

of experience. International conferences are diplomatic in character. Now there never was a more penetrating remark with reference to diplomacy than that attributed to Metternich, that the greatest diplomacy is that which avoids triumphs. It is the kind that secures a point by getting the other party to make it. This is not all the art that underlies agreement; genuine coöperation and mutual confidence also play their rôle. It is impossible here to go into these matters in detail. As far as we are concerned, we have a tendency to make either one of two major mistakes, to treat a conference as though it were a mere commission, in which agents of governments exchange the contents of

their instructions, or on the other hand, if it be a conference of plenipotentiaries, to dominate by a strong statement of a powerful case. Meanwhile Europe is slowly learning another technique. Future historians may find that the schooling in the conference method which is going on at Geneva is a more important element in the safeguards of peace than the application of juristic methods at the Hague. In this procedure we have no share. But we should not on that account fail to reckon with it when we come to consider the future steps to be taken.

The slogan to outlaw war must not keep us from the day's work upon the instruments of peace.

GREEK DANCE

MARGARET TOD RITTER

Sappho is dead. Gods of her pagan faith,
The bright immortals, pass her broken lyre
From hand to hand. The mutilated strings
Fall in a rigid foam of golden wire

Making no sound, singing no song, unstrung
Forever and forever. She is dead.
Zeus, Artemis and Aphrodite come
To that dim spot where her last word was said.

And one has hyacinths to cover up
Her door-sill. One a moon wherewith to pave
The moonless street of her long night. And one
A wreath of girls to lay upon her grave.

TABLE TALK

AND now—divorce is outstripping marriage. Recent reports from the Census Bureau show that while marriage is increasing at the rate of 1.2 per cent, divorces are increasing 3.1 per cent.

But really now, is there any reason to be disturbed at these figures? Isn't divorce merely another natural phenomenon, one of the many parasitic evils that are constantly attacking a living organism—in this case, marriage? If the concept of marriage is tenable, healthy, it will survive. If it is weak, outworn and essentially *untrue* for this age, it will be destroyed in the struggle for social existence. Marriage can claim no exemption from evolutionary laws. Whether it survives or perishes depends wholly upon its power of adaptability to new conditions, the chief of which is the economic independence of the modern woman. But whether marriage stands or falls, it will be interesting to watch the imminent conflict—a conflict that can no more be prevented than the erosion of mountain peaks or the recurrence of the aurora borealis.



“AVIGATION,” the newest of air words, is the science of determining one's position in the air by means of the stars and sun. But more than that, it is a perfect example of flexibility in a living language. “Navigation of the air,” the obvious root of the new word, was cumbersome and unwieldy. So to speed up the notion, some one hyphenated the words into the handier compound “air-navigation.” Finally, some genius saw a legitimate new word concealed in the kernel of an old one, stripped away all superfluities, and “avigation” leaped forth to become a compact, philologically justifiable word for a new and very real thing.



AT the cost of five cents a day, all employees of the General Motors Corporation will have a two thousand dollar life-insurance and accident benefits of fifteen dollars a week. More than 200,000 workers are thus insured for a total of four billion dollars. The insurance is issued without medical examination, is extended to all employees without regard to age, and permits even those who are physically impaired to share in the benefits. The plan is coöperative; that is, the Corporation and the employee share in the payment of the premiums.

Good business. Good for the life-insurance company, the employer and the employee. Group insurance is something that benefits every one, and taxes no one unduly. It is a step nearer to the peaceful relation of those old cartoon antagonists Capital and Labor, who seem to be meeting oftener these days around the polished council table than in the deadly grapple of the strike.