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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

SHOCKING deaths resulting directly from the use of strong drink are unhappily of too frequent occurrence. One of the latest is that of a poor woman in Toronto, whose clothing was discovered to be on fire in the morning after her husband had left for his work. Help came too late. After being removed to the hospital she expired without again being in a conscious condition. How her clothing caught fire is a mystery, which her incoherent utterances failed to explain. Of the fact of her death being due to strong drink there is no doubt whatever.

AFTER hard fighting and severe losses the French have got possession of Sontay. The Tonquin war seems to be popular with the French. It is now announced that an immediate movement upon Bacninh will be made. Should they be successful there, it might be supposed that French ambition will be satisfied and French honour vindicated. But then it has to be remembered that China has declared that an attack on Bacninh will be regarded as a declaration of war, and then a conflict on a large scale might be the result.

THE Rev. Dr. Wilson, who took so prominent a part in the work of the Salvation Army at Kingston, and who, for so doing, was dismissed from his curacy at St. George's Cathedral, has met with a large measure of personal sympathy. His earnestness and devotion have been fully recognized even by those who differ most widely from his individual views. After a period of rest he will easily find suitable spheres of labour in which he can do good work. It is stated that the newly appointed Bishop of Huron will place at his disposal the first vacant charge in that diocese. The statement is also made that Dean Lyster has informed Dr. Wilson that his former charge will be open to him on condition that he severs his connection with the Salvation Army.

THE sad accident which on Christmas day occasioned the death of Alexander Wardrope, son of the Rev. Dr. Wardrope, of Guelph, is another instance of the careless and reckless handling of fire-arms. These cases are of far too frequent occurrence. Deaths and maimings by unintentional shooting have been numerous of late. Is there no way of preventing these needless sacrifices of life? When young men and boys go out for a day's shooting, they are not unfrequently in a frolicsome, not to say reckless mood, and "evil is wrought for want of thought." Most of these painful occurrences are due to a culpable carelessness. The bereaved parents in the manse at Guelph, have the kindly sympathy of a wide circle of friends in their sad affliction.

THE newspaper interviewer has much to answer for. There is a class of people, who, but for him, would never emerge from their native obscurity. To this class belongs the Irish patriot who delights to talk of blood and dynamite. Since the execution of O'Donnell many blood-curdling threats have been made, with an appalling air of mystery that adds greatly to the terror which the threatened explosions are intended to inspire. Canada is threatened this time. A Buffalo bedlamite, has by the good offices of the interviewer, been afforded an opportunity of telling Canadians what terrible things are in store for them, because O'Donnell was hanged. Why vengeance is to be wreaked on Canada is not the least part of the mystery.

THE Orangemen in Ireland are deeply agitated over recent events. The recall of Lord Rossmore's magisterial commission has added flame to the fire that burned keenly before that occurrence. Inflammatory appeals are being addressed to the fraternity, and proposals are being made by Orange Grand Masters for the organization of a fighting force of Orange men. These proposals have provoked the Nationalist papers and failed to command the sympathy of the English press. The scheme is to enrol the Orange-

men as militia, to construct munition depots, and to use the Government barracks as Orange barracks. The project, though having the approval of the orangemen, will be ignored by the Grand Masters as impracticable and also because it would make the members of the lodges liable to prosecution under the Crimes Act.

No fewer than three dreadful murders took place in Canada last week. A farmer named Lazier was shot at Bloomfield, near Picton. An aged woman, Mrs. Susan Gibbs, living in a lonely hut near the Humber, a short distance from Toronto, was found dead in her house. No conclusion is possible but that she was foully murdered. At Bathurst, N.B., one cousin killed another with an axe. The greed of money was the immediate cause of all these crimes. Lazier was not the intended victim in the first mentioned case. Burglars entered the house Mr. Jones with whom he was staying. It was known that Jones had received money that day. Lazier confronting the robbers was shot down. There are strong suspicions pointing to parties now under arrest. The poor old woman at the Humber was miserably and had considerable money in her possession. Phyllis Lautaine killed his cousin because refusing to pay a debt, the latter had issued an execution against his property.

AN able article on "The Imperilled Christians of China" in the Montreal "Gazette" concludes as follows: What may be the number of persons professing Christianity in China it is impossible to say. The total number of foreigners must be above 4,000 (not counting, of course, the 6,000 or 7,000 Europeans and Americans of Hong Kong). No doubt, in case of any uprising against the one class, the other would be likely to suffer—Christian and foreigner being practically synonymous to Chinese prejudice. In the ports there would be means of protection or escape for imperilled aliens, but the missionaries stationed far inland would run a dreadful risk of falling victims to fanatic rage. It is earnestly to be hoped that whatever safeguards are possible may be employed to preserve them from such a fate and, to that end, the Governments of Europe should lose no time in impressing on the authorities at Peking the duty of restraining the Chinese from committing unprovoked outrage.

OUR Baptist brethren in the North-West feel aggrieved that their missionary efforts are so feebly sustained by the churches in the east. So keenly do they feel this grievance that they talk of applying to the United States Home Missionary Society. The consolidation of the Baptist theological institutions it was expected would enable contributors to give more freely in aid of mission work, but as yet this expectation has not been realized. Secession from the Canadian and affiliation with the American Baptist Church is freely spoken of unless a better understanding is reached. A convention is soon to be held, at which it is hoped a satisfactory understanding will be arrived at. The success attending the missionary efforts of the Presbyterian Church in the North-West should encourage our Baptist friends. Ordinarily they are neither lacking in zeal nor liberality. Besides there are patriotic considerations against the step the Baptists in the North West threaten to take. It would not tend to advance the cause of Canadian nationality.

THE feud between Orangemen and Catholics breaks out with violence in unexpected places. In the North of Ireland it is nothing strange that bitter antagonism should exist between the orange and the green. The hostility is traditional and opportunities are never long wanting for its active outburst. Why it should break out in Newfoundland with such intense bitterness is not so comprehensible at first sight. Last week at Harbour Grace the Orangemen with their customary decorations formed a procession but were soon interfered with by their Catholic antagonists. Unhappily several lives were lost in the faction fight, and vengeful feelings fostered. Two ways of putting an end to these unseemly outbreaks are some-

times suggested. One, the suppression of all party processions, and the other, exercise of mutual forbearance and tolerance. So long as processions are permitted there is neither wisdom nor fairness in discriminating which body shall walk and which shall not. Then what is the use of giving way to lawless passion because banners of an orange tint are given to the breeze, what is the use of quarrelling over a street procession?

The bitter cry of outcast London is leading to immediate practical efforts to grapple with awful destitution, physical, moral, and spiritual, that recent explorations have revealed. Of course all sorts of remedies are suggested. It is gratifying to know that the first practical movement for bettering the condition of the destitute has been made in the name of the Gospel. The London Congregational Union have selected three of the worst districts of the metropolis as the field for special labour. The London Baptist Association at a special conference resolved to present a petition to the Queen, praying: "1. That municipal powers may be provided for the entire metropolis without further delay, in order that a well constituted authority may be prepared to exercise and enforce such legal powers as are or may be granted for remedying the evil named; and (2) That a Royal Commission may be issued to enquire into the condition of the dwellings of the poor in London, and to consider and report what further powers are needed to provide an effectual remedy for the evils which now exist." They resolve at the same time to continue, with increasing energy and deepened dependence on God, such varied labours as are already in operation.

WEEKLY HEALTH BULLETIN.—No marked meteorological influences different from those of the several previous weeks have been in existence. Both in number of reports from different observers and in the diseases reported there has been on the whole a decrease. It will be seen, however, that diseases of the respiratory organs are amongst the most prevalent of these reported. Bronchitis has somewhat increased, while Influenza remains stationary. Tonsillitis has somewhat advanced. Neuralgia and Rheumatism retain both in distribution and total prevalence their previous positions. Amongst Fevers there is no marked change. While Intermittent is slightly less prevalent, Typhoid (Enteric) has slightly increased. An instance illustrating the necessity for the thorough disinfection of the ejecta and linen from all Typhoid patients, and of using every means against sources of contagion from it, is given by one correspondent. He writes as follows.—"A young woman affected with Typhoid came from Toronto, and three other members of the family are now sick with it. Of these there are an infant five months old and its mother." Amongst Zymotic diseases, there is comparatively an increase over last week. As was then noticed, Measles, Whooping Cough and Mumps had disappeared from amongst the twenty most prevalent diseases. This week, however, the two former have reappeared, both being present in considerable amounts. Scarletina, noticed last week as having an upward tendency, is present this week in somewhat less amounts. But of all these contagious Zymotics, none has shown such an upward tendency as Diphtheria. It has suddenly advanced from 15 to 42 per cent. of the total diseases. This peculiar quality of the disease has been so frequently remarked, that further comment is unnecessary. One of the peculiarly fatal phenomena attendant upon this disease is recorded by a correspondent in the following sad occurrence. "The case of Diphtheria recorded was a boy of thirteen years. He was ill two weeks, and was so much better that he could sit up. He was talking to his brother, when he suddenly complained of a pain in his body, and asked to be raised up in bed. His brother helped him to sit in bed, when he fell back dead immediately." This is one of the many warnings which the general public will do well to remember, and which all who have experience of the peculiarly exhausting character of the disease, ought to impress on all who may be so unfortunate as to be subjected to its influences.