

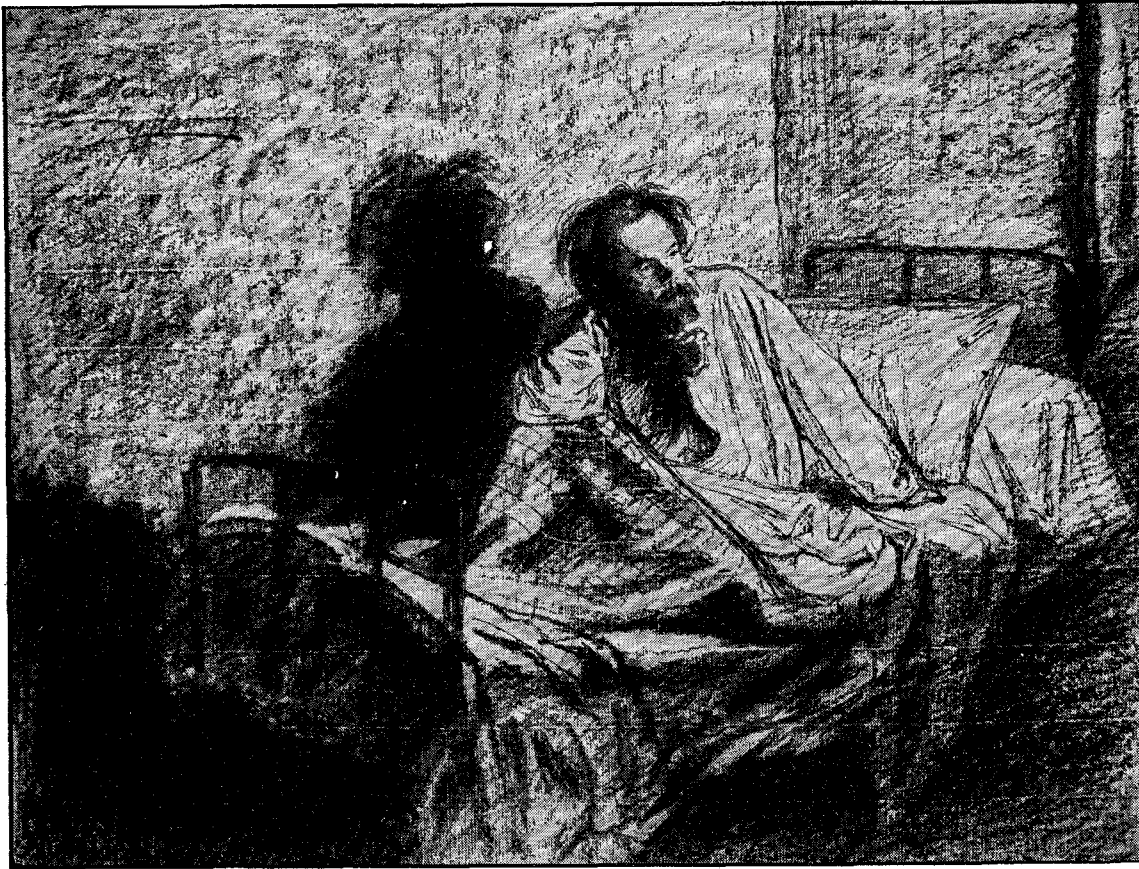
Portraits of



Courtesy of Dr. Thomas L. Bennett

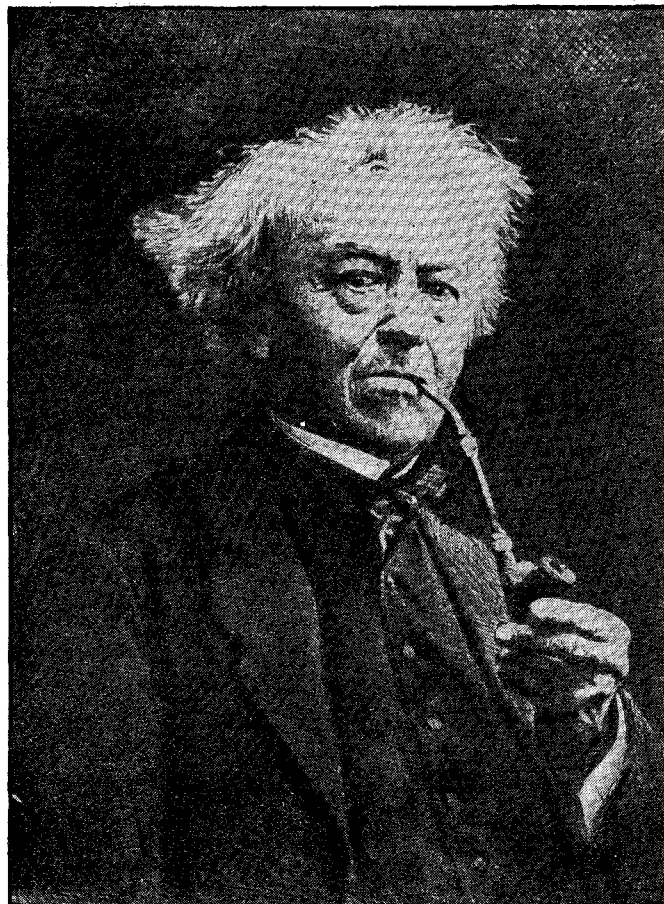
Anders Zorn and his wife, by himself

Print-Makers



Charles Meryon, by L. Flameng

Here are a few selections from the portraits of celebrated artists who have etched, engraved, or drawn on the lithographic stone, now on exhibition in the Print Gallery of the New York Public Library at Fifth Avenue and Forty-second Street. The portraits are exclusively "prints," in the form of etchings, lithographs, steel and copper engravings, etc. Many are self-portraits, others are by artists scarcely less distinguished than those who are depicted. Their arrangement by countries and periods gives a comprehensive view of many of the outstanding figures in the world of art during four centuries



J. B. C. Corot, by M. Desboutin

Mussolini, Dictator for the People

Special Correspondence to The Outlook from Rome

By CHARLES W. HOLMAN

MAY DAY in Italy this year passed without riot or bloodshed. Not a strike occurred; not even a Socialist demonstration. Italian citizens went about their business in their customary way. In Rome peace and somnolence reigned. That night gayly dressed natives and tourists mingled on the streets, occupying all the little street tables in front of the cafés. Toward midnight groups of young fellows with mandolins and guitars amused themselves by serenading the public in the Piazza del Popolo, the ancient scene of popular gatherings.

Two years ago it was different. Sullen crowds gathered in the streets of Italian cities, clashing with the Fascisti bands, while the police looked on in impotent inaction. Shops were shuttered for fear of looting. May Day strikes throttled local and national transportation, and even the electric lights of many cities were shut off. In the country districts Communist laborers refused to milk the cows or work in the fields. Red flags were raised in rural communes and excited revolutionaries sang till their throats were sore.

This transition from turbulence to quietude, from a nation torn with class warfare to one of tranquillity and order, was the work of one man—Benito Mussolini. In him to-day all Italian power rests; his policy is Italy's policy, and all Italy looks to him to complete the task he has assumed of rebuilding Italian prosperity and prestige. The new Parliament is dominated by the Fascisti, who received five million out of a total of seven million votes cast in the April general election.

The position of the farmer under the new régime is of particular importance, for the heart of Italian political policy will always be found in the relation of the people to the land. The density of population in Italy is nearly double that of France. Over 40,000,000 people are congregated on a peninsula of about the same area as the State of California. Much of the land is mountainous, other areas are deficient in water supply, and yet fully fifty-five per cent of the population must subsist mainly upon rural pursuits. In the fruit-growing mountain regions the holdings are frequently too small to support their tillers; these holdings will run from one-tenth of an acre to two acres per head of a family. Some-

To-day Italy, having indorsed Mussolini and Fascism at the polls by a vote of two to one, is distraught by Communist charges that Matteotti, an opposition member of the Italian Parliament, has been murdered by Fascist adherents. Neither murder nor conspiracy has been proved.

Those who wish to know how Mussolini gained ascendancy and how he used it will find the story here told.

An editorial on another page discusses the newly developed crisis in Italy growing out of the Matteotti affair.

Next week The Outlook will publish an authorized statement by Mussolini to its correspondent, Mr. Holman, as to the Fascist farming policy and programme.

—THE EDITORS.

times the family cultivating such holdings are owners, in other cases they are renters. To supplement the family income all working members will work for wages at such occupations as the community may offer. In the valleys between the mountains running down to the sea or in the flat country inland the units of ownership are larger, but the estates are leased to tenants and the ancient latifundia are still operated under individual management with wage labor.

Viewed nationally, the land area of Italy is not sufficient to support the present population, although internal improvements can materially increase the output of the farms. But even then the rate of production increase is scarcely likely to keep pace with the rate of population increase, which is now sending more than one million emigrants from Italy each year. Of these about 600,000 are supplied by the Italian rural communities.

And yet love of the land is one of the strongest traits of these people. The de-

sire to own a bit of Italy is often the spur to emigrate. The husband will go away, leaving his wife and children in the home village, sending home regularly his savings. His wife hoards these remittances until they become large enough to enable the family to buy a bit of land. During that time she manages to live by her own labor and proudly tells her neighbors about the progress of their venture. On his return they purchase the holding on which their hopes have been set for years, and live the balance of their lives in a sweeter peace under the sunny skies of their native land. This passionate attachment to the land affords some explanation for recent disturbances and the resulting policies of Mussolini and his Fascisti. But to understand even the farm problem one must have a perspective on the whole of recent happenings in Italy.

Italy is one of the youngest of the big modern nations. In 1870 the Franco-Prussian War enabled her people to throw off the Austrian yoke and merge eighteen independent principalities into a united kingdom. To develop a spirit of nationalism among people accustomed to a decentralized political life was in itself no small problem. But the new nation had to face a depleted treasury, lack of inland transportation, absence of coal deposits, and the disadvantage of having trade communications with the outside world controlled by other Powers; England held the Straits of Gibraltar and Turkey the Dardanelles.

For fifteen years Italy groped her way; then her people entered upon an era of hydroelectric power development, which partially offset the lack of coal. Here the many small torrential streams could be put to use, and this type of power has resulted in a more general distribution of industrial development throughout northern and central Italy than occurs in most countries where industrial activities tend to become restricted to certain regions. Railway building and a large number of state highways also contributed to the advance of this region. But in that part of Italy south of Rome, notably Sicily, much remains to be done.

By 1912, however, Italy had reached her peak point of prosperity. Then came war troubles. In 1911 her troubles with Turkey had been expensive. In 1914 public opinion was divided