

their own lives in the streets. This is enough to brand M. Chiappe as a humorist. Traffic conditions in Paris are thoroughly comic.

In the first place, since the streets curve, change their directions, and end in "impasses," a system of lights operating over long distances, such as is possible on Broadway or Fifth Avenue, New York, for instance, is impossible. Then the speed with which taxis are driven makes existence outside them only a fraction less dangerous than riding within them. It is admitted that only a suicide would ever tell a Parisian taxi-driver to go fast. After that comes the fact that traffic going north and south, or east and west, never stops simultaneously. As the nicely dressed little policeman raises his club to stop the north-bound traffic, at his back the south-bound whizzes by. He turns and stops the south-bound, and off goes the other. The result is that the pedestrian lingers long on the curb, eventually advances gingerly to the center of the street, waits there from five to ten minutes, and accomplishes the dash to the farther side.

Any American policeman would present "tickets" to half the motorists in Paris in a day. It is a frequent occurrence for as many as five or six cars to go by after the traffic signal to stop has been given. Meanwhile the policeman whistles frantically, and eventually apparently some one feels sorry for him and stops.

More frequently, however, the police make practically no effort to control the vehicles or the pedestrians. Five men may be on duty in a line at the Etoile at six o'clock in the evening, and in that amazing circle there will be a perfect bedlam of motors, omnibuses, surface cars, and pedestrians which not one of the five will make the slightest motion to control.

As for rules against "jay-walking," no signs exist, and no one has ever been seen to be warned against it. To cross in the middle of a block is so very slightly more hazardous than crossing at the corners that it makes little difference.

M. Chiappe intends to rise superior to this situation, however. On May 19 he stationed officials of the force, aided by members of the Society for the Protection of Pedestrians (and Heaven knows they need to be protected!), at six important points in the city, where they lectured to those who would listen on how they should cross the streets. And while they talked the automobiles rolled on.

It is more to the point, however, that

traffic policemen in Paris are all being sent to automobile schools, so that they may learn to drive, start, and stop the automobiles which they attempt to direct all day long. Stop them from behind the wheel they may. The question which interests the pedestrians is, Can they be taught to stop them with a whistle instead of a brake?

Last year there were 473 deaths from motors running over pedestrians in Paris. All that can be said is that the average walker is possessed of remarkable agility in escaping.

After the Crisis

INSTEAD of thousands, the lives lost in the Mississippi flood may be numbered in a few hundreds. Even those, except for six lives lost outside of Louisiana, all perished in the first onset of the flood, before the work of protection and rescue was organized by Secretary Herbert Hoover. These are the simple facts given out with the announcement of his resignation as flood relief dictator, by Louisiana's eminent citizen and former Governor, John M. Parker.

When Governor Parker's interview was published in *The Outlook* for June 1, the danger to life as well as property was real. Now that danger has ended. Americans have a genius for organizing quickly and effectively in emergencies; but that genius consists in finding and obeying competent leaders. Such men as Herbert Hoover and John M. Parker are symbols of American democracy. They come to the front when danger calls, find themselves leaders of the people, find also at hand adjutants and willing followers, and then, when the emergency ends, retire. What happened in the Mississippi flood was precisely, on a different scale, what happened when the United States joined the World War. That is what has always made and always will make America formidable in a crisis.

But the test of American democracy does not end when the crisis ends. The flood has subsided; but the Mississippi remains. What are we as a people going to do hereafter with that mighty river? Are we going to fall back into the old way of building levees that occasionally break? Or are we going to organize permanently for the safeguarding of life and property in the region where both property and life have been periodically endangered and destroyed?

The kind of leadership needed for the times when a crisis is past is different from that needed in the crisis itself. It

is the leadership, not of quick organization and of mobilization, but of the long look ahead and of scientific planning.

Have we Americans the patience and the foresight to begin now to plan for what may have to be carried on for ten or twenty years, or for a generation, or longer? This is the question which is raised by Mr. Merritt's article in this issue as well as by the two articles of his that have preceded it, and by the two articles in *The Outlook* for June 8 and 15 by Mr. John R. Freeman, who is generally regarded as the highest authority on hydraulic engineering in the country. The one great need in solving what Mr. Freeman calls "the biggest and most costly reclamation project in the world" is investigation—"patient investigation in field and laboratory."

One outcome of the experience in this flood should be the creation of such a hydraulic laboratory as Mr. Freeman has suggested.

There are hydraulic laboratories now in the United States, but none precisely of the sort that Mr. Freeman proposes. To describe such a laboratory in detail is not our purpose, nor is it likely to be of interest or profit to any but technical engineers. Mr. Freeman has described such a laboratory in an article originally printed in the "Proceedings of the American Society of Civil Engineers" for August, 1923, and reprinted in pamphlet form. The point is that such a laboratory enables the investigator to separate factors in the action of water and study them as one may study the action of chemicals in a chemical laboratory, to make exact measurements, and to control conditions. As Mr. Freeman says, "A week's work with a model, in which changes of shape and position can be readily made, at a total cost of a few hundred dollars, may tell more than six months' time and \$10,000 spent on an experimental dike or groyne in the field." For example, to quote again from Mr. Freeman: "In certain experiments, clear water can be circulated, into which dark-colored sand grains of various sizes are sifted and allowed to flow over a contrasting bed of plaster of paris, and special illumination in an optical plane, similar to that used with the ultra-microscope, can be used in connection with a high-speed motion-picture camera, to study the intricate laws of vortex motion and the formation of such swirls and vortices as are often observed on the surface and appear to come from some obstruction at the bottom." Mr. Freeman lists sixty-five different studies as among those which could be made in

such a laboratory. One piece of legislation which Congress might well enact at its forthcoming session would be a measure establishing a United States hydraulic laboratory at Washington.

One Law for All

LAST week The Outlook called upon the Department of Justice to make an investigation and a clear-cut statement as to the reason why Earl Carroll was in a hospital at Greenville, South Carolina, instead of in the prison hospital of the Federal Penitentiary of Atlanta. Earl Carroll, it will be remembered, is the New York theatrical producer convicted of perjury, whose journey from Broadway to Atlanta was somewhat strangely interrupted by a sudden and unexpected illness.

Before The Outlook's editorial had issued from the press the word came from Washington that Earl Carroll was being transported to Atlanta, and the physicians investigating his condition for the Government were reported as saying that there was no reason why Mr. Carroll should be longer favored by the leniency of the Department of Justice. We rejoice at the action which the Government has taken, but it appears that there still exists in the situation a need for the continued exercise of even-handed justice. Friends of Earl Carroll are still urging upon the Government their plea that he be transferred to a sanitarium. According to the New York "Herald Tribune," Mr. Carroll's brother and Representative Sol Bloom, of New York, have conferred with Attorney-General Sargent. Mr. Carroll's brother is reported as saying that the fact that Mr. Carroll is in prison will be enough to weaken his mind permanently.

It is our opinion that if Mr. Carroll's mind is weakened by his confinement, he should be transferred to an asylum for the criminal insane, exactly the treatment which would be accorded to any other prisoner without influential friends at court. If the hospital at Atlanta is not in a position properly to care for the inmates of that institution, it is time to investigate the hospital rather than Mr. Carroll. We have seen no evidence adduced that Mr. Carroll is not receiving every care to which he is entitled in the prison hospital. We believe that any particular favors which might be accorded to Mr. Carroll would have a damaging effect upon the confidence of the Nation in its Department of Justice. One law for the influential, another for the man without friends, is no law at all.

Mother India

AMERICANS now have a new standard by which to judge the teaching of Hindu philosophy. When suave gentlemen from India preach their mystic messages before women's clubs and select circles of those who have nothing better to do, they should be asked to account for the facts presented in Katherine Mayo's "Mother India." The social problems of that distressed land have never been more clearly, simply, and directly presented than in this new volume from the press of Harcourt, Brace & Co. It is free from sentimentalism, partisanship, and preconceived notions. It is a straightforward account of the practical workings of a ritualistic religion which has plunged a whole people into the black depths of ignorance and physical suffering.

Elsewhere in this issue there is a summary of the contents of this volume. The tragic pages of this work, we trust, will be read by many of The Outlook's subscribers.

Those who peruse the pages of Miss Mayo's report on the state of India will wonder where hope can be found for the sufferers whose lives she records so convincingly. What can be done for a people who make the vices of our civilization the sacred practices of their own; who believe that filth is cleanliness and that cleanliness is contamination? It would seem impossible to convert the minds of those who have accepted the practices of Hinduism to any higher faith or better practice without some intermediate step which would take account of their peculiar psychology. Must their superstitions be replaced with other superstitions before they are ready to accept the standards of life which are essential even for their physical salvation? There would seem to be need of a prophet to preach the kinship of cleanliness and godliness, a prophet strong enough to turn the flood tide of old devotions into new channels, wise enough in human psychology to rephrase the new salvation in terms familiar to believers in the old.

Katherine Mayo's book cannot be dismissed as the plea of a "British propagandist." The facts of Indian history shriek louder than could the voice of any partisan of the benefits that are slowly seeping into Indian civilization from the leavening presence of British power. Great Britain's accomplishments are not to be measured in terms of any one generation, but in the magnitude of the task which confronts her. The magnitude of

that enterprise is to be spoken of as one speaks of a geologic epoch.

Europe and the Soviet

THE Soviet Government has made Russia an outcast among the Western nations. Great Britain's decision to break off relations with Soviet Russia has only emphasized the steady failure of the Moscow dictatorship to establish a working understanding with the Powers. The reason lies in no unfriendliness to Russia. There is a great deal of good will for the Russian people. When they are in a position to take control of their country, they will be welcomed into the society of nations. But their present rulers are the objects of almost unparalleled distrust and hostility.

A new outbreak of the "Red Terror" in Russia has awakened afresh the antagonism of Europe and America. Despatches from Moscow have informed the world that the Soviet State Police Department recently ordered and carried out the execution of twenty persons charged with complicity in an anti-Soviet plot. The executions, reported to be without trial, followed the assassination of the Soviet Envoy to Poland, M. Voikoff, by a Russian monarchist student. Immediate apologies and expressions of regret by the Polish Government for the assassination opened the way to a settlement of the incident without serious difficulties between the two Governments. But the deed aroused the fears of the Bolsheviks for the security of their command within Russia. The consequence was that these twenty people were killed out of hand. And no one can say how far this revival of the rule of violence and sudden death in Russia may go.

The Soviet Government blamed Great Britain for the death of M. Voikoff, on the far-fetched ground that the British rupture of relations with Russia had encouraged the anti-Bolshevik groups of Russian refugees throughout Europe. But the British action was only one expression of a tendency which has been becoming general among the Powers in the past few months.

France has been conducting investigations into Communist activities within her borders, instituting searches for arms and arresting Communist spies. Mussolini has declared the open enmity of Fascist Italy to the Bolshevik system; and the Vatican has denounced the Soviet Government and its policy of terror through the official "Osservatore Romano." The Colonial Ministers of Great Britain and France have met in Paris to