

Office:
Struve Str. 5, 1
Dresden A.
Telephone:
1788.

The Daily Record

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and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

THE FIRST DAILY PAPER IN ENGLISH PUBLISHED IN GERMANY.

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FROM A LIVING TOMB.

What is probably one of the most soul-harrowing communications ever given to the world is that recently published in a London journal from a correspondent signing himself "Lunatic." The letter in question is dated from "Asylum," and bears convincing marks of genuineness. From his communication it appears that the writer has become impressed with the discussion, inaugurated by Lord Rosebery, as to the desirability or otherwise of allowing the inmates of lunatic asylums to parade the public roads and streets, and this inmate now presents the case from the point of view of the person on the wrong side of the asylum fence. According to his own testimony, this unfortunate individual is a sufferer from recurrent mania. He is only attacked by the malady at long intervals, and for months at a time he is capable of employing himself usefully and of enjoying what pleasures may fall to the lot of a man who has been deprived of his dearest possession—liberty. Is the great mass of public, he pertinently asks, aware of what constitutes the daily life of the certified pauper lunatic? Do they realise what it means to eat, sleep, bathe, and take exercise under continuous supervision; to be unable to perform the slightest act except practically in the presence of an attendant; to breakfast at seven a.m. on six ounces of bread and margarine and a pint of hot coffee, after which, at nine a.m., the unfortunates are counted into the yard like a flock of sheep, where for three hours it is their blessed privilege to walk round and round an asphalt path enclosed by a seven-foot iron fence? For the rest let this weird correspondent continue the dreary tale in his own simple words: "Soon after midday we are counted back into the wards for dinner. Dinner! Do you fully appreciate the significance of an invitation to dine to the man who breakfasted on bread and margarine five hours ago? To dine upon contract mutton, with the aid of a madhouse knife—a blunt piece of polished iron, which is powerless against anything but well-mashed potatoes. It seems trivial to mention this knife, perhaps, but the thing has become part of my daily life. We remain seated for half an hour—twenty minutes longer than is necessary—to clear the plates, "knife" notwithstanding. Then "grace," "boots on!" and airing court for another two hours. Tea and bread and margarine at five p.m., the last meal of the day. I usually play chess with another lunatic for an hour during the evening. Then to bed at seven p.m. We undress in the presence of the attendant; we are searched by him before entering our bedrooms; we retire to rest under his supervision, and when in bed we are again counted, and handed over to the night attendant, to sleep under his observation until six a.m."

Such is the routine life of ninety per cent. of those who inhabit the great English asylums. Life, indeed, inappropriately terms such an existence, the frightful monotony of which is broken only by a weekly dance, a dramatic entertainment or concert, and, finally, there is an occasional country walk for those among the unfortunates whom the doctor considers mentally able to appreciate it. Even these brief excursions are likely to be discontinued owing to the protests raised by people living in the vicinity. Thus the only occasions on which the hapless madman is quite free from the restraint of bars and bolts, and the sole opportunities he has of coming in contact with normal social life, are threatened with

Madonna and Child

Oil painting, epoch 1560 to 1580.

An elderly English lady living at 12, II. rechts, Puersten Strasse, wishes to dispose of this valuable picture and a number of rare articles, privately, at very reduced prices.
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A photograph of the picture and a list of the articles are to be seen at the office of the **DAILY RECORD**.

suspension. It is the common practice to refer to the insane as "the mentally dead." This may hold true with regard to the hopelessly permanent maniac, but to the inmate afflicted with the recurrent species of madness the description is grossly misleading. The latter type is well able to keenly appreciate the delights of a country walk when free from the recurring periods of his affliction. It is not difficult to picture the impotent sufferings of a man, intelligent and educated, who by reason of Fate is smitten with occasional mania, and who, hastily incarcerated in an asylum, is condemned to spend his life amongst the mental outcasts of society. A hell on earth is surely an inadequate description of his situation. Small wonder at the elaborate precautions taken by the authorities to place out of the reach of such a man every means whereby he could seek freedom in the form of suicide. What is the remedy? Civilisation which has reached such a degree of perfection in our day is as powerless to propose one as was the barbarous system of the Dark Ages. The insane, says Society, are a menace to our safety, and must therefore be shut away, where they cannot disturb our peace of mind. An excusable and essentially human attitude, perhaps, but one nevertheless sadly inconsistent with the larger outlook that impels a man to say, "There, but for the grace of God, go I!"

GENERAL NEWS.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

London, November 23.

At today's sitting of the Upper House, Earl Roberts brought in a resolution affirming that the question of the defence of the country demanded the immediate attention of the Government with a view to the creation of an army which by its numbers and quality would restrain the most formidable Power from attempting a landing on the coast of England. The point, his Lordship said, to which his remarks would be directed was, whether an invasion was possible or not. Mr. Balfour's denial of the possibility of invasion was true with respect to France in 1905, but not with respect to Germany in 1908. Circumstances had changed and England could no longer feel that she was safe from invasion. There were always ships enough available in Germany for the transport of 200,000 men. Such a force could be quickly conveyed by railway to

the ports. Their embarkation and debarkation would not take so long as had been supposed. Neglect of ordinary precautions would render possible the rapid advance into the interior of a force sufficient to impose the most humiliating conditions. Germany had in the course of ten years created the most powerful fleet of all times next to that of England, and could by adopting appropriate measures make her North Sea harbours some of the best in the world. The best preventive to an invasion would be the existence of an army of citizen soldiers a million strong.

Lord Cromer, having referred briefly to a warning which he had previously uttered and which, he thought, recent events had shown to have been necessary, proceeded to say that Earl Roberts had asked for an authentic declaration on the subject, but he himself doubted whether at this moment such a declaration would be expedient. The recent declarations in the German Reichstag as to the feelings entertained in Germany with regard to England should be welcomed and reciprocated, but nevertheless Great Britain must maintain a sufficiently strong army and fleet.

The Earl of Crewe, on behalf of the Government, said he hoped the resolution would not cause misunderstandings outside the walls of the House; he deprecated its discussion and still more its adoption. There were two views as to invasion. One was that a boat's crew could not land on the coast of England; that view was not shared by any responsible person. The other view was the one represented by Earl Roberts, that for practical purposes England could no longer be considered as an island and must therefore adopt a continental system of defence. The Government was not of that opinion. All parties were, however, agreed that Great Britain must have an overwhelming fleet. Such a fleet would be maintained and if necessary strengthened, so as to ensure the defence of the coast.

After some remarks by the Earl of Cawdor, the Earl of Lansdowne, and Lord Milner, Earl Roberts' resolution was adopted by 74 votes against 32.

HOUSE OF COMMONS. THE TWO-POWER NAVAL STANDARD.

London, November 23.

Two members sitting on the Government side of the House, Mr. Macdonald and Mr. Murray, having asked the Prime Minister whether it was to be understood, from his recent statement as to the two-Power standard with ten per cent added, that he wished to extend the interpretation he had given earlier in the year of the two-Power standard so as to mean that the standard which Great Britain has to maintain is one that will ensure her supremacy over any possible combination of the Powers,

Mr. Asquith replied that in his view the sense and the effect of his two utterances referred to were the same.

Mr. Lee, Conservative member for Hampshire (Fareham), enquired whether the Prime Minister had meant by the words "the two next strongest Powers" the two next strongest Powers whichever and wherever they were.

Mr. Asquith answered: "Under present conditions and all conditions that can be foreseen, that is certainly my view." (Cheers.)

Mr. Macdonald hereupon asked whether he had considered every conceivable possible combination of Powers against England. Mr. Asquith said the

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