

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 9, NO. 23.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, JULY 23, 1908.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

UNITY OF SCIENCE.

By DANIEL DE LEON

DR. THOMAS DARLINGTON, Commissioner of Health of New York City, should go straight back to College and complete his studies. Addressing the American Climatological Association, Dr. Darlington rung the note of alarm on the appalling increase of the death rate from heart disease. "We need rugged constitutions," he declared, "to hold us up in the pace we are traveling. Individually we have undermined the vigorous health which was characteristic of our forefathers, and we are bringing into the world children whose physical status is even less hardy than our own."

So far no fault can be found with Dr. Darlington. He slipped, however, and fell flat upon his nose when he declared that the remedy lay in "slackening up pace." Dr. Darlington's conclusion is proof that his medical science needs supplementing with some elemental knowledge of economics.

He who can "slacken up pace" goes too fast of his own free will. We are not GOING too fast; we are DRIVEN too fast. The fault lies not with the individual, it lies with society. The doctor attacks the disease from a quarter that is not responsive.

He who has a million needs not less than four millions to buttress up the one from the four quarters of the compass; and he needs four millions each to buttress up the four buttresses; and once more four millions to shore up buttress-buttresses and so on. More so with him who has only a hundred thousand. Still more so with him who has only fifty thousand, and so on, downward. Each of these holders is driven as if ten devils were behind him. The whole pack is in a chase with the fear of want at their heels; unable to enjoy the present; straining for more; compelled to strain ever harder; holding their breath in the rush, ever on the verge of syncope of the heart. While such is the condition of "property holders," the condition of the non-

holders, of that vast majority of the people known as the proletariat is, if anything, even more conducive to heart failure, only from the opposite cause. Wholly stripped of property, this class is held in a state of almost perpetual suspension of breath. Jobs are few compared with the number of job-seekers. Hence jobs are precarious, at best. At any time a combination of half a score of plutocrats can throw the country into the convulsions of a panic, and then the jobs are lost, or are held by a so much slenderer thread that the action on the heart becomes all the intenser.

There is unity in science. A sound physician cannot get along without economic knowledge. Dr. Darlington's advice to slacken up pace proceeds from an imperfect diagnosis. While palliatives to keep down excessive heartbeats are proper and wise, the prescription should be:

“Wipe out the capitalist system.”

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.

Uploaded March 2010

slpns@slp.org