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Title	Horace B. Samuel. "The Future of Futurism." Fortnightly Review, April 1913. [402-1]
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of their country, suffered from an undue obsession with the democratic ideals of a mediæval past. Dissipating their energy in rushing reams of republican rhetoric or the purple pomp of patriotic platitudes, they remained sublimely oblivious to the crying economic needs of a country which, with all its natural richness and all its natural genius, still, so far as general material and intellectual progress is concerned, lies no inconsiderable distance behind the increasingly quick march of the European civilisation. Nor did matters improve when the *régime* of the naïve idealists was succeeded by that of the opportunist bureaucracy which has since governed Italy. A vast portion of the country still remains unforested, uncultivated, unirrigated, and, above all, uneducated. The taint of malaria still infects wide tracts of land which, with proper treatment, might have been profitably developed by those masses of sturdy labourers who have emigrated to America with an almost Irish eagerness. Indeed, with all respect to M. Marinetti, who has himself fought in the Tripolitan trenches, the present war has been occasioned (if we can rely on one of the most brilliant and responsible of the Parisian contemporaries of this journal), not so much by a *bond fide* desire to find a place in the sun for the not yet surplus population of a not yet fully developed country, as by an indisputably authentic ambition to find a lucrative outlet for the money of the clique of clerical capitalists which controls the Bank of Rome. So far, however, as no inconsiderable portion of Italy itself is concerned, we are confronted with a country of museums, ruins, and *ciceroni*, which, exploiting the *Fremdenindustrie* after the manner of some more perverse and inexcusable Switzerland, prostitutes with venal ostentation the faded beauties of its undoubtedly glorious past to the complete ruin of its only potentially splendid present.

A certain pseudo-Nietzscheanism has, no doubt, been introduced into Italy beneath the auspices of D'Annunzio. Yet, with all his fanfarronade of tense and exuberant virility, the atmosphere of D'Annunzio is, speaking broadly, moistly rank and exotically enervating. With the possible exception of his latest novel, his heroes are languidly feverish dilettantes whose lives are principally devoted to the literary and æsthetic cultivation of all the neurotic luxuriance of their own erotic morbidities. This brings us to the important sociological fact of that rigid obsession of sex, as the one paramount emotional, artistic, and vital value, which, sapping the manhood not only of Italy, but also, indeed, of France, tends to corrupt the whole social, political, and economic life of the two nations.

It is this exaggerated preoccupation with the sexual aspect of