SUCCESS.

DIARY LEAVES.

By Prof. Nicholas De Roerich, Naggar, Kulu Valley.

DR. KENNON, Professor of Physiology at Harvard University, not long ago delivered a lecture in Peiping on the Significance of Luck in Scientific Discoveries. After citing many examples from different scientific practices, the professor came to the conclusion that "success follows only those who take advantage of it."

An excellent formula. It is absolutely correct and applicable to all branches of life. In fact, in addition to conscientious far-sighted labour one should further manifest the capacity to observe the signs of inception of success. So many times one has had occasion to read about the fact that it is necessary to know how to apprehend success, as it is an "easily frightened bird."

So many times one comes upon old sayings to the effect that "nothing ventured, nothing gained," which among different peoples in their own tongues is interpreted variously but all in the same direction. An endless number of stories and legends speak about unsuccessful simpletons, who in their foolishness let the Zhar-Ptitsa—the Fire-Bird escape.

Precisely, they have let the Zhar-Ptitsa slip from their hands. It had already been found. Wise admonishments have said—"Take the Fire-Bird, but take not the golden cage." The fool has invariably reached for the golden cage and thus let slip the precious gift contained in the Fire-Bird. The fools have been forewarned: "Seize the Fire-Blossom—look not back." But right at this moment something began to happen, and the gaping of indeed looked back, and all that had been found vanished. Verily, success must be taken, be grasped firmly, instantly, single-purposedly. In this unique striving is expressed that faith will already be bordering upon great and real knowledge.

In the same warning stories there are always deduced many circumstances which promote the discovery of success. Beginning with gray wolves or unknown well-wishers, mendicants and passers-by, many circumstances are manifested as helpers in success. Great attention also should be paid to this inspiring assistance. Not only should one discern such pre-arranged helpers, but also in the social order one should create contributing circumstances. Precisely, such circumstances have to be created.

The germination of success is not a personal matter, it is state prosperity. Of course each private beneficial success is also state progress. Consequently, the state must consciously concern itself, that such successes be made attainable. The attainment of all the best takes place through all the loftiest. Hence the state as such must give its citizens all the best, all the truly cultural.

And as always, we are speaking not about quantity but about quality. What of it, if periodicals come out in editions of many tens of pages, when from the standpoint of quality they could be improved by cutting in half. What of it, if all sorts of questionable restaurants and café chantants grow as funguses, and foul the thinking of people. Not without reason does the East fail to understand the difference between chantant and Shaitan. Last evening in the midst of the desert we
listened to the radio. We listened about two hours. We tried out various waves, and visited in them the most diverse countries. What did we hear? True, somewhere, there flashed out a fragment from Lohengrin, but all the rest was so much on the order of restaurant, fox-trot tunes, that once again I was obliged to feel horror at what space was being filled with. Of course all these sounds, manifested and unmanifested, have an influence on the human consciousness.

It is well enough known that space has been filled, but evidently it has been insufficiently assimilated that the filling of space is the greatest responsibility of humanity. The essence of quality is that multiform constructive material, of which is built the success of civilization, and, beyond that, culture. The man who has been civilized by the foxtrot is lost on the paths to culture. To him the blessed paths prove to be already unattainable.

"What is there for us?" "Impulses have been ordained for us, yet it has not been given to us to accomplish." Here is to what pessimism can become addicted, the consciousness, which is not bad but which has been overburdened by baseness of everyday routine. He who utters such negative pessimistic words thus renounces constructiveness. Whatever signs of beneficial successes would be shown to such a man, he will wave them all away as unattainable, and go to drown his sorrow in a neighbouring tavern.

In this famous "drowning" of sorrow is expressed the same cowardly pessimism. You see, it is needful for this biped to drown in violence. He thinks that he is drowning his sorrow, whereas he either drowns or smokes up his own attainment. If right now space itself is rumbling with the horror of vulgarity, then surely it is the business of each administration to replace vulgar triviality with manifestations of lofty quality.

We have been obliged to speak repeatedly about the fact that there is no point to slandering people, that they exclusively demand vulgarity and baseness. Both are the result of one's childhood. But give beautiful harmony, beautiful song, beautiful words, and people will be drawn to them pure-heartedly.

There are evil forces everywhere. Everywhere they carry on their work of dissolution, and they dream of depriving people of those successes which have already been ordained. Indeed, it is possible to postpone considerably what has been ordained, but for all that it will be manifested. Each such postponement is an abominable offence against humanity. Anyone who has a desire to harass someone into darkness and deprive him of light, is by that fact a co-worker of darkness. Of course, people as such are not at all collaborators of darkness. Provided the servants of darkness cannot draw them into the loathsome and the vulgar, sooner or later they will become sober. Revolts of entire peoples will rise up against all the drownings, smokings, and poisonings. Success follows that government which understands that it is impossible to keep the people on a low level by giving them products of low quality. Then too, space will not roar and shriek, but will be confluent in the Beautiful.

Whether successes be in scientific discoveries, whether they be in ennobling creativeness, whether they be in simple everyday life, is a matter of indifference; everywhere successes must be recognized and accepted. Enough has been told in stories about gaping oafs and simpletons who let good fortune escape. The age of construction of the new culture must be an age of successful people, each of whom, in his own way, will discern his treasure, his ordained success.

"Success follows those who can receive it."

Srinivasa Varadachari & Co., 190, Mount Road, Madras