

workers in them. Be- groups associated in a se there is no room for of outsiders, however ficious. Neither states- r. Baldwin and Mr. r violent agitators like Mr. Mr. Herbert Smith are re- for are conferences in which t interests will be hidden t mist of politics.

mine-owners, by keeping closely eadily to the economic issue, are g good service to the nation and to those who live by labour. For they d firmly against that sort of " com- ise " which would bring a tem- y coal peace by making coal anently dear, thereby lessening the ne of our export trade and increas- employment. The genuine com- se, a true industrial and economic in, can be arranged in the districts, here it will be reached if the ction is not obstructed by over- politicians and unprincipled ogues.

SEPTEMBER IN THE COUNTRY.

abit of taking annual holidays a September has been growing years, and there is much to be s favour. For September is, as e of the driest of months as it y one of the most beautiful so country is concerned.

ays as we have been having hen the heat of the summer is ered by the first breath of ave a quality all their own, rcarely be matched in the dar of our weather. And the ber air has a sparkle about infinitely refreshing after air of August.

on the fields, wherever one a mellow appearance as eat purpose of the year lled and Nature herself he first colours of autumn to give a glowing aspect try scene, and though gradually shortening

a still with us and long n are still a delight. e who have worked all mmer in expectation of a day are now reaping the r patience.

and Society.

t Wales, who is going north a short visit to the King and oral, has promised to attend ner of the Royal Society of ts., of which he is an Honorary mter 23, and will present the l for architecture to Ragnar dfect of the new town hall at

ady Chamberlain arrived from Geneva with their iberlain, and have joined t, M.P., on his yacht cruise in the Mediter-

ison, who received the -daughter, Lady Apsley, ul gillies' ball on Wed- vercauld House, where appropriately decorated ken. Lord Carnegie e came over from hours and mem- t included Mr. and Miss Joy ooper, Lady y, Colonel

NONSENSE ABOUT ALCOHOL.

WINES AS A CAUSE OF GOUT.

By J. ELLIS BARKER.

The advocates of Prohibition tell us that alcohol is responsible for many diseases, among them gout. Indeed, many medical books contain the statement that gout is unknown in those countries in which no alcohol is consumed.

Although I am practically a teetotaler, I must question that statement. Alcohol as a scientific term is an abstraction. People do not drink "alcohol," but wine, beer, spirits, cider, and ginger beer, all of which contain alcohol. Besides, they eat flour, sugar, and so on, which are supposed to be converted into alcohol in our insides.

The food chemists have taught us that wine, beer, and spirits contain certain percentages of alcohol, and that alcohol is bad for our health, according to experiments made largely with chemical alcohol on animals and on human beings.

A little science is a dangerous thing. For decades the food chemists taught us that we required for sustenance certain quantities of protein, carbohydrates, and fat, salt, and water. They analysed all our foodstuffs, and they taught us that greenstuff was of little value. The residue of the various foods analysed was contemptuously described as "ash." Recently we have learned that the despised "ash" contains invaluable mineral elements, such as traces of iodine, which is indispensable for our health, and that greenstuff is rich in vitamins, which are vitally important to us. These facts were discovered only when Sir Frederick Gowland Hopkins tried to feed animals on a scientific diet consisting of pure protein and so on. The unfortunate animals died rapidly.

Exactly as it was a mistake to tell us that food consists of protein and some other chemical abstractions, it seems a mistake to tell us that the evil done by the unwise consumption of drink is due to alcohol. There is a good deal of gout among beer-drinkers and wine-drinkers, but very little among spirit-drinkers, who consume frequently far more alcohol than those who take beer and wine. Gouty patients are often ordered spirits by their doctor, and cider is supposed to cure gout, although it contains a not inconsiderable quantity of alcohol.

The chemist possesses no instruments of precision. The best instruments of precision of his laboratory are his nose and tongue. By means of nose and tongue he discovers "traces" of these substances which remain hidden to his coarse and utterly insufficient professional implements. The superiority of nose and tongue over the primitive tools of the laboratory may be seen by the fact that business men employ wine-tasters, whisky-tasters, tea-tasters, butter-tasters, and cheese-tasters.

The chemist can tell us how much alcohol and tannin are to be found in alcoholic drink, but besides these there must be other substances which occur in infinitely small quantities and which are relatively as important for good or evil as are the mineral elements and the mysterious vitamins in our food.

The *British Medical Journal* of December 5, 1925, gave a short account of scientific tests made in France. By means of skin tests made on people suffering from gout it was found that red Burgundy gave a positive reaction and white Burgundy a negative reaction. Wines of the Médoc were found to be gout-creating, but St. Emilion, which is also a Médoc wine, was an exception.

The quality of food depends on the character of the soil on which it is grown, the character of the manure, and the strain of the plant itself. Similar influences are undoubtedly responsible for the widely differing effects of different wines. The ancient Greeks, who knew far more about dietetic treatment than we do, used a large number of wines for different medical purposes. It seems quite inadmissible to hold "alcohol" responsible for the evil effects of certain alcoholic drinks and to condemn them wholesale. Food chemistry is only in its infancy. The food chemists have misguided us for decades, to the injury of the race, by regulating our diet, and they may be as mistaken about our drink as they were about our food.

BIRDS I HAVE TO TROY.

By J. M. TURBET
The Phoenix

When bird-lovers in the coverts and up to the door the "wants" ignorant really de-

THE CHINE

By DAVIL

The Chinese Nation is to say, the forces of Government in Peking), units have been gradu-



A Chinese soldier of to-day.

European models in such that at Hanyang (which is the hands of the Bolshevik with a bewildering assortment of them quite unservice-

There is nothing unsound about the Cantonese Bo backed by Russian office Russian gold, have rear efficiency. At Whampoa sheviks have established a college which can t time, and from it they draw the supply of office various arsenals, which rifles but field and machine Chang Tso-jin, too, has knowledge of foreigner his service has established manufacture of a simple trench-mortar, with the

Other of these. Other of abilities have brought his standards and reorganat Nor does he lack foreign training. Geographer (who has executed contour maps of North would give much to graduating from the Vienna, an officer in, and afterwards was Wen, who directed transport arrangements strategic withdraws 1922, was trained at Sandhurst.

CLOTHES A

By HARTLE

Does the spirit of clothes?

The president of just launched the suggested that a d adventure from the our own times is decline from the Elizabethans to clothes.

It is a picture under examination sider the two raring Elizabeth. rainbow-suited Puritans who leather jerkins

If there is courage and t the palm must fighting again regard as a st. and yet victor.

The Elizabethan adventure across our Puritans was not the trade and be the

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