

A BURNING QUESTION

Few persons, we are sure, realize the enormous annual life and property loss now prevailing in the United States. If the following statistics, which were recently brought to the attention of the writer, are correct, it is indeed an appalling condition and calls for sober thought and determined action to remedy it.

A human life is sacrificed every thirty minutes, an increase of forty-five per cent in ten years.

Fire destroys a building every thirty seconds, including an average daily of five schoolhouses, fifteen hotels, 206 farm buildings, one hospital, four warehouses, five churches and 931 dwellings.

Fire loss in this country in 1915 amounted to \$172,000,000. In 1932 it jumped to \$442,143,311, not including, of course, the incalculable losses from forest fires.

Those who are most conversant with this staggering situation know that careless smokers are responsible for an enormous share of this loss of the home, school, church, theater, hotel, aboard ship, in the factory or enjoying Nature's open spaces, one is subject to the menace of billions of fire-brands in the form of cigarettes, cigars, pipes and matches in the hands of persons who evidently care as little for the welfare, health and safety of others as they do for their own.

But, we must remember, America is the land of freedom, and there must be no infringement upon the rights of any individual to indulge himself in the universally-accepted tobacco habit. Do not cigaret-smokers alone contribute a thousand million dollars annually to the purchase of their favorite brands in this country, to say nothing about the many other millions of dollars for tobacco in other forms? Verily, we Americans are a thrifty, business-like people and TOLERANT!
—The Shield

—Free Methodist

A GIANT EVIL

One of the great modern evils that has already assumed giant proportions in this nation is the cigaret. Last year United States revenue taxes were paid on 111,763,441,149 cigarettes, this being an increase of about 8,000,000,000 over the year before. When we consider that there is a body-destroying poison in every one of these; and when we consider that there is a character-destroying poison in every one of these; and when we consider that multiplied thousands of young girls are among the chief consumers of this slow-but-sure-poisoning drug; and when we recall that thousands of little boys, hardly in their teens, are annually added to the list of smokers; it does seem that men who have become addicted to the habit would turn against it as they would a rattlesnake. Amen!—Alabama Christian Advocate.

"NEW DEAL" ACCIDENTS

We now have in hand statistics for eighteen of the largest cities in the United States, an area which represents about one-tenth of the population of the United States. During the last eighteen months of prohibition this area showed a decrease, per month, of 77.43 deaths; but during the eight months of 3.2 beer there was an increase of 42.25 deaths per month. But since December of 1933, the time of the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment, there has been an additional monthly increase of 110, and this took place out of automobile season. In the light of this fact what figures are we to expect for the past summer months, the season of automobile driving?—Christian Conservator.

WHERE THE MONEY GOES

For candy and ice-cream we Americans spend half as much as we do on the churches and church benevolences.

For personal adornment, just about what we give to religious work.

For recreation and travel, about half as much again.

For theaters, movies, races, dance halls and such like, half as much again.

For smokes, two and a half time what we spend on the church.

For drink—nobody knows; probably four times as much as religion gets.

And there you have it—candy, cosmetics, Cooks' tours, cinema, cigarettes, and "corn likker" get twelve dollars to Christianity's one.

Yet some people call this a Christian nation!

But we mustn't let the figures deceive us, as they so easily could.

Of the half-billion a year for the churches and their work, most is contributed by people who spend relatively little on the other items named.

The other people "can't afford to give to the church"; they have "so many other claims."

The church people can afford it; their very relationship to the church saves them from all sorts of expensive outlays in other directions.—Dan Brummitt, in Christian Advocate.

"SAFE IN HIS CARE"

You are secure in your dear Father's care;
He'll ever keep you from sin's evil snare;
Though angry billows around you may roll,
This trusty Guide watches over your soul.

He's always ready all sorrow to share;
Tenderly waiting each burden to bear;
Patiently waiting to take full control;
This trusty Guide watches over your soul.

He is unchangeable, tender and true,
His love is boundless and pure as the dew,
He never faileth when care-billows roll,
This trusty Guide watches over your soul.

ERMIN EDYTH MacVICAR
L'Etite, Char. Co., N. B.

JUST TO KNOW

Just to know that Thou art near,
Father of us all;
Just to know that Thou wilt hear
When in faith we call;
Just to know that every day
Is a brand new start;
Just to know that kindness
Is life's highest art.

Just to know that everywhere
Men are brave and true;
Just to know that happiness
Is the heart's full due;
Just to know that we may live
In Love's security;
Just to know these simple truths
Is enough for me.

—Vivian Yeiser Laramore

—Selected by Mr. Schuyler C. Page

We pass the path that each man trod
Is dim, or will be dim with weeds;
What frame is left for human deeds
In endless age? It rests with God.

—Tennyson

Not enjoyment, and not sorrow
Is our destined end or way,
But so to act, that each tomorrow
Finds us farther than today.

—H. W. Longfellow

LUTHERANS FROWN ON MONEY
MADE BY BAZAARS

"A search of the Scriptures certainly will not reveal a single phrase in support of any commercial method of supporting the religion of Jesus Christ," said a committee of the United Lutheran Synod, of New York, in condemning card parties, dancing, games of chance, church suppers, and bazaars as a means of raising money for churches. "Those responsible for this action had no intention of entering upon the question of the morality of card playing or any other form of amusement, which, according to Lutheran usages, is a matter left to the individual conscience of every Christian." The committee adds: "For a congregation exempt from taxation on its property without a license from the Sanitary Department or a license from the city to give a supper is certainly unfair competition with the restaurants who are paying taxes on their property. It is no wonder that the communistic element despises the Christian Church for its unethical methods."—T. Otto Nall in The Christian Advocate.

NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL FACTS

Accidents in the United States in 1934 caused 101,000 deaths.

Home fatalities are estimated at 34,500. Falls are the commonest form of fatal home accidents.

Among persons age 65 or over more than three-fourths of all home fatalities result from falls.

Motor vehicle accidents caused 36,000 deaths, 105,000 permanent disabilities.

The cost of these accidents is estimated at \$1,580,000,000.

In cities two-thirds of motor vehicle deaths were of pedestrians. In towns and rural areas two-thirds were drivers and passengers.

In scheduled air transport the death rate was 0.8 per 1,000,000 plane-miles.

THAT GREAT AND SOLEMN WORD

A lady returning to her home after an afternoon and evening spent playing cards glanced at the page of a book that her pious maid was reading, where she saw the word "Eternity." God's spirit attached the word to her attention with such awakening power that she could not sleep, but spent the remainder of the night sighing and weeping. When the maid urged her to explain, she said, "O, it is one word I saw in your book that troubles me. There I saw the word 'Eternity.' How happy should I be if I were prepared for eternity!" This incident led her to seek earnestly the salvation that alone fits us for eternity—Wesleyan Methodist.

A REMINDER OF ETERNITY

It is said that there is a parish in Savoy that has the following wall motto in every house:

"A God, a moment, an eternity;
A God who sees thee;
A moment which flies from thee;
An eternity which awaits thee;
A God whom you serve so ill;
A moment of which you so little profit;
An eternity which you hazard so rashly."

—Wesleyan Methodist