

## Progress

Frederick Howatt

In regard to the average individual, the world has progressed greatly during the past century. Man may point with pride to the innumerable inventions and discoveries that go to make up this complex modern civilization, and feel himself indeed fortunate to have been born during such an age.

He has a comfortable home and his family. He has sanitary and electrical conveniences, a car, a radio. These, he feels, contribute to his happiness, even though his home is an exact duplicate of his neighbor's and has but little space to spare for a guest or an addition to his family. During winter it is quite warm due to the efficiency of modern heating systems, but if something should happen to the furnace or pipes he would indeed be uncomfortable; for it is no small job to repair an up-to-date heating plant. His other appliances are subject to similar accidents, but he has become accustomed to them and sees only their best side.

There is also a wide variety of amusements from which to choose. There are the motion pictures, radio programs, the funny-papers, magazines, "best-sellers," sports, travel, social gatherings and perhaps even an occasional walk. Even the trouble of choosing from these is done away with by modern science. The newspaper or radio tells him what "movie" to attend, what books to read, what game to see, (he is, of course, too busy to play himself), where to go on his next trip, and where to go on his rare hikes.

His children are educated by the state, his wife is taught the culinary arts by radio, and he himself is informed of the doings of the rest of the world through the newspapers. This medium also reminds him that he may be subject to "B.O.," halitosis, athlete's foot, "pink toothbrush," "coffee nerves," and numerous other ailments of mankind, and offers cures discovered for him by German or Austrian scientists.

The fortunate man of today has just to turn a dial, and he may hear the voices of the great men and women of the day assuring him that "prosperity is just around the corner," that "all men are created equal," that sleep

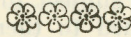


is important to health, that the climate of California is without equal, and that Cohen should be elected to the House. These vital topics are also dealt with by the press so he may study them at leisure if he so desires.

On a summer holiday he may take his family to the seashore, where are congregated several thousands of his own class, and there spend a most enjoyable day consuming vast quantities of fried clams, pop, peanuts, ice cream and "hot dogs." These will probably cause him some slight distress, but this is overshadowed by the pleasures of eating them.

His work, despite modern progress, is very difficult and tiring. For forty hours every week he sits at his desk and answers telephones, or stands at a machine, watching it work. No doubt he wishes science would devise a mechanical brain to lighten his burden.

But other than this he is contented with himself and his life and is constantly re-assuring himself that no happier, fuller type of man ever existed.



By the work one knows the workman—*De La Fontaine*

Man-like is it to fall into sin,  
Fiend-like is it to dwell therein;  
Christ-like is it for sin to grieve,  
God-like is it all sin to leave.

—*Von Logau*

Diligence is the mother of good fortune.—*Cervantes*

Who breaks his faith, no faith is held with him.

—*Du Bartas*

Be the proud captain still of thy own fate.—*Kenyon*

Gladly therefore will I glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may dwell in me.—*St. Paul*.