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EDITORIAL.

COURAGE, WORK AND DISCIPLINE.

The principles of government enunciated by Signor Mussolini—courage, work, and discipline—are the principles which must actuate everyone who achieves anything of lasting value. Courage, in carrying out the particular business to which one has set one's hand; work, because hard work is needed for its accomplishment; and discipline, because without self-discipline it is impossible to be a real leader of others.

Signor Mussolini, in a recent interview with the *Echo de Paris*, stated:—

"Everybody must work, from the Prime Minister downwards. One must have public order, and never tolerate the slightest attempt to disturb it. The people must be disciplined and obey: that is indispensable. In order to govern one must have the courage to take responsibility, not to be afraid of it, however heavy."

No one who has observed forms of government, and who has lived under them, can doubt that the most successful, from a public point of view, and the happiest for those governed, is the strong administration, maintaining "dignity without hesitation and without menace," through which those called upon to govern "truly and indifferently minister justice." Probably the greatest vices in rulers are the facility which desires to please everyone, a trimming of sails to every wind which blows, a withdrawal from positions involving the surrender of principles for the sake of expediency. A strong line taken by a leader is respected and followed; vacillation brings only disorganisation and contempt.

Another principle laid down by Signor Mussolini is that "one must respect tradition and religion. A people will be moral if it is religious, and if it is moral it will be strong." Believing this sincerely, he has instituted religious teaching in the primary schools. The classes begin with the Lord's Prayer, and end with the Gospel. Italy being a Catholic country, the instruction has to be given in

accordance with the rules of the Catholic doctrine, by priests, or by masters who have to be accepted by the Ecclesiastical Authority. Signor Mussolini has further modified the State teaching. He desires that all teachers in the normal schools shall know Latin, and in secondary education Latin and Greek are compulsory, as he considers that they play their part in the formation of character.

Another principle held by this master mind is that "the law of progress is not conflict, but co-operation between classes, and the new democracy is based on the oath:

"In the name of God and of Italy, and in the name of our glorious dead, I swear to concentrate all my energy on working for the good of my country."

As with all great generals, "it is the key position of the forces of disruption that Mussolini, with the consummate genius of a great tactician, invariably attacks, and (his biographer* informs us), working in harmony with the Divine laws, he invariably gains the victory." Three days after Mussolini and his Cabinet had entered upon office Rome learnt that "a general clearance is being made throughout Italy of all Communist mayors and town councillors. Within a few days every red banner will have disappeared, and every Communist official will either have had to resign or to hoist the national flag." Thus "Out of the upheaval of the world war, with its subsequent opening of the flood-gates of destruction, of barbarism, of licence, of violence, threatening to submerge the entire social structure of the West, two figures, greater than those of common men, have risen up for the defence of Christian civilisation—the figures of Foch and of Mussolini. There should be neither pessimism nor apathy in the age that possess two men cast in so heroic a mould."

We hope many members of the nursing profession will study their lives, and profit by their example.

* G. M. Godden. "Mussolini: The Birth of the New Democracy." Burns & Oates, 28, Orchard Street, London, W.1.

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