Poeti Greci" — Napoli, Ricciardi \$2.50

A study of Greek music as applied to Greek drama.

Ronga, Luigi — "Gerolamo Frescobaldi", Organista Vaticano, 1583-1643, nella storia della musica strumentale con esempi musicali inediti — Torino, Bocca \$6.00

Torre Franca, F. — "Le Origini Italiane del Romanticismo Musicale" (I Primitivi della Sonata Moderna) Torino, Bocca \$8.00

The author of this conclusive volume, after more than 20 years of study and research, has finally issued in book form and with corroborated proof, his theory as to the origin of symphonic music. Torre Franca has always maintained that symphonic music first originated in Italy in the 17th and 18th centuries, and now he proves it unquestionably within the 800 pages of the present volume.

Taddei, M. — "Arte Decorativa Navale di Anselmo Bucci" — Milano, Ceschina \$10.00

Beautiful examples of contemporary ship decorations are to be found in this book. A. Bucci, who has decorated three ships of the Navigazione Libera Triestina, is one of the most gifted and versatile artists living today in Italy. The entire decoration of these three ships has been designed and executed by him. In the hundred plates contained in this volume there are reproduced the best examples of his work.

Carta Raspi, R. — "Costumi Sardi" — Cagliari "Il Nuraghe" \$1.25

Those who are interested in the costumes of primitive people will find in this small volume 49 different types of costumes of Sardinian men and women in 46 photographic reproductions and 3 original colored plates.

Classics & Literary Criticism

Baldini, A. — "Amici allo Spiedo" — (Malaparte — Bacchelli — Soffici — Papini & Giu' iotti — Oppo — Spadini — De Chirico — Barilli — Beniamino — Frate Silvio — Ojetti — Civinini — Beltramelli — S'moni — Panzini — Don Benedetto) — Firenze, Vallecchi \$8.00

Baldini has gathered in this volume a gallery of portraits of some of his friends, done in a very marked chiaroscuro. Although his material is mostly biographical his pen does not hesitate when he feels the need and the urge to criticize.

Debenedetti, G. — "Saggi Critici" (Sullo "Stile" di Benedetto Croce — Michelstaedter — Radiguet — La Poesia di Saba — Proust, Proust e la Musica, Commemorazione di Proust — Il gusto dei Primitivi — Critica ed Autobiografia) — Firenze, Solaria \$1.50

Della Casa, G. — "Il Galateo" (e il suo significato filosofico-pedagogico nell'eta' del Rinascimento) a cura di G. Tinivella — Milano, Hoepli \$1.20

Machiavelli, N. — "Il Principe, prolegomeni e note critiche di Luigi Russo" — Firenze, Le Monnier \$2.00

Luigi Russo has prepared one of the finest and most scholarly edited editions of "Il Principe". In the 70 odd pages of the introduction he treats in the most exhaustive way the "problem" of Machiavelli. The text is accompanied by profuse and enlightening footnotes.

Mengozi, G. — "La Città Italiana nell'alto Medio Evo" (Il periodo Langobardo-Franco — Appendice, Il Comune Rurale del Territorio Lombardo-Tosco). 2a edizione riveduta per cura di Arrigo Solmi. — Firenze, La Nuova Italia \$2.50

Those who have read Fustel de Coulanges — "La Città Antica" will find a worthy sequel in the present volume, whose new edition has been brought up to date by a competent historian.

Savonarola, G. — "Prediche e Scritti" (con introduzione, commento, nota bibliografica e uno studio sopra "l'influenza del Savonarola sulla letteratura e l'arte del Quattrocento") a cura di Mario Ferrara — Milano, Hoepli \$2.20

Philosophy

Battagliani, T. — "Genio — Eroismo — Duce", — Pescara, Arte della Stampa \$8.00

This volume added to the voluminous bibliography of Mussolini will prove to be, we believe, one of the most controversial contributions to Fascism. The author, an ardent admirer of Il Duce, has roamed through the pages of history to prove his theory of genius.

Evola, I. — "Maschera e volto dello spiritualismo contemporaneo" (Analisi critica delle principali correnti moderne verso il "sovrannaturale") Torino, Bocca \$1.00

A critical analysis of the main modern currents of spiritualistic tendencies.

Giusso, L. — "Tre Profili: Dostojewsky, Freud, Ortega y Gasset" — Napoli, Guida \$5.00

Tilgher, A. — "Filosofi e moralisti del novecento", — Roma, Scienze e Lettere \$1.20

Contemporary philosophic tendencies are analyzed and criticized by this author whom many readers of this magazine will remember for his previous two volumes of essays on contemporary writers, such as, "Voci del Tempo" and "Riconquisioni".

Trespioli, G. — "Spiritismo Moderno", — Milano, Hoepli \$1.60

The present day problems of spiritualism are presented in this book by the author to the cultured layman. As a scientist he does not take sides on the questions, but limits himself to bringing the facts before the readers.

Fiction

Aleramo, S. — "Il Frustino", romanzo, — Milano, Mondadori \$1.00

Sibilla Aleramo, who has achieved fame with only a few books to her credit, has striven in the last 20 years to foster woman's cause in literature. Ever since the publication of her first novel, "Una Donna", which, by the way, is one of the few Italian novels to have been translated into several languages, her literary problem has been the intellectual woman and her place in life. In this last novel, "Il Frustino", she seems to have finally achieved a happy and well balanced conclusion. The heroine, a celebrated musician and a "superwoman", has been called by several critics the symbol of spiritual perfectability.

Bontempelli, M. — "La Famiglia del Fabbro", romanzo — Milano, Mondadori \$1.00

In this novel Bontempelli has tried his hand at detective fiction. It must be hastily added that it is a rather queer type of detective story. The perpetrator of the murder is never discovered; the crime remains unsolved. The interest of the reader is maintained by the vicissitudes of the accused person and the fuss that is made in that little town about the crime.

Brancati, V. — "L'Amico del Vincitore", romanzo — Milano, Ceschina \$1.50

The life of a generation, the war generation, is depicted in this novel through the life of the hero.

Fratelli, A. — "Capogiro", romanzo — Milano, Bompiani \$0.80

This novel has won the Viareggio prize of 1932, awarded last month. It is the first novel written by an experienced and well known critic. Fratelli has been the literary editor of "La Tribuna" of Rome, and it is only with this novel that he has shown his possibilities as a fiction writer. The title seems to indicate the "giddiness" which the hero, a 40-year-old professor, experiences in association with Alina, his daughter's chum.

Gadda, P. — "Gagliarda" — Milano, Ceschina \$1.20

The scene of this historical novel is laid in Naples during the Napoleonic wars.

Marotta, G. — "Tutte a me", romanzo, — Milano, Ceschina \$1.20

A pleasant light book for summer reading. Humorous and refreshing.

Milanesi, G. — "Quilla, Figlia del Sogli" \$1.50

Milanesi succeeds once again in carrying the reader through grand adventures in the unknown land. The scenes of this novel are laid in the region of the Matto Grosso in Brazil.

Panzini, A. — "La Sventurata Irminida", romanzo — Milano, Mondadori \$1.00

Panzini has reconstructed in this amusing and charming novel the life of Luigia Bergalli, wife of Gaspare Gozzi. Out of this real character, who, besides being Gozzi's wife, was well known also as a poetess, Panzini has created incidents and episodes which make this novel very delightful reading.

Sacchi, F. — "La Casa in Oceania" — Milano, Mondadori \$1.20

The scene of this novel takes place in Queensland, Australia, where the Italians and the English, as well as the natives, are mingled together in farm life.

Drama and Poetry

Cardarelli, V. — "Prologhi Viaggi Favole", poesie e poemi in prosa — Lanciano, Giuseppe Carabba \$1.00

The author has collected in this volume all of his poetry, which could only be had up to this time in different volumes.

Delcroix, Carlo — "I Miei Canti", poesie — Firenze, Vallecchi \$1.00

In this volume of traditional verse, the author, who is perhaps the greatest Italian war hero of the World War, has collected all his poems written during the 4 years in the trenches. These are not war poems or poems of hatred, but more the expression of man's love of nature felt in those days of hardship.

Giulioti, D. — "Poesie" — Firenze, Vallecchi \$1.00

Poems of deep religious fervor. The author is perhaps the most outspoken Catholic writer in Italy today. It is said that he was most influential in Papini's conversion to Catholicism.

Shaw, G. B. — "Teatro Completo" complete plays of G. B. Shaw collected in 18 volumes — Milano, Mondadori. The complete set \$12.00

This handsome though very inexpensive edition of Shaw has just been issued. It contains all of his plays in authorized translation. Here follow the titles of the volumes:

1. Il dilemma del dottore.
2. Commedie sgradevoli.
3. I fidanzati impossibili.
4. Uomo e superuomo.
5. Cesare e Cleopatra.
6. Il discepolo del diavolo.
7. Conversione del Cap. Brassbound.
8. Il dilemma del dottore.
9. Androclo e il leone — Caterina la Grande.
10. La prima commedia di Fanny.
11. Pigmalione.
12. Oh, il matrimonio.
13. Il maggiore Barbara.
14. Torniamo a Matusalemme.
15. Casa Cuorinfanto.
16. Santa Giovanna.
17. Atti unici.
18. L'Imperatore d'America (The Apple Cart).

Political and World Problems

Missiroli, M. — "L'Italia d'Oggi" — Bologna, Zanichelli \$1.00

Missiroli, one of the most brilliant political writers, makes in this volume a keen analysis of present day Italy. The position in which Italy finds herself after ten years of Fascism and the various achievements accomplished in this period are reviewed herein.

Sorel, G. — "L'Europa sotto la Tormenta" — Milano, Corbaccio \$1.50

This volume can be considered Sorel's political-philosophical testament. The problems of Races and Nations, those of Religion and Philosophy, of the Church and the State, of Socialism and Fascism, are examined and analyzed with deep insight.

History and Biography

Mazzucchelli, M. — "L'Imperatrice senza Impero" (La Contessa di Castiglione) — Milano, Corbaccio \$1.60

Mazzucchelli has written a very interesting biography of the beautiful Contessa di Castiglione, who as a friend of Napoleon III was the uncrowned Empress of France, and who was responsible for the Franco-Italian Alliance in 1859, the defeat of the Austrian Army and the subsequent liberation of Northern Italy.

Nicotra-Pastore, D. — Amori di Principi e Sovrane d'Amore" (Una congiura mondana contro Filippo D'Orleans. Il più bel romanzo d'amore del XVIII Secolo: Adriana le Couvreur. Sofia Arnould, "Sorella minore di Ninon". "La Signora dalle Camelie". — Milano, Corbaccio \$2.00

Strachey, L. — "La Regina Vittoria" — Milano, Mondadori \$4.00

Finally we have an Italian translation of this masterpiece of modern biography, and a very good and accurate translation at that.

Tea, E. — "Giacomo Boni nella Vita del suo Tempo" — Milano, Ceschina \$6.00

Giacomo Boni, whom many American tourists knew not only as an acquaintance but perhaps also as a friend, and who spent his whole life digging and reconstructing in ancient Rome, has found in Miss Tea a worthy biographer. It was his keen perception and learned classical erudition which enabled him to trace the historical spots in Ancient Rome and bring them to light again. He spent his entire life in the forums, and much of what we admire today of Ancient Rome is due to his efforts. The author, in this voluminous though highly interesting biography, records, and in many cases with dramatic tenseness, Boni's finding of forgotten and hidden historical spots of the Rome of the Caesars. 1222 pages, 38 illustrations.

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Indirizzare:

ATLANTICA BOOK SERVICE

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ATLANTICA'S OBSERVATORY

THESE ANTI-ITALIAN MOVIES

WE DEPLORE the showing of motion pictures in this country that offend the Italians. There are some directors and producers who seem to take it for granted that the typical Italian in this country, at least for the purposes of the films, is either a ludicrous character, over-emotional or a criminal. And naturally whenever such a portrayal is made, a loud wail goes up from the Italians, and with reason.

Now there are two possible reasons why we protest certain films. Either we desire to have them banned or amended to exclude the offensive parts, or we desire to show our indignation, so that others will know how we feel on the matter. If it is the latter that is desired, then wailing and protesting loudly ought to accomplish the desired end. But if the purpose is to have something done about it, some action taken, this method defeats its own purpose.

It must not be forgotten that a film company is not primarily interested in producing a work of art, or in producing a photoplay that will offend nobody, but in making money. This it can do only by attracting customers to the box-office, either through real worth on the part of the motion picture or because of publicity.

Publicity is the life-giving sun of the motion picture world. Few pictures succeed without it, and conversely, few pictures that have been deliberately or accidentally publicized fail to make money, i. e., succeed. When an Italian organization protests against a film, and the incident is reported in the newspapers, what will be the natural reaction of an Italo-American who has never even heard of it? Will he determine to stay away from the film, and perhaps all films in general, advising his friends to do the same? Or will he, curious, decide to see why his countrymen are offended? Of course it will be the latter.

With more people attending pictures of this sort, the producer will find it to his interest to put out others of the type which of-

fend, for he gleefully notes that they swell the coffers. And so the Italians will have defeated their purpose.

If the Italians really want pictures that grossly misrepresent them prohibited, let them consider this suggestion. Let them maintain a sort of guardian of their interest in Hollywood, who will keep track of the movies in production. It will be his job to know what pictures are being produced, and whether any are liable to offend his race. If he does come across any of these, he can, depending on his backing, exert pressure quietly to have the offensive parts deleted. When these parts have so been eliminated, even if the producers make publicity capital of it, at least it will be a picture that will not shame the Italians.

It seems to us that this is a modern, twentieth-century way of dealing with a modern, twentieth-century industry that is now one of the most powerful in the country. Shrieks and wails cannot avail against it. Action must be



—“And She Said She Was Through With That Chap!”

—From the New York Times

taken, but the action must be of a kind calculated to produce results.

“COMMUNITY” vs.
“COLONY”

DO WE—“we” meaning the Italians in any city in the United States—constitute a “colony” or a “community”? There is rather a nice distinction

here, and we wonder how many Italians have considered it. Out in Portland, Oregon, one of the editors of “La Stella”, Italian weekly, begins an editorial, “We are not a Colony”, by giving Webster’s definition of the word as follows:

“Colony—a company of people transplanted from their mother country to a remote province or country, and remaining subjects to the jurisdiction to the parent State.”

“We are not a colony any more”, says the writer, “We are a community of upright standing citizens of this country making our bread and butter here and pledging allegiance to the Stars and Stripes of this country, with all due respect to the native land of our ancestors. Though I speak as one whose parents were both born in Italy, and as one who is proud to come from that race, I still maintain that we are citizens here and under jurisdiction of the governing laws of these United States of America.”

Right you are, Mr. Morrow, and not only, as you add, has Premier Mussolini urged Italians in America to become American citizens if they intend to stay here permanently, but, as the former Italian Ambassador De Martino has said, the best way by which an Italo-American can show himself worthy of the land of his forefathers is by being a model American citizen, maintaining a cultural and social interest—not a belligerently political one—in Italy and things Italian.

We are a community, not a colony.

A LOST FRIEND

THE cause of closer Italo-American understanding and appreciation has lost a stout champion through the death last month of H. Nelson Gay, a leader in the American colony in Rome for a quarter century and unofficial adviser to many American ambassadors. Mr. Gay, born in Massachusetts in 1870, had, after his education at Amherst and Harvard, lived mostly abroad, particularly in Italy.

He was considered an authority

on the history of Italy since the Risorgimento. Most of his books, of which he had many to his credit, were on matters connected with Italian history, and he was said to possess the best library in existence on the history of Italy between 1815 and 1870. Deservedly, he had received many decorations from the Italian Government.

When the precursor of the modern ATLANTICA, the "Rivista d'Italia e d'America", first came out in Rome in November, 1923, one of the more prominent contributions was by Mr. Gay himself. Looking backward, ATLANTICA realizes that what Mr. Gay said on that occasion is as true as it ever was, and bears reprinting:

Nov. 1, 1923

"When Medici's 'fascist' expedition of June 9, 1860 left the harbor of Genoa and made possible the complete triumph of Garibaldi's Sicilian campaign and the consequent unification of liberated Italy, it sailed under American colors. The American consul at Genoa himself pulled the halyards that hoisted the Stars and Stripes on the flagship; the three vessels constituting the expedition bore the names "Washington", "Franklin" and "Oregon".

"A year later President Lincoln solicited the aid of Garibaldi in the supreme hour of America's national test, and offered him the grade of major-general in the forces of the United States with the command of an army marshalled in defence of liberty and the American Union.

"The community of national ideals which determined these significant events of more than a half-century ago, and which inspires Italo-American relations today, is the indispensable factor of permanent international amity. To make this intimate like-mindedness mutually understood and felt is obviously a sacred duty for citizens for both countries, and more particularly for the press on both sides of the Atlantic. The moment urges. Italy has recovered the elixir of youth, has awakened to a livelier sense of the possibilities and the responsibilities of life. Fascist principles and Fascist deeds

should be more widely, and more correctly, known in the United States. Its literature should be read there, a literature of thews and sinews, of conflict and aspiration; struck off in the heat of achievement, it is sincere, wholesome, inspiring and does justice to the higher qualities of human nature.



Everybody's Wolf

—From the Chicago Daily News

"As a corollary to the above it follows that Italians should be more accurately informed of what Americans are thinking about and doing. International higher education is not only more vital in the world's work than a numberless corps of polyglot experts; it is indispensable if Leagues of Nations are ever to be more than instruments of hegemony."

GREYHOUNDS OF THE SEA

AN event of major importance in shipping circles will be the maiden voyage this month of the huge new Italian liner **Rex**. This 54,000-ton mammoth is scheduled to leave Genoa on the 27th of September, bound for New York, where it will arrive only seven days later, on October 4th. Of all liners recently built, the **Rex** is by far the greatest as far as tonnage goes.

Its nearest competitor is not a competitor at all, but a sister-ship, the **Conte di Savoia**, another colossus of the seas, whose 48,000-ton bulk will depart on its first voyage about a month later, on November 4th. Both the **Rex** and the **Conte di Savoia** are expected to develop and maintain a speed of twenty-eight knots, making

them among the fastest ever built.

An indication of the size and speed of these two liners can be had by comparing them with the new **Manhattan** of the United States Lines, which is the largest liner ever built in this country. The American vessel has a gross register of 24,000 tons, a speed of twenty knots, and she is designed to carry 1250 passengers. The **Conte di Savoia** will accommodate 1900 passengers.

Though the completion of these two great new liners is a distinct achievement and a source of pride for the Italian marine, it must be remembered that after all it is in line with the tradition Italy has built up for herself as one of the greatest shipbuilding nations in the world. What we now have is but another, albeit a more striking, indication of this.

BATHTUBS AND PROGRESS

SAID the New York "Daily Investment News" not long ago in its column "Talking It Over":

"There are more passenger automobiles in the United States than telephones; more telephones than bathtubs; more bathtubs than radio sets.

"The United States leads the rest of the world in the number of passenger automobiles; in the number of telephones; probably in the number of bathtubs, and is just short in the number of radios.

"This bespeaks much for the rapid development of this country since the start of the 20th century. We have taken ten-league steps, whereas the rest of the world has taken three-foot strides."

There is more to the passage, but this is certainly sufficient. We sincerely hope the attitude expressed above is not, in this third year of depression, typical of the country as a whole. When leading critics and thinkers have taken the view that one of the benefits of the depression has been to show this country, heretofore engrossed in the worship of goods and dollars as the sum total of human achievement, that there is progress in a spiritual sense far outweighing materialistic considerations, passages like the above, harking back to pre-depression boom days, seem to grate on the sensibilities.

Will it take more than a cata-

(Continued on Page 274)

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Founded in 1923

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The Cover This Month

It is impossible to give a clear idea of the beauty of the Cathedral of Siena, pictured on the cover this month. The spectator will be able to comprehend and appreciate it only after an exhaustive and enthusiastic study of all the parts which go to form one of the most powerful and fascinating creations of human genius.

On the highest site in the town, said to be that of a temple of Minerva, it was begun early in 1229, completed as far as the choir in 1259, and covered in with its dome in 1264. In 1317 the choir was prolonged considerably, but the ambition of the good citizens was still unsatisfied.

They therefore resolved in 1339 to erect a huge nave, of which the existing cathedral was to be the transept (or wing) only. But within 10 years, owing partly to structural difficulties, and partly to the plague of 1348, this ambitious plan had to be abandoned. Enough, however, is left to show that had the plan been carried out, the church would have been the largest and the finest Gothic edifice in all Italy.

The facade is composed of red, black, and white marble, and was not completed till 1380, while the rich sculptures with which it is decorated were restored in 1869, and the mosaics in 1878. On each side of the steps is a column bearing the she-wolf of Siena, and the campanile which rises in the background, of the late 14th Century, has six stories.

Inside, some of the most eminent sculptors of old Italy are represented, including Michelangelo, Lorenzo di Mariano, Niccolò Pisano and his son Giovanni, Donatello, and others. And mention must be made of the marble pavement in the interior, which is unique, being adorned with "graffito" scenes designed by great artists. It is generally covered by a wooden floor, which is removed for a few weeks after the Assumption, on August 15th.

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TOPICS OF THE MONTH

By Rosario Ingarciola

MUSSOLINI: "APOSTLE OF WAR"

WHEN the 14th volume of that monumental work which is the Italian Encyclopaedia appeared recently, practically every newspaper in the world reproduced excerpts from the article on Fascism contributed therein by Mussolini himself. Curiously enough, the passages which were given great prominence by most papers were those relating to Mussolini's views on War and Peace. Accordingly, the cry went up: "Mussolini advocates War! Mussolini—behold the Apostle of War! Mussolini is the greatest menace to World Peace!"

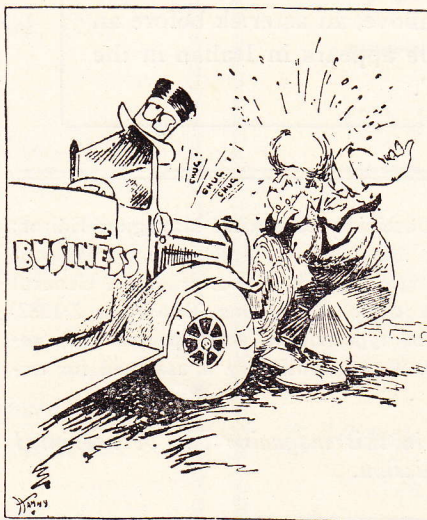
However, in the absence of chapter and verse, we preferred to wait until we could see for ourselves, for we are already well accustomed to the distortions which are usually placed upon most utterances of the Italian Dictator. Now, with the Volume of the Encyclopaedia on our table, it is easy to see what it's all about. Let us open it at Page 849 and read what Mussolini has to say on the subject of War and Peace:

"Above all, as far as the future and the progress of mankind are concerned and having in mind no consideration of the present political situation, Fascism, generally speaking, does not believe in the possibility or the utility of perpetual peace. It rejects pacifism because it implies a renunciation of the struggle and because it conceals an act of cowardice. War alone whips into the greatest tension all human energies and confers a seal of nobility upon those people who have the hardihood to withstand it. All other vicissitudes are mere substitutes which do not put man face to face with himself, in the alternative of life and death. A doctrine, then, which is for peace at any cost is foreign to Fascism; as foreign to the spirit of Fascism are also all international and Socialistic conceptions which, as history proves, are swept away when considerations of sentiment and self-preservation storm at the heart of the people. This anti-Pacifist spirit is carried by Fascism into the life of the individual. The proud Fascist slogan—"I don't give a damn"—written upon the bandages of a wound is not only an act of Stoic philosophy, not only the

essence of a political doctrine, it is also a training for life's battle and the acceptance of all the risks which go with it: it is the new style of the Italian mode of living. Thus the Fascist accepts and loves life; he ignores and rejects suicide; he takes life as a duty, as uplifting, as something to be conquered. To the Fascist, life must be lofty and full; he must live it for himself; but, above all, he must live it for the others, near or far away, now living or to be born."

These are the words from which, quite nonchalantly, certain commentators have spelled out such grave menaces to the peace of the world. Yet all thoughtful students will agree that they contain a new declaration, perhaps a forceful declaration, of old principles of historical philosophy. Others and better philosophical writers and critics than Mussolini have expressed these thoughts time and again and no one has found any fault with them.

But when Mussolini, **having in mind no consideration of the present political situation**, has the courage to re-echo them, the parrots of all lands hasten to raise the hue and cry and seem conveniently to forget that in the past ten years the present Italian Government has been in the forefront of every diplomatic movement for



The old bus seems to be working again.

—From the Philadelphia Inquirer

peace, whether it be in Washington, London, Geneva or Lausanne.

Mussolini's words will be read hundreds of years from now. Then, having in mind the immanence of time, they will certainly sound, not only harmless, but very true.

AMERICANS BY CHOICE

DR. JOHN H. FINLEY of The New York Times needs no introduction to intelligent American readers. He is well known for his broad-mindedness, his insight and his humanity.

Dr. Finley recently delivered an address over the radio on certain aspects of alien life in this country. From that interesting talk I have culled a few sentences which seem to me very pertinent at the present time. I quote from Dr. Finley's speech:

"My own alien ancestors came to this country exactly two centuries ago, when there were no quotas or other restrictions except Indian perils and hardships of the frontier.... The last census showed that the number of foreign born in this country has increased to over fourteen millions—14,000,000 Americans by choice, not by accident of birth, as with most of us but men and women who have chosen this country in preference to all others... We refuse the alien a job and at the same time make it difficult and expensive for him to be naturalized.... Nothing is to be gained by letting opposition to further immigration express itself in hostility to the immigrant already here"...

Words of real nobility, words that ring true, well and eloquently spoken. Dr. Finley has coined a happy phrase: "Americans by choice".

Sometimes I think back many years. I catch a glimpse of the past. I see a man whom I knew and loved well—a poor, bewildered immigrant, alone and friendless, with a heavy burden in his heart, setting foot upon American soil. He is alone, except for a faithful, hoping woman and for small scared children tugging at his ill-fitting coat.

Alone, yet he ventures into a strange land, among strange people, fearlessly determined to **choose** it as his new country. Before him lies, uncertain and unpropitious, the future: obstacles, difficulties, diffidences, ridicule, even open hostility. Yet he carries on, undismayed, here to work, here to live, here to die.

(Continued on Page 272)

Disarmament à la Geneva

By Italo Balbo

ON the official results of the Geneva Disarmament Conference it is useless to dwell. Although it cannot be said that the language of the Benes resolution exceeds in clearness, nevertheless the world has had a general impression of inconclusiveness. The ambiguous agreements, veiled by equivocal formulae and masked with a popular encyclopedic humanitarianism, have led to the belief that the six-months' time and the many millions expended on Lake Lemán by the more than sixty nations there represented have produced nothing but a colossal trick on candid souls acting in good faith.

Unfortunately this great mockery is not an end in itself. It includes also, behind its smile, an attempt at an atrocious joke. And we must have the courage to say, without any beating about the bush, that the ones to have been tricked most of all would have been the Italians. In other times, probably, the affair would not have made an impression on us, so used were we to returning home not only joked upon, but harmed, after international conferences. But a taste for this type of sport does not exist in the Fascist temperament. Although the attempts are being repeated, they are destined, now, to fail regularly. The perseverance which our European opponents put into the business of damaging Italy is perhaps exemplary, and no less exemplary, we believe, is our consistency in frustrating their plans.

First of all, if Voltaire were to be living again today, he would have difficulty in finding throughout the Peninsula any kind of a "Candide" who is disposed to take seriously the universalistic and humanitarian enterprises of

the League of Nations. What the Geneva mechanism is, everybody now knows. Any decision emanating from the League of Nations

When the Disarmament Conference adjourned not long ago at Geneva for a number of months, Italy, in no uncertain terms, made it clear she was dissatisfied with the proceedings, and refused to vote on the resolution to adjourn. In fact, General Italo Balbo was sent direct by Premier Mussolini to the Conference with the following message:

"This Conference is an utter failure!... The resolution now before us is a vain effort, entirely inadequate when compared to the wishes and hopes of the World... No marked progress is made toward Disarmament... The Fascist Government can take no part in the vote on the resolution to adjourn!"

To American readers, the Italian attitude may sound truculent, but General Balbo knew whereof he spoke. A few days later he published in the Milan "Popolo d'Italia" an article in which he took the Conference to task, charging that the three nations who controlled the League of Nations, England, France and the United States, had no intention of disarming, but tried to make the Italians the victims of "an atrocious joke". This article received wide publicity in the Italian press, and "The New York Times" a few weeks later summed it up on its front page.

Because of its importance as an indication of the trend of Italian foreign policy, and because it shows why Italy is dissatisfied with the League and the Conference, the article has been translated by ATLANTICA and is here offered to its readers in English.

bears the group trade-mark of France, Great Britain and the United States. I do not know who it was who compared the Geneva consortium to a stock-insuing corporation, where it is indeed true that every stockholder has the full right to vote as he

pleases and to criticize the actions of the Board of Directors, but where there always prevail, substantially, the opinions and will of those holding a majority of the stock. The United States, in an indirect way, and France and England in a positive manner that is numerically ascertainable, have at their disposal two-thirds of the assembly's delegates. Whatever efforts are made by outside groups to change this state of affairs, cannot therefore but be in vain.

THE system has been perfected in the Disarmament Conference. Considering the delicacy of the problems that were to be treated there, the presence of members outside the aegis of the League, like Russia, and the possibility that an unforeseen rise of national sentiment might lead some participants to a sudden act of rebellion, the three dominant powers have been exceedingly cautious. The offices of the so-called "Bureau" have been distributed to countrymen, or to others who are safe and have been well-tried in the decade of post-war experience: president, vice-presidents, secretary, etc. are creatures of France and England: there does not appear in any of those positions an Italian, a German or a Russian, or any other delegate suspected of friendship for any independent power. The sub-commissions are arranged in the same manner, and, although their importance is relatively much less, they function marvelously, according to orders and desires from higher up. If some Italian, or friend of Italy, appears here and there, his actions are so controlled and neutralized by the others that any surprise is impossible.

The bloc of dominators presents, then, a formidable front against the remaining third, even if in internal discussions among themselves discrepancies and disagreements are not lacking. Moreover, the technique of Geneva has reached such a degree of finesse as to permit almost any shan whatsoever. Only the ingenuous can take seriously the strong partisanship among which in turn the representatives of the three hegemonic powers distribute themselves. It is known beforehand that they are artificial fires, and that there is all ready in the desk drawer the compromise formula destined to re-establish immediately the agreement that seemed to have perished. This organization functioned in an admirable way during the six months of the Conference. Nor could Italy — although treated apparently with every regard, and fervently applauded so long as her theses did not wound the substantial, concomitant interests of the three major powers—change by one millimeter, at the end, the pre-established positions. There are naturally differences and blendings between the method used by England and that of France, or the system favored by America. In regard to Italy, the reactions of these powers, in sympathy or in hostility, are different. Perforce. Perhaps, taken one by one, outside of the Geneva atmosphere, in the free sphere of European and extra-European political competition, their manner of treating Italy may be as far apart as the poles. But at Geneva things change. Here there is a lowest common denominator which perforce unites the interests of the three nations, and this minimum common interest prevails over all other considerations.

WE will begin, meanwhile, by saying that, while Italy started with a clear will to disarmament, France, England and America have no intention whatever of disarming, or at most desire a relative disarmament, one, in other words, that will strengthen their individual positions and weaken the positions of the others.

Before even arriving at the Conference, in view of possible reduc-

tions, England and America increased their naval armaments, and France, in a naturally greater proportion, strengthened her land armaments. Nobody has forgotten the deviation of the seven billions, which mysteriously disappeared from the specific book-keeping of the national budget, and ended up, as everybody knows, in the



General Italo Balbo

development of the French fortifications on the east and the south. The mechanism of military budgets in France is contrived in such a manner as to permit whatever extraordinary financial obligation may be necessary, either by inserting it under other budget headings, or by masking it behind the so-called "credits d'engagements". French aviation knows something about this.

The premise of the Disarmament Conference has therefore been a still madder armament race.

The tendency was to raise the actual limit which was to be cut by the action, real or fictitious, of the Geneva disarmers.

And yet, notwithstanding all these premises, the fear of incurring unexpectedly a disarmament which would decrease even to a minimum degree the pre-established superiorities, was clearly revealed at Geneva. The greatest proof lies in the offensive developed against aviation, during six months of extenuating, closed and most insidious discussion.

Aviation is the weapon of the

poor. The price that it takes to build a great modern battleship, a price now nearing the billion mark, is enough to construct a whole aerial fleet of two thousand airplanes, enough, in other words to give already some guarantee of security to the country possessing it.

Moreover, aviation is the weapon of the young. In fact, it flourishes particularly in the countries where lives a joy for beautiful and generous adventures, where the people are still inclined to give up their lives for the triumph of an ideal cause, where, in short, boldness, the will to surpass, and noble emulation prevail over greed for profit and mercenary servility.

A GAINST this spiritual element on which thrives aviation, which is the pride and hope of the nations upon whom financial fortune does not smile, the political cartel at Geneva for six months aligned itself relentlessly.

At the end, the Benes resolution discovered a compromise formula, which, to be well understood, must be integrated with the discussions that took place within the individual commissions.

While the resolution affirms that the High Contracting Parties pledge themselves to renounce aerial bombardments whenever the technical characteristics of the machines can be determined and "on condition that an agreement is arrived at concerning the measures that must be adopted to render effective the observance of such precautions", it also aims to fix the tonnage of future bombing planes at an average limit of 2000-3000 kilograms (4411-6616 lbs.), which would mean the death of Italian aviation, which is harmless with planes of such little tonnage. The resolution also presupposes an international regime of civil aviation. These were, in fact, the postulates from which France and England began to discuss aerial disarmament: and these the ultimate limits at which they arrived at the end of the semestral Geneva debate.

Italy, as is well-known, proposed, as an insuperable limit, 650 kilograms (1434 lbs.). Moreover she opposed the internationalization of civil aviation.

Why?

She was accused of a sophisticated stubbornness, sustained for the sole purpose of sabotaging aerial disarmament. Nothing could be more false. Here is being treated an interest that is vital for our country. If the Conference adopts the 650-kilogram weight limit, then it is indeed true that it will thereby definitely condemn to death all aviation. But if the purpose is to abolish the bombardment type of aviation, no other expedients exist. Any plane of a greater tonnage (than 650 kilograms) is capable of carrying bombs, even the smallest pursuit plane, even the smallest scouting plane. This is not opinion but incontrovertible technical fact.

ON the other hand, with planes of only 650 Kgs., French and Yugoslav aviation could be rendered harmless at our borders. One must consider the special geographical conditions of the Italian Peninsula, projecting into the Mediterranean Sea, accessible on the north via the air at its most delicate and vital points (Genoa, Turin, Milan, Venice, etc.), and any point in the entire length of which can be reached by an hour's flight from any one of the many bases which France and her satellites possess in our sea (Corsica, Tunisia, the Dalmatian coast, etc.).

If Italy had consented to the thesis of the majority at Geneva, she would have been signing away surrender unreservedly. It was for the time being only a question of a general principle. But the importance of this principle could not escape anyone who had followed the order of the preceding discussions. Moreover, the dominant powers at Geneva make use of general principles as of snares to tighten their nets more and more, till they come to the point of their interest. From one principle to another, the territory is narrowed more and more, the debate becomes more and more limited, more and more is the sphere of compromise completed. Once the general principle is accepted, it is not at all easy to disentangle oneself from its conditions. Whoever is negotiating must always keep in mind this danger, and regulate himself accordingly. This is what the Ita-

lian delegates at Geneva have done, denying every solidarity in the text of the agreement which expressly betrayed the Italian interest. If England, France and America really want to agree to the abolition of aviation used for bombardment purposes, let them descend to the minimum level of 650 kilograms, and we will be ready to sign; but at the same time let there be prohibited heavy artillery, tanks, submarines and battleships!

As for the international regime of civil aviation, it masks but poorly France's desire to lay her hands, through the League of Nations, dominion over which she shares, on the admirable German commercial airways organization. Germany, for her part, has replied with an emphatic "No!" to the Benes resolution: Italy's abstention from voting clearly shows what our attitude is in the face of aggressive French egoism, with its mask of humanitarianism and disarmament.

AGAINST aviation there has been unleashed also the battle of the small neutral States. It is curious to observe a certain psychological character to this opposition. The anti-aeronautical humanitarianism expressed in the otherwise very eloquent speech of that illustrious statesman, Honorable Motta, in the name of some dozen small powers, is based entirely on the pre-conception of the atrocity of aerial bombardment. We do not deny that a bombardment from above produces havoc and grief. But all war is inhuman. The pretext of making of it a gentle episode in human history is absurd. Only those who have had no experience with war, who do not know the terrible logic of the destruction and annihilation of the enemy that war carries to the extreme, can distinguish and argue between the use of this or that weapon. If a distinction could be made, it would be entirely to the advantage of aviation, which, in the recent European conflict, was inspired to principles of high and almost legendary chivalry. But war is war. Nor, for all that it is examined from all sides, that its offensive and defensive means are reduced, or even that a stick is substituted for a rifle, is there

any hope that it can disregard the principle of the greatest harm to the adversary. There is no use in tricking the people into believing in the possibility of humanizing war!

WE must also pause a moment over the hypocrisy of certain formulae relative to tanks, naval and coastal artillery, battleships and submarines. For land artillery the discussion was practically concluded with an increase in calibres! An enormity! It can be said without fear of mistake that every time a certain kind of armament was particularly close to the heart of one of the three major powers, a negative formula resulted. Every time, on the other hand, that directly or indirectly, Italy, Germany, Russia, or some minor power allied with them, could be hit, the ring tended to tighten and the clouds to transform themselves into rain.

The atmosphere of Geneva, as we have said, is propitious for the soothing of nerves. It is difficult without continual force and control, for an intransigent position to resist the praise of contacts, compliments and falsities that are the proper thing in the so-called rules of diplomatic courtesy.

It is necessary, instead, to have the courage of unpopularity and severity, that courage of which for ten years proof has been given by the policy of Mussolini in the world.

And more can be said. Only strong and straightforward methods, and the taking of intransigent positions, can assure a certain success. If, in voting on the details of the Benes resolution, in opposition to the fictitious preceding unanimity, the nations were met with the arraying of about ten who abstained from voting, this was due to the resolute attitude of Italy. The so-called High Contracting Parties should take note of this precedent, if they want to keep alive that monstrous structure of illusions and snares for the ingenuous that is called the Disarmament Conference. Otherwise Italy already knows the way that awaits her: that of withdrawal. Once this occurs, not only will she not be alone: but she will determine an indispensable clarification in the air, now troubled by the fog of the Geneva atmosphere.



Siena—The Courtyard of the Palazzo Pubblico

Two Great Sienese Revelations

*The Council Hall at Siena
and the Chapel of St. Martin
at Assisi*

By Franco Bruno Averardi

IN Siena, in the great Council Hall of the Palazzo Pubblico, the first vision of Simone's art arises before us. We feel overpowered—as if we suddenly realized what Siena was in the Middle Ages, as if we had learned more with one glance at this "Maestà" than by reading all the books that were written in that age and about that age. It is one of those works which seize and hold us with the force and the radiance of a whole world—the world from which they were born and which they incarnate. We feel on a sudden that that world had been dead to us, although our intellect knew so and so much about it. We are struck at the same time by the feeling of the enormous gulf which separates that world from our life and by the tremendous vitality with which it suddenly speaks to us. We cannot reconcile in our spirit its death and its life.

We will not find later in Simone's art such a monumental revelation of his world. His art will become more subtle, more delicate, more fluent; here it has all the untouched granitic majesty of a new born creation. It does not overpower us so much by the rhythm of its lines and forms, by its composition, as Giotto's crea-

tions in S. Maria Dell'Arena in Padua, but rather by the sensation we have that the radiance shining upon us from all those figures and faces is a spiritual revelation—that those figures are symbolic in the most precise and vital sense of the word: they synthesize, concentrate and express a world in forms and colors. It is the symbol of Siena, as she was in that moment in which she awakened in historical reality to the new life of an Italian commune. But after that awakening her mystic medieval soul survived, remained true to itself rather than adapted itself to it.

This Madonna was not intended by Simone to be a mystic Madonna but rather; one might say, a patriotic Madonna: the daughter of that Roman Wolf, which was the emblem of Siena. In that Council Hall, the heart of the Commune, Simone painted her as a Goddess of Justice, as a solemn warning to those councilors who held their sessions in front of her. The young Simone felt and expressed with a miraculous power the monumental character of this salomonic Madonna. He gave her a powerful figure: a supreme expression of that spiritual, allegoric monumentality which was so dif-

ferent from the later physical monumentality in Florentine art. She is not so much the divine virgin, as in others of his paintings, but rather the severe and proud mother of the Sienese citizens, ready to protect her sons—and her words, written below, confirm this impression. She is more heroic than mystic, and yet mysticism, that mystic soul which survived and gave its last splendor in the new Commune, survives also in this painting of Simone. It sings all through the fresco, like a subdued magic music which we gradually hear after the first great heroic chord. It is exactly this that makes Simone's fresco so profoundly and completely representative: it gathers in a great symbolic vision the whole Siena of that age, the historical and the spiritual Siena. This mysticism shines forth from the faces of several Saints—from the face of Saint Ansano, for instance, that early, immature anticipation of the future Saint Martin of Assisi. And above all it shines from the unforgettable, unsurpassed angel kneeling on the right before the throne. He lifts his gift of fruits towards the Madonna and accompanies the ascending movement of his arms, of his whole figure with

the ecstatic aspiration of his eyes, while his lips open as if to exhale his soul. We do not find such an expression of passionate spiritual longing, such a mysterious, magic figure in the whole art of Giotto, of the Florentine Trecento. This angel is not as thoroughly an angel as that of Simone's Annunciation in the Uffizi. That later angel has quite immaterial hands (souls of hands), he has a face which is quite unlike our face. This earlier angel of the *Maestà* is much nearer to us, his face and hands and body resemble much more ours. The entire painting is a much more human, concrete, approachable vision than the Annunciation. It is not a miracle, the miracle by which Maria becomes the Mother of God, it is the city of Siena worshipping the Madonna,—*Civitas Virginis*. And each of the two angels harmonizes with the character of the vision in which he appears. The angel of the Annunciation has just descended from Heaven; he exhales the breath and the radiance of another world; we feel that he has come to us, that he has materialized only for a moment and that when his mission is fulfilled he will again disappear. But the angel of the *Maestà* kneels on our earth, he offers earthly fruits to the Virgin; he does not descend from Heaven, he looks up passionately to the Queen of Heaven. Thereby he is a link between us and Heaven, he expresses all our longing for transformation and liberation. In that vision of Siena adoring the Virgin he is the visible soul of Siena, glowing with passionate mysticism. Those luminous fruits which he offers impress us as a sacrifice and as a sacrament: the fruits of earth receive the kiss of eternal light and are transfigured. While looking at the angel we think of that passage in which Dante speaks of "transhumanation": "One could not find words to express what transhumanation means." We think of those songs which were born from the "Sweet agony" of Iacopone, by which we follow all the degrees of his initiation. This angel, white like a lily, intense like a flame, offering his fruits and drinking with them the air and the light of the divine vision, is a supreme expression of human nature made transparent by the spirit—one with the spirit in an

infinite tension towards the divine ideal.

But a little lower we read words which awaken us, like a sudden flourish, from that ecstatic contemplation in which we had been united with the angel. "If the powerful will be cruel towards the weak, you cannot pray for them, nor for anybody who betrays my country". This is the proud reply of the Madonna to the Saints, the patrons of Siena, who surround her throne, and her warning to the councilors. It is the voice of the Goddess of Justice, the historical voice speaking to us on a sudden while we are listening to the mystic voice. And if we turn around, we face the reply to those words: Guido Riccio da Fogliano, the warrior whom Simone painted on the other end of the Hall, ready to fight for Siena. There is a direct line leading from those words to this figure—to this rigid warrior on his masked horse. He passes silently through the Hall—and all arise in the immensity of the night. All the wars of that age live in this painting. From the other side, from the angels, from the saints, the mysticism of Saint Francis, of Santa Chiara, illumines us; from this side we hear the immense echo of War. These two voices of the age mount upwards and blend on the lips of the great enthroned Queen. She possesses all the "Maestà", all the Majesty of the Commune of Siena and all the Majesty of the Madonna.

IN the upper church of St. Francis at Assisi Giotto painted the life of St. Francis, while Simone painted the life of St. Martin in the lower church. Here, in this Christian temple, we have a wonderful occasion of comparing the greatest painter of the Florentine Trecento with the greatest painter of the Sienese Trecento.

Giotto selects and paints those scenes of St. Francis' life which are most important from a dramatic and historical point of view, which mark the essential moments in the existence of the Saint. Simone, on the contrary, paints those scenes of St. Martin's life which give him the best opportunity to paint what he feels and what his St. Martin feels. If we look at a fresco by Giotto, we think in the first place of the fact, the scene which is represented. If

we look at a fresco by Simone, we think in the first place: what feeling does that figure express and what did the artist feel while he painted it? The central point and the chief merit of Giotto's frescoes lies in his admirable composition, in the rhythm by which his groups of figures represent an action. What we chiefly admire in Simone is expression and gesture—the revelation of inward life, of emotion. Before a figure of Giotto, we feel rather inclined to study it as a whole and in its connections with the other figures. Before a figure of Simone, we feel inclined to study its details, especially the face and the hands, which reveal the soul. The art of Giotto is much more synthetic, much more objective, definite and dramatic. The art of Simone is much more analytic, more subjective, indefinite and lyrical—or dramatic in a more subdued and hidden sense.

LET us consider, for instance, the scene of the investiture of St. Martin, which Simone invented. Giotto would not have selected a scene which is not an essential ring in the chain of the Saint's life—more than this, he would not have imagined a scene. But Simone imagined this scene because it was a personal recollection: he had been knighted himself, Simone Martini, by King Robert of Naples: and here he represented S. Martino being knighted by the Emperor. But there was a deeper reason for this choice. The scene appealed to his particular imagination and inspiration. Simone is always possessed with the desire to express emotion, sentiment—he loves, therefore, to paint scenes of ecstasy and revelation, scenes in which divinity suddenly shines and speaks within the soul of the Saint and in which that light touches, by refraction, the soul of the non-initiated, the man who stands by and witnesses that miraculous moment. He loves to paint ecstasy on one side and the usual human reaction in front of ecstasy, astonishment, on the other: St. Martin and the Emperor, St. Martin and the Priest in the scene of the Mass, St. Martin and Valentinian arising from his burning chair, the dreaming Bishop and the shy attendant. The subjects he chooses are different from Giotto's and his interpretation, his

representation of a scene is also entirely different from Giotto's. If Giotto had painted the scene of the investiture he would not have given us the ecstatic face of St. Martin and the profoundly astonished face of the Emperor. The center of his composition would not have been the spiritual vibration between those two figures; the expression on his faces would have been less intense and more definite. The Emperor is in the act of giving the sword of the knight to St. Martin; but St. Martin does not seem to notice it, he prays to heaven—and the Emperor seems to be astonished and spellbound by the rapture on the Saint's face, by the words he murmurs, by the sudden glimpse of an inward world which was unknown to him, the ruler of the real world. I can never look at this scene without thinking of the great ideal of the Middle Ages, the ideal of Dante: Emperor and Pope, Monarch and Saint, the Eagle and the Cross, the Sword and the Pastoral Staff. The Emperor gives the sword, the Saint prays—the earthly and the spiritual powers assist and protect each other, united in that harmony which alone can save the world. This last supreme expression of that great medieval dream is created by this still medieval, by this profoundly mystic artist of Siena. And all around those two great figures we have a world of forms and colors in which we breathe the atmosphere of a medieval court—more than in any other painting I know: the two musicians, the attendant who buckles the spurs, the one who holds the Knight's hat. One of the two musicians has a face sparkling with wit, smiling at us, as it were, with the smile of certain tales of Boccaccio, the other has a melancholic dreamy expression which reminds us of the Troubadours. It is a scene of contemporary life, a glimpse from the court of King Robert which we perceive here—the surroundings, the atmosphere in which Simone had been knighted in Naples. But in this same scene we do not find King Robert, a medieval king—we find a Roman Emperor, side by side with those medieval figures, a marvelous anachronism of art. Looking at him, we feel all the greatness of Simone, of this mystic painter who

could all on a sudden paint such a splendid Roman head. If you compare it with all the other Roman heads which were painted in Simone's age, you will realize that it is profoundly original, a particular, personal evocation, differing from the style which medieval artists usually adopted in representing classic figures.

IN the following scene, the Emperor has ordered that a donative be paid the soldiers for the war against the Barbarians. Martin has refused the donative and declared that he will not fight. Being accused of cowardice by the Emperor and on the point of being carried to prison St. Martin says: "I will move against the enemy; but this cross which I hold in my hand will be my only weapon." Giotto would have given a much more definite interpretation and a much more clearly dramatic representation of this episode: he would perhaps shown us St. Martin refusing the donative or being led to prison, he would have given full expression to the indignation of the Emperor. Simone's Emperor, on the contrary, does not express a definite sentiment and strongly resembles the Emperor of the previous scene. There is perhaps a glimpse of wrath on his face mingled, again, with astonishment at Martin's answer. He seems to point to the cross and to ask: With that you will go to war? Again, Simone chiefly lays stress on the difference between the imperial and the mystic world. Again, the current of sentiment, the spiritual vibration between the ecstatic St. Martin and the Emperor, astonished before something unknown, is the center of the scene. St. Martin's expression is just as indefinite as the Emperor's, we can read so much in it: his humble self-defense in front of the accusation of cowardice, his confidence that with the cross in his hands he will vanquish everything and everybody.

In another scene we see that miraculous Mass during which two angels appear above the altar and cover the naked arms of St. Martin with a shining cloth (he had given his garment to a beggar). Here, again, the whole beauty and significance of the scene lies in the expression of the faces and the contrast between

them. The Saint raises the hostia with a passionate ecstatic gesture which reminds us of the angel kneeling before the Maestà. The clerk who attends the Mass does not see the angels, who are visible to the Saint alone. He sees, however, the shining cloth suddenly covering the arms of the Saint. His face is stricken with religious awe, his widened eyes stare at the miracle, his paralyzed hand almost loses hold of the stole of St. Martin. This is one of those incomparable hands of Simone in which the soul is expressed as powerfully as in the face. The astonishment which we read on the Emperor's face did not bereave the world-ruler of his self-possession; but here we have the petrified bewilderment of a simple soul. We have another variation of astonishment (on the verge of becoming rapture) in that scene in which a sudden fire assails the emperor Valentinian and forces him to rise and do homage to St. Martin.

THERE is another wonderful scene in this chapel which was interpreted in several manners, all unsatisfactory. While I was reading one day the life of St. Martin in the Golden Legend, I was impressed by an episode which is undoubtedly the one which Simone selected and represented. I do not know if somebody already pointed out this passage as the source of Simone's fresco: the authors I have read give entirely different explanations. (Venturi, Van Marle, etc.). Saint Ambrosius, Bishop of Milan, while celebrating the Mass fell asleep between the Prophecy and the Epistle. Nobody dared to awake him and the deacon dared not to read the Epistle without him. At last, after a good while, a Priest awoke him, saying: "Will your Holiness order that the Epistle be read? The people are getting tired". The Bishop answered, "My brother Martin has left us and has returned to God. I have just attended his funeral, but I could not say the last prayer because you awoke me." And later it was found out that St. Martin had died while Mass was celebrated.—Giotto would not have selected, for one of the central, outstanding scenes of the chapel, an episode in which St. Martin is

not present. If he had painted this scene, he would have shown us on one side the sleeping figure, on the other the dream, as he did, for instance, in that scene in which Pope Innocent the Third sees in his dream St. Francis upholding the Church. Thereby Giotto would have introduced St. Martin into the fresco, as the object of the Bishop's dream and, above all, he would have concretely represented the miraculous vision. But

when Simone represents a miracle the principal thing for him is not to give a visible definite expression of the miracle but rather to express the attitude, the emotion, the reaction of the soul in front of the miracle, as he did in the scenes of Valentinian and of the Mass of S. Martin. He did **not** paint the dream in this scene. He represented the funerals of St. Martin elsewhere, on the ceiling of the chapel. The figure of the

Bishop lost in his dream, the respectful silence all around, the hesitation of the Priest who lightly lays his hand on the Bishop's shoulders as if he had not quite mustered up the necessary courage to awaken him, the sacred hushed atmosphere of the church—this is what Simone saw and felt in the scene, and what he made us see and feel with his miraculous spiritual power, with his profoundly inward, Sieneese art.

Introducing a Young Italian Novelist

ALBERTO MORAVIA'S LITERARY SENSATION
IN ITS ENGLISH TRANSLATION

MARIAGRAZIA Ardengo was a widow who refused to face the fact that she had passed her prime. Blindly unaware that her lover, Leo Merumeci, had tired of her, she could not see that he stood by not for her, but for her growing, full-bosomed and sensually—if not aesthetically—attractive daughter Carla. The latter, and her brother Michele, were affected by an enervating apathy to all that happened, a malignant disease of the spirit—this especially in the case of Michele—that caused them to float indifferently with every eddy in the current of their lives. Desperately did Michele try to arouse orthodox reactions to occurrences that impinged on his consciousness, but in vain.

This is the situation at the beginning of "The Indifferent Ones"* one of the most unusual novels to have been translated from the Italian in recent years. One other character completes the quintet around which the story revolves. She is Lisa, a comparatively shallow woman of easy morals, formerly Leo's mistress, but now trying to entice Michele by her thin, stock-in-trade wiles. Michele tries his best to become enthused, but despite all her bag

**THE INDIFFERENT ONES*. By Alberto Moravia. Translated by Aida Mastrangelo. 327 pages. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co. \$2.50.



Alberto Moravia

—From the painting by L. Cecchi Pierracini

of experienced feminine bait, he is indifferent, nay, so indifferent that he cannot even bring himself definitely to stay away from her.

Carla, tired of living in a household as decadent as theirs, where the members of the family rub each other the wrong way, longs for a way out, and this is what Leo, repellent, though he is to her, seems to offer with his invitation that she visit his apartment. Resisting mildly at first, she later succumbs and gives herself to him because, after all, it seems to lead to that new life which she has not enough spiritual and mental vital-

ity and initiative to create for herself.

Neither Carla nor Michele find what they seek in their sensual ventures. Michele's natural indifference and involuntary artificiality reach a climax when Lisa, in an ugly mood, tells him of Carla's relation with Leo. Only by an effort can he bring himself to be interested in it, and he finally decides that the thing to do is to kill Leo; to show both Lisa and himself that he is man enough to resort to action. On his way to Leo's apartment with a revolver in his pocket, Michele in his imagination kills Leo and listens to his subsequent court trial, a sequence that is really effective and remarkably well sustained. On arriving, his ineffectualness is revealed when, after pointing the revolver in what he believes is the accepted fashion at Leo, the resultant click informs him that he has forgotten to load it.

Here, as elsewhere throughout the book, Moravia's realistic touch and mordant manner are evident. Carla, instead of defending her actions, admits them in a sort of mental torpor:

"I yielded to him, I did it, you understand? for this new life... Now, instead, I realize that nothing has changed... It's better not to make any more attempts... but remain as we are."

This indifference that eats away

at Carla's and Michele's morale—and morals—and in combating which they use up most of their emotional strength and stability, is the most striking aspect of the story, and the author has done a masterly piece of work in penetrating and analyzing it.

* * *

When, in 1929, the first novel of the 22-year-old Alberto Moravia, "Gli Indifferenti", was published in Italy, it created an immediate sensation, going through a number of editions immediately after publication, and eliciting comparisons with Pirandello and D'Annunzio. Later, when critics discovered that the author was but 22, and that he had actually written the novel between the ages of 17 and 20, they demanded proof, for they believed it impossible that a work containing such a wealth of emotional experience and analysis, such sharp and cutting revelation of the uglier side of human motives, and portrayed with a detailed realism all too unpleasant at times, could have been done by a callow youth.

Of course the novel contains still more: a portrayal of decadent, lust-ridden emotions, a perhaps too-insistent harping on sex, an adaption of the O'Neill method of having the characters express their thoughts inwardly the while they reply in the customary

polite phrases, and characters who either have a practical and useful lack of idealism, or who, having flashes of such idealism, must resign themselves bitterly to forces within and without themselves which they are too weak to control or even curb.

It is pertinent at this point to add that Miss Mastrangelo has been more than the translator of this remarkable novel, thereby introducing to the American public a young Italian writer from whom much, no doubt, is still to be heard. She it was who, having known the author for years, convinced Dutton's that the book should be published in an American translation, and then proceeded to translate it. She has tried to preserve the realistic and materialistic detail of the original by using in many cases those Anglo-Saxon words which, though lacking in elegance at times, are descriptive, and accurately reflect the spirit and the overtones of the original. This, as was to be expected, exposed her to criticism on the part of a few not familiar with the original. Save only in a few isolated instances, however, Miss Mastrangelo has succeeded very creditably indeed in writing a translation that keeps the reader interested, and even in suspense, by a deft handling of the details, with a feeling for the original.

* * *

In short, "Gli Indifferenti" will prove of interest to American readers for its remarkable portrayal of characters who, though incredibly indifferent and apathetic, are realized by the youthful Moravia's penetrating and analytical probing; it will interest them, too (why not admit it?) because of its constant, though often unpleasant, reference to sex, which only to a small degree detracts from the artistic merit of the book. It will make available on this side of the Atlantic, moreover, the "capolavoro" (to date) of an Italian writer who has been one of the chief topics of contemporary literary discussion in Italy.

As Arnaldo Fratelli has said in "La Tribuna" of Rome:

"Here is a real novel, admirable and repugnant, intelligent and insupportable, cynical and moralizing, realistic and beyond realism, desperate and anxious for a new faith."

We desire, in closing, to express the hope that American publishers will see their way to publishing, to a greater degree every year, translations from the Italian, not only by the acknowledged modern Italian masters, but also, as in the case of Moravia and others, those who have just and are just beginning to loom over the literary horizon.

D. L.

Know Your Language!

By Dominick Lamonica

THAT Italian as a language of culture has no superior is so well known and has been said and reiterated so often, that it hardly need be mentioned again. We may safely assume, for the purposes of this article, that this fact is known to all Italo-Americans, even that class of young Italo-Americans who, having received a typical American education, have come to the naive conclusion that most contributions to civilization have been American in origin, and have therefore given

but slight attention to any study of their country of origin.

The fact, however, that Italian is regarded as one of the cultural languages par excellence, a language rich in its tradition and proud of its heritage, has obscured the fact that there are several eminently practical reasons why the average young Italo-American of high-school, college, or even post-college age, should take up the study of Italian.

For the sake of argument, let us say that the reader is the av-

erage young Italo-American. You are either in your late teens or your early twenties, and have recently finished your schooling, whether at high school, college, or professional school. You probably indulged in a few athletic or non-athletic activities while there, with moderately pleasing results. You have acquired, in class and out, in conversation with schoolmates and in your periodical reading, a knowledge of American life and customs and a general idea of the pattern

of cultural and living traditions and customs in twentieth century America. This infiltration of American ideas was probably so thorough that you never, let us say, made a display of the fact that you were of Italian origin. Not that you felt that it was unworthy, but simply that you were an American now, and you felt there was no reason why you should be differentiated, or try to differentiate yourself. In short, your interest in things Italian, outside of the home, has hardly even been a casual one.

AT HOME, you have perhaps at times regretted that the atmosphere is not entirely like those of other American homes you have seen. For the most part, however, you have accommodated yourself to it out of filial piety, and now somehow, you are beginning to see that it is preferable to keep the Italo-American home as an Italo-American home, rather than to try to put a purely American veneer over it. The dialect which you used in your childhood and boyhood around the house, and to which you still sometimes revert, assumes a new importance to you.

You begin to see that the ideas of your parents are not all as old-fashioned or as narrow-minded as you once thought, and suddenly, or perhaps gradually, the realization dawns on you that your people really have, in actual reality, some of the finest qualities of the human race, and that their country, as they have often told you, really and truly has been, through the ages, one of the pillars of culture and civilization. In a word, you are becoming conscious of your heritage, and you are pleasantly surprised to know that it is better than you ever dreamed. Perhaps you even begin to strut a bit before your American friends as you review the reasons you know for your pride. This makes you look for more, thereby leading you incidentally into the fascinating study of Italian history; for you want to know as much as you can about it.

And now you arrive at the third stage (the first two having been the American phase, and the second your first conscious discovery, let us call it, of Italy). Turning your eyes from Italy to

the Italians in this country, you perceive that even on the basis of the comparatively few facts known, they (including yourself) have also good reason to be proud of what they have done, and are doing, in the heterogeneous, conglomerate life of America. You begin taking pride in the achievements of Italians in the various fields, in public life, in the professions, in sports, in the arts, etc.

A FOURTH stage now lies before you. For one reason or another, either because it is useful to you in your profession, business or career, or because of the presence therein of many friends, you are coming into contact with Italian circles, either through the medium of Italian clubs for young men and women or otherwise. Many of them, in the Italian circles mentioned, are older men who have gone far along the road of achievement, have become prominent in their callings, and can do much for the young man, especially the young Italian such as you, just setting out. You now find that it is practically a necessity for you, for your success, for your ambition's sake, to know and move among these circles.

But now another consideration enters. Of course you have seen the advantages of the Italian language as a cultural medium, and have often wished you could know it, in addition to your dialect, which resembles it only vaguely. But the effort involved in getting together classes, or in convincing others of your group or your school neighborhood that they should petition the school system for classes in Italian, has been more than you were desirous of making. You shrug your shoulders, in conclusion, and tell yourself you will have to do without it.

Here a word close to your ear should really be that word to the wise that is sufficient. You may, in all modesty, appraise your abilities and capacities at quite a high level, and you may be confident your equipment, mental and otherwise, is equal to that of these Italians of the older generation who, though they have made their mark against heavy odds by hard work and perseverance, must sooner or later give way, like the successive waves on the seashore,

to the next generation. But the next generation, if it intends to take advantage of the foundation already laid by the older men, must follow in the latter's wake, and this they can do only by mingling with them, discussing the same questions, wrestling with the same problems, attending the same social functions, and, in other words, knowing and understanding their viewpoint.

ALL very well, you will say, but why is knowledge of Italian an absolute necessity in this respect? These older Italians who have gone before all know the English language, or should. Why can't I converse with them?

For the main and simple reason, my friend, that at these functions and gatherings the language that is spoken is not English, but Italian, and even if speeches be delivered in English and the program be printed in the same language, you will find that the little groups and coteries of gay and animated, or serious and important-looking people, exchanging either social chit-chat or making contacts and friendships of potential significance, are almost all using, with an easy familiarity, the soft, melodious language of Italy.

And if you would enter these little knots of people, who can and will help you, mightily to further any ambition of yours, you must speak their language. Here they are in their citadel, and it is up to you to qualify yourself as one of them, at least in spirit, for by heritage you already are one of them. And the first qualification you must have is that you be able to express yourself in Italian, and well, for if you speak it haltingly, with occasional betraying recourses to dialect, no matter how superior you may think yourself to them, you will be at a distinct disadvantage, and one that may color your whole future.

Your people can be of invaluable assistance to you in your career or in the fulfilling of your ambition. Take advantage of the great strides they have already made as a group, and do not wear out your energies, striving only for an individual affirmation. Let your elders give you a helping hand, but before you go to them for it, know their language—your language!

Italy's Olympic Olive - Branch

By Matthew A. Melchiorre

Illustrations by courtesy of "Il Legionario" of Rome

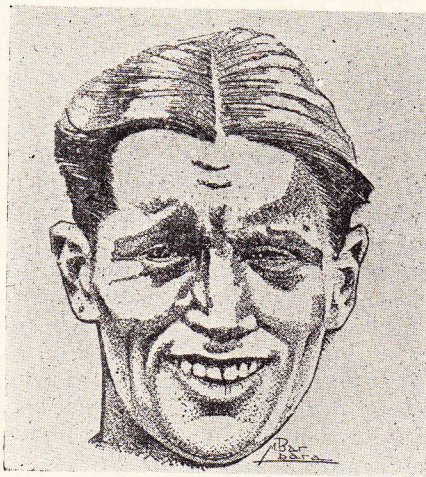
EVEN some of her most enthusiastic followers were agreeably surprised when the closing of the IX Olympiad at Los Angeles last month found Italy's blue-shirted athletes firmly ensconced in second place, behind the powerful wearers of the shield of the United States, but leading all the European countries. Led by the stout heart and flying feet of Luigi Beccali, the Italians jumped from seventh place in 1928 to second place in 1932. (Scoring based on first three places only).

At Amsterdam four years ago, Italy garnered seven first places, five second places, and seven third places for a total of 38 points, while at Los Angeles the team won nine firsts, twelve seconds, and eleven thirds for a total of 62 points. Much of the credit for this wonderful showing must be given to the Fascist Government for its detailed and far-reaching scheme of physical education. While this program of physical education has been in operation for but a comparatively short time, no one can deny its success. The athletes who appeared at Los Angeles are only the buds of this system and the full flowering is yet to come.

Today, over two million young Italians are part of this physical education program. The youngsters start out learning simple squad drills, from which they go on to competitive games, then to gymnastics and field sports, and in the last period there is specialization upon any sport for which the individual shows ability.

Another matter of some importance that was brought home to the Italian Olympic Committee is the fact that the wide difference between the scores of the United States and Italy was due, to some measure, to the victories scored

by feminine members of the American contingent. This was denied the Italian team because of the government's stern decision



Luigi Beccali

Who, by winning the 1500-meter run, scored Italy's greatest individual triumph at the Olympics.

forbidding participation by women in sporting events. In the future Italy will enter women in the short races, the javelin, the jumps, swimming, and fencing, according to Leandro Arpinati, Under-Secretary of the Interior, and president of the Olympic Committee.

THE two outstanding events this year where the Italian surprised the thousands gathered at Los Angeles and millions of other sports fans throughout the world where the 1,500-meter run and the final of the eight-oared race.

Although Luigi Beccali, in tryouts prior to coming to the United States, had run the 1,500-meter event in faster time than that of Larva's winning race in the 1928 Olympics, he was not considered a dangerous entrant by the other competitors and their coaches. In

fact a story is told that six members of the United States coaching staff formed a pool and picked six of the "most dangerous" entries, and Beccali was not one of the six. Yet the fact that he was not considered "dangerous" did not deter Beccali in the least from his avowed intention of raising the Italian colors to the center flagstaff.

Beccali's running was brilliantly executed. It had to be to break the supremacy of Finland and Great Britain in this event. For 24 years these two countries had been alternating in returning home winners. Twelve men faced the starter, and they were so nervous that half the pack broke before the bark of the starter's pistol. Glen Cunningham of the United States set the early pace with Phil Edwards, of Canada, at his heels. Cornes of Great Britain was coming up fast as the midway mark was passed. Nearing the homestretch Edwards, Cunningham and Cornes seemed to be the final order. But no, for as the runners swung around the last turn, a little black-haired runner began to close in from somewhere in the rear. Faster and faster his legs moved without sacrificing any smoothness of motion. He began to cut down the runners one by one as he increased his speed with no sign of struggling labor. With the finish but a few yards away, Beccali unleashed a closing sprint that swept him past the leaders to victory and a new Olympic record. It was a glorious victory for this sturdy son of Italy. No one had even considered him a serious contender and yet he won without even disturbing a hair on his head, having enough stamina and enthusiasm left to wave acknowledgment to the wildly cheering thousands.

BECCALI'S victory was wildly acclaimed in Italy, as this marked the first Italian victory in an Olympic flat race. The newspaper "Lavoro Fascista" has advocated a pension, or at least the assurance of a life time job for the Italian runner. "Lavoro" points out that there was a tradition which was especially fostered at Athens, and that tradition of pensioning Olympic winners is especially applicable to Beccali, believes "Lavoro".

The final of the eight-oared crew race was held as the major closing event of the Olympics. A series of trials had narrowed down the entries. Of these, the United States, Italy, Canada, and Germany were considered the strongest. The favorite was the Red, White and Blue eight, and Canada was considered second best.

In pre-Olympic trials both these crews had won the right to represent their countries by winning the trials in what was considered fast time. The American boat, represented by the University of California, was considered even better than the winning crew of the 1928 Olympics event. In workouts at the scene of the Olympic races, the Italian crew showed plenty of power and speed, and notices of its strength cropped into the stories from there.

The Italians showed their real worth in the semi-final when they won their heat in faster time than did the United States representatives. But still the Canadians were considered faster by many. At the start in the final, Italy took the lead and held it all the way down the course. It fought off repeated challenges made by the United States and Canada. The three fragile shells were so close all the way that there was no open water showing at any time. As the finish line loomed close at hand the Californians and the blue-shirted Italians were rowing on even terms. And it was in that last yard, when the United States oarsmen dipped their oars in just a fraction of a second ahead of the valiant Italians, that the race was won.

HERE again sports writers in this country fairly outdid themselves in heaping praise upon the Italian oarsmen. Yet the oarsmen themselves were sur-



Giovanni Gozzi

Who shone in the wrestling events

prised that their showing in the race should occasion any wonderment. They explained that rowing is a matter of course with them, and that the first regattas in history were held at Venice. At present there are more than one hundred eight-oared crews in Italy, college and club. Incidentally, that crew, which almost whipped the cream of the world, is the University of Pisa eight. Although the crews are present in Italy, all races are chiefly on an intramural basis. When that time comes that intercollegiate regattas are held there as here, then will Italy reign supreme in this sport.

Other outstanding performers on the Italian Olympic team were Giovanni Gozzi, Attilio Pavesi, Guglielmo Seguta, Giuseppe Ol-



Attilio Pavesi

Bicycle rider par excellence

mo, G. Gazzulani, Marco Cimatti, Nino Borsari, Paolo Pedretti, Alberto Chilardi, Giancarlo Carnegia-Medici, and Renzo Morigi. These men mentioned were all respectively in wrestling, cycling, fencing, and pistol shooting.

The Italian boxing team, winner of three individual titles and the team title at Amsterdam, failed to win a single title at Los Angeles. This came as a distinct surprise, as Edelweiss Rodriguez and Mario Bianchini, flyweight and lightweight respectively, were looked upon as likely winners. Yet both failed to reach the goal. Others who were looked upon as winners and failed to come through were Luigi Facelli, the 400-meter hurdler, and Ugo Frigerio in the 50-km. walk. However, unlooked for victories in other events more than offset these.

ITALY presented a well-balanced team at Los Angeles this year. Its strength was not concentrated in any one event, but was well distributed. The team won points in track and field, gymnastics, shooting, fencing, wrestling, boxing, cycling, rowing. One sport in which the Italians were notably weak was swimming. Paolo Costoli and Nino Perentin were the only two Italian swimmers on the team and nothing much had been expected of them, as there had not been enough opportunity for developing swimmers during the past.

But all this will be well forgotten when again the athletic representatives of many nations meet again in 1936, this time at Berlin. At the present time, under the guidance of the Fascist physical education directors, regional swimming meets are being held throughout Italy. The natives are being made water conscious and it is hoped that the fruits of this work will be noticed at Berlin.

In closing this brief summary of the noteworthy work turned in by the Italian athletes, let us remember that while in past Olympics Italy was best in boxing and fencing and won titles in these events, the games just closed showed Italy coming on top in other events and holding its own in those mentioned above. Surely, is not this a criterion of the great strides forward being taken by Italy?

Do Italians Hamper Their Children?

By James R. Lomauro, M. D.

IMAGINE our feeling when a prominent New Jersey judge, an outstanding leader among the Italian-Americans of the Metropolitan area, concluded recently an eloquent speech on Americanism by asking an international audience, "Shall my children celebrate St. Patrick's Day or Columbus Day? I married an Irish girl."

Why not compromise and observe all legal American holidays?

Just how many Italians who have been adopted as citizens of this country have seen the light of true Americanism as this able jurist?

Nevertheless, some very excellent Italian-Americans, despite at least a score of years of residence here, have not been able to divorce themselves from their imported ideas, customs and habits of their native Italy, where we were taught: "In Rome do as Romans do!"

We hold no brief against the old, established and well-tried customs which are right and applicable in Italy, with the majority of its citizens who speak the same language and are almost uniformly of Italian origin. We are not advocating that Italians in Italy observe American customs either. We advocate, without any serious reservations, that in order that Italians in this country may enjoy the full rights and privileges of American citizenship and American social life, that those Italians "In America do as Americans do!"

The transition of this point of view and behavior of a foreigner does not imply the abandonment of their native customs in their entirety. That is the beauty of being good Americans. The cream of the etiquette and customs of other lands usually has no respect for international boundaries. Those practices are international, just as being chivalrous, honest,

and a gentleman is not a quality limited to one nation.

Such Italians in this country who insist on foisting their home town, provincial customs upon

Without desiring to take sides in the matter, Atlantica believes that discussion of the question broached in this article by Dr. Lomauro, and answered according to his own personal opinion, is beneficial to Italo-Americans, especially the younger generation. We do not expect everyone to agree with Dr. Lomauro, but we would appreciate hearing the other side of the question presented.

their advancedly Americanized or perhaps better-educated children, and force and oblige them to ignore American customs in preference to their own family by-laws are committing a grave injustice to their children, and hindering their progress, wherever they may be.

THESE Italian-Americans of the old school have not yet begun to appreciate the true significance of the mental conflicts which heave and are stifled in the sad breasts of their otherwise wonderful children, who cannot understand the strict orders and prohibitions of their over-cautious parents. The child wishes to please his parents, but cannot convert them to the idea that "in America we must do as Americans do." The conflict finally reaches the stage in a sensitive child, when obedience is replaced by belligerency, and defiance is overcome by secret disobedience, with its disastrous train of consequences. The gap between such parents and such children widens so much that one would scarcely recognize them as members of the family.

The conflicts are immensely greater in the minds of their children who have been reared on this side of the ocean and have enjoyed a full American school and college education.

Such parents are astounded and sadly disappointed when these young upstarts rebel in no uncertain terms against the numerous paternal prohibitions and restrictions. They reach the day of disillusionment, and instead of rejoicing that their children have succeeded and fulfilled their fondest hopes in their chosen professions, and that they reflect credit upon them and upon the great Italian heredity, they bemoan the fact that the absolute control they imagined they had over their children has slipped out of their hands.

In the Garden of Eden, when the Creator of all things gave Adam his Eve, and asserted His authority by saying, "Thou shalt not eat of the forbidden fruit," that was the birth of the eighteenth amendment, Prohibition. Prohibition and Intemperance are both extremes in the arc of the pendulum of Common Sense. Neither are located anywhere near half-way. Why not the happy medium, elusive as it may be, of temperance?

THE first lady of the world, Eve, with the aid of the serpent, succeeded in breaking the original prohibition law offered to man. Are such over-cautious, prohibiting parents to be surprised that children disobey them when they try to prevent their children from observing and imitating American customs? Those same parents condone and overlook much in their sons, for they are different; but exert a tyrannical restraint on their defenseless daughters. Their own

sons are even allowed to grow up with the same notions.

Why not be more specific, and to the point?

Many times have we heard whisperings about what such unenlightened, narrow-minded Italians actually think of us doctors, dentists, lawyers and other professional men who happened to marry "American" girls, regardless of who their antecedents were: German, Irish, Dutch, Scotch, etc.

Repeatedly have we heard the same pathetic but direct reproaches, not to us individually, but to us as a class. Has education and Americanism meant to you that you must "outgrow" your Italianism so much that you have been unable to find an Italian girl worthy or capable of being your life-mate? Why don't the professional men "give the Italian girls a break?"

Cupid's darts have no geographic sense of patriotism. When Dame Fate or Madam Providence ordains that a German girl shall marry a Swedish swain, the unerring dart from Cupid's bow finishes the job, ignoring paternal prohibitions and maternal hopes.

This happens among all progressive peoples. The Italians as a class are not exempt from the laws of human nature, certainly not from the binding spells of human emotions, and indeed not in matters of love.

VENUS reigns supreme, and especially so among the warm-blooded Latins who hail from the very cradle of love, the sunny Italian shores where the enchanting skies and soul-inspiring mountain-tops cry out, "God bless Cupid, Venus, Bacchus, etc." You may prohibit wine, and forbid song, but women . . . never!

Returning from generalities, from the ridiculous to the sublime, let us caution you that our observations are directed in particular to those who ask such questions about this phase of social life among the Italians of all walks of life here.

Whose fault is it if many of the professional men of Italian origin have not been marrying Italian-American girls? Is it

really so? Can it be said of Italians, more so than of Germans or Irish, that they are not marrying their own species? Are American girls better mothers than our own Italian ones?

What is wrong with the Italian girls in this country? Are they failures in the art of love? Not so far as we can learn. Actually, we know some who would not marry their compatriots.

Would you say that until recently they have not kept pace with the education of the men and had not attained the intellectual or cultural level which these misunderstood professional men had allegedly attained? Is not that notion imaginary, although we must admit that parents here are now giving their daughters greater educational opportunities than before?

Such ingrates, that they should let the famous Italian rose-bud wither and pick a wild Irish rose out of the Garden of Eden! Haven't these ingrates been driven away by the many sharp thorns placed about the stem of the Italian variety?

What happens when an Italian boy wants to invite an Italian girl to go to a harmless movie, or to the opera, or to a foot-ball game?

In the first place, is the Italian girl always allowed to feel free to entertain callers in the living room of her own home? Must she meet him promiscuously at a street corner or at a ball?

Once this young man has reached the living room, does the girl's family, after the usual first introductions, withdraw, and let them even enjoy the privacy of her living room? Does the father and the mother, the sister and the brother, know enough to retire gracefully and give the poor girl a little privacy part of the evening?

IF this same boy were to call more than three times, can he or the girl escape the prying scrutiny of their relatives and friends? "What are the boy's intentions?" they ask.

Should the young couple decide to go for a little ride, or to the theater, or anywhere, is the girl allowed to go unchaperoned? Does she have to bring a retinue?

Having proposed marriage, and become engaged, if not before, does the poor lad have to be watched, weighed and measured by the same retinue of chaperons, etc?

Granting that these formalities have been fulfilled, does the family still have to pry into all of the personal affairs of this poor girl?

Before the parents consent and approve of the match, who goes to her folks? Is it the trembling, timid suitor? Not on your life! It is a family affair. His father and mother go on his behalf! Sometimes the girl cannot even say, "Yes", until the boy has been investigated by her family, and she herself must await the verdict of her paternal brothers and maternal sisters, as well as of her parents, before she can make her great decision.

Do not get the impression that this is the routine Italian mode of approach. These are just faint ideas of some of the experiences we have heard about. We frankly confess that, being reared in this country, we ourselves may be entirely ignorant of the "savoir faire" etiquette peculiar to Italians.

Now we again come back to the same question asked in the beginning of our ramblings, "Shall my children celebrate St. Patrick's Day or Columbus Day?" (Note: I didn't marry an Irish girl, but I have always worn a green neck-tie and a shamrock on that day!)

With this gamut of thorns placed in the way of a young Italian swain, the Italian girl who is wise, looks at the matter as we professional men, and discreetly dispenses with all the "humbug" of antiquated ideas which are anachronous in this modern country. She gets out her shears and removes the thorns in advance, and is not left in the lurch because of her family's interference. She converts her family and then goes out and marries whom she pleases, if she loves him.

God bless our Italian women of today! They are not wallflowers, if given half the chance.

What do you say, girls? Teach your parents that "In Rome do as Romans do!" In America, good Italians will do as Americans do!

Grandmother

By Giuseppe Cautela

Illustrated by A. W. Marano

SHE is eighty-three and grandmother of thirteen children of the only son living in America. Every morning at half past six she comes out of the house with a tin can which she holds with both hands crosswise in front of her. She goes to buy milk and rolls, a large paper bag full of them for her grandchildren's breakfast. No matter how cold it is she wears the scantiest of clothes, and goes always bareheaded. In passing her on the street you feel ashamed of yourself with your overcoat's collar turned up. More so when you think that she was born in the South of Italy, and came here at a late age. It seems that she has enough fire left in her blood yet as to resist the lowest temperature. Anyone who does not know her would never take her for eighty-three. It is amazing to see her walk with quick, short steps, wearing her son's shoes down at the heel, the only shoes she wants to wear. Her eyes are still jet black and fiery; her hair curly, a trifle gray at the temples, and her back a little curved. She is slightly over four feet tall, but her frame seems to be made of steel. One day she snatched with contempt from the hands of her fifteen-year-old grandson a large case of macaroni, lifted it to her back and carried it up the stoop of her house.

She dominates the entire household. No one can cope with her. Her son, especially, is afraid of her; rather than contradict her he would sooner yank his tongue out. But it is not so with her grandchildren. They all fight with her because she wants to rule a different generation with alien methods, although she is always ready to cover their escapades.

She torments them as badly as she does their meek, sweet, tired mother. And they snap back like angry cubs while she rages like a tiger.

At night she chases the smaller children to bed one by one. Should anyone dare resist her she undresses and drags him to bed with a hard spanking. When the fight gets hot and bitter, which is always over trifles, she gets her bundle of clothes which is always ready under her bed, and starts to go away. Where? To friends' houses. Then her grandchildren driven by their father go to coax her back. The atmosphere of the house after a couple of days of peace returns to be the same. The result is that the children try to remain home as little as possible.

At night she is the eternal sentinel. She won't go to bed unless they are all home. She waits by the door, intently looking out to see when they are coming, then noiselessly opens the door so their father won't wake up, and they furtively come in.

II

THE first four grandchildren are girls. Gabriella, twenty-six, is a school teacher. Camille, twenty-three works as a stenographer. Cornelia, commercial artist, is nineteen, and Jannette, typist, eighteen. Gabriella and Camille go to college at night, and Cornelia and Jannette frequent high school, also at night. Their father is deadly against it.

"What good is college for a girl?" he complains, "it unfits her for the home. Besides she becomes too independent; you can't talk to her anymore."

But they pay no attention to him. He blames Gabriella for having influenced her sisters to study, and he cannot see what

advantage will come out of it. He lives in an entirely different world from his children and their ideas clash continuously. They are not allowed to have male friends call on them so they meet them outside. Gabriella, tall, a Grecian classical beauty with blue eyes and blond hair, is in love with an artist. Should her father know that she has been in his studio, posed for several paintings, cooked for him, washed his dishes and cleaned his kitchen, he would chase her out of the house. There is no mental or intellectual exchange between Gabriella and her father, nor with her mother for that matter. But with her mother her status is different. It is soulful, tender, affectionate. Her mother is a docile lamb, hard-driven by her own children, always ready to sacrifice herself for the sake of others, and Gabriella would give her life for her so as to see her happy. She loves her father too, but not so openly as she does her mother. There could never be a full confession between father and daughter. His authoritative manner, his convictions and beliefs about life, forbid it. His love for his children based on traditions is a fierce, jealous love which is misunderstood and resented. He is never so happy as he is on Sunday, when he can see all his children seated round a long table for dinner. With infinite patience he makes portions, asking each one if he has enough, while grandmother watches that everyone behaves and keeps quiet. Dinner over, the burden of clearing the table and doing the dishes is reversed on the younger children, who are reluctant to be bossed by older sisters. In the usual dispute that ensues grandmother

interferes and bitterly reproaches all of them for being lazy, useless beings. Finally with a show of strength she pushes them aside and tackles the job herself.

An hour after dinner the four older sisters have disappeared. Each one swings out alone. Each one has a sweetheart. Grandmother intercepts and destroys all the letters.

CAMILLE goes with a student who intends to be a doctor, and who has nine years ahead of him to finish his studies. She has met his widowed mother, and she often goes over to his furnished room, getting home late. He escorts her as far as her subway station, but does not dare go near her home. Sometime ago at a dance they quarreled. Harry was too attentive to another girl. And for a time it looked as if it was all off. After a couple of weeks, during which they addressed themselves as Mr. and Miss trying to get their love letters back, they made up. It is not anything like before. There has crept a weariness in their love which eventually will spell the end of it. In the meantime Camille has grown thin, and her gray-blue eyes look sad. She looks like a nurse out of a job. She seems destined to attend sick people for the rest of her life. Her walk is stiff, straight, she has a scientific cold expression on her face, and all about her there is a terrific air of knowledge and efficiency.

"You better listen to me," insists her grandmother, "let him go, he is not the man for you. Nine years is a long time. Don't you see you are becoming sour? I shall tell your father if you don't quit him."

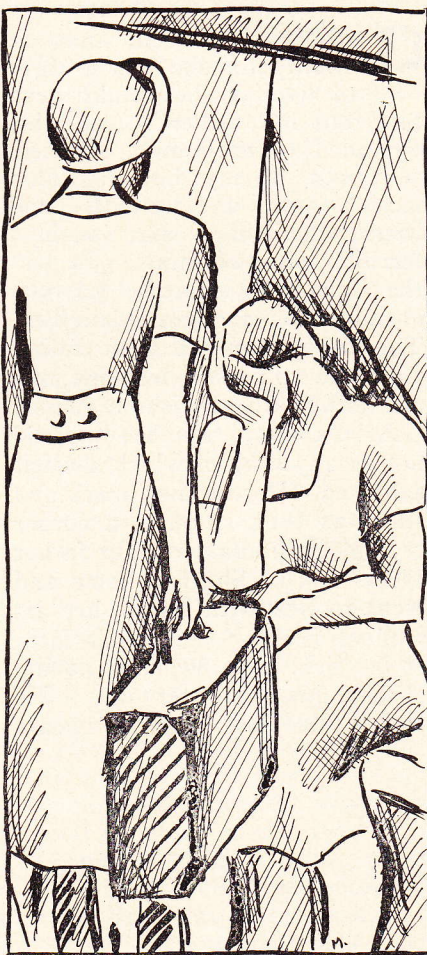
But she never will. Her son's peace of mind is her chief concern.

Exuberantly healthy, beautiful, with the lusciousness of a wild flower is Cornelia. Her skin is smooth, and rosy, her hair black, and her eyes glow like live coals. She would go naked if she could. She is absolutely unconscious of how she sits, revealing at times the most jealous parts of a woman's body.

"Will you pull down your skirt, you . . .!" sneers her grandmother when Cornelia sits on the stoop.

"You think I am as old as you are?" snaps back Cornelia. She wears usually a thin shirtwaist of any material open low at the front; if she leans over her full breasts are in view. People who do not know her would get a mistaken opinion of her. She deals with men always objectively. She has a frank suspicion of them all, and she has always a half-dozen running after her. Her boldness at times is embarrassing. She blows in and out of a situation with the utmost frankness, and her remarks straight to the point leave her admirers speechless. She does not care for young men, but for men older than herself. Then she listens, and her whole attitude is of one who would like to overcome certain obstacles of life which are impossible, forbidding and altogether unhappy.

Her work suits her temperament. She could never be still in one place, as she could never tolerate one man in front of her. She goes out with a sculptor.



"Her mother, meek and silent, was in a corner, crying."

"Just for company," she says. At the least provocation, he will go overboard.

JANNETTE has theatrical aspirations. She is as different from her sisters as the moon is from the sun. Shrewd, cunning, she trusts no one. But she has a weakness: she likes men and she is not ashamed to admit it, and because she likes them, she keeps away from them. She has already taken part in several theatrical productions with marked success, and all her studies are directed towards a stage career. Strange to say her father is proud of her and encourages her.

"All actresses are bad women; you will become one too if you don't watch out," taunts her grandmother.

At her last appearance the theatre was full of relatives who came over from New Jersey and upstate. She is gifted with a good voice, and after the play was over, none less than "Peter Pan" by Barrie, she sang song upon song to thunderous applause.

"Brava, bravissima," yelled her relatives.

After the show was over they all went to supper at her home. The house was filled with people from cellar to garret. Wine flowed like water. They sang, they danced, and made speeches to Jannette's great future. In the early hours of the morning, one by one they went to sleep where they stood. The house looked like a battlefield with corpses strewn all over. But at half past six grandmother woke them up and served breakfast.

The girls had a terrible fight with her. It was Sunday morning, why did she not let them sleep? The yells could be heard from across the street. Finally the terrible old woman, livid and foaming with rage, came out with her bundle. She was going to leave the house, she was going away never to return. With quick strides she went down the street, bareheaded and coatless as usual, with all the relatives hot after her trying to reason and convince her to stay. As she rounded the corner of the avenue Jannette, half dressed and still trying to button her skirt, dashed after her.

"Nonna, nonna, come here," she called.

After an hour of pleading in the subway station, in which she put into execution all her histrionic art, the terrible old woman consented to go back.

III

A YEAR ago Gabriella took sick; she almost lost her life. She had to be given several blood transfusions. After a long convalescence she got well. Her illness and her long stay at home it seems changed her. After she got well she could not stand her people anymore. She said it was like a madhouse with all those children running in and out all day and yelling at the top of their voices. It was no use even though her bed was made in the closed-in veranda and the door shut, the house shook from top to bottom. No wonder her poor mother seems to be in a trance all the time. While home she tried her best to establish some sort of order among her little brothers and sisters, but she found her grandmother interfering with her at every step. The old woman believed in hitting and yelling, while Gabriella tried to reason and persuade them. That she got well at all is a miracle. After numerous arguments with her grandmother she had to surrender her ground exhausted and sick at heart. Until recently she did not know her family as well as she does now. She had only a glimpse of them on Sunday. She could almost say that she grew away from them a total stranger, such is the result of life at school. She is surprised that they should be as they are, and feels very unhappy over it. She only finds contact and understanding with her mother and sisters.

Sometime ago her sweetheart introduced her to an art student, an American girl from down

South, who has a lot in common with Gabriella. They both love music, books and art, and both share the same views about life, which are not the iron bound beliefs of Gabriella's father. Their friendship has grown very rapidly and there is not a thing that either of them does or think that the other does not know. They spend as much time together as they can. They play tennis, they go to theatres, they attend concerts and lectures.

Gabriella has begun to spend her week-ends with her friends. His father does not approve of it. There have been disputes with grandmother against Gabriella. The old woman is relentless. She seems to be animated by a terrific, tragic mission in life. She seems destined to come to grips with anyone who comes in contact with her, either to destroy or be destroyed. Now she erects herself against her granddaughter as a judge of her life and she will not let go until a catastrophe happens.

GABRIELLA feels that at twenty-six she has a right to live as she thinks best. She told her father so, and he, wounded to the quick, shouted, "Get out of my house!" This move came unexpectedly and struck the old woman with a terrible sense of guilt. In fact the quarrel started between grandmother and granddaughter. The old woman had been calling Gabriella a person without responsibility, a girl without shame. Gabriella answered that she did not do anything of which she felt ashamed. Her mother, meek and silent as ever, stood in a corner crying. Gabriella took her father at his word. She left home and went to live with Edith, her art student friend. Gabriella's father is sick. He repents having chased his daughter out. He passes sleepless nights, swears

that if his daughter does not come home within a week, she will not come home anymore. The old woman for the first time looks scared. She fears for her son's health. Besides, after long years of suffering Gabriella's mother has rebelled against her. She pounds her from morning till night. She cannot stand the loss of her daughter. She is a pitiful sight. She begs her neighbors to go and bring Gabriella back. Nobody knows her address. Her sisters have welcomed the break. They feel that the shackles have been broken and they await only the opportunity to do the same. One of them, Camille, knows her sister's address, but she will not tell.

The week ended and Gabriella did not return home. Yesterday morning for the first time her grandmother when she went out had a coat on. As she walked down the street she looked tired, and went all the way talking to herself. A neighbor stopped her, asking how she felt.

"I am praying to God to take my life!" she answered bitterly. Last night round six o'clock the whole neighborhood was startled by the wail of the pulmotor squad which came racing down the street and stopped in front of Gabriella's home. Soon after a police wagon came tearing down the street. In no time the street became crowded, and the news spread from mouth to mouth that Gabriella's grandmother had shut herself in her room and committed suicide with gas. Later an ambulance came. After a few minutes the doctor came out. He pronounced the old woman dead. She retained the same grim expression in death as when she was alive.

Gabriella goes to see her mother now on Saturday mornings when her father is not home.



Father Giuseppe Neri

Pioneer Scientist and Educator

By Edoardo Marolla

Even the student of Italo-American history is sometimes astounded by the frequency with which Italian names are found in practically every phase of American life. These names appear in the bulletins of the universities which their bearers founded; in the records of Congress which paused in its work of law-making to do them honor, in books devoted to the artistic, literary and cultural advancement of the nation, in the history of the various religious congregations and in the general history of the Catholic Church, in the lists of our honored scientists, and in the rolls of the American armies of every war in which this nation has had a part, their names are legion. In fact, in the history of America there seems to be scarcely a single field of endeavor in which an Italian name does not appear either in a minor or a major capacity.

An exceptionally large percentage of these names are of Italian priests—to a great extent Jesuits—and all can be termed true Italian *builders of the nation*. For many of these priests, especially the early pioneers, did not work among the Italian element but among the general American-Catholic population. Nor did they limit themselves to works of religion. Rather, they were the discoverers, the explorers, the religious, literary, artistic and scientific leaders—pioneers all in the true sense of the word—and their contribution is an important factor not only in the betterment of the Church but in the development of the American nation as a whole.

It was, therefore, with both surprise and expectancy that the writer in perusing a sketch by John A. Britton entitled, "Twas a Priest Introduced California to

the Electric Light", discovered that the priest in question bore a beautiful, sonorous Italian name and that it was an Italian Jesuit, Father Giuseppe Neri, pioneer electrical scientist of the Pacific coast and the first Jesuit to be ordained in California, who was responsible for the development and advancement of the electrical industry in the West and who gave to this section of our country its first electric light.

Father Giuseppe Neri was born in the historic city of Novara on January 16, 1836. Having an inclination for the priesthood, he entered the seminary of his native diocese, but in 1857 asked permission to join the Society of Jesus. The young man was strong and healthy and had an exceptional ability for long hours of work and study. Men of this caliber were needed in the new world and shortly after his entrance into the Society the youthful seminarian was sent to America. He completed his novitiate at Frederick, Maryland and from there was ordered west, where Archbishop Alemany ordained him in 1861 in St. Mary's Cathedral at San Francisco—the first Jesuit to be ordained in California.

The first three years after his ordination were spent in the capacity of Professor of Natural Sciences at the University of Santa Clara. Later he taught Analytical Chemistry and Minerology. Some time previous, Father Maraschi, the founder of the University of San Francisco (then St. Ignatius College), had purchased from a defunct San Francisco College a number of appliances which were well adapted for electrical experimentation, and because of his well known electrical genius Father Neri was transferred to St. Ignatius, where he taught during

class hours and spent the remainder of his time working with the electrical appliances. Concerning his early work, Mr. Britton writes: "Much has been said and written of pioneer days in the electrical industry, of the discoveries made and the inventions perfected that gradually brought electricity to its present-day state of near-perfection. But it is, perhaps, not generally known that as far back as half a century ago in St. Ignatius College, San Francisco, a Jesuit priest, the first of that order to be ordained in California, was quietly and unceasingly studying that unseen force, and even in those early days had found some wonderful uses to put it to.

"In 1896 he had perfected an electric lighting system, which was in use in the hall of St. Ignatius College for exhibition and lecture purposes, in which he used carbon electric lights. In 1874 he installed a searchlight in the tower of the College, whose rays could be seen in all the Bay cities, much to the wonderment of the inhabitants."

In 1876 the Centennial Year of the Republic was celebrated in San Francisco and Father Neri lit up the parade with three arc lights of his own invention—the first time such lights were used in California. During the celebration he gave three lectures a week on the subject of electricity, speaking on its possibilities both as a lighting agent and a source of motive power. Great crowds attended these lectures and listened with the closest attention as he told them of his electrical inventions.

To quote again from Mr. Britton: "In pursuing his investigations Father Neri first used large

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Issues of the Day

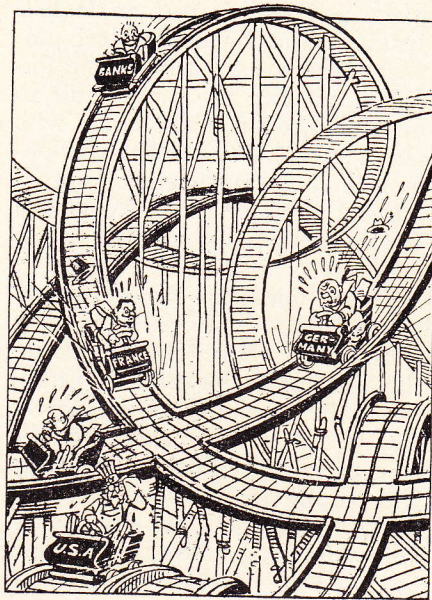
As Seen by the Italian Press

THE newspapers of Italy, unlike those of America, bother but little with built-up trifles, with scandal and with easy-reading human interest stories. Their chief interest and emphasis is on the important questions facing the world or the country, and they return to those matters day in and day out, with some news and much opinion. Of recent weeks, some of the matters that have been occupying the editorial attention of leading Italian dailies, aside from problems of a purely local nature, are the disappointing outcome of the first phase of the disarmament conference, the statement of Senator Borah linking war debts and disarmament in a **quid pro quo** fashion, the aftermath of the Lausanne agreement, the important changes ordered by Premier Mussolini in his Cabinet (the "changing of the guards", the newspapers called it), the Italian Premier's recent utterances concerning the inevitability of war, and, of course, the depression.

* * *

An interesting article on what the depression has been doing to the United States was sent by Amerigo Ruggiero from New York to "La Stampa" of Turin not long ago. "The period of confident waiting," he says, "that accompanied the first phase of the crisis lasted quite a long time. The American, optimistic by nature and education, does not easily lose hope or abandon himself to apathy. At the bottom of his soul there persisted the mathematical certainty that some day, suddenly, things would go back to the old rhythm once again. Had it not always been the case in America?" It is to this faith, according to the writer, that we must ascribe the patient suffering of the American people for three years without serious revolting.

"BUT as the depression progressed, leaving desolation in its wake, as companies failed one after another, as unemployment began affecting fam-



Europe's Financial Roller-Coaster

—From the London Daily Express

families, flocked to the country, seeking work of any kind. The city inspired a terror that was foreign to the country. They could at least get from the earth the most elementary means of sustenance till the storm blew over, and in the country they were far from the haunting torture of monthly bills to be paid: electricity, coal, gas, milk, etc.

This return to the land, concludes the writer, is one of the outstanding phenomena of the depression in America. "It would seem that a half-century of wealth and comfort diffused among a large part of the population would have destroyed forever the pioneering spirit and the inclination for the rude and simple life. It seemed that Americans had become irrevocably urbanized, but the depression has helped to reveal one of the most admirable traits of their character. They are capable of discarding at once the artificial comforts of city life and of following once again the harsh and laborious road of their forefathers."

* * *

THE Lausanne agreement was greeted with satisfaction by "Il Mattino" of Naples. Its editor, Luigi Barzini, called it the end of a nightmare. "The idea that during the next half-century Germany would pay to the victor countries 108 billion marks in reparations, and that the victor countries, in turn, would pass on the equivalent of some 300 billion lire to America, is the most delirious folly that could have arisen from the war fever.

"Finally the bandage has been removed from the eyes. The 'wiping clean of the slate' is coming into effect. But it needed an economic world cataclysm to reach this awakening, for, unfortunately, ruin was the only irrefutable proof of the error.

ilies down to the last breadwinner, a sense of dismay spread among the various social classes, followed by the bewilderment that is experienced before phenomena whose cause is not understood. People felt as though the earth had been removed from beneath their feet, and they went about, their startled eyes asking mutely: "What's happening; is it the end of the world?" As yet, no one was being blamed, neither institutions nor those in power, but the idea was gaining ground that a cosmic catastrophe was occurring from which America, though rich and powerful, could not extricate herself."

Followed the usual sordid effects in the cities: begging, garbage sifting, sleeping in parks. Multitudes, with or without their

"The world crisis has been a tremendous convincer. It has persuaded, it has approached, it has conciliated, just as the tempest pacifies the crew that is struggling among itself on a ship that is in danger.

"The first great step toward reconstruction has been taken resolutely. We are still far from having solved all the most urgent international problems, but at least skepticism as to their solution has been dissipated.

"The simple end of reparations, and the expected cancellation of debts, which must be its logical consequence, today no longer suffice to repair the serious damage caused by the delay. For a recovery in commerce, from which only can real recovery come, we need a monetary agreement that will stabilize values and eliminate paralyzing oscillations of exchange. And we need a tariff agreement that will fell the major obstacles to international trade."

* * *

AS for il Duce's recent speech concerning the place of war in modern life and humanity, a speech that aroused considerable comment abroad, most of it unfavorable, the "*Giornale d'Italia*" of Rome had the following to say:

"We can conceive of a practical program and course of action by a government without war for a decade and even for a generation, but we cannot conceive of the future history of humanity without new conflicts of races, of continents, of interests, and of States. There is no ground without war.

"At the end of every war the new political order created deludes itself into believing that it can stabilize itself for eternity. Human history however, has always upset by sudden and unexpected wars these attempts to remain the same.

"If Mussolini speaks of war, therefore, it does not mean that he is preparing for war. For Mussolini, war is a fundamental fact in human history and it is among the possibilities that one must take into consideration. That is all."

* * *

WHEN Mussolini revamped his entire cabinet not long ago and himself assumed several portfolios, the cry was raised abroad that he was not

satisfied with the way things were going, and that his action presaged a different and more vigorous policy with respect to other nations. But there is no truth in this, according to the "*Corriere della Sera*" of Milan, which might be called the Italian "New York Times." In its story of the cabinet changes, it said: "Abroad, too, the news of the changes received prompt and wide circulation. It provoked many comments, which in the majority of the better informed newspapers, incline toward the truth of the facts and toward what the Italian newspapers had about it yesterday. In this regard, the '*Giornale d'Italia*' notes that in some foreign newspapers, however, the usual interpretations dictated by the imagination are not lacking. There are already those who see, in the re-assumption of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the part of Mussolini, the sign of a change in the course of Italian foreign policy. Such a supposition shows at least a complete ignorance of things Italian. Fascist policy in every sector is not linked to men and their changes, but is a derivation of the Fascist Government, whose Chief and regulator does not change.

"Says '*Il Giornale d'Italia*' in this respect: 'In the specific case of foreign policy, let us recall that from 1922 and for many years after, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was directed personally by Mussolini, who formed, began and developed the foreign policy of Fascist Italy. Grandi, in assuming the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with which he had already familiarized himself as Under-Secretary in daily collaboration with Mussolini, did not cease to maintain, like a faithful Fascist minister, direct and constant contact with the Chief of the Government, of whose plans he was always the exact, active and intelligent interpreter. To speak of changes in Italian foreign policy or of an added emphasis on its part in this or that sense, as a consequence of the retirement of Minister Grandi, thus signifies understanding nothing of the substance of the policy of Mussolini and Fascism.'"

* * *

THE words of Senator Borah, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, though unfortunately lost sight

of officially in this country not long after they were made public, had a profound repercussion in Italy, advocating as he did a conference that would discuss, among other things, those subjects—war debts and tariffs—which official Administration spokesmen consider taboo and too delicate to handle in an electoral year. For a time, however, hope was aroused in Europe because of his outspokenness, and possibly the hope is still there. Italy, particularly, welcomed his thesis of offering European countries reductions on their war debts contingent on a reduction, on their part, of their heavy armament burden.

In an article called "Disarm or Pay!", Giuseppe Marini, in the "*Roma*" of Naples, used the Borah proposal as a thrust at France, in the following words:

"We do not insist on the form of the Borah proposal, which goes beyond that of Hoover, because he proposes to reduce armaments not by one-third but by one-half, in exchange for revision or annulment of the debts, as well as to have American exports absorbed proportionately by the various European countries. It is enough for us to note, however, that only the recognition of the interdependence that exists also between debts and disarmament, together with the solution of other and allied problems, can lead the world toward recovery. This is the case even if France does not so desire it, since, in this particular instance, France would have to arrange the matter in a different way from that by which the other European countries would arrange the question of the debts with the United States. Instead of trading disarmament for debts, she will pay her debt, without any remission, down to the last dollar or franc, since she will not be able to extricate herself from the dilemma prepared by America: either disarm or pay!"

* * *

FOR her part, emphasizes the press, Italy has no regrets as to the part she has played in trying to bring about disarmament. Commenting further on the Borah proposal and linking it with the poor result of the disarmament conference on which so much hope had been placed, "*Il Messaggero*" of Rome revealed

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The Oldest Bank in the World

The Story of the Banco di Napoli

(From the Bankers Magazine, May 1932)

TO the Bank of Naples belongs the distinction of being the oldest bank in the world, with a continuous existence from 1539 up to the present. There were banks known before that time, but they have passed away, while the Bank of Naples survives and has yearly grown in strength and in the character and extent of its services.

Admittedly, age is only one of the elements of banking solidity, but when a bank has existed through nearly four centuries, amid all the political, financial and industrial upheavals of this long period of human history, it must be accepted as a striking evidence of strength and of capable and conscientious management. Such is the unique position of the *Banco di Napoli*, as it is known in Italy.

Besides its age, it is worthy of note, among the various distinctive features that make the *Banco di Napoli* so interesting, that it is a distinctive banking institution, without stock and without stockholders, but with a patrimonial capital which, although originally very limited, has now reached very imposing figures. In fact, since there are no dividends, the yearly profits made by the *Banco di Napoli* are allocated, the largest share to increase its capital and surplus and another share to the employees' pension fund, which has now reached the substantial sum of 61,000,000 lire. Additional profits are used for various beneficent and welfare purposes.

The *Banco di Napoli* can be said to be the offspring of eight banks which arose spontaneously in the City of Naples, in the Sixteenth Century, as an expression of the benevolent spirit of its citizenry.

The first of these banks, and hence the oldest, was the *Banco* or *Monte di Pietà*, which was founded in 1539, when the people were heavily oppressed by usury (notwith-

standing all the bans edicted to suppress it, including expulsion and other very severe penalties, by the Vice-Kings of Spain, under whose domination the Vice-Realm of Naples was at that time.

Moved by the desire to free the people from the evil of usury, some Neapolitan gentlemen thought that the best means to that end, more efficacious than any edict, would be to give the people the opportunity to secure loans on reasonable terms, without the necessity of applying to the usurers. With their own money, or with funds gathered from public charity, they founded a *Pio Istituto* (Pious Institute), which they named *Monte della Pietà* (Mountain of Piety), the purpose of which was to grant against pawns, small gratuitous loans up to a certain sum (10 ducats) and larger amounts at a slight interest.

Feeling the necessity to co-operate with the *Monte di Pietà* in its diffused and extended charitable endeavors, and acting upon the aim to attain other charitable and pious goals, such as the freeing of persons imprisoned for debts, liberation of slaves, endowment of poor maidens, assistance to hospitals and to colleges, etc., within a few years seven other similar institutions followed the course set by the *Monte di Pietà*.

Surrounded and supported by the largest favor and by the most enlightened confidence, the ancient *Banchi* had a prosperous and sound life up to the end of the Seventeenth Century, when the capital assigned only to gratuitous loans amounted to 700,000 ducats (about 3,000,000 lire), the deposits to about 100,000,000 lire and the real estate owned by them was valued at about 60,000,000 lire, which was considered an enormous sum.

They were then at their zenith, but soon after their decline ensued through no inherent fault but be-

cause of overwhelming political vicissitudes, caused by the Bourbons who to finance their wars, helped themselves generously to the deposits in the coffers of the *Banchi*.

The efforts of the succeeding Partenopean Republic and of the Bourbons themselves to remedy such a situation were vain. Accordingly the various *Banchi* were merged and the individual establishments were declared to the branches of one single institution, the *Banco Nazionale di Napoli*.

This new bank, following various vicissitudes both under the Bourbons' government and the succeeding French government of 1805, was divided into a *Banco* or *Cassa di Corte* (Court's Bank), for the state services, and a *Banco* or *Cassa dei Privati* for the accommodation of the public.

As a result of the merger of various smaller banks, the *Banco Nazionale di Napoli* became a large institution and for practical reasons it was later found expedient to divide it in two parts, one of which operated in the continent under the name of *Banco Regio di Napoli*.

The *Banco Regio di Napoli*, having thus attained new autonomy and having more efficient management, became, following the unification of Italy, the present *Banco di Napoli*.

On November 7, 1860, the first King of United Italy, H. M. Victor Emanuel II, made his triumphant entry into Naples, formerly the capital city of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies. On the fourteenth of the same month he addressed a letter to H. E. Farini, Lieutenant General of the Neapolitan provinces, stating that he felt a deep anxiety in learning how little care had been given to the institutes of popular education, and placing the sum of 200,000 lire from his private funds at the disposal of H. E. Fa-

rini to be used for the "benefit of mind and soul."

Five days later, on November 19, Lieutenant General Farini issued a decree establishing a savings bank, assigning it an initial sum of lire 80,000 from the gift of the Sovereign, to cover the first expenditures and furnish a working capital.

The new institution did not begin to operate until two years later, and then under the name of *Cassa di Risparmio Vittorio Emanuele*.

Subsequently this *Cassa di Risparmio Vittorio Emanuele* was merged with the *Banco di Napoli* and still later was reorganized and rendered independent although annexed to the *Banco di Napoli*, under the name of *Cassa di Risparmio del Banco di Napoli* (Savings Affiliation of Bank of Naples) and ruled by the provisions governing the savings banks. Later on this savings bank became a department of the *Banco di Napoli*.

After the unification of Italy the *Banco di Napoli*, with the opening of various important branches, constituted a noteworthy factor in the economic life of the new nation, although there was nothing exceptional in its activities until it was granted the privilege, with other banks, to issue bank notes. In 1893 the right of issuance was withdrawn from certain banks and centered in only three, that is, the *Banca d'Italia*, the *Banco di Napoli* and the *Banco di Sicilia*.

For many years the *Banco di Napoli* was the absolute regulator of the economic life of Southern Italy, while at the same time it played an important part in the national life.

The two wars waged by Italy in Tripolitania and then the World War found the *Banco di Napoli* so sound and efficient, both in resistance and in capacity of meeting the nation's needs, that it never felt the necessity of availing itself of moratoria privileges; in particular during the long and bitter conflict of the World War, the *Banco di Napoli* as a bank of issue admirably sustained the formidable strain imposed upon it.

Besides the functions briefly referred to above, the importance of which in the economic life of the nation can hardly be estimated, the *Banco di Napoli* received from the Italian government various powers,

foremost among them being the authorization, by the law of February 1, 1901, to gather, safeguard and transmit to the mother country emigrants' savings. In order to have some idea of the importance of this branch of activity, it is sufficient to consider the part that the remittances from abroad play in the country's commercial balance.

The beginning of the new period, in 1928, thus found the institution in possession of a financial patrimony of over 1,300,000,000 lire and of a moral patrimony practically unlimited.

Every institution and every function has its *raison d'être* in relation to the historical period — politically, socially and economically — in which it develops. With the advent of Fascism and with the radical renovation thus brought about in every phase of the national life, the economical, financial and banking fields could not remain unchanged, and in fact it was thought advisable to place in a single institution the vital function of issuing bank notes and of their circulation, hinges on which rotates the new financial policy of the Fascist government for the recovery and the consolidation of the country's finances.

By a decree of May 6, 1926, therefore, the issuance of bank notes was placed solely in the hands of the *Banca d'Italia*, thus depriving the *Banco di Napoli* of a privilege which it had enjoyed for a great many years and with admirable results. By Royal Decree of July 23, 1926, some important changes were ordered for the *Banco di Napoli*, which was defined as a credit establishment of public right, having its own juridical entity and autonomous functions. Thus the *Banco di Napoli* entered a new period of its long life with its tradition of austerly, an unlimited confidence in its solid foundations, and the power of its imposing patrimonial capital, which was recently defined by the Minister of Finance, H. E. Mosconi, as the largest capital among those of all the Italian banking institutions.

It was necessary, however, to reform the great organization in order to render it responsive to its new mission, avoiding at the same time the dangers connected with the breaking of the ties that heretofore held the *Banco di Napoli* in the iron

grip of the law governing banks of issue. And to this purpose the provisions of the National Government were efficient and timely.

The transition was marked by an extraordinary administration formed by a Royal Commissary and two Vice-Commissaries, a temporary arrangement lasting from September 21, 1926, to July 10, 1927, when the Hon. Giuseppe Frignani, then Under-Secretary of Finance, took the reins of the institution. The Hon. Frignani, of young intellectual vigor, solid culture and a live Fascist faith, and proud of being a wounded veteran of the war, is endowed with a deep knowledge of the economic problems of the nation and particularly of the *Banco di Napoli*, which had been under his supervision.

In the meantime the new statute of the *Banco di Napoli* had already been approved and through it the bank was constituted as a complex entity, which besides the banking field, united as special sections connected with the central organization, but with distinct places in administration, the savings department (*Cassa di Risparmio*), land mortgage loans department (*Credito Agrario*) the building loan department (*Credito Fondiario*), and the Emigrants' Remittances service.

By virtue of article 50 of the statute the new general director assumed also the functions of the board of directors, up to the time when such board of directors would be appointed. The Hon. Frignani, therefore, alone assumed the heavy burden of the reorganization of the institution following instructions received from H. E. Mussolini.

With admirable foresight and happy intuition, the Hon. Frignani went to work with a clear vision that the *Banco di Napoli*, an institution of credit, of public right and of national character, would assert itself as a great unit of economic assistance and propulsion in the southern part of Italy, which was prevailingly agricultural, and could not follow any existing type of plain banking institution, but should have a constitution of its own to answer the requirements of its complex functions.

In the innovation brought about by the establishment of Land Credit Banks is seen in practice the economic policy of the National Government, a policy of fostering agricul-

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The New Church

A SHORT STORY

By Alfredo Panzini

Illustrated by A. W. Marano

ON ONE of those melancholy days of the year, I was on my way to a friend's house. Because of the clouds scurrying low overhead, I had prudently brought with me an umbrella, which, however, was of little use, for the wind was coming from across the sea and bringing with it a rain that was driving and heavy.

Nor, for this reason, did I hurry my steps; hastened was the pace, rather, of the men and women who vanished in the rain before me. They were carrying wreaths of evergreen and chrysanthemum, and they were all headed for the same place, the cemetery, where cypresses contorted themselves desperately. Outside of it foamed the sea.

The tempest of the dead!

"Frightfully logical country! It destroys wreaths and ikons, breaks down divinity, tears down temples, and does a lot of exterminating."

I was thinking of Russia.

Perhaps it was that furious, raging tempest, beating down on our western rivers, that made me think of Russia.

* * *

The friend who came to greet me at the door said, with pained surprise.

"Why, you're soaked."

"Light the fire," I replied.

A little later the flame rose high in the fireplace and lit up the room where the light of day was already dying down.

It was one of those houses of good sea-going folk, with furniture and household furnishings which still harked back to the days of the Ottocento: oleographs, vases with fruits of alabaster, a clock that said "Cuc--koo!" and which the paternal hand diligently cared for every evening.

I said to my friend:

"One may travel more than the errant Ulysses, but the heart always returns to the land of

one's fathers, especially if the paternal home is preserved and intact, including its furniture in the worst possible taste."

Nothing more, however, was said about this. Being men of letters, we spoke of letters. A printed circular, freshly arrived that day, said: "Confide to us your plans, and whatever else you think may interest our readers."

Fortunately, at that point, there entered a man who seemed to be a character just off some stage.

"The fire?," he said, marvelling, "In the lands by the sea, when it rains, we must have it."

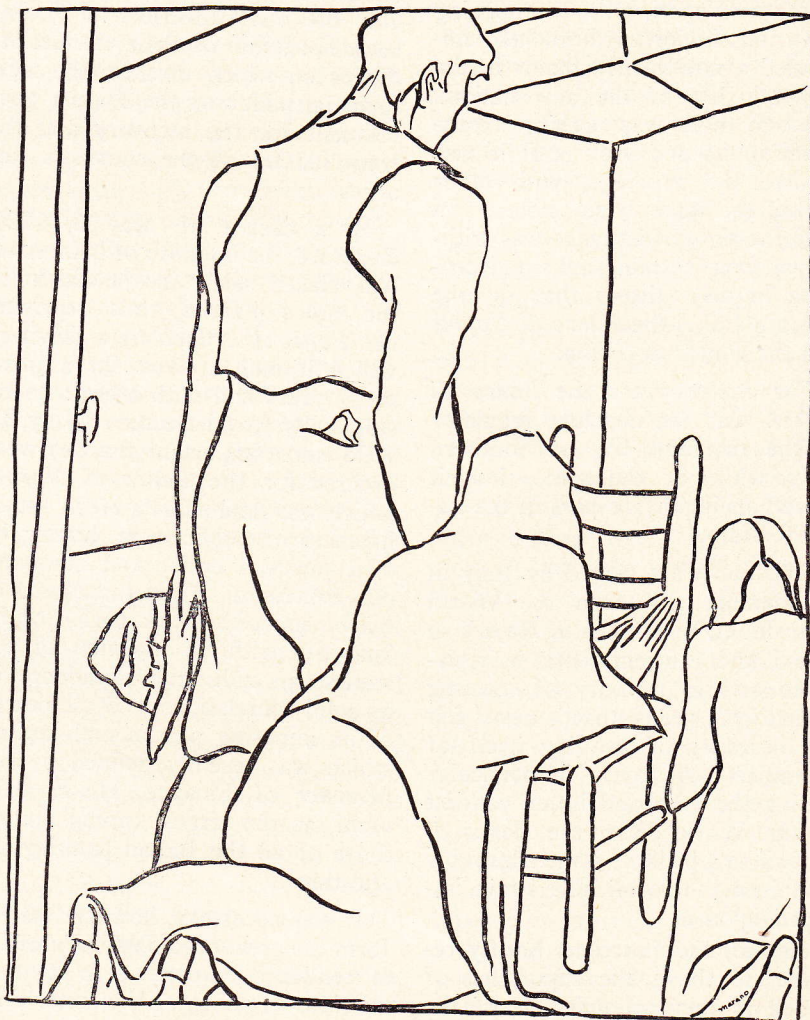
HE TOOK off his dripping hat and overcoat. There remained nothing but a leonine beard and enormous boots. He was a festive gentleman, full of pleasant anecdotes.

Next there entered an old boat-owner. He spoke of fishing and fishes, which are very abundant in the Fall, when the new wine is tapped. During the eighty years of his life he had never drunk either water or milk, except milk from a wet-nurse as a baby, and sea-water, but the latter only because of an accident.

The clock said "Cuc--koo!", a church called out with its Ave Maria, and another church replied. It was as though the voice of little children was enclosed in the bronze of those ancient bells.

* * *

The rain had ceased, and a few stars were twinkling. But after I had been walking for a time, the rain again began coming down in torrents. The countryside was



"Something unusual and solemn was happening."

dead; only a little light filtered through from the hut of a farm worker.

What time could it be?

Certainly it was not yet late enough to be night, and yet it seemed to be the middle of the night. This farmer is called "Carlin of the pipe"; he always carries his hat fastened closely to his head so that no one knows the color of his mane. When he takes his pipe out of his mouth it is a bad sign, because he is about to become blasphemous. He suffers from it, and says it is because of ignorance; but it is really a means of venting himself, just as the skin vents itself through pores. When in the evening they sit up, and the neighbors are near the fireplace and the women are spinning, he stretches himself out on an old trunk of the nuptial type in such a way that the trunk, with himself on top, resembles an Etruscan tomb.

Seeing me entering his home sometimes he does not move, but says in his courteous way to his wife and children:

"Bring the chair, the good one."

He makes the chairs himself, with their legs bigger than fagot-bundles, when snow prevents his working in the fields; and they are obviously not chairs of a delicate kind, for women; and in the same way he makes brooms from corn-stalks.

To me he always says: "Keep us company."

* * *

THAT evening, approaching the door, I did not hear the sound of voices, except for a whisper that rose and fell.

I pushed open the door. They were all there, but not the neighbors.

That evening the man did not say: "Bring the chair. Keep us company."

He was without his pipe, standing, and with his bare head resting on the stone above the fireplace.

Something unusual and solemn was happening.

His woman was kneeling on a chair, with the two oldish children kneeling on the floor. A rosary bead hung from the hands of the oldest daughter. Only a little two-year old tot was walking about surprised with its nose up and as though afraid, from father to mother, from mother to brothers, to shake them out of

their unusual immobility, their unusual attitude, their unusual speech. These folk, who could not speak Italian, were now speaking the ancient language of their fathers: Latin.

I felt that that evening I was an intruder, and I said: "Continue."

"We have finished now," said the woman.

I took a chair, and I noticed that even my own head had bent like that of the man's.

Alfredo Panzini, member of the Italian Academy, is a familiar figure in contemporary Italian letters. Novelist, short story writer, critic, biographer and textbook writer, he retired after forty years of teaching in 1927 to devote himself exclusively to writing. His name has appeared in the foremost newspapers and reviews in Italy. He is the author, among other books, of "La Lanterna di Diogene", "Santippe", "Io cerco moglie", "Le fiabe della virtù", "Il padrone sono me", "Il Conte di Cavour", and "Il dizionario moderno".

Said Giuseppe Prezzolini of him: "Few others have been able to seize and express certain profound sentiments of the spirit, now with powerful lyricism, now with minute observation."

They had not finished.

The woman, whom I had always seen obedient to the man, was now herself leading in the prayers, with an inexplicable feeling for the sacerdotal.

If the succession of words was not in conformance with the rite, the little girl—she with the rosary beads—would correct her with a silvery voice like a morning cow-bell; and little by little it seemed to me that I would also have done some correcting, for my mind went back through the years, my eyes saw once again vanished faces, and I heard the sound of voices silenced forever in a great house that used to be. I heard those words again like the rocking of a cradle.

"Kirie, Kirie, eleisen!" sounded on high.

What did they know of these words addressed to the Invisible, the Incomprehensible, the Omnipotent?

They mean: "Lord, Lord have pity on us!"

But what does it matter that one knows?

One word, repeated constantly with a grieved accent, clothed the room in black: "miserere". Then the room became illuminated:

"lux perpetua luceat eis". Finally there shone forth a splendor of dawn as they sang: "turrirs ebounea, janua coeli, stella matutina."

These words had the virtue of relief; the poor hands of the young girl who held the rosary beads were splendid with I know not what purity. They seemed to be genuine and pearl-like words drawn from a mysterious tomb.

The words ceased, like a finished ritual. All rose to their feet and resumed their usual attitudes and speech.

Then the man said to me as though to excuse himself: "In the city they don't do it any more, but in the country we still do it. Once a year, the dead must be well-remembered."

"At this time of June," he continued, changing the subject, "the sheaves of grain are still being tied together."

But then his eyes fixed on a milk-pail in which were immersed some flowers. They were poor country chrysanthemums.

His voice changed and became wrathful. "My daughter yesterday sold a covey of rabbits to buy these flowers, with which to make a garland to bring tomorrow to the cemetery, and people said. . ."

"What did they say?"

"Don't make me repeat it! They said: 'Don't go to buy flowers. That money, bring it around to help make the new church.' I felt a shiver go down my spine. No more flowers for the dead? They want to make a new church! If now I go to church again, may I be accursed!"

Said the woman:

"Don't speak like that; the children will hear you."

"I speak like this so they can hear me. I am the father!"

"Go there," said the woman, "for when the new church is furnished your teeth won't hurt you any more."

And the man said to the woman:

"What splendid reasons these are! And the cemetery? Don't they also want to make a new cemetery? And if I prefer to go to the cemetery of my old people, what have you to say about it? Go and break up the pigeon's home, destroy the swallow's nest! See if they return! I say that one should think twice before making a new church!"

And I don't know why he then turned to me.

TRAVEL NOTES

TRAVEL to the Far East will be greatly improved through the addition of the "Rex" and the "Conte di Savoia" to the fleet of the Italian Line. In a recent interview, one of the directors of the line declared that a new record will be established for travel to Bombay, Shanghai and other eastern ports by changing, at Genoa or Brindisi, to ships of the Lloyd Triestino, a subsidiary of the Italian Line. Passengers out of New York would reach Bombay, in 17 days and Shanghai in 29.

The two express ships "Rex" and "Conte di Savoia" will make possible a fast service to the Mediterranean that exceeds anything known heretofore in the world merchant marine, as they will run from New York to Gibraltar in 5 days, to Nice on the morning of the 7th day, to Genoa on the evening of the 7th day and to Naples on the 8th day out of New York.

It is officially confirmed that the maiden voyage of the "Rex" will take place the latter part of September. This 54,000 ton ship will leave Genoa September 27 and arrive in New York October 4, calling only at Naples and Gibraltar on her west-bound maiden voyage.

At Naples, in the meanwhile, work has begun on what will be the largest dry dock in the world. To take at least five years to build, it will be 1300 feet long, 130 feet wide and 45 feet deep. Construction of the dock has been made

necessary by the construction of the "Rex"; the great new Italian liner.

On this side of the Atlantic, officials of the Italian Line, formed by the three former lines, the Navigazione Generale Italiana, the Lloyd Sabauda and the Cosulich, recently announced that all vessels of the company will now dock at Pier 97 in New York, at the foot of West 57th Street. Their ships include the Augustus, Roma, Conte Biancamano, Conte Grande, Saturnia and Vulcania.

ITALY is steadily developing her national and international flying connections. The numerous daily service between all the important points are knitting together the larger cities with the close mesh of a one-to-four hour flying time. Now it is possible to leave the capital, Rome, at 8:00 in the morning, be in Florence at 9:30 and in Venice at 11:15 the same morning. If one wishes to come back to the capital for dinner in the evening, a plane leaves Venice at 2:30, stops for tea in Florence at 4:00 and reaches Rome at 5:45. The service is daily and costs \$13 each way.

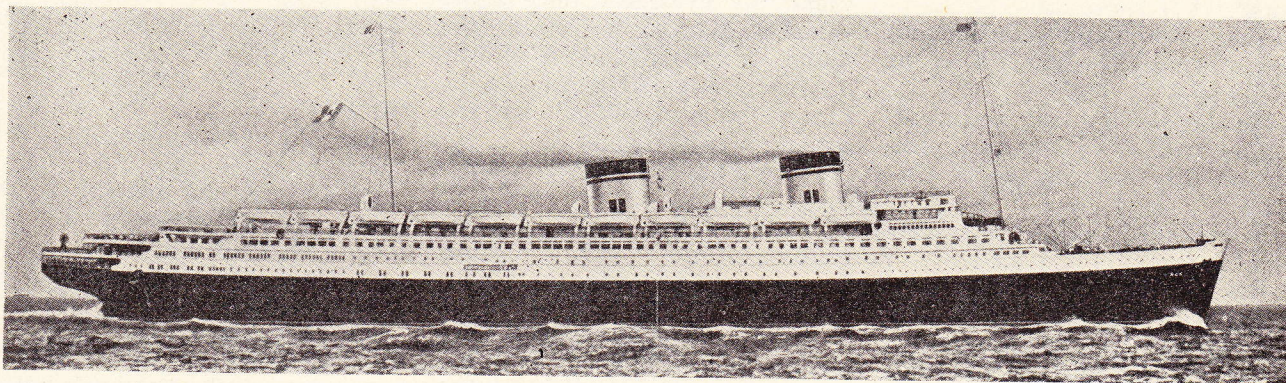
From Venice there is a service to Vienna in three hours for \$17, to Trieste in less than an hour, and to Genoa in three and a half hours.

The Genoa-Palermo daily service leaves Genoa (except Sun-

days) at 7:15 in the morning, arriving in Palermo at 4:00 P. M., going via Rome and Naples. The two greatest centers in Italy—Rome and Milan — are connected by daily three-hour planes.

THE Italian Line has just announced a Round-the-World Cruise on the 33,000-ton motor vessel "Augustus", leaving New York January 14 and returning May 20, 1933, the minimum rate being \$2100. The cruise should prove exceptionally attractive for several reasons. One is that the number of passengers is limited to 400. Another is that the "Augustus" is ideally suited to a long voyage and to one in tropic waters, with its "Lido beach" and swimming pool out in the open air and its cool, high-ceilinged Dining Salon located above the "A" Deck. Another reason is that the storied island of Bali is to be included among the many exotic ports of call—making the itinerary pleasantly different;—and furthermore, the shore excursions will be guided under the experienced direction of the American Express Company personnel.

CLASSICAL performances in the Greek theatre in Syracuse will be given next April and May, under the auspices of the National Institute of Ancient Drama. The tradition of excep-



The giant new "Rex" of the Italian Line

De Luxe speed king of the Southern Route, which will reach New York on its maiden voyage October 4th.

tional artistic achievement for which these performances have won universal recognition will be upheld again next year, as the Institute intends to put the utmost care into the preparation of the event.

All lovers of Greek drama and tourists in general, who are going to Italy next spring are reminded that under the "Sicilian Spring" railroad concession a 50 per cent reduction is granted on tickets to Palermo, Taormina, Syracuse and Agrigento. This privilege lasts from the first of January to the thirtieth of June. Also, the sea trip from Naples to Palermo will have a 25 per cent reduction during the same period.

OF significant interest to all music lovers is the announcement of the "Maggio Musicale Fiorentino" (Florentine Musical May) to be inaugurated in Florence next Spring and to take place every three years thereafter. The festival is sponsored by Premier Mussolini and will include some of the best modern talent.

Included in the program are opera revivals from the nineteenth century—"Falstaff" and five others, conducted by Tullio Serafin, of the Metropolitan Opera House, by de Sabata, Gui and Marinuzzi,—unusual symphony and chamber concerts, open air spectacles, an international music convention and a musical instrument exhibit.

Among the open-air attractions will be Shakespeare's "Midsummer Night's Dream" in the amphitheatre of the Bodoli Gardens with Mendelssohn's incidental music and songs and dances. An

old Italian mystery play in a cloister of Santa Croce and fourteenth century laudi from a Florentine collection are other unique numbers. Orchestras from La Scala, the Augusteo and Florence will take part.

IN order to regulate more efficiently hotel activities in Italy a new law has been approved which directs the hotel to furnish all guests with complete information about tariff, rates and conditions—as a result of which the registering guest will be presented with a printed form which will show: a) the number of the room assigned; b) the price fixed for the room, exclusive of all taxes and expenses attached; c) the percentage for service which the tourist will be called upon to pay; d) the warning that no tips are to be paid.

Travellers entering hotels in Italy are now also relieved of the necessity of filling out declarations which, all over Europe, are proverbially long, tedious, and personal. The list of questions about one's great aunt or a third cousin will no longer tax the memory of the unsuspecting tourists visiting Italy, as the Italian Government has issued an order requesting hotels to ask only the questions which are on the passports of their guests, with no other formalities.

FOR business and cultural purposes a most convenient new plan has been instituted by the Italian State Railways, permitting individuals to revisit several times places not far from each other, without buying tickets each time. From a cultural point

of view it is important, as it stimulates tourists to visit localities that are not in the ordinary tourists' itinerary. These "circulation" tickets allow passengers, at a very moderate rate, to circulate freely over a section of the Italian State Railway system, within any one of the three following zones: all of Italy north of the Livorno-Florence-Forli-Rimini line; the section below this one bounded on the south by a line from Ostia and Rome to Ancona; the third zone reaches from the latter line to a southern boundary as follows: Pozzuoli - Napoli - Foggia-Manfredonia. The tickets are good for eight to ten days.

THE ancient republic of San Marino now boasts an electric railway, inaugurated in April of this year. Running from Rimini, the popular bathing resort, the railway has a length of twenty miles, less than half of which is in Italian territory. It is important not only from a tourist but also from an engineering point of view. It has seventeen tunnels, and the run between Rimini and San Marino is covered in fifty-three minutes. The cars are modern, beautifully illuminated, heated in winter and provide first and third class compartments.

Travellers going to the Adriatic can visit with great ease the splendors of the Palazzo dei Signori on one of the highest points of Mount Titano (San Marino's citadel) from which the eye can follow the superb horizon of the Adriatic, seeing along the coast the towns of Ancona and Ravenna and viewing, on the west, a panoramic view of the Apennines.

FATHER GIUSEPPE NERI

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batteries, then magnetic machines, and finally dynamos. He had the first brush machine, the first storage battery and the first magnetic electric machine in California. Father Neri was attached to the faculty of St. Ignatius College as Professor of Physics, Analytical Chemistry, Geology, and Minerology. An interesting record is preserved in the program of exercises at St. Ignatius College on the Twentieth Annual Commencement of St. Ignatius on

the evening of June 4, 1879, when some of his students gave an illustrated lecture on the subject of "The Electric Light". This was divided into two parts, "The Luminous Phenomena of Electricity" and "The Application of the Luminous Electrical Phenomena to Practical Illumination".

In 1899 Father Neri's eyesight began to fail, due to his long hours of experimentation with the electric arc. But doggedly the old priest continued his work and as

the years passed became practically blind. Still he clung to life and it was not until November 17, 1919 that the end came. Though he lived into our modern times, "it is sad to think that he could not see with his own eyes the great strides made in the subject he loved, and how far-reaching, beyond his expectations, that development had been".

TOPICS OF THE MONTH

(Continued from Page 246)

The years pass. One day he is welcomed into earth's bosom, to become one with the American soil, there to wait peacefully for the faithful, hoping woman and for the small, scared children—now grown to full life. . . .

As the vision vanishes this thought comes to me: I wonder if it did not take as much courage—nay, more courage—to set out to become an "American by choice" than to be an American merely by the "accident of birth"? I know how certain accidental Americans would answer the question.

But I prefer the answer which I know Dr. Finley unhesitatingly would give.

POLITICS IN AMERICA

THE queerest thing in this country is what is known as the game of politics. Doubtless, it is a game, but one which must appear very bewildering to a European observer. The way the game is played here by the political masters is very unique, but still more unique is the way people stand for it.

Theoretically, the people are sovereign. Theoretically, the voter is supreme. Theoretically, the ballot is a stentorian voice which resounds far and wide on Election Day: a voice of justice, of warning—or what you will. But in actual practice, what happens?

In actual practice he who rules and commands is the self-styled party Boss. He is sovereign. He is supreme. The people are mere puppets. Even the candidate is a mere puppet. The so-called will of the people revolves itself into the will of the Boss. An incident which occurred in Brooklyn illustrates this very clearly.

Dr. William L. Love has been, for the past ten years, an able and active member of the New York Senate. Last year, on a motion to continue the Hofstadter Committee which is investigating political corruption in New York City, he voted as his conscience and wisdom bade him. He voted, over the orders of the party Bosses, to continue the investigation. Last month he was denied renomina-

tion by the political Boss of Brooklyn. Why? Because his devotion to public duty was treason to the party.

When the Boss was asked why Senator Love had been turned down on the renomination, his answer was: "Why, he wasn't turned down: he was just dropped!" Here is a man with a brilliant record of public service in the Senate of the State of New York who is dropped—and by whom? Not by the people who have elected him for ten years, but by the Boss, the man who holds the City of Brooklyn in the hollow of his hand.

They call this politics in America. They call such a Boss a master politician in America. But would such a thing be tolerated in England, or, for that matter, anywhere in Europe?

The sad part of it is that the system is not confined to Brooklyn. It is rampant everywhere in this country. Indeed, it is at the basis of both major parties. Is it any wonder that we have many politicians in America today, but few, very few, real statesmen?

"NOT MORE BUT BETTER AMERICANS"

IN an address read recently to the Third International Eugenic Congress Dr. Henry Fairfield Osborn, the eminent American scientist, referred to birth control in the following words:

"Birth-selection is natural; it is in the order of nature. Birth control is not natural, and while undoubtedly beneficial and benevolent in its original purpose it is fraught with danger to society at large and threatens rather than insures the upward ascent and evolution of the human race.

"Such ascent, it seems to me, is the greatest responsibility with which we biologists and eugenists are charged today. To begin at home, not more but better Americans."

There is no question that Dr. Osborn speaks with authority. His approval of birth control, with reservations, should lend force and dignity to the cause for which men and women have fought these many years so unsuccessfully, particularly in our State.

It should be apparent to every thoughtful person that birth control, intelligently practiced, is a great blessing. Reasons could be given galore. But one doubts

very much whether, in our enlightened day, any argument is needed.

The curious thing about birth control is that many prudish people who are openly against it practice it privately. Legislators who vote against legalization usually have the smallest families. It is no exaggeration to say that there is no modern couple today which does not seek intelligently and scientifically to limit its offspring. Why, then, all this opposition to having birth control legally recognized by the State?

The only result of such opposition is to exclude millions of men and women, either too ignorant or too poor to know any better, from the restricted circle of those fortunate ones who know how and where to get the necessary information.

Yes, let us do away with our social hypocrisy in dealing with this vital subject. As Dr. Osborn says, let us have "not more but better Americans".

THE STUDY OF ITALIAN: A NOBLE EXPERIMENT

IT is a well-known fact that the study of Italian is sadly neglected among the youth of our race. We do not here refer to the study of Italian as an academic subject. God knows that too has been neglected by our American colleges and universities and that only recently has such study been included in the curricula of most institutions of learning. We have here special reference to the study of Italian generally, to the cultivation of one of the most beautiful languages in the world—even if we have to say it ourselves—on the part of our growing generation.

For many reasons, our children have little or no opportunity to learn Italian correctly. The speech in the home is generally a jargon which certainly furnishes no inspiration. The real Italian is usually learned later, if at all. Very often, however, the older student encounters manifold difficulties and frequently the task is given up in despair.

To remedy this sad state of affairs a group of Italian Societies of Jamaica, N. Y., got together recently and formed a Free School of Italian for the children—and grown-ups too—of that community. The School is supported by

(Continued on Page 274)

Books In Review

COUP D'ETAT: The Technique of Revolution. By Curzio Malaparte. Translated by Sylvia Saunders. 251 pages. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co. \$2.50.

There have been so many coups d'etat, revolutions, insurrections and riots in Europe since 1917 that it should not be very hard for an illustrious and intelligent student of politics to analyze their nature and development in order to arrive at conclusions upon which one might construe a technique of revolution.

Signor Curzio Malaparte (Curzio Suckert, in real life) has done this. A well-known newspaper man, a former member of Italian diplomatic missions in various European countries, and a student of history, he has had the opportunity to observe at first hand, and in other cases to hear from reliable witnesses, how there have matured, succeeded or failed the revolutions which during the last fifteen years have changed the course of European history. But Signor Malaparte has not limited himself to studying the recent coups d'etat from Lenin (or Trotsky) and Mussolini to De Rivera and Stalin. He has studied also the "technique" of the movements that centered around Sulla and Catiline in ancient Rome, without neglecting Marx's precepts on revolution.

The result of the author's observations and study is simple. Times have changed, he tells us, since the days of Catiline and Napoleon. Today, "the problem of the conquest and defense of the State is not a political one," he says, adding that it is a technical problem and that "the circumstances favorable to a coup d'etat are not necessarily of a political and social order and do not depend on the general condition of the country."

To carry out a successful coup d'etat today, the masses are not necessary. A small company of men is sufficient, as Trotsky proved in 1917 when with a thousand men he succeeded in throwing Kerensky out of office and putting Lenin in his place. Such a plan, however, works both ways. Stalin took advantage of it in 1927 when he prevented Trotsky's attempt to take over the government.

Signor Malaparte, however, does not show whether and for how long a revolutionary government which succeeds through the employment of Trotsky's technique can remain in power. One is inclined to conclude, therefore, that if Trotsky's methods are by far the best to seize power, Lenin's preparation is indispensable for remaining in control of the situation.

The author, who took part in the preparation of the Fascist insurrection in Tuscany from 1920 to 1922, analyzes also Mussolini's systematic revolutionary tactics and comes to the conclusion

that the March on Rome only overturned the Government, for "in 1922 the capture of the State by Fascism could not have been averted by a state of siege nor yet by outlawing Mussolini nor by any kind of armed resistance", and he quotes Giolitti to the effect that Mussolini taught him (Giolitti) the lesson "that a State has to be defended not against the programme of a revolution but against its tactics."

All of which, in this reviewer's opinion, means that Mussolini was interested not only in developing a technique for seizing power, but also and especially, as later events were to prove, in securing the cooperation of the Italian people and their acceptance of the new situation. In other words, Mussolini adopted Trotsky's tactics plus Lenin's strategy.

G. Schiavo

LOVE RIMES OF PETRARCH. Translated by Morris Bishop & Decorata by Alison Mason Kingsbury. Ithaca: The Dragon Press. \$1.50.

Beautiful, slender and delicate, like the poetry of Petrarch itself, is this little book containing some fifty of the great Italian's poems, lyrics and sonnets. Artistically gotten up and with illustrations that give one a feeling for the contents, this volume is one of the Dragon Series edited by Angel Flores, and is a limited edition.

A PRIVATE UNIVERSE. By Andre Maurois. Translated by Hamish Miles. 365 pages. New York: D. Appleton & Co. \$2.50.

There is a mellow wit, a mature wisdom and a strong dash of shrewd analysis in the essays of Andre Maurois, which, combined with a cosmopolitan urbanity, make them charming and delightful reading. Quoting from Aldous Huxley on the title page, the author says: "No man is by nature exclusively domiciled in one universe. All lives... are passed under at least two flags, and generally under many more." The "private universe" of this collection of essays ranges from thoughts, sentiments and advice on subjects as far apart as relativity and American students, "Proust in England" and "Advice to a Young Frenchman Leaving for America".

The last-mentioned essay is one of the most interesting in the book. From his point of view, he finds that the American "uh-huh" has an advantage over "an articulate sound in that it expresses polite indifference with the very minimum of physical effort;" that "Drink will help you. In France, I know, you drink little. In America you will have some difficulty in keeping sober"; that American family life is being revived in the speakeasy; that

Americans take up a scientific idea (and subsequently drop it) "just as they take up a fashion in shoes."

One is strongly tempted to quote from his other essays, especially "The Past and Future of Love", for M. Maurois' prose has that brilliant, epigrammatic quality that lends itself easily to quotation. "A Private Universe" is a book for an epicure to dip into as often as possible.

THE HISTORY OF TASTE. An Account of the Revolutions of Art Criticism and Theory in Europe. By Frank P. Chambers. 342 pages. Illustrated. New York: Columbia University Press. \$4.25.

It is somewhat surprising to discover that this is the only book in English on this subject, which in its larger aspects, involves practically the whole range of human behavior and intelligence. From many European sources, Professor Chambers of the School of Architecture at McGill University has gathered the material to write the present book, which deals mainly with the arts of painting, sculpture and architecture. There is vastly more involved, too, than the differences between the two mentalities in art which we know as "classicism" and "romanticism".

Professor Chambers' task has been to describe the major revolutions of taste and criticism in the history of European art, incidentally casting some light on the old-time art controversies. Beginning with the Middle Ages, he continues through the Renaissance in Italy, France and England, and touches on the rise and fall of the Academies, on the Romantic Movement and on the Revivals of the last century. In an appendix, the author also applies substantially the same treatment to classical antiquity.

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR LIFE. By John J. B. Morgan and Ewing T. Webb. 250 pages. Illustrated. New York: Ray Long & Richard R. Smith, Inc. \$2.50.

In the same manner the authors used in a previous volume ("Strategy of Handling People"), the case method is again used to advantage in the present work. As before, they begin with a story illustrating some point they wish to make, and then follow it up with the rule itself. The stories are all authentic, and all taken from the lives of men who have since made themselves famous and outstanding in their various fields.

Though both books are frankly, though in a superior way, inspirational in theme, they differ in that "Making the Most of Your Life" deals, not with the handling of other people, but with the strategy and tactics of handling one's own self. Their endeavor is to show the reader how to put to the fullest use the talents, temperaments and backgrounds he already has, and their proof lies in the numerous anecdotes they relate from the lives of successful men. Even apart from the inspirational value of the book, the anecdotes themselves are enough to justify reading it.

THE OLDEST BANK IN THE WORLD

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tural productiveness, with the intent of eventually rendering Italy independent.

To better meet the requirements, the *Banco di Napoli* was at this time fully reorganized and reformed, beginning from the central office, which was decentralized; the branches, likewise, were reorganized on a new and modern plan, with new systems and new personnel, and several new agencies were opened in Southern Italy.

In July, 1926, the *Banco di Napoli* had seventy-five branches, which constituted a network considered sufficient for the former bank of issue. Now it has not less than 165 ramifications, including both branches and agencies.

In addition to the agencies located in the United States, the *Banco di Napoli* has two other affiliations, the Banco di Napoli Trust Company of New York, and the Banco di Napoli Trust Company of Chicago.

Rather than indulge in lengthy and tiresome descriptions of the work performed by the *Banco di Napoli* and of the great progress made in every branch of endeavor since the beginning of the latest period of its long and complicated career, it is perhaps more advisable to compare the figures of two of its statements, which speak by themselves clearly and unmistakably.

At the first meeting of the new Board of Administration, which took place on March 27, 1929, the Hon. Frignani presented a complete report concerning the transition of the institution and its business transacted during the year 1927 and 1928, showing very satisfactory and encouraging results.

The statement of condition as of March 31, 1932, presents very imposing figures, with a capital and surplus of lire 1,389,417,578.40; deposits, lire 2,013,148,227.92, and total assets, lire 9,418,988,901.31.

The Bank of Naples, under the wise guidance of Director General Giuseppe Frignani, while mindful of its ancient character, has not failed to adapt its activities to the changing needs of the times, and thus has become in fact "a formidable instrument for the development of Italian economy."

ISSUES OF THE DAY

As Seen by the Italian Press

(Continued from Page 265)

the tranquil Italian conscience thusly:

"Italy has no remorse. What she could do on her part for the success of the Disarmament Conference she did, proceeding in harmony with all the rest of her policy. The plan which our delegates presented was an organic and practical plan. President Hoover's plan (for the reduction of armaments by one-third) was also organic and practical, and Italy was not slow in giving it her support. This is to say that our country, faithful to her program of cooperating in every way to bring the disarmament problem toward a realistic solution, denied her support only to the Benes formula, which constituted, as we have repeatedly asserted, an act of international insincerity aiming to mask from the people the negative will to decide. The words of Senator Borah can therefore be welcomed in Italy with a satisfaction that is not veiled by any mental restrictions, for it does not clash with any Italian attitude."



TOPICS OF THE MONTH

(Continued from Page 272)

these Societies and the work which it has accomplished in such a short time is truly astounding. It started with a handful of students only a few months ago. Now there are hundreds of them and many more anxious to enroll.

My own personal knowledge of the work of the school leads me to think that the experiment has proved successful. It is the first time that such a thing has ever been tried. The success the school has met with should inspire other communities to profit by the example of the people of Jamaica. I am here passing the thought to some energetic young men and women of Italian extraction and I say to them that what has been done in Jamaica may be done equally well elsewhere.

ATLANTICA'S OBSERVATORY

(Continued from Page 243)

clysmic depression to open the eyes of America to the fact that all the automobiles and bathtubs in the world, per se, add not one iota to the cultural and spiritual progress of human beings? Let us devoutly hope not.

WINE FOR TEA?

ONE of the strongest traditions of modern times—at least in England—stands in danger of being undermined if the suggestion recently made at a congress of wine growers in Turin proves popular. Arturo Marescalchi, Under-Secretary for Agriculture and Forests, has proposed doing away with the custom of sipping tea in the afternoon, and substituting a sparkling, healthy glass of good Italian wine instead.

Naturally, the reason for this is not that tea is obnoxious to Italian, but that further outlets for Italian wine must be found. Wine production, it was brought out at the congress, is the greatest Italian industry, from which, directly or indirectly, 4,000,000 Italians derive their livelihood, and there are 32,000,000,000 lire invested in it.

And after all, why not wine instead of tea? Instead of cake, substitute a nibble of cheese. Instead of a social function indulged in by a few, substitute a habit that will prove popular with the masses, unless beer, by that time, will already have done so.

MUSSOLINI ON PROHIBITION

ON opinion delivered by Premier Mussolini during the course of an interview not long ago on prohibition contained considerable food for thought:

"Prohibition itself can accomplish nothing. I myself closed 25,000 superfluous wine shops throughout Italy in one year. Moderation is the thing! More good can be done by providing people with good beer and wine and by discouraging cocktails and whiskey than by prohibition."

The Italians in the United States

(Readers Are Invited to Send in Items and Photographs of Real Worth for Possible Use in These Columns.)

THE PRESS

Gr. Uff. Generoso Pope, publisher of the three Italian daily newspapers in New York, recently extended his newspaper holdings by the purchase of "L'Opinione", the Philadelphia Italian language daily, which is circulated throughout Pennsylvania. The Philadelphia paper was bought from the heirs of the late Comm. C. C. A. Baldi, who founded it 27 years ago, and who died about a year ago.

The other Pope papers, in New York City, are "Il Progresso Italo-Americano", "Corriere d'America" and "Bollettino della Sera".

"L'Indipendente", the official organ of the Grand Lodge of New York State, Independent Order Sons of Italy, made its initial appearance recently with its August number. A monthly illustrated magazine of 16 pages, it is entirely in Italian, with the exception of the Editor's "Monthly Comments", which are in English. The magazine is devoted to the publication of activities of the lodges within New York State, although occasional cultural articles are featured.

Rosario Ingargiola, Grand Venerable of the New York State Lodge of the Order, is Editor, with Eugenio Lupia as Treasurer and Vincenzo Fizzarotti as Business Manager. The magazine is sent free to Grand Lodge members, and for others the subscription is one dollar yearly.

The August issue is labeled Volume 4, Number 1, for it is really a continuation of the Order's publication of the same name which suspended publication in 1927 after several years.

In Boston, "The Italian News" recently inveighed editorially against the holding of expensive religious celebrations at a time like the present, maintaining that the money could be used for a better purpose. In an editorial captioned, "It's Up to the Italian Priests", it said:

"Several Italian societies of the North End concluded last Sunday night a two-day 'religious' celebration, for which several thousands of dollars were spent, or rather, wasted. 'Readers of the 'News' have always appeared to be unanimous in condemning such elaborate observances. The 'News' has on many occasions denounced the custom, but to no avail—for the 'News' is printed in English, and those who carry on such foolish celebrations do not read our language. Nor do the majority of them read their own native language, for if they did they would have some degree of education.

"The summer does not pass but that many thousands of dollars are unnecessarily spent by these societies in and around Boston for the observance of some Feast. The money, obtained from the well-meaning and unsuspecting is wasted chiefly for decorations,

bands and fire-works. The hard-earned dollars could well be used to advantage, especially since there is comparatively little charity being dispensed within the colony—and there are hundreds of needy cases.

"Just as the earlier Italian settlers here, now Americanized, learned to abandon their native custom, so may the more recent arrivals be taught to do likewise and prevented from soliciting in such cases. In this connection, the 'News' believes that no greater force can be used than through the pulpit. Unless the Italian priests here approve, they should advise against any more such observances."

When the "New Haven Journal-Courier" published, not long ago an editorial: "Mars and Glory", which attributed a warlike point of view to Mussolini, the Italian Vice-Consul De Cicco of that city, replied with a letter answering the editorial writers' assertions.

Among other things, Vice-Consul De Cicco said: "The world is reading with increasing interest the writings of the Duce. And the expression 'to live dangerously' serves to express a fundamental concept, which is that wars and revolutions constitute milestones in the continuous and incessant ascent of the nations of the world.

"No one can deny that wars stimulate human energies and spur them on toward the highest expression. An examination of the history of the people of the United States leads one immediately to the same conclusion as that reached by Mussolini. If the American Revolution and the Civil War were considered as so much catastrophe glory would not have smiled upon the American people and the destinies of this country would have been different.

"In the words and acts of the Italian Premier there can be seen no sign that might express unbridled love of war, and the assertions of your editorial writer are therefore absurd and gratuitous.

"An undeniable fact is that Mussolini has changed the complexion not only of Italy during his first ten years at its head, but has also shown for all the countries of Europe, and perhaps of the world, a way toward the salvation of civilized nations."

SOCIETIES

A great reception was accorded to the glory-covered Italian athletes who placed a magnificent second at the Los Angeles Olympic Games when they came to New York last month. Arriving from Chicago, where they had just scored a victory over a team of American boxers, they were met at the Grand Central and escorted to the motorship Saturnia of the Italian Line. Among those present to greet them

there was the Acting Italian Consul, Dr. Antonio Logoluso, Comm. Cosulich, Comm. Ruspini, Comm. Serrati and Gr. Uff. Generoso Pope. After the reception, the athletes left for Boston, where they were further feted, Mayor Curley giving them a silver cup in the name of the City of Boston.

Members of the Sons of Italy pilgrimage to Italy headed by Grand Venerable Vincent Brogna, were tendered a welcome home dinner upon their return recently in Boston. The affair was under the auspices of the Grand Executive Council, with John Saporito as chairman, Nazzareno Toscano as secretary and Frank Abbadesa as treasurer. The committee also included Acting Venerable Michael A. Fredo, Louis Salvatore and Miss Leno T. Iennaco.

George Washington and Giuseppe Garibaldi, both patriots and liberators, were honored recently in Birmingham in exercises arranged by the Federation of Italian Societies of the South. Concerts, speeches and singing comprised the program, which was partly in Italian and partly in English. Among the speakers were Vitale G. Gallina, Italian Consul at New Orleans and Elviro Di Laura, grand secretary of the federation and newspaper editor.

"Washington and Garibaldi", said Mr. Di Laura, "had the same ideals, the same passion for freedom. They both dedicated their energies and leadership for the battles of freedom for their fatherlands. Both were the liberators of their countries, and all persons devoted to the cause of freedom should join in these exercises in their honor."

The Roman Forum of Brooklyn recently began a series of monthly receptions, scientific and literary, at its clubhouse in that city. Hon. G. M. Ditore is president of the organization, with Victor Javerone as secretary and the Board of Directors composed of Dr. Antonio Lacovara, Chairman; Dr. M. Lupo, Dr. J. Gianquinto, Dr. T. Long, Dr. P. Candela, Dr. A. Donza, Dr. A. Imperato, Counsellor V. Mannino and A. Orlando.

Representatives from eighteen lodges and clubs in Portland, Oregon, comprising all the Italian societies in that city, recently met at a joint meeting for that purpose and joined their efforts under one banner in a drive for funds to take care of needy Italian families. The name United Italian Societies was adopted.

Frank Spada, President of the Oregon Gardeners Association, and one of the leaders of this move, was elected Chairman by unanimous vote as were Mrs. G. Albanese, President of the Regina Margherita, who was elected Vice-Chairman, and John Scarpelli,

proprietor of the Porter Scarpelli Macaroni Co., who was elected Treasurer.

More than 15,000 persons were present at the successful outcome of the Italian Night held recently in Elizabeth, N. J. at Warinanco Park, with hundreds of others turned away. Among the artists performing were Maestra Anna Foti, Maria and Giovanni Fiore, Ida D'Avella, Maestro D'Avella and his orchestra, Giuseppe and Elizabeth Grandi, and many others.

At the great Chicagoland Music Festival held not long ago in Soldiers Field, Chicago, the Band of the Italo-American National Union of that city, by virtue of a superb rendition of orchestral and symphonic numbers under the direction of Maestro Antonio Guggino, succeeded in winning first place in the Class B. classification. Present when this honor was won were Vincenzo Ferrara, president of the organization, Ciro F. Balzano, vice-president, and Michele Nardulli and Pietro Bianco, trustees and organizers of the musical corps, as well as D. F. Coccia, the secretary.

The mutual benefit society Ricciotti Garibaldi of Scranton, Pa., one of the oldest institutions of the kind in the State, is on a sound financial basis, according to figures recently presented by Gerardo Cianci.

The new administration of the Dante Alighieri Society of Union City, composed of Attorney Ralph Messano, president; Dr. John Botti and D. Buono, vice-presidents; G. Viverito, treasurer; and A. De Sevo, secretary, was recently installed in office. A banquet was tendered to the incoming officers and the new board.

Following the fusion under the name Italian Club of three New Haven Italian societies, elections were recently held with the following results: G. G. Di Cenzo, president; G. De Paolo and C. Abbadessa, vice-presidents; Antonio Maiorano, treasurer.

In Clyde, N. Y., a town of 2000 inhabitants, the Labor Day celebration was featured by the unveiling of a monument to George Washington that was donated by the local Sons of Italy lodge. The cost of the monument was entirely made up of contributions by the Italians of Clyde. Matteo Fischette, Village Clerk and venerable of the lodge, was at the head of the committee, other members of which were M. Storto, F. A. De Renzo and F. A. Petrosino. The Wayne County American Legion and the Wayne County Board of Supervisors passed resolutions in admiration and approval of the action taken by the Italians of Clyde.

More than 100 delegates, representing 41 cities and towns in Massachusetts, attended early this month the first State Convention of the Columbian Republican League of the United States in Boston. Comm. Saverio R. Romano of Boston was elected president of the League in that State, and Mayor A. A. Casassa of Revere, Judge Felix Forte of Somerville and Atty.

Augustus Loschi of East Boston were elected to the executive committee. Addresses were delivered by Messrs. Lombardi, Forte, Romano, Launie, Mondello, Dentamaro, Terminiello, De Marco and Dittami.

The Columbian Republican League, originally begun in New York, where

York assisted by the Grand Secretary, Mr. Joseph Manganaro. Speeches were delivered and in behalf of the new Lodge, Mr. Antonio Ingianni made a stirring address which was warmly applauded.

* * *

Another Lodge was initiated on the same day, September 4th, in Brooklyn. The new Lodge is called, "Loggia Sallandrea, No. 450". Mr. Ingargiola conducted the ceremony and among the various speakers were, Dr. Iannora, Mr. Lorello, the Grand Orator, and many others. This Lodge came into the Order mainly through the efforts of Mr. Augustale D'Elia, who is a well-known business man in Brooklyn and an ardent worker for the Independent Order.

* * *

A brilliant ceremony took place on September 10th at the Sacramento Hall in Brooklyn on the occasion of the merger of two Lodges of the Independent Order. The two Lodges are the "Duca degli Abruzzi No. 112" and the "Conte Avv. Michele Magnoni No. 404." The ceremony of the delivery of the new Charter was conducted by the Grand Venerable, Mr. Ingargiola, assisted by the Grand Secretary, Mr. Manganaro, and speeches were delivered by Mr. Joseph Caffiero, the Supreme Secretary, Mr. Fred Di Girolamo, Grand Trustee, and many others. It is hoped that the new Lodges, strengthened by this merger, will continue in the noble work in behalf of the Order which heretofore had been entrusted to the two Lodges. At the conclusion of the ceremony, refreshments were served.

PUBLIC LIFE

Dr. Joseph Santosuosso, physician and prominent attorney of Boston, filed nomination papers recently containing several thousand names for the Democratic nomination for Secretary of State in Massachusetts. Four years ago Dr. Santosuosso was the regular Democratic nominee for the same office, receiving 652,312 votes, the largest vote ever received by a Democratic nominee for Secretary of State in that State. Active in fraternal and political life in Boston, Dr. Santosuosso is past Exalted Ruler of the Boston Lodge of Elks and is now Supreme Chief Ranger of the Foresters of America. Other Italians in and around Boston aspiring to public office are Joseph A. Langone, candidate for State Senator, Henry Selvitella, candidate for State Representative, and Atty. Anthony A. Centracchio, also a candidate for State Representative.

The Democratic and Republican designations for public offices in New York, as published last month, contained the following Italians among them:

Alexander Pisciotta, for County Judge in Kings County on the Republican ticket; Peter Spinelli, for Municipal Court Justice in Richmond County, also for the Republicans; for Congress, Francis D. Saitta and J. J. Lanzetta, Democrats; and James Virdone, E. S. Taliaferro and F. H. La Guardia, Republicans.



Mr. Vincent Brogna

(See "Societies")

it is the largest aggregation of Italian Republicans, has of late been spreading to most of the upper Eastern States.

INDEPENDENT ORDER SONS OF ITALY

THE Supreme Convention of the Independent Order Sons of Italy was held at the Half Moon Hotel in Coney Island this year on Sept. 3rd, 4th and 5th. Numerous delegates were present from many States, headed by their Grand Venerables. The Convention was presided over by the Supreme Master, Professor Vincenzo Titolo, assisted by the able Supreme Secretary, Mr. Giuseppe Caffiero. Among the active workers in the Convention were Mr. Joseph Gaudieri, Grand Venerable of Ohio, Mr. Angelo Ruffo, Grand Venerable of New Jersey, Mr. Rosario Ingargiola, Grand Venerable of the State of New York, and many other Grand and Supreme Officers. On September 4th a banquet was given at the Half Moon Hotel in honor of the delegates and the main address was delivered by Cav. Spatafora, the Italian Vice-Consul in New York, and among the other speakers were Prof. Titolo, Mr. Gaudieri, Judge Sabbatino and Mr. Ingargiola. At the opening of the Convention, telegrams were sent to President Hoover, Governor Roosevelt Premier Benito Mussolini and the King of Italy. The next National Convention will be held in 1934 at Columbus, Ohio.

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On September 4th, a new Lodge was initiated into the Order. The Lodge is known as "Rosa d'Italia, No. 451". The ceremony was conducted as part of the Supreme Convention of the Order and was presided over by the Grand Venerable of the State of New

For the State Senate, Michael Mariotta and M. F. Sassi, on the Republican slate; and for the Assembly, the Democrats named Thomas J. Relo, A. C. Agoglia, Jerome G. Ambro and Victor L. Anfuso, while the Republicans slated Rocco Bartilucci, Ernest Lappano, Anthony Blasi, Michael Carvaro, Anthony Stabile, Michael Grimaldi, T. A. De Bellis, Rinaldo Dadiano and A. S. Corina.

Designations filed by the Socialist Party included Rosario Rotolo for the State Senate from Kings County and, for Assembly, Dominick Lodato and D. Saudino from New York County.

Three noted Italian-Americans from New York had interviews with Premier Mussolini during a recent trip to Italy. They were Hon Edward Corsi, U. S. Commissioner of Immigration at Ellis Island, Almerindo Portofino, president of the Bank of Sicily Trust Company of New York, and Supreme Court Justice Salvatore Cotillo.

The convention last month in Brooklyn of the New York State section of the American Legion was featured, from an Italian's point of view, by the fact that Atty. Alex Pisciotta of Brooklyn, Vice-Commander of the Kings County American Legion, was chairman of the Parade Committee. Other representatives of Italian origin at the convention were Frederick de Figaniere, general treasurer of the Convention Committee, and Angelo John Cincotta, general secretary, and also president of the Long Island section.

Interviewed on his return from Italy not long ago, Commissioner of Immigration Edward Corsi was questioned as to his talk with Premier Mussolini. Concerning the policy of the Italian Premier with regard to the Americanization of Italians, Mr. Corsi said:

"The Premier said that while the policy of the Italian State is definitely established as to the relation of Italy with her subjects in northern Africa and in European countries, that same attitude does not hold with regard to Italians who have migrated to the United States.

"He further said that he regarded with sympathy the manner in which Italian immigrants were absorbed in American life, and that as the United States is so distant, the need for ties similar to those of Italian people of Europe does not exist. He expressed the hope, however, that Italians residing in America who became citizens would retain the traditional sympathy and interest which people generally hold for a fatherland. In the matter of Latin culture, the Premier was frank in saying that he hopes the culture of the fatherland will be carried into the New World."

Premier Mussolini was most anxious that the United States might better understand the hopes, aspirations and accomplishments of the Fascist regime, but found a greater lack of American interest in Italian affairs than that manifested several years ago, according to the Commissioner. Mussolini remarked, he said, that this was unfortunate because it was the

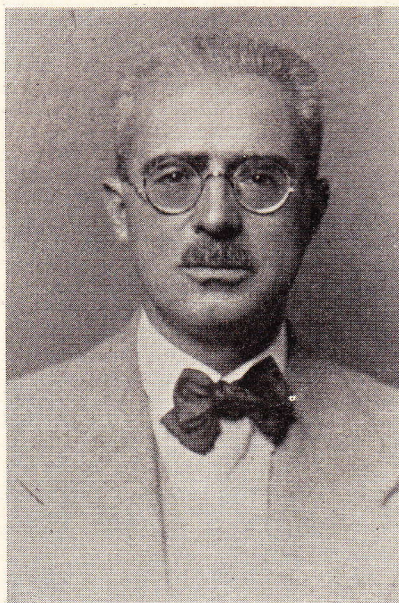
Premier's wish not to emphasize the doctrines of the Fascist program, but to present the practical results.

In the Department of State Building officially set aside for the occasion by the American Government, the Italian-Americans of Washington, D. C., under the auspices of the city's Italian societies, held a combined commemoration for Garibaldi and Washington last month. Cooperating was Congressman Bloom, in charge of the program was Dr. Manganaro, and among the speakers was Ambassador Nobile Giacomo de Martino, Atty. Strizzi, and Justice John J. Freschi of the New York Court of Special Sessions.

Dr. Nathaniel L. Barone of Jamestown, N. Y. has been appointed Municipal Physician by the local Board of Public Welfare for the remainder of the term of the former incumbent, who was forced to resign. Dr. Barone occupied the same office formerly.

Down in New Orleans, Charles V. Macaluso is a candidate for Justice of the Juvenile Court. Born and brought up in New Orleans, Mr. Macaluso has practiced law for 20 years, and for a time he was Assistant City Attorney for New Orleans.

It is worthy of note that when President Hoover was officially notified of his renomination not long ago, the National Republican Committee selected as the delegate from Rhode Island an Italian, Vincent Sorrentino.



Prof. Fabio Frassetto

Mr. Sorrentino is active in plans for the extension of the Columbian Republican League of New York into the State of Rhode Island.

OCCUPATIONAL

At the Third International Eugenics and Genetics Congress, held last August 21-24 at the Museum of Natural History, New York, and at Cornell University in Ithaca August 24-31, the Italian delegation, headed by Profes-

sor Corrado Gini, was the largest delegation of the 23 nations represented. Professor Gini was also one of the Congress's vice-presidents, and the delegation also included Professor Fabio Frassetto, Professor of Anthropology and Biometry at the University of Bologna and Director of its Institute of Anthropology, and Professor Carlo Jucci of the University of Sassari, who discussed at the congress the influence of the face as an indication of matrimonial attraction. Professor Gini presented the Italian point of view on the program of eugenics in the immediate future, and he later also spoke on the subject of eugenics and war.

Professor Fabio Frassetto, entrusted by the president of the congress with the organization of an international committee for the standardization of methods in anthropological and eugenic research, delivered an address in the nature of a report on the subject, based on replies received from nine countries in answer to a circular and questionnaire sent out by him. Only from such consultations, he said, could arise the unification of methods indispensable for the achievement of "the high end to which our scientific spirit leads; synthesis."

After pointing out the need for such standardization, and how it would go beyond bringing about order and system and pave the way for future improvement, Professor Frassetto in his address mentioned two ways of realizing this program, one proceeding by way of national organization, as suggested by the British, and Professor Frassetto's suggestion, more favored by the Congress, of achievement along individual lines, coordinated by a central international committee. When he came, in his report, to the section strongly advocating the universal acceptance of the metric system for all scientific measurements, he received considerable attention.

Professor Frassetto later read a second paper, "The Problem of Tuberculosis in Colored Races", based on 100 Ascari (Italian colored soldiers from Eritrea, Abyssinia and Libya) who are tuberculous or suffering from pulmonary affections and are under treatment in the Military Hospital of Tripoli.

An active member of many European academies and anthropological societies, Professor Frassetto was temporary attache at the Italian Embassy in Washington from 1918 to 1919 and Italian delegate to the International Congress for Child Welfare in 1919, as well as the official delegate from Italy to previous international Eugenics and Genetics Congresses.

A model of the new Italian superliner Rex, which sails from Genoa on September 27 for her initial voyage to New York, is being displayed in the Seventh Avenue Arcade of the Pennsylvania Station in New York.

The model is seventeen and a half feet long and shows in detail the many unusual features of the 54,000-ton ship.

Sweeping stretches of the open deck show where at least three full-sized tennis courts could be accommodated on the sports deck. A stern of this is the first-class tiled swimming pool, the

largest of its type on any ship, having an area of approximately 1,200 square feet and behind it, on the special class sports deck, one deck lower, another pool is shown for that class.

The stepping-down of the three decks forward, the observation bridge for passengers above the navigation bridge, the Lido-cafe-restaurant, the promenade deck and verandah suites, and the propeller driven lifeboats are some of the other features shown on the model.

The Rex, which also has the distinction of being the largest liner built since the World War, will start her sea trials from Genoa on September 1.

It is announced by the company that the big ship will be operated at a speed of twenty-seven knots although no maximum speed is given. She will cut two days off the running time from New York to Gibraltar and Naples and is expected to give close battle to the German Lloyd liners Bremen and Europa for the speed supremacy of the North Atlantic.

The Italian Barbers' Benevolent Society held a banquet not long ago at Coney Island in Brooklyn that was attended by over 300 guests, among them the pioneers of the organization: Giuseppe Susca, Giuseppe Mandese, Vincenzo Maiorino, Sabino Somma, Giuseppe Melchioma, Durante, Floriano Colangelo, Giuseppe Spada, Aristide Odierna, Domenico Ramunni, Prof. Giuseppe Sabbatino, Giuseppe Bozzella, G. B. Ranieri, Giuseppe Sottosanti, G. Salmaggi, Giuseppe Cerami etc. Chairman of the Committee and Toastmaster was Ippolito Rini, who introduced the speakers, among them Prof. G. Sabbatino, G. Bozzella, G. Ranieri, D. Ramunni, Miss Joanne Odierna, and the honorary president, Giuseppe Mandese, as well as Giuseppe Susca and Alberto Napoli, editor of the Society's bulletin: "The Modern Barber".

Among those who last month were awarded the Cross of Chevalier of the Crown of Italy were Dominick Iannarone, Grand Venerable of the Order Sons of Italy in California; Alessandro Solitano, clothing designer, of New York; Dr. Charles P. De Fuccio of Jersey City, N. J., one of the backers of the "Patronato Scolastico of Jersey City" and who helped bring about or augment the teaching of Italian in the city's schools; and four officers of the New York Police Department: Inspector Anthony Howe, Deputy Inspector John J. Griffith, Capt. Charles P. Mooney and Capt. Michael F. McDermott, for the service they extended to Foreign Minister Dino Grandi of Italy during the latter's visit here not many months ago.

F. Balestrieri of Scranton has recently opened up a new dentist's office in that town. He is a graduate of Temple University and a member of the Anatomical Society.

In Chicago not long ago, Dr. Morris Fishbein, editor of the "Journal of the American Medical Association" and "Hygeia", was awarded the insignia of Commander of the Crown of Italy for his services to Italian medicine and physicians.

E. J. Petrosemolio, Inc. of New York, importers of fine Italian products, such as La Perugina Chocolates, Salame Citteria, Magnesia Galeffi etc., have developed, it was recently learned, direct importation to a large degree, acting as intermediaries between buyer and seller. President of the company is Joseph Pergola.

The Order of the Purple Heart, awarded by the Department of War for meritorious service in the World War, was recently received by Patrolman Joseph Spina of Brooklyn, Michael Gaeta of Revere, Mass., Michael Di Pesa and George Di Pesa, brothers, of Revere, Mass., and Filippo Salvitti of Philadelphia.

The Di Tucci Bros. Refrigerator Co., Inc. of New York, capitalized at \$25,000 and with an excellent three-year record behind it, has made a good name for itself in competition with other firms in the field. Three in number, the Di Tucci brothers, besides their main office in New York, have a branch office in Long Island. They deal in the Mayflower refrigerator.

FINE ARTS

More than 20,000 persons attended the unveiling of a statue to Cardinal Gibbons in Washington, D. C., recently which was featured by a eulogy by President Hoover for the occasion. Donated by the Knights of Columbus, the statue was the work of Leo Lentelli, noted New York sculptor.

When Pasquale D'Angelo, Italian laborer and poet, died in Brooklyn last Spring, not enough money could be gotten together to give him a decent burial. Even the royalties from his book of poetry, "Son of Italy", published by an American firm, were too insignificant to be considered for that purpose. Now, however, through funds raised by school-children of Cooperstown, N. Y., a monument will be erected to his memory in St. John's Cemetery, Brooklyn. Appropriately enough, it will bear the simple inscription: "Pasquale D'Angelo, Son of Italy".

D'Angelo came to America, a humble immigrant like thousands of others. After working long, hard hours with pick and shovel, he studied English at night till he became proficient enough in its use to write poetry that came out in book form. For years he lived in South Brooklyn, and he died in a little room at 98 Sixteenth Street.

The Pasquale D'Angelo Society, a few months ago, established a D'Angelo prize to be awarded yearly to the student writing the best poetry.

Archimedes A. Giacomantonio, young sculptor of Jersey City, who studied under the great Italian sculptor Vincenzo Gemito, is at work on a 13-foot bronze female statue to surmount a granite shaft at Camp Dix, New Jersey.

A movement is afoot in Philadelphia, aided by the Italian Consul, Comm. Pio Margotti, to form an Italo-American Choral Society in that city. It is being promoted by Geremia Fabrizi, Cav. Antonino Scarduzio and

Ferdinando Tito-Manlio, and applications are being received at 410 S. 8th Street, Philadelphia.

Miss Jeannette Marie C. Di Paula of Baltimore, Md., the daughter of one of the pioneers of the Italian community in that city, has been appointed Assistant Superintendent of Music for the public schools of the city. Miss Di Paula, who has had a long period of musical erudition and preparation, is the sister of Atty. Charles C. Di Paula, who is at present filling the position of Assistant State's Attorney in Baltimore.

James Monroe Hewlett, architect and mural painter, who sails on September 20th for Rome, where he will assume the duties of resident director of the American Academy there, and Charles A. Platt, president of the Academy, were the guests of honor at a dinner recently given by the Architectural League of New York at its clubhouse. Mr. Hewlett, a former president of the Architectural League of New York; plans to pass three years as director of the Academy. He succeeds Gorham Stevens, who has held the post for 18 years.

Directed by Maestro Alfredo Salmaggi, the opera "Aida", presented at Chicago's Soldiers' Field last month, attracted more than 35,000 persons.

Miss Gina Pinnera, soprano, was the soloist recently at the last of a series of orchestral programs given by the New York Orchestra at the George Washington Stadium in New York.

RELIGION

The Italian Catholics of Newcastle, Pa. celebrated for one week last month the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Church of St. Vitus by Father N. De Mita, who is still at its head. Its parish, the largest in Newcastle, numbers 8000 persons and about 1500 families. After having been in this country about a year and a half, during which he moved about among the Italians in the mines, in the streets, and in the homes, and was probably the first Italian priest the Italians had seen since leaving their home land, Father De Mita succeeded in establishing 13 new churches in the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

From assistant pastor of Our Lady of Pompeii Church in Syracuse, N. Y., to pastor of St. Anthony's Church, Cortland, N. Y., is the change recently made by Rev. Carmine Monteleone. Born in New York City in 1903, he studied at Fordham and St. Bonaventure for his A. B. and M. A. respectively, later becoming ordained in 1929.

A banquet was recently held in Youngstown, Ohio, in honor of Rev. Vito Franco, on the occasion of his having received the Cross of Chevalier of the Crown of Italy. The committee was headed by E. Fiore.

A New York newspaper carried the following short dispatch under a White Plains date-line recently:

"A private philanthropic undertaking of the Rev. Joseph E. Rosa, pastor

(Continued on Page 288)

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DISARMO GINEVRINO

di Italo Balbo

SUI risultati ufficiali della Conferenza di Ginevra è inutile insistere. Quantunque non si possa dire che la prosa della risoluzione Benes ecceda in chiarezza, tuttavia il mondo ha avuto una generale impressione di inconcludenza. Gli accordi generici, velati da formule equivoche e mascherate di un umanesimo da enciclopedia popolare, hanno fatto credere che i sei mesi di tempo e i molti milioni impegnati sul Lago Lemano, da oltre sessanta Nazioni ivi rappresentate, non abbiano fruttato che una colossale presa in giro degli spiriti candidi e in buona fede.

Purtroppo la grande canzonatura non è fine a se stessa. Include tra le pieghe del sorriso un tentativo abbastanza atroce di beffa. E bisogna avere il coraggio di dire, senza tanti complimenti, che i beffati avrebbero dovuto essere, in primissimo luogo, gli Italiani. In altri tempi, probabilmente la cosa non ci avrebbe fatto impressione, tanta era l'abitudine di portare a casa, all'indomani delle Conferenze Internazionali, oltre alla beffa, il danno. Ma non è proprio del temperamento fascista il gusto di questo genere di sport. Quantunque i tentativi si ripetano, essi sono destinati ormai a cadere, regolarmente, nel vuoto. La costanza, che le controparti europee mettono nell'iniziativa di danneggiare l'Italia, è forse esemplare: crediamo che non meno esemplare sia la coerenza nostra nel mandare a monte i loro piani.

Prima di tutto, se Voltaire rivivesse, difficilmente troverebbe in tutta la Penisola un "Candido" qualsiasi, disposto a prendere sul serio le iniziative universalistiche e umanitarie della Società delle Nazioni. Che cosa sia la macchina di Ginevra tutti ormai sanno. Qualunque decisione esca dalla Società delle Nazioni porta il segno e il marchio di fabbrica del gruppo Francia, Inghilterra, America. Non so chi paragonò il Consorzio ginevrino a una società anonima, dove è bensì vero che ogni azionista ha pieno diritto di votare come vuole e di criticare l'operato del Consiglio di amministrazione,

ma dove in sostanza prevalgono perennemente il parere e la volontà di coloro che detengono il pacchetto di maggioranza. L'America, in forma indiretta, la Francia e l'Inghilterra, in modo positivo e numericamente accettabile, dispongono dei due terzi dei delegati dell'assemblea. Qualunque sforzo eserciti un gruppo distinto dal loro, per mutare questo stato di cose, non potrà dunque che essere vano.

Il sistema si è perfezionato nella Conferenza del Disarmo. Date la delicatezza dei problemi che vi si dovevano trattare, la presenza di membri estranei alla Società, come la Russia, e la possibilità che l'improvviso insorgere del sentimento nazionale inducesse qualche cliente a un improvviso atto di ribellione, le tre Potenze dominanti hanno ecceduto in precauzioni. Le cariche del cosiddetto "Bureau" sono state distribuite a connazionali oppure a strumenti sicuri, ben provati nella decennale esperienza del dopoguerra: presidente, vice-presidenti, segretario, relatore sono creature della Francia o dell'Inghilterra: non vi figura un Italiano, un Tedesco o un Russo o un qualsiasi delegato sospettato di amicizia per qualche Potenza indipendente. Le sottocommissioni sono combinate alla stessa maniera, e, quantunque la loro importanza sia relativamente assai minore, funzionano a meraviglia, secondo gli ordini e i desideri che vengono dall'alto. Se qualche Italiano, o amico dell'Italia, qua e là vi compare, la sua azione è così controllata e neutralizzata da quelli che ogni sorpresa è impossibile.

Il blocco dei dominatori presenta dunque un fronte formidabile contro ai terzi, anche se nelle discussioni interne fra di loro non mancano le discrepanze o i dissidi. Del resto, la tecnica di Ginevra è arrivata a un tale grado di finezza che permette qualsiasi giuoco fittizio. Solo gli ingenui possono prendere sul serio le parti forti, che a turno si distribuiscono i rappresentanti delle tre Nazioni egemoniche. Si sa in anticipo che sono fuochi d'artificio, e che è già pronta nel

cassetto la formula di compromesso destinata a ristabilire immediatamente l'accordo che sembrava perito. Questa organizzazione ha funzionato in modo mirabile durante i sei mesi della Conferenza. Nè l'Italia, quantunque trattata apparentemente con ogni riguardo, vivamente applaudita allorchè le sue tesi non ferivano i sostanziali interessi concomitanti delle tre Potenze maggiori, ha potuto spostare alla fine di un millimetro le posizioni precostituite. Vi sono naturalmente delle sfumature, tra il metodo che adopera la Francia, o il sistema a cui tiene l'America. Nei riguardi dell'Italia, le reazioni di queste Potenze, nella simpatia come nell'ostilità, sono diverse. Per forza. Forse, prese una per una, fuori dell'ambiente ginevrino, nelle sfere libere delle competizioni politiche europee ed extra-europee, il loro modo di trattare l'Italia è agli antipodi. Ma a Ginevra le cose mutano. Qui vi è un minimo comun denominatore, che rende solidali per forza gli interessi delle tre Nazioni, e questo interesse minimo comune prevale su qualsiasi considerazione.

Incominciamo intanto col dire che, mentre l'Italia partita da una volontà schietta di disarmo, la Francia, l'Inghilterra e l'America non hanno alcuna intenzione di disarmare, o al massimo desiderano un disarmo relativo, tale cioè da rafforzare le loro posizioni singole e da indebolire le posizioni degli altri.

Prima ancora di giungere alla Conferenza, in vista di possibili riduzioni, Inghilterra e America hanno aumentato i loro armamenti di mare, e la Francia, in proporzione naturalmente maggiore, ha potenziato i suoi armamenti terrestri. Nessuno si dimenticato lo storno dei sette miliardi, misteriosamente scomparsi dalla contabilità espressa nei bilanci dello Stato, e finiti, come ognuno sa, nello sviluppo delle fortificazioni francesi dell'est e del sud. Il congegno dei bilanci militari di Francia è combinato in maniera da permettere qualsiasi straordinario impegno finanziario, sia inserendolo nei capitoli di altri bilanci, sia mascherandolo nei cosiddetti "credits d'engagements". L'aviazione francese ne sa qualche cosa.

La premessa della Conferenza del Disarmo è stata dunque una corsa più folle agli armamenti.

Si tendeva a rialzare il limite attuale, su cui avrebbe dovuto incidere l'azione, vera o fittizia, dei disarmatori di Ginevra.

Ebbene, nonostante tutte queste premesse, il timore di incorrere negli imprevisti di un disarmo, che attenuasse anche minimamente le superiorità prestabilite, si rivelato a Ginevra in modo lampante. La prova maggiore sta nell'offensiva sviluppata contro l'aviazione, durante sei mesi di estenuanti, serrate e insidiosissime discussioni.

L'aviazione è l'arma dei poveri. Il prezzo che occorre per costruire una grande corazzata moderna, prezzo che ormai si avvicina al miliardo, è sufficiente per costruire una flotta aerea di duemila aeroplani, tale insomma da

dare già una garanzia di fermezza al Paese che la possiede.

Inoltre l'aviazione è l'arma dei giovani. Essa infatti fiorisce soprattutto nei Paesi dove vive la gioia per le belle e generose avventure, ove si è ancora in grado di gettare la vita per il trionfo di una causa ideale, dove insomma l'ardimento, la volontà di superarsi, la nobile emulazione prevalgono sopra qualsiasi ingordigia di lucro e qualsiasi servilismo mercenario.

Contro questo elemento spirituale di cui vive l'aviazione, orgoglio e speranza delle Nazioni, a cui la fortuna finanziaria non arride, si è accanito per sei mesi il cartello politico di Ginevra.

Alla fine, il progetto di risoluzione Benes ha scoperto una formula di compromesso, che, per essere ben compresa, deve essere integrata con le discussioni che sono avvenute nel seno delle singole Commissioni.

Allorché il progetto di risoluzione afferma che Alte Parti Contraenti si impegneranno a rinunciare ai bombardamenti aerei, qualora si possano determinare le **caratteristiche tecniche degli apparecchi e "a condizione che si addivenga a un accordo circa le misure che dovranno essere adottate per rendere effettiva l'osservanza di tale precauzione"**, si mira a fissare il tonnellaggio dei futuri apparecchi di bombardamento sul limite medio dei 2000 3000 chili, il che significherebbe la morte dell'aviazione italiana, che non può offendere con apparecchi di così piccolo tonnellaggio, e si presuppone un regime internazionale di aviazione civile. Questi infatti furono i postulati dai quali Francia e Inghilterra sono partite per discutere del disarmo aereo: questi i limiti ultimi a cui sono arrivate al termine del semestrale dibattito ginevrino.

L'Italia, come è noto, ha proposto, quale limite insuperabile, i 65 chili. Inoltre, si è opposta alla internazionalizzazione dell'aviazione civile.

Perché?

Si è parlato di una impuntatura sofistica, sostenuta al solo scopo di sabotare il disarmo aereo. Nulla di più falso. Qui è in giuoco un interesse vitale per il nostro Paese. Se la Conferenza adotta il tonnellaggio dei 650 chili, e bensì vero che condanna a morte definitivamente tutta l'aviazione. Ma se si vuole abolire l'aviazione da bombardamento, non esistono altri espedienti. Qualsiasi apparecchio di tonnellaggio maggiore, è atto a portare bombe, anche il più piccolo velivolo da caccia, anche il più minuscolo aeroplano da turismo. Questa non è una opinione: un dato tecnico incontrovertibile.

D'altra parte, soltanto con apparecchi da 650 chili, l'aviazione francese e quella jugoslava potrebbero essere rese innocue nei nostri confronti. Bisogna pensare alle particolari condizioni geografiche della Penisola italiana, tutta allungata nel mare Mediterraneo, accessibile al nord per via aerea nei suoi punti delicati e vitali (Genova, Torino, Milano, Venezia), e raggiungibile con un'ora di volo in tutta la sua lunghezza da una qualsiasi delle tante basi che la Francia e i suoi clienti possiedono nel nostro mare (Corsica, Tunisia, costa dalmata).

Se l'Italia avesse aderito alla tesi della maggioranza ginevrina, firmava con essa la sua resa a discrezione. Si trattava per ora soltanto di un principio generale. Ma l'importanza di questo principio non poteva sfuggire a chi aveva seguito l'ordine delle discussioni precedenti. Del resto le Potenze dominanti a Ginevra si servono di principii generali come di trappole che stringono sempre di più le loro reti, fino ad arrivare al punto del loro interesse. Di principio in principio, il terreno si stringe sempre di più, il campo della contesa si fa sempre più limitato, sempre più si completa la sfera del compromesso. Una volta accettato il principio generale, non è facile svincolarsi dalle sue condizioni. Chi tratta, deve tener presente questo pericolo e regolarsi in conseguenza. Ecco quanto hanno fatto i delegati italiani a Ginevra, negando ogni solidarietà al testo dello accordo che tradiva espressamente l'interesse italiano. Se l'Inghilterra, la Francia e l'America vorranno realmente accedere all'abolizione dell'aviazione da bombardamento, scendano al livello minimo dei 650 chili, e noi siamo pronti a firmare; ma siano nel contempo vietate le grosse artiglierie, le tanks, i sommergibili e le navi di linea.

Quanto al regime internazionale della aviazione civile, esso maschera malamente la volontà della Francia di porre le mani, attraverso la Società delle Nazioni, di cui condivide il dominio, sulla mirabile organizzazione tedesca. La Germania, per conto suo, ha risposto con un no reciso alla risoluzione Benes: il voto di astensione dell'Italia manifesta pure chiaramente quale è il nostro atteggiamento di fronte all'aggressivo egoismo francese, la cui maschera prende gli aspetti dell'umanitarismo e del disarmo.

Contro l'aviazione si è scatenata anche la battaglia dei piccoli Stati neutrali. E' curioso osservare certo carattere psicologico di questa opposizione. L'umanitarismo antiaeronautico espresso nel discorso, del resto eloquentissimo, di quell'insigne uomo di Stato che è l'on Motta, a nome di ben dodici piccole Potenze, si fonda tutto sul preconcetto della atrocità del bombardamento aereo. Non neghiamo che un bombardamento dall'alto produca stragi e lutti. Ma tutta la guerra è disumana. La pretesa di farne un episodio gentile dell'umana convivenza è assurda. Soltanto chi non ha esperienza di guerra, chi non conosce la terribile logica di distruzione e di annientamento del nemico che la guerra conduce all'estremo, uò sottillizzare sull'impiego di questa o di quell'arma. Se una distinzione potesse essere fatta, sarebbe tutta a vantaggio dell'aviazione, che, nel recente conflitto europeo, si è ispirata a principii di alta e quasi leggendaria cavalleria. Ma la guerra è la guerra. Nè, per quanto le si giri intorno, per quanto le si riducano i mezzi offensivi e difensivi, e si sostituiscano magari al fucile il bastone, vi è speranza che essa possa trascurare il maggior danno dell'avversario. Non bisogna prendere in giro i popoli facendo credere alla possibilità di **umanizzare la guerra!**

La parte aeronautica meritava questo indugio particolare, perchè, per sua disgrazia, è stata privilegiata a Ginevra, avendo ottenuto il più lungo esame e quella sola parte di conclusioni concrete che figurano nel progetto Benes.

Ma la beffa del disarmo con particolare riguardo all'Italia, sia pure in forma più attenuata e generica, si estende a tutti gli armamenti terrestri e navali. I principii da cui parte la proposta di riduzione degli effettivi dell'esercito si ispira al concetto che non bisogna tenere in alcun conto l'efficienza demografica delle singole Nazioni. Herriot si è lanciato contro l'imperialismo della massa. Chi non vede in questo atteggiamento un riferimento preciso alle particolari condizioni demografiche del nostro Paese, ove le nascite continuano ad essere in eccesso, mentre sono in permanente regresso in Francia?

Bisognerebbe poi fermarsi sulla ipocrisia di certe formule relative alle tanks, alle artiglierie navali e costiere, alle navi di linea e ai sommergibili. Per le artiglierie terrestri si è praticamente concluso con l'aumento dei calibri! Enorme! Si può dire, senza timore di sbagliare, che ogni qualvolta una certa qualità di armamenti stava a cuore particolarmente a una delle tre Potenze maggiori, risultava una formula nulla; parola d'ordine: **glissons**. Ogni volta invece che direttamente o indirettamente, nella atmosfera del relativo, nel luogo del compromesso, nella cabala del gergo diplomatico si poteva colpire l'Italia, la Germania, la Russia o qualche minore Potenza a loro legata, il cerchio tendeva a stringersi e le nuvole a trasformarsi in pioggia.

L'ambiente di Ginevra, come dicevamo in principio, è propizio alla cura dello snervamento. E' difficile che, senza sforzo e controllo continuo, una posizione di intransigenza resista alla lusinga dei contatti, dei complimenti, delle falsità che sono di rigore nelle cosiddette regole della cortesia diplomatica.

Bisogna invece avere il coraggio della impopolarità e della durezza, quel coraggio di cui da dieci anni dà prova la politica di Mussolini nel mondo.

E si può dire di più. Soltanto le maniere forti e schiette, le prese di posizione intransigenti possono assicurare un certo successo. Se alla votazione dei particolari del progetto di risoluzione Benes, contro la fittizia umanità precedente, si è riscontrato lo schieramento di qualche decina di astenuti, ciò si deve al deciso atteggiamento dell'Italia. Le cosiddette Alte Parti Contraenti dovranno tener nota e calcolo di questo precedente, se vogliono mantenere in vita quella mostruosa fabbrica delle illusioni e trappole per gli ingenui che si chiama Conferenza del Disarmo. Altrimenti l'Italia sa già quale è la via che le spetta: quella dell'uscita. Una volta tanto, non solo non sarà sola: ma determinerà un chiarimento indispensabile, nell'aria tediata dalle morbide nebbie che salgono su dal lago di Gian Giacomo.

IMPEDIAMO I NOSTRI FIGLI?

del Dott. James R. Lomauro

UN giudice di Jersey, uno dei più eminenti dirigenti della colonia Italo-Americana, concluse il suo eloquente discorso sull'americanismo dicendo: "Quale festa dovranno celebrare i miei figliuoli, il giorno di Colombo o la festa di S. Patrizio? Io ho sposato una Irlandese.

Perchè non festeggiare invece le feste Nazionali Americane?"

Quanti sono ancora gli Italiani che, dopo aver adottato questo paese come il proprio hanno ancora la mentalità di questo giurista?

Ciò non ostante, molti eccellenti Italo-Americani, malgrado la loro lunga residenza in questo paese, non hanno ancora fatto divorzio con le idee e i costumi e le abitudini importati dall'Italia dove pure vi è il detto "Fate a Roma come fanno i Romani."

Noi non abbiamo preconcetti contro i vecchi e ben stabiliti costumi Italiani nè pretendiamo che in Italia si praticino le nostre usanze. Sosteniamo soltanto che gli Italiani di questo paese che vogliono godere dei pieni diritti e dei privilegi della cittadinanza e della vita sociale Americana devono "Fare in America come fanno gli Americani".

Ciò non significa che devono abbandonare completamente le loro idee italiane ma non devono pretendere che i loro figliuoli, che hanno ricevuto una migliore educazione della loro e che sono vissuti in quest'ambiente, ignorino le abitudini americane e la sostituiscano con quelle straniere e provinciali della loro famiglia.

Forzandoli a far questo si commette una grave ingiustizia e si compromette il loro avvenire. Gli Italo-Americani di vecchia scuola non possono capire il conflitto spirituale che creano con questo nella mente e nel cuore dei loro eccellenti figliuoli che non possono capire il perchè di certe proibizioni delle loro famiglie.

Spesso l'ubbidienza è vinta dalla ribellione e segretamente disubbidiscono creando un abisso tra i loro genitori e loro stessi.

Il conflitto è ancora più grande per i loro figliuoli nati ed educati qui. I genitori si meravigliano e sono delusi quando vedono che i loro figli, raggiunto uno stato professionale escono dal loro controllo.

Nel giardino di Eden quando il Creatore diede Eva ad Adamo volle stabilire la sua autorità dicendo: "Non devi mangiare il frutto proibito" (questa è l'origine del 18.° Emendamento . . . proibizione). Proibizione e intemperanza sono due estremi in mezzo ai quali vi è il giusto mezzo che è quello della temperanza.

I genitori italiani chiudono molto gli occhi su quanto fanno i loro figli, ma

esercitano un tirannico controllo sopra le loro figliuole. Parecchie volte abbiamo sentito criticare i Dottori, Dentisti, Avvocati ed altri professionisti italiani che sposano ragazze "Americane". Questa critica non si limita ad individui ma è fatta spesso a tutta la nostra classe. L'educazione ricevuta, chiedono e l'americanismo portano dunque per conseguenza che giudicate una ragazza italiana non capace di essere la più adatta compagna della vostra vita? Perchè i professionisti non danno le loro preferenze a delle ragazze Italiane

L'arco di Cupido non ha un senso biografico di patriottismo e quando il fato o la provvidenza ordinano che una ragazza tedesca deve sposare un uomo svedese il dardo di Cupido ignora le speranze paterne e le proibizioni materne.

Questo non accade soltanto tra gli Italiani ma tra tutti i popoli dell'umana natura.

Osserviamo ora la vita delle fanciulle italiane e vediamo di chi è la colpa se i professionisti non sposano di frequente le ragazze connazionali. Che cosa accade quando un giovane italiano desidera invitare una sua compatriota ad un innocente cinematografo, all'o-

pera o al giuoco del foot-ball? E. in primo luogo, ha la ragazza Italiana il permesso di ricevere le visite nel salotto della sua casa? O deve ridursi a dare appuntamenti all'angolo di una strada od a un ballo?

Può questo stesso giovanotto visitare la sua amica più di tre volte senza che la ragazza subisca un'inchiesta da parte dei suoi parenti ed amici sulle intenzioni del giovane?

Se la giovane coppia decide di andar fuori per una passeggiata o al teatro o altrove possono uscire senza qualcuno che li accompagni? E perchè, dopo la proposta del matrimonio e durante il fidanzamento deve, il povero ragazzo, essere sorvegliato, pesato e misurato da una squadra di guardiani?

E per qual ragione, dopo avere seguite tutte queste formalità, la famiglia deve ancora immischiarsi in tutti gli affari personali della sua figliuola?

Un matrimonio è un affare di famiglia e la ragazza non può dire di sì senza avere interrogato non solo i genitori ma l'intera parentela.

Con tutte queste spine messe sul cammino di ogni ragazzo Italiano le ragazze nostre non hanno molta probabilità di successo. Ma le nostre connazionali dovrebbero ribellarsi contro le interferenze della loro famiglia e delle idee antiquate che sono anacronistiche in questo paese moderno.

Dio benedica le donne italiane: date loro delle occasioni. Che ne dite ragazze? Insegnate ai vostri genitori che a Roma devono fare come fanno i Romani e in America come gli Americani.

PADRE GIUSEPPE NERI

di Edoardo Marolla

SPESSE financo lo studioso di Storia Italo-Americana rimane stupefatto dalla frequenza con la quale i nomi italiani vengono ripetuti quasi in tutte le fasi della vita americana. Essi appaiono dai bollettini delle Università, dalle annotazioni del Congresso, dai libri dedicati allo sviluppo artistico, letterario e di cultura della nazione, dalla storia delle varie congregazioni religiose, e dalla storia generale della Chiesa Cattolica, dalle liste dei nostri grandi scienziati, e dai ruoli delle Armate americane, in ogni guerra in cui hanno partecipato, questi nomi sono una legione. In fatti non vi è campo della Storia americana in cui il nome italiano non abbia la sua parte di importanza. La gran parte di questi nomi consiste di preti, in particolar modo di Gesuiti, i quali possono essere definiti come i Fattori Italiani di una Nazione. Molti tra questi preti specialmente i pionieri, dei primi tempi, non espletarono le loro energie tra gli Italiani, bensì tra la popolazione Cattolica Americana. Nè essi si limitarono soltanto al lavoro religioso. Essi furono piuttosto gli scopritori, gli esploratori, i pionieri della religione, della letteratura, e della

scienza, nel senso vero della parola e la loro contribuzione costituisce un fattore importante non solo verso il miglioramento della Chiesa, ma verso lo sviluppo della nazione Americana. E fu con vera sorpresa di chi scrive allorchè leggendo uno schizzo di John A. Britton, "Fu un prete a dare la luce elettrica alla California", allorchè scopri che il nome del prete era quello sonante ed armonioso di un italiano e che egli era un Gesuita, Padre Giuseppe Neri, scienziato delle coste del Pacifico ed il primo Gesuita ad essere nominato responsabile dello sviluppo delle industrie elettriche del West e che diede a questa parte del paese per la prima volta la luce elettrica.

Padre Giuseppe Neri nacque nella storica città di Novara il 15 Gennaio del 1836. Vocato alla religione entrò il seminario della sua diocesi nativa e nel 1857 dimandò il permesso di iscriversi alla Compagnia di Gesù. Egli era forte e resistente ed una eccezionale abilità continuando i suoi studi per lunghissime ore.

Il nuovo Mondo aveva bisogno di uomini di simil tipo, e dopo breve stasi nell'Ordine il giovane prete venne

mandato in America. Egli completò il suo Noviziato a Frederick, Maryland e di là fu traslocato nel West dove l'Arcivescovo Aleman lo ordinò nel 1861 nella cattedrale di Santa Maria in San Francisco, primo Gesuita in quell'epoca ad essere ordinato in California.

I primi tre anni furono dedicati all'insegnamento delle Scienze presso l'Università di Santa Chiara. Più tardi insegnò Chimica Analitica e Mineralogia. Qualche tempo prima, Padre Maraschi, fondatore dell'università di San Francisco (allora collegio di Santo Ignazio) aveva acquistato da un Collegio cessato di San Francisco, un numero di strumenti da laboratorio, che erano ben adatti per gli esperimenti elettrici, e per la sua genialità tanto ben conosciuta, padre Neri fu trasferito a Santo Ignazio dove egli insegnò e si dedicò agli esperimenti. Il Signor Britton parlando di lui si esprime nei termini seguenti: Molto si è detto e scritto sui giorni dei pionieri della industria elettrica, delle scoperte fatte, e delle invenzioni perfezionate poco a poco che hanno portato l'elettricità allo stato quasi perfetto di oggi. Ma forse pochi sanno che oltre un mezzo secolo fa, nel Collegio di Sant'Ignazio, un Gesuita, il primo di quell'Ordine in California, studiava incessantemente l'invisibile forza, e riuscì in quell'epoca ad applicarla a diversi usi. "Nel 1896 egli aveva perfezionato un sistema di luce elettrica, che mise in uso nell'aula del Collegio di Sant'Ignazio a scopo di esposizione e di letture, usando la luce a carbone. Nel 1874 installò un riflettore nella torre del Collegio i cui raggi illuminavano la baia con molta sorpresa degli abitanti. Nel 1876, celebrandosi il Centenario della Repubblica, padre Neri accese tre lampade ad arco, di sua invenzione, le prime ad essere usate in California.

Durante i festeggiamenti egli diede tre conferenze alla settimana sull'èl'uso come luce e forza motrice. Una tricità, illustrando le possibilità degran folla assisteva le sue Conferenze ascoltando con attenzione, le sue invenzioni elettriche.

Citando ancora quanto dice il Signor Britton: "Facendo delle ricerche, Padre Neri usò prima delle grandi Batterie, poi delle macchine magnetiche ed infine la dinamo. Egli ebbe il primo motore a spazzola, la prima batteria e la prima macchina elettromagnetica in California.

Padre Neri faceva parte del Collegio di Sant'Ignazio quale professore di Fisica, Chimica analitica, Geologia e Mineralogia.

Si conserva tuttora presso il Collegio di Sant'Ignazio un documento sulla chiusura del ventesimo anno scolastico in cui alcuni studenti il 4 Giugno del 1876, conferirono sulla "Luce Elettrica". La conferenza era divisa in due parti: Il Fenomeno Luminoso dell'Elettricità e l'applicazione del Fenomeno elettrico luminoso alla Illuminazione Pratica. Nel 1899 la vista di Padre Neri si indebolì dovute alle lunghe fatiche degli esperimenti con l'arco elettrico. Ciò non pertanto egli continuò indefessamente fino a diventare completamente cieco. Purè egli si attaccò alla vita sino al 17 Novembre del 1919,

allorchè venne la fine. Nonostante sia vissuto nei tempi moderni. "E' così triste pensare che egli non potè vedere

con i propri occhi il rapido sviluppo del soggetto che egli amò, e di quanto esso sia andato oltre".

PROBLEMI DEL GIORNO

Visti dalla Stampa Italiana

I GIORNALI d'Italia, contrariamente a quelli americani, danno poca importanza agli scandali, alle storielle d'amore, a quelle cose insomma che vorrebbero essere facilmente lette. Il problema principale di cui essa giornalmente si occupa è quello che attualmente mette a prova i popoli di tutto il mondo. Nelle ultime settimane la stampa italiana si è largamente occupata, con un certo senso di disillusione, delle prime fasi sulla Conferenza del disarmo, e della dichiarazione del Senatore Borah, cercando, in un modo tutto suo, di vincolare i debiti di guerra al Disarmo, l'esito del trattato di Losanna, il cambiamento di Guardia ordinato da Mussolini, e le possibilità della guerra, ed infine la depressione.

Un interessante articolo su ciò che ha causato la depressione in America è stato inviato da New York, da Amerigo Ruggiero, alla "Stampa" di Torino, non molto tempo fa:

"Il periodo di aspettativa fiduciosa che accompagnò il primo svolgersi della crisi durò abbastanza a lungo. L'americano, ottimista per indole e per educazione, non perde facilmente l'ultima speranza, non si abbandona sconfitto all'apatia e allo sconforto. In fondo al suo animo persisteva la certezza matematica che un giorno o l'altro, improvvisamente, gli stabilimenti sarebbero stati riattivati col potente ritmo di prima, il denaro tornato a circolare a fiumi, la produzione avrebbe ripreso il dominio nella vita del Paese. I tempi cattivi sarebbero stati presto dimenticati e il popolo avrebbe riconquistato l'alto livello di vita che, per breve tempo, aveva dovuto abbandonare. Non era stato sempre così in America." Ed è a questa fiducia, secondo chi scrive, che noi dobbiamo la paziente sofferenza del popolo americano, per tre anni senza dare un cenno di rivolta.

"Ma quanto più questa procedeva lasciandosi al suo passaggio la desolazione, quanto più le aziende una dietro l'altra, spiravano colpite dal morbo, quanto più i licenziamenti toglievano alle famiglie fin l'ultimo sostenitore, un senso di sgomento cominciò a diffondersi in tutti gli strati sociali. Si entrò in quello stato che qui chiamano di "bewilderment", di stupore attonito che si prova di fronte a fenomeni di cui non s'intendono le cause. Si aveva la sensazione come se la terra mancasse sotto i piedi. E la gente con gli occhi sbarrati s'interrogava mutamente: ma che cosa succedeva? era la fine del mondo? Non si dava ancora la colpa a nessuno, nè si faceva strada l'idea di una catastrofe cosmica a cui l'America, per quanto ricca e potente, non poteva sottrarsi." E fecero seguito i terribili effetti della città: l'elemosina, il vagabondag-

gio. Le moltitudini, con o senza famiglia, si precipitavano verso le contrade, verso la terra, cercando almeno di trarne un tanto da potersi mantenere, da poter vivere, dimenticando le spese del carbone, del gas, dell'elettricità, del latte ecc. aspettando con rassegnazione che la tempesta passasse.

Questo ritorno verso la zolla costituisce uno, secondo chi scrive, tra i fenomeni di maggiore entità dell'America. "Sembrirebbe che mezzo secolo di ricchezza e di "comfort" diffusi in una larghissima parte della popolazione, avesse distrutto per sempre lo spirito pionieristico e il gusto della vita semplice e rude. Poteva apparire come se gli americani si fossero irrimediabilmente urbanizzati. La crisi ha contribuito a rivelare uno dei lati più ammirevoli del loro carattere. Essi sono capaci di scartare di botto gli agi artificiosi della vita cittadina e riprendere la via aspra e faticosa dei loro padri."

IL TRATTATO di Losanna fu accolto con grande soddisfazione dal "Mattino" di Napoli. Il suo direttore, Luigi Barzini, lo chiamò la fine di un incubo. "L'idea che nel corso del prossimo mezzo secolo, durante la vita di tre generazioni, la Germania pagasse ai paesi vincitori 108 miliardi di marchi oro (pari a 500 miliardi di lire) per le riparazioni, e che i paesi vincitori pagassero alla loro volta, nello stesso periodo, circa 300 miliardi di lire all'America, oltre a quasi cento miliardi per versamenti inter-europei, è la più delirante follia che potesse scaturire dalla febbre della guerra.

"Finalmente, la benda è caduta dagli occhi. Il 'colpo di spugna' è in atto. Ma ci voleva un cataclisma economico mondiale per arrivare a questo risveglio. Perchè, disgraziatamente, la rovina era la sola riprova inconfutabile dell'errore.

"La crisi mondiale è stata una tremenda convultrice. Ha persuaso, ha avvicinato, ha conciliato, come la tempesta rappacificata l'equipaggio in lite sulla nave in pericolo.

"Si è fatto il primo grande passo verso la ricostruzione, risolutamente. Siamo ancora assai lontani dall'aver risolto tutti i problemi internazionali più urgenti, ma si dissipa lo scetticismo sulla loro soluzione.

"La semplice fine delle riparazioni e l'attesa cancellazione dei debiti, che ne dovrebbe essere la logica conseguenza, oggi non bastano più a riparare i gravi danni creati dal ritardo. Per la ripresa dei commerci, da cui il vero risanamento dovrà venire, occorre un accordo monetario che stabilizzi le valute ed elimini paralizzanti oscilla-

zioni di cambi. E occorre un accordo doganale che abbatta gli ostacoli maggiori agli scambi internazionali."

IL "Giornale d'Italia" in Roma, ebbe a dire quanto segue sul recente discorso del Duce circa il posto di guerra nella vita moderna, ciò che ha causato uno sfavorevole commento all'estero:

"Si può concepire un programma e un'azione pratica di governo senza guerra per un decennio ed anche per una generazione, ma non può concepirsi la storia dell'umanità dell'avvenire, senza nuovi conflitti di razze, di continenti, di interessi, e di Stati. Non vi è suolo senza guerre.

"Alla fine di ogni guerra il nuovo ordine politico creato s'illuse di potersi stabilizzare per l'eternità.

"La storia umana ha sempre rovesciato con guerre improvvise questi tentativi di stasi.

"Se Mussolini parla dunque di guerra non significa che egli prepari la guerra.

"Per Mussolini la guerra è un fatto fondamentale della storia umana ed è fra le possibilità su cui devesi calcolare. Ecco tutto."

ALLORCHE' Mussolini riformò l'intero Gabinetto, non molto tempo fa, prendendo per sè stesso diversi dicasteri, si parlò all'estero circa il modo col quale le cose erano andate e che il Duce fosse pertanto poco soddisfatto dell'opera svolta. Non vi è alcuna verità in questo secondo il "Corriere dell Sera" di Milano che potremmo chiamare il "New York Times" Italiano. Sul racconto del cambiamento del Gabinetto, dice:

"Anche all'estero la notizia dei mutamenti avvenuti nel Governo fascista ha avuto pronta e rapida circolazione. Essa ha pure provocato numerosi commenti, che nella maggioranza dei giornali meglio informati si intonano alla verità dei fatti e a quanto già ieri hanno scritto i giornali italiani. A questo proposito il "Giornale d'Italia" rileva che non mancano però, in taluni giornali stranieri, le solite interpretazioni dettate dalla fantasia. Vi è già chi vorrebbe vedere nella riassunzione del Ministero degli Esteri da parte di Mussolini, il segno d'un mutamento nel corso della politica estera italiana. Tale supposizione tradisce per lo meno una completa ignoranza delle cose italiane. La politica fascista di ogni settore non è vincolata agli uomini e alle loro vicende, ma è derivazione del Governo fascista, il cui Capo e supremo regolatore non muta.

"Il **Giornale d'Italia** scrive al riguardo: 'Nel caso specifico della politica estera, ricordiamo ancora che dalla costituzione del Regime fascista — 1922 — e per lunghissimi anni, il Ministero degli Esteri fu retto personalmente da Mussolini, il quale ha formato, impostato e sviluppato con tutte le sue caratteristiche attuali la politica estera dell'Italia fascista. Il ministro Grandi, assumendo a sua volta la direzione degli Affari Esteri, che aveva già seguito, come sottosegretario nel Ministero, in quotidiana collaborazione con Mussolini, non ha cessato di mantenere, da fedele mini-

stro fascista, diretto e costante contatto col Capo del Governo, delle cui direttive è stato il preciso, attivo e intelligente interprete.

"Parlare di mutamenti di politica estera italiana o di una sua accentuazione in questo o in quel senso, in conseguenza del ritiro del ministro Grandi, significa dunque non comprendere nulla della sostanza della politica mussoliniana e fascista."

LE parole del Senatore Borah, per quanto non ufficialmente riconosciute qui, ebbero una profonda ripercussione all'Estero per aver appoggiato una conferenza che discuterebbe tra le tante cose, la guerra, e le tariffe e che gli Amministratori ufficiali non considerano saggia in tempi di elezioni. Per un certo tempo in Europa si ammirò la sua franchezza. L'Italia in particolar modo approvò l'idea di offrire ai popoli europei delle riduzioni.

In un articolo intitolato "Disarmare o pagare!", Giuseppe Marini, nel "Roma" di Napoli si è servito delle parole di Borah come una minaccia contro la Francia, nei termini seguenti:

"Non insistiamo sulle modalità della proposta del Borah, che va oltre quella di Hoover, perchè propone di ridurre non un terzo ma la metà degli armamenti in cambio della revisione o dell'annullamento dei debiti, nonchè di un proporzionato assorbimento delle esportazioni americane da parte dei diversi Stati europei; ma ci basi rivelare che solo il riconoscimento della interdipendenza anche fra debiti e armamenti, insieme con la soluzione degli altri problemi annessi, potrà condurre il mondo verso la ripresa, anche se la Francia non volesse, poichè, in questo caso, la Francia dovrebbe regolare in un modo diverso da quello col quale le altre Nazioni europee regolerebbero la questione

dei debiti con gli Stati Uniti; in un modo che è facile prevedere: pagare il suo debito, senza alcuna remissione, fino all'ultimo dollaro o franco che sia, non potendo essa sfuggire al dilemma americano o disarmare o pagare!"

DA parte sua, secondo la stampa, l'Italia non ha rammarico alcuno per la parte avuta nel voler portare a fine il Disarmo. Commentando sulla proposta Borah e collegandola al povero risultato sulla Conferenza del Disarmo, sulla quale si era tanto sperato, il "Messaggero" di Roma ha esposto l'onestà della coscienza italiana così:

"L'Italia non ha rimorsi. Ciò che essa poteva fare dal canto suo per la riuscita della Conferenza lo ha fatto, agendo in armonia con tutta la sua politica. Il piano che i nostri Delegati avevano presentato, era un piano organico e pratico. Il piano del Presidente Hoover era anche esso un piano organico e pratico e l'Italia non ha ritardato a dargli la sua adesione. Ciò è a dire che il nostro Paese, fedele al suo programma di cooperare in ogni modo a portare il problema del disarmo verso realistiche risoluzioni, sia prue iniziali, non si è irretito in nessuna formula. Ha negato la sua adesione soltanto a quella formula di Benes la quale costituiva, come abbiamo già avuto occasione di affermare ripetutamente, un atto di insincerità internazionale diretto a mascherare ai popoli la volontà negativa di concludere che usciva pur troppo illuminata dalla Conferenza di Ginevra e ad attenuare, se possibile, le loro delusioni. Le parole del senatore Borah possono dunque in Italia essere accolte con un compiacimento che non è velato da nessuna restrizione mentale perchè non si urta con nessun atteggiamento italiano."

LA NOSTRA LINGUA ITALIANA

di Domenico Lamonica

CHE l'italiano sia una lingua eminentemente romanza e superiore, è cosa assodata, e ripetutamente confermata; e questo è noto agli Italo-Americani, ed anche a quelli che avendo acquisito la tipica cultura americana, sono venuti alla innocente conclusione che il più grande contributo alla civiltà sia stato di origine americana, tralasciando completamente il minimo studio sul loro paese d'origine.

Il fatto intanto che l'italiano è considerato come una lingua culturale per eccellenza, una lingua ricca per tradizioni e per retaggio, ha alquanto offuscato le diverse e sobrie ragioni per le quali ogni Italo-Americano sia dell'età dell'high school, universitaria o post-universitaria dovrebbe intraprendere lo studio dell'italiano.

Per lo spirito della discussione assumiamo che il lettore appartenga a questa classe di Italo-Americani. Pro-

tabilmente sarà sulla o presso la ventina, e, da poco, finito la high school. Sarà stato un ginnasta o svolto le sue attività in qualche altro campo, studiando presso quella scuola, con risultati in un certo qual modo soddisfacenti. Ha acquistato in classe e fuori, e con le conversazioni tra i compagni e con le letture periodiche, una conoscenza della vita e dei costumi americani ed una idea generale della cultura, delle tradizioni e dei costumi dell'America del secolo ventesimo.

Questa penetrazione di idee americane sarà stata così continua che il lettore, assumiamo, non avrà mai pensato a mostrare la sua origine italiana. Non perchè egli non l'abbia creduta degna, ma solo perchè oltre la casa e la famiglia il suo interesse nelle cose italiane non è andato oltre. Difatti la sua casa gli sembra diversa da quella degli altri, ed il dialetto parlato

da fanciullo spesso gli ritorna alla mente ed assume una nuova importanza. Si accorgerà poco a poco che i suoi genitori non hanno dopo tutto delle idee tanto antiquate, anzi sono interessanti, ed incomincerà a capire che la sua terra di origine è stata veramente la colonna sostenitrice di cultura e di civiltà sin dall'età più remota. Così il lettore comincia ad assaporare una nuova vita ed è spinto ad addentrarsi nello studio della storia d'Italia. Poi è preso dallo studio della lingua e i tutto ciò che è italiano, fa mostra ella sua origine e si convince, in seguito, della grandezza del suo paese meravigliandosi, financo, come gli Italiani abbiano potuto far tanto in un paese così eterogeneo come l'America. Egli poi prende maggior interesse in tutto ciò che movimento italiano seguendo i professionisti, la politica, la vita pubblica ecc.

Un quarto movimento ha inizio quello cioè di voler circolare e vivere in mezzo agli italiani per farsi strada. Far parte di circoli e delle società ove molta gente si è già affermata e che sarà di aiuto al giovane pieno di speranze. Una considerazione intanto subentra nell'animo del lettore il quale avrà bisogno di una buona conoscenza

della lingua italiana prima di azzardarsi a circolare tra la società. In un primo momento rimane scoraggiato, scrolla le spalle e poi si contenta di farne senza. Si accorgerà pure che per quanto la moltitudine parli l'inglese tra i gruppi principali vi è soltanto chi parla la dolce e melodiosa lingua d'Italia e che per quanto i discorsi od i programmi possano essere pronunziati o scritti in inglese è necessario la perfetta conoscenza dell'italiano prima perchè egli è già italiano, secondo perchè per una persona colta ed elevata, è necessario, per farsi strada attraverso il ciclo delle amicizie italiane, parlarne la lingua con una certa padronanza. Il dover ricorrere per necessità, al dialetto non mette, di certo, in evidenza una cultura, anzi lo allontana di molto da quelle persone di cui potrebbe eventualmente aver bisogno.

I suoi connazionali potranno essergli di grande aiuto e facilitare la sua meta. Tragga vantaggio intanto dei passi già fatti da loro, e che non sprechi le sue energie per cercare di affermarsi individualmente. Si lasci dare un aiuto dai più anziani, ma prima di domandarlo è necessario che egli sappia la loro lingua, la sua lingua!

IL RAMO DI OLIVO OLIMPIONICO ITALIANO

di Matteo A. Melchiorre

ANCHE tra gli ammiratori delle Olimpiadi vi è stata una simpatica sorpresa vedendo l'Italia uscire seconda, precedendo tutte le nazioni tranne l'America. Dal 1928 al 1932 è saltata dal settimo al secondo posto.

Questo è dovuto al regime fascista che allena questi giovani ginnasti e li prepara per la vita, solidi e robusti. E sono soltanto i primi frutti, in seguito il raccolto sarà più bello. Vi sono oggi in Italia oltre due milioni di giovani che fanno parte di questa educazione fisica nazionale, cui si dà libero il campo di specializzarsi in quello in cui sono maggiormente versati.

La ragione per la quale esiste una così grande differenza tra i punti guadagnati dai contendenti non lo scorgiamo nel cercare di issare il tricolore nel campo di issare il tricolore hanno partecipato alle Olimpiadi in America, mentre l'Italia non ha dato alcun contingente. Nel futuro l'Italia iscriverà le donne per le corse, lancio del giavellotto, nuoto e salti, secondo quello che ha affermato Leandro Arpinati, Sotto-Segretario dell'interno e capo del comitato olimpionico.

Mentre Beccali non era stato considerato un corridore pericoloso tra i diversi contendenti pure non lo scorgiamo nel suo intento fisico di issare il tricolore d'Italia in segno di vittoria. La corsa di Beccali fu brillantemente eseguita superiore all'Inghilterra ed alla Finlandia. Per 24 anni questi due paesi alternandosi portavano a casa il trofeo della vittoria. Molti tra i contendenti erano così nervosi

che iniziarono prima che la pistola desse il segnale. Glen Cunningham degli Stati Uniti, Phil Edwards del Canada, e Cornes dell'Inghilterra guida-

vano il gruppo dei corridori e si avvicinavano al traguardo con baldanzosa sicurezza. Ma ecco che poco prima che si arrivasse al traguardo, un giovane bruno si stacca dall'ultimo gruppo, inizia la sua corsa, aumenta la velocità, passa i concorrenti, ne passa ancora, ancora, uno sforzo, un altro e spezza il traguardo senza dare un segno di emozione, senza mettere in evidenza il minimo sintomo di stanchezza, e risponde, alla folla che applaude.

Beccali ha segnato la prima vittoria italiana alle olimpiadi. Il giornale "Lavoro Fascista" ha elargito una pensione per il corridore e se non un impiego a vita. Ciò fa parte delle tradizioni ateniesi e della gratitudine mostrata verso i campioni di allora.

Nelle regate, per quanto l'Italia fosse tenuta in minima considerazione, nonostante, storicamente parlando, le prime gare ebbero inizio a Venezia, è arrivata seconda. L'America ha vinto i forti rematori italiani per una frazione di secondo.

Nel pugilato e nella corsa di 50 km. i risultati sono stati minimi in compenso però, altre vittorie hanno bilanciato il quadro. Quest'anno l'Italia ha mandato a Los Angeles una squadra di ginnasti ben formata e distribuita, nei diversi campi dello sport, con molta maestria, ginnastica, tiro a segno, scherma, lotta, salti, pugilato, remi. Nel nuoto siamo stati alquanto deboli. La squadra aveva soltanto due nuotatori Paolo Costoli e Nino Perentini.

Ma tutto questo si può per il momento tralasciare preparando i campioni per le olimpiadi del 1936 che avranno luogo a Berlino. Con l'educazione fisica che il governo fascista sa dare e l'abile preparazione l'Italia arriverà al grado di perfezione occupando il primo posto.

LA CHIESA NUOVA

Novella

di Alfredo Panzini

L'amico che mi venne incontro su la porta, disse con dolorosa sorpresa:

— Sei tutto bagnato.

— Accendi il fuoco, — risposi.

La fiamma poco dopo saliva alta sul focolare e illuminava la stanza dove la luce del giorno già declinava.

Quella è ancora la casa della buona gente di mare con mobili e suppellettili, quali potevano essere nell'età dell'ottocento: oleografie, vasi coi frutti di alabastro, un orologio che fa cucù e che la mano paterna caricava già diligentemente ogni sera.

Dissi all'amico:

— Si può viaggiare più dell'errabondo Ulisse, ma il cuore ritorna sempre alla terra dei padri, specie se la casa paterna è conservata, anche coi mobili di pessimo gusto.

Non si parli più di questo. Essendo letterati si parlò di lettere. Una circolare a stampa, arrivata fresca in

IN un giorno melanconico dell'anno, mi avviavo alla casa di un mio amico. Perchè le nubi correvano basse, avevo con me il prudente ombrello, ma nulla valse: il vento veniva di traverso dal mare e portava di volata la grande pioggia.

Non per questo affrettai il passo; frettolosi invece, davanti a me, diligevano uomini e donne. Portavano corone di sempreverde e di crisantemi; si avviavano verso tal luogo dove cipressi si contorcevano disperatamente. Fuori spumeggiava il mare.

La tempesta dei morti!

"Spaventoso paese logico! Distrugge corone, iconi, spezza divinità abbatte templi, fa molto sterminio."

Pensavo alla Russia.

Forse era quella tempesta furibonda che allora si abbatteva su le nostre rive d'occidente, che mi faceva pensare alla Russia.

giornata, diceva: "confidateci i vostri progetti e quando altro credete possa interessare ai nostri lettori."

Per fortuna in quel punto entrò un uomo che parve un personaggio da palcoscenico.

— Il fuoco? — disse meravigliando. — Nei paesi di mare, quando piove, questo ci vuole.

Si tolse il casco di cuoio, il cappotto stillante e incatramato. Non rimasero che una barba lionata e gli enormi stivali.

Era un signore festevole, ricco di amene storielle.

POI entrò un vecchio padron da barche. Parlò di pesca e di pesce che è assai grasso in autunno quando si spilla il vin nuovo. In ottanta anni di vita mai aveva bevuto acqua nè latte se non il latte della balia e l'acqua del mare, ma per disgrazia.

L'orologio fece cucù, una chiesa chiamò con l'ave-maria, un'altra chiesa rispose. Come una voce di piccoli bambini era rinchiusa nel bronzo di quelle antiche campane.

La pioggia era cessata, e qualche stella traluceva. Ma camminato che ebbi per qualche tempo, ecco la pioggia tornò ancora a scrosciare. La campagna era morta, solo un po' di luce trapelava dalla casetta di un lavoratore della terra.

Che ora poteva essere?

Certo non era ancora l'ora di notte, e mi parve la metà della notte. Questo lavoratore si chiama Carlin de la pipa, porta sempre inchiodato il cappello nella testa così che non si conosce il colore delle chiome. Quando si leva di bocca la pipa è brutto segno perché e' per bestemmiare. Lui se ne duole e dice che è per ignoranza; ma è uno sfogo, come c'e' lo sfogo per la pelle. Quando la sera fanno la veglia, e i vicini stanno presso il focolare, e le donne filano la rocca, lui sta sdraiato sopra un'antica cassa, di quelle nuziali; si che cassa e lui sopra assomigliano ad una tomba etrusca.

Entrando io qualche volta nella sua casa, lui non si scomoda, ma dice con sua cortesia alla moglie e ai figli:

— Portate la scranna, quella buona.

Le fabbrica lui le scranne con i tronchi più grossi delle fascine al tempo che la neve vieta i lavori dei campi; e non sono scranne per dame; e così fa le scope con la saggina.

A me dice: — Ci faccia compagnia.

Quella sera, accostandomi alla porta, non sentii rumore di voci se non un bisbiglio che cessava e rispondeva. Spinsi l'uscio. C'erano tutti, non i vicini.

Quella sera l'uomo non disse: "Portate la scranna. Ci faccia compagnia."

L'uomo era senza pipa, in piedi e col capo nudo, giù chiuso sopra la pietra del focolare.

Qualcosa di inusitato e solenne avveniva.

La sua donna si stava inginocchiata sopra una sedia, i due figli grandicelli in ginocchio sul pavimento. La corona del rosario pendeva dalle mani della figlia maggiore. Solo una bimetta di due anni andava sorpresa col nasino in su e come impaurita dal padre

alla madre, dalla madre ai fratelli per scuoterli da quella loro inusitata immobilità, inusitato atteggiamento, inusitato linguaggio. Quella gente, che non sa parlare l'italiano, ora parlava l'antichissima lingua dei padri: latino.

Mi accorsi che quella sera io ero un intruso e dissi: — Continuate.

— Adesso abbiamo finito, — disse la donna.

Presi da me la sedia e mi accorsi che pure la mia testa si era chinata come quella dell'uomo.

Non avevano finito.

La donna, che sempre avevo veduto obbediente all'uomo, ora guidava lei le preghiere con un non so che di sacerdotale.

SE il succedersi delle parole non era conforme al rito, la figliuola, — quella della corona, — corregeva con una sua voce argentina come squilla mattutina; e un po' per volta mi parve che avrei corretto anch'io, perchè la mente risaliva il corso degli anni, gli occhi rivedevano volti scarsi, sentivo l'accento di voci spente per sempre in una casa grande che già fu. Risentivo quelle parole come un ondeggiamento di culla.

— "Kirie, Kirie, eleison" — risuonò verso l'alto.

Che ne sapevano essi di queste parole rivolte verso l'Invisibile, l'Incomprendibile, l'Onnipotente?

Vogliono dire: "Signore, Signore abbi pietà di noi."

Ma che cosa importa sapere?

Una parola ripetuta con accento accorato drappeggiò di nero la stanza: "miserere." Poi si illuminò; "lux perpetua luceat eis." Poi raggiò uno splendore d'aurora: suonavano queste parole: "turris eburnea, jauna coeli, stella matutina."

Queste parole avevano una virtù di sollevazione; le povere mani della giovanetta che teneva la corona splendevano di non so quale purità. Parevano quelle parole genuine e monili levati da un'arca misteriosa.

Cessarono le parole come a rituale compiuto. Tutti si levarono in piedi, ripresero il consueto aspetto, il consueto linguaggio.

L'uomo allora disse a me come a sua escusazione: — Nelle città non usa più, ma nelle campagne usa ancora. Una volta all'anno, dei morti bisogna ben ricordarci.

— A quest'ora, — poi aggiunse, — di giugno, si legano ancora i covoni del grano.

Ma poi gli occhi di lui si fissarono su di un secchio dove erano immersi dei fiori. Erano poveri crisantemi di campagna.

La voce di lui mutò e diventò irosa: — La mia figliuola ha venduto ieri una covata di conigli per comperare questi fiori da fare ghirlanda da portare domani al camposanto, e hanno detto...

— Che cosa hanno detto?

— Non me lo faccia ripetere! Hanno detto: "Non state a comperare fiori. Quei soldi portateli per fare la chiesa nuova." Mi sono sentito un brivido giù per la schiena. Non si devono portare più fiori ai morti? Vogliono fare la chiesa nuova! Se adesso vado più in chiesa che mi venga un accidente.

Disse la donna:

— Non parlate così, che i figli vi sentono.

— Parlo bene così perchè mi sentano. Il padre sono io!

— Andate là, — diceva la donna, — che quando la chiesa nuova sarà fornita non vi faranno più male i denti.

E l'uomo alla donna:

— Che belle ragioni son queste! È il camposanto? Non vogliono fare anche il camposanto nuovo? E se a me mi comodasse di andare nel camposanto dei miei vecchi, voi cosa ci avete da dire? Va a mutare la casa ai colombi, va a rompere il nido alle rondini! Vedrai se ritornano più. Dico che bisogna pensare due volte prima di fare la chiesa nuova.

E non so perchè si rivolgeva a me.

PRESENTAZIONE D'UN GIOVANE ROMANZIERE ITALIANO

THE INDIFFERENT ONES. By Alberto Moravia. Translated by Aida Mastrangelo. 327 pages. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co. \$2.50.

Mariagrazia Ardengo era vedova e non voleva ammettere d'aver già vista la sua giovinezza. Presa dall'amore del suo amante non capiva nè vedeva che Leo Merumeci era già stanco di lei e che le stava accanto, non per amore, ma per il fascino sensuale che Carla, la figlia di Mariagrazia, crescendo, esercitava su di lui. Sia lei che suo fratello Michele erano presi da una di quelle terribili malattie dello spirito, da quell'apatia che suscita un senso di indifferenza per tutto ciò che ci circonda. La corrente della vita li trascinava indifferentemente verso le

diverse fasi, e tutti gli sforzi fatti da Michele per uscire da quell'apatia erano vani.

Questa è la situazione all'inizio degli "Indifferenti" uno tra i romanzi straordinari ad essere tradotto dall'italiano in questi ultimi anni. Un altro personaggio completa il quintetto intorno a cui la trama si svolge; Lisa, donna facile e di costumi liberi, già amante di Leo, ma che cerca di attirare Michele tra le sue reti con la sua arte vaga ed ingannevole. Michele vorrebbe seguirla, nonostante tutte le risorse femminili di Lisa, egli rimane indifferente, nè sa definitivamente allontanarsi da lei.

Carla, stanca di vivere nella sua casa decadente dove i famigliari si irritano scambievolmente, cerca una via di u-

scita. Alle insistenze di Leo, per quanto questi le sia poco gradevole, cede e lì a casa sua, dopo un primo rifiuto si dà a lui, sembrandole così di iniziare una nuova vita per la quale ella non ha avuto mai una sufficiente attrattiva.

Nè Carla nè Michele riescono a trarre dai loro amori quel che cercano. La naturale indifferenza di Michele, si sveglia, e soltanto dopo uno sforzo, allorchè Lisa gli dice che Carla è l'amante di Leo. Egli ha un momento di ribellione, si arma di una pistola ed esce per andare ad uccidere Leo. Durante il cammino egli pensa di averlo già ucciso ed assiste al suo processo. Appena gli è di fronte estraendo la rivoltella, gli tira. Si ricorda allora che non è stata caricata. In questo punto ed in tutto il libro Moravia ha un senso di verismo mordace e che tocca. Carla anzichè difendersi ammette le sue colpe in uno stato di torpore mentale:

"Sono stata io a darmi a lui, io l'ho fatto, capisc? per questa nuova vita... Ora invece mi accorgo che tutto è rimasto immutato... E' inutile tentare... rimaniamo così come siamo."

Questa indifferenza che consuma l'animo di Carla e di Michele, ed il contrasto delle loro emozioni, producono uno tra gli effetti più impressionanti del romanzo, mette in rilievo la maestria dell'autore, con la quale egli ha saputo penetrare ed analizzare le diverse emozioni.

* * *

Allorchè nel 1929 furono pubblicati "Gli Indifferenti" di Alberto Moravia, la critica si occupò largamente del suo contributo letterario. Furono stampate diverse edizioni e man mano lo si cominciò a paragonare a Pirandello e D'Annunzio. Quando la stampa seppe che l'autore, allora ventiduenne, aveva scritto il libro tra i diciassette ed i diciannove anni, rimase sbalordita, meravigliandosi come un giovane inesperto abbia potuto trasfondere tante emozioni ed esporle a tinte così forti e così vere da dare al suo realismo un impressionante spirito analitico.

E' doveroso a questo punto di aggiungere che la Signorina Mastrangelo ha tradotto in inglese questo romanzo impressionante, presentando al pubblico americano un giovane scrittore italiano, di cui, indubbiamente, udremo ancora. E' stata lei a convincere la casa editrice Dutton a pubblicare il libro, conoscendo da anni l'autore. Ella ha cercato di lasciare inalterato il realismo ed il materialismo del testo, ricorrendo spesso, a quel frasario Anglo-Sassone, che pur essendo poco elegante, riproduce la forza descrittiva e riflette accuratamente lo spirito e le sfumature dell'originale. Ciò, come era da prevedersi, ha suscitato la critica di coloro ignari del testo. Tranne in pochi passaggi, la Signorina Mastrangelo, ha prodotto una traduzione che mantiene il lettore sospeso, per il modo con il quale ella ha saputo mirabilmente tener cura dei dettagli.

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In breve, "Gli Indifferenti" suscitano l'interesse del lettore americano per il modo meraviglioso col quale i personaggi si muovono, che per quanto incredibilmente apatici ed indifferenti, sono di un verismo analitico e

penetrante. Sarà preso pure, e perchè non ammetterlo, dal continuo anfanare dei sensi, che in parte minima toglie al libro il merito artistico. Ciò ha reso oltre Atlantico noto un giovane scrittore che è stato nell'ambiente letterario moderno italiano, il personaggio del giorno.

Nella "Tribuna" di Roma Arnaldo Fratelli ha scritto:

"Ecco un romanzo vero, ammirabile

e ripugnante, intelligente ed insopportabile, cinico e morale, realistico oltre ogni realismo, disperato ansioso per una nuova fede."

Nel chiudere speriamo che gli editori americani vorranno maggiormente pubblicare ogni anno traduzioni dall'italiano, non solo dei maestri ma di quelli pure, come nel caso di Moravia, che incominciano a far luce nell'orizzonte letterario.

LA PIU' ANTICA BANCA DEL MONDO

SPETTA al Banco di Napoli la reputazione di essere la Banca più antica del mondo rimontando la sua esistenza sin dal 1539. Si avevano in quell'epoca altre banche, ed anche prima, ma con il tempo sono scomparse, mentre il Banco di Napoli si è sempre maggiormente esteso aumentando la sua fama e la sua forza.

Generalmente il tempo è uno tra gli elementi della solidità bancaria, ma allorchè una banca si regge per quattro secoli attraverso un movimento politico non indifferente ed attraverso tutte le peregrinazioni storiche subite è certo, non solo un indizio, ma una conferma di saggia, abile ed onesta amministrazione. Tale è lo stato, unico, in cui si trova il Banco di Napoli in Italia.

Oltre l'età, è doveroso citare che, tra le tante qualità del Banco di Napoli, non ha nè azione nè azionisti, costituendo così una istituzione bancaria unica, con un capitale patrimoniale, che per quanto in origine molto limitato, è aumentato di gran lunga. Non essendovi dividendi da pagare, gli utili annuali del Banco di Napoli vengono aggregati al capitale ed al fondo pensione degli impiegati. Questo fondo pensione ha raggiunto oggi la cifra di 61 milioni di Lire. Parte degli utili vien pure ripartita tra le diverse classi di beneficenze e di opere pie.

Il Banco di Napoli è nato da una combinazione di otto banche sorte nella città di Napoli, per volontà dei buoni cittadini, nel sedicesimo secolo. La prima, e quindi la più antica a sorgere fu il Banco o Monte di Pietà, nel 1539, allorchè il popolo era oppresso dall'usura, nonostante tutti gli editti emanati dal Vice-Re di Spagna, sotto il cui dominio trovavasi allora il Regno di Napoli.

Un signore di Napoli, spinto dal desiderio di liberare il popolo dall'usura e di mettere un termine alle proporzioni allarmanti che prendeva, pensò che il mezzo più efficace di qualsiasi editto, per porre fine a queste condizioni, sarebbe stato quello di far prestiti ai bisognosi a condizioni facili, evitando di ricorrere agli usurai. Con denari propri ed altri raccolti dal pubblico fu fondato il Pio Istituto, che più tardi chiamarono il Monte di Pietà, con lo scopo di accordare dei prestiti sino a dieci ducati contro un pegno, senza il pagamento dell'interesse, ed oltre quella cifra ad un tasso minimo.

Animate dalla necessità di cooperare con il Monte di Pietà negli estesi sforzi caritatevoli, cercando di arrivare ad altre pie mete come la liberazione dei prigionieri per debiti, quella degli schiavi, l'assistenza agli ospedali, nello spazio di pochi anni, nacquero altre sette istituzioni che seguirono lo stesso corso del Monte di Pietà.

CIRCONDATI e mantenuti dai più grandi favori e dalla più sincera fiducia, gli antichi Banchi ebbero vita solida e prospera sino alla fine del diciassettesimo secolo, allorchè il Capitale investito in prestiti gratuiti ammontava a 700,000 ducati (tre milioni di Lire circa), i depositi a cento milioni di lire ed i beni stabili a sessanta milioni, ciò veniva considerata una somma enorme.

Erano, in quell'epoca, all'apice del benessere, senonchè i Borboni, per finanziare le proprie guerre, attinsero generosamente dai forzieri dei Banchi. Gli sforzi fatti dalla Repubblica Partenopea e dagli stessi Borboni, per rimediare le condizioni create, furono vani. Le diverse istituzioni si fusero e vennero dichiarate filiali del Banco Nazionale di Napoli.

La nuova Banca sia sotto il Governo borbonico che francese, 1805, venne divisa in Banco o Cassa di Corte, per i servizi dello Stato, ed in Banco o Cassa dei privati per favorire il pubblico.

La fusione con le diverse banche aumentò la potenza del Banco Nazionale di Napoli, che per ragioni pratiche si divise in due parti, una delle quali espletava le sue mansioni nel Continente sotto il nome di Banco Regio di Napoli. In seguito avendo acquistato un'autonomia, con l'Unificazione d'Italia, si chiamò il Banco di Napoli.

Il 17 Novembre del 1860, allorchè Vittorio Emanuele II entrò in Napoli, allora Capitale delle Due Sicilie, notò che il popolo non aveva una sufficiente preparazione mentale e spirituale. Una settimana dopo egli inviò una lettera con 200 mila lire al Tenente Generale Farini, esprimendo il desiderio di voler sollevare le condizioni morali del popolo. Cinque giorni dopo il Tenente Generale Farini istituì un decreto aprendo una Cassa di risparmio con una somma iniziale di 80 mila lire, parte del dono del Sovrano. Due anni dopo la Cassa di Risparmio ebbe il suo primo e forte sviluppo e la si chiamò Cassa di Risparmio Vittorio

Emanuele. In seguito la Cassa di Risparmio fu annessa al Banco di Napoli, per quanto sempre indipendente, sotto il nome di Cassa di Risparmio del Banco di Napoli.

DOPO l'unificazione d'Italia le diverse banche di emissione furono abolite concentrando l'emissione su tre soltanto: Banca d'Italia, di Napoli e di Sicilia. Per diversi anni il Banco di Napoli costituiva il fattore di controllo delle condizioni economiche dell'Italia Meridionale. Durante le due ultime guerre quella della Tripolitania ed il conflitto mondiale il Banco di Napoli diede prova di una formidabile resistenza pecuniaria e non sentì mai il bisogno di avvalersi delle diverse moratorie allora permesse. Il Governo riconoscendo le attività del Banco permise di trasmettere i risparmi degli emigrati in Italia.

Questo costituisce un importante fattore portando il patrimonio economico del Banco di Napoli ad un miliardo e 300 milioni di Lire, e quello morale ad una cifra inestimabile.

Ogni Istituzione in ogni tempo varia a secondo il periodo che attraversa ed i fatti politici che avvengono. Con l'avvento del Fascismo il Banco di Napoli si è maggiormente consolidato avendo, con decreto del 23 Luglio 1923 emanato dal Governo, nominando il Banco di Napoli un Istituto autonomo di credito. Così il Banco sorto nel 1539 solido dopo tanti anni di vita, ripiglia il prestigio con l'avvento del Fascismo.

Nel Settembre del 1926, l'On. Frignani ne prese le redini. Egli che è anima e spirito fascista, un mutilato di guerra e profondo conoscitore delle condizioni economiche di ogni paese,

ha sin da quell'epoca, con fede e sicurezza, diretta l'Istituzione nei suoi diversi rami, fondendo le Casse di Risparmio, il Credito Agrario, il Credito Fondiario, ed il Servizio di rimesse degli emigrati, in un sol organo di Credito.

Nel Luglio del 1926 il Banco di Napoli aveva 75 filiali, oggi insieme alle Agenzie conta un numero di 165 ramificazioni. Oltre ad avere due agenzie negli Stati Uniti il Banco di Napoli ha due Istituzione affiliate, il Banco di Napoli Trust Co. of New York ed il Banco di Napoli Trust Co. di Chicago.

Il bilancio presentato al 31 Marzo 1932 porta un'attività di oltre nove miliardi di Lire. Ed oggi sotto la direzione del Direttore generale Giuseppe Frignani, è indubbiamente diventato il fattore formidabile dello sviluppo economico italiano.

THE ITALIANS IN THE UNITED STATES

(Continued from Page 278)

of the Roman Catholic Church of the Assumption here, was disclosed today. Throughout the summer he has provided board and lodging in the basement of his church for six homeless, unemployed men.

"This charity became known when Dominick Ciaccia, a World War veteran and one of the men living in the church basement, stepped on a nail and was brought to St. Agnes's Hospital for treatment."

The Italian Catholic Federation of California celebrated recently the addition of its 38th branch association, with headquarters at the Church of Saints Peter and Paul in San Francisco.

Rev. Cav. A. Garritano, rector of the Church of Christ King of Peace in Philadelphia, returned recently from a trip abroad which included Italy, France, England and the Eucharistic Congress at Dublin.

EDUCATION & CULTURE

The Institute of International Education recently announced its confirmation of appointments for study in various fields in European countries. Those for Italy are as follows:

Italy — John C. Adams, of Evanston, Ill., for study in modern Italian history at the University of Florence; Adeline K. Pardini, of Grass Valley, Calif., for study in Italian literature and philosophy at the University of Florence.

These appointments are in addition to the institute's regular fellowships already announced for study abroad under the organization's various student exchanges.

Professor Giuseppe Prezzolini has written a book: "Come gli Americani scoprirono l'Italia (1750-1850)," which deals with the memoirs, papers, and correspondence of Americans in Italy during the course of a century. It will be published by the Casa Italiana of Columbia University, of which he is director, in 1933.

Dr. Henry Suzzalo, president of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, announces the forthcoming appearance of the National Encyclopedia, a completely new work produced under his editorship with the assistance of a large staff of prominent educators. The encyclopedia is in ten volumes, and is designed to provide the general reader with an authoritative and not too bulky reference work. The publication offices are at 250 Park Avenue, New York City.

At the Modern Language Meeting of the New England Association, held not long ago at Boston, Professor Alfonso De Salvio of Brown University, who presided over the Italian section, was made President of the Association for the year 1932-33.

Awards of state scholarships to discharged soldiers, sailors, marines, nurses and their children, were announced recently by the State Department of Education of New York. Each scholarship entitles the holder to \$100 yearly tuition at any university in the state. Among those to have received it were Mazzini S. Lapolla of Bronx County, Joseph Ragusa of Kings County, and Jordan B. La Guardia of Queens County.

Professor G. A. Borgese, of the University of Milan, last year Lecturer in Italian Culture at the University of California, will teach this year at Smith College, where he will give a course on the History of Criticism, and also at New York University, where he will give a course on Italian Literature.

As announced recently, the list of appointments to the faculty of New York University for the coming academic year includes Hon. Edward Corsi in the School of Education, Professor G. A. Borgese in the Graduate School, Attilio Millici, instructor, and Ernani D'Angelo, assistant instructor, both in the Medical College.

Under the auspices of "The New Review" a committee of eight American and eight Italian writers, plus the editor of the magazine, Samuel Putnam, who will act as chairman, will annually choose the three books published in the United States, and the three published in Italy, which they shall deem the best of the year. The first vote, which will be taken in January, 1933, will consider books printed during the present calendar year.

Edmund M. Pilla of Brockton, Mass. has won a \$450 scholarship from Yale University, where he is now taking courses in literature and journalism. It is his third such award, the first having been from the Italian Scholarship Club, and the second having been won in a competition sponsored by the Connecticut Grand Lodge of the Order Sons of Italy in America.

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