

ANARCHISTS IN ENGLAND.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT OF THE DAILY CHRONICLE.)

For a long time Great Britain has been associated with the Anarchist movement because no other country gave such refuge to the exponents of the extreme in politics. Consequently whenever the subject of anarchism in England has been mentioned, most persons have thought that it applied to a band of foreigners. Never was there greater error. For some fifteen years past there has been an organised Anarchist movement in this country, run mainly by British subjects, most of whom were English and Scots with a sprinkling of Irishmen. The "Autonomy group," now broken up, was made up chiefly of foreigners, but there have been and are "groups" in Manchester, Walsall, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Liverpool, Norwich, Birmingham, Arbroath, and other large cities and towns, for some time in which the foreigner was in a distinct minority. I remember one particular group in Manchester some six years ago. It consisted of about forty persons, among whom were a fully-certificated schoolmaster, a drawing-master in a local school, a journalist, the remainder being clerks and workmen. The rival group was composed of foreigners, who were mostly Jews, German, Polish, Russian, and Dutch.

In Glasgow the Anarchists have always availed themselves of the opportunities given by the University. Many of the members are biologists and chemists, with a thorough familiarity with the latest researches in the field of scientific research. The Scottish Anarchist is, as a rule, better educated than his English confrère, and, from what I have seen, with one or two exceptions, the Irish Anarchists are the least educated of all. There are no Anarchists in Ireland. The attempt to establish groups in Belfast and Dublin have been failures.

Occasionally famous Anarchists—men like Kropotkin and Grave—make a tour of the provinces, and go from group to group to stimulate local efforts. The unemployed riots in Liverpool, Manchester, and Glasgow some years back were mainly attributable to the local Anarchists.

There is one very important fact in connection with the Anarchist movement in Great Britain. The policy of the bomb and the stiletto has been declared by British Anarchists to be absolutely inapplicable as far as this country is concerned. They justify their use abroad in Russia, Italy, and Spain on account of the tremendous despotism, military and otherwise, in those countries. The Walsall Anarchists declared that their bombs were manufactured for use in Russia. Martial Bourdin met his death, not in trying to blow up Greenwich Hospital, but in trying to get rid of a dangerous explosive. The attack on the Prince of Wales by Sipido was strongly condemned. Consequently the statement that the assassination of the King of Italy was made with the assent of the "London Committee" is absolutely ridiculous. There is no such body.