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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

FEMALE education is advancing in India in a manner which few could have anticipated ten years ago. Two young ladies of Bengal have, at the last examination at the Calcutta University, carried off their B.A. degrees with great credit.

THE young nun who was involuntarily immured in the Hochelaga convent has been released. Her case was submitted to Rome for decision. The Pope has granted her a release from her vows. She has been permitted to rejoin her family. Query: Was this pontifical complacency in any degree owing to the publicity given to the poor girl's frenzied efforts to obtain deliverance?

THE broad lands, including the handsome hotel property of the Brighton or Bruen House, Perth Amboy, N.J., have been deeded by the owner, Mr. Alexander M. Bruen, to the Presbyterian Board of Relief for Disabled Ministers and the Widows, and Orphans of Deceased Ministers, of Philadelphia. This Board is in possession of about \$1,000,000. The Brighton House is situated on High street, Perth Amboy, and the surrounding grounds are in the neighbourhood of about eleven acres. This magnificent gift is valued at over \$25,000.

WE send missionaries to China, because we want to raise the Chinese from their spiritual and moral degradation. It is alarming to learn that they are introducing some of their worst vices into the large cities of America. A Roman Catholic Young Men's Association of New York is moving for the suppression of opium dens that have sprung up in certain localities of that city. Many young girls are decoyed into these places and ruined. Richly dressed ladies are regular visitors of these infamous dens. The keeper of one of them stated that he sometimes made \$300 a day. Destructive vices are far too abundant without adding to them by importation.

THE National Christian Association is first in the field with a Presidential ticket for 1884, it bears the name of Rev. Jonathan Blanchard, of Illinois, for President, and John A. Conant, of Connecticut, for Vice-President. The platform of the association demands the abolition of the electoral colleges and a direct vote for President and Vice-President, the recognition of the Sabbath, the prohibition of the manufacture or sale of intoxicating liquors, the revocation of the charters of all secret lodges granted by Federal or State Legislatures, and the preservation of civil equality inviolate as secured to all American citizens under the amendment to the constitution. It favours the settlement of differences with foreign nations by arbitration and discourages land monopolies. It also calls upon the government to furnish the people with an ample and sound currency, and to maintain the public credit, protect all loyal citizens, and to do justice to the Indians, as being essential to the honour and safety of the nation.

A RETURN presented lately to the House of Commons shows that the total amount of premiums received by life assurance companies in Canada in the year 1882 was \$3,544,605, against \$3,094,689 in the preceding year, an increase of \$449,916. The net amount of life policies in force in Canada on 31st December last was \$115,088,078, against \$103,290,932 for 1881; an increase of \$11,797,146. The amount of death claims paid during the year was \$1,277,676, against \$1,389,201 in 1881; a decrease of \$111,525. The amount of premiums received by accident insurance companies in Canada last year was \$102,079. The amount of policies in force was \$18,620,187, and the claims paid during the year were \$37,801. There was but one claim of \$5,000 resisted. The life insurance barometer tells the same story as the railway and other barometers—namely, that the people are prosperous. They are using a portion of their surplus to provide against death's oftentimes serious pecuniary dis-

turbances, and they are doing this in an increasing ratio every year.

OTTAWA correspondence is responsible for the statement that Mr. Beaty, M.P. for West Toronto, is agitating his new system of partial prohibition. It proposes to do away with the sale and manufacture of spirits, and permit the use only of good beer and light wines. In this way he argues that the revenue from intoxicating liquors will be gradually decreased, and will eventually enable the Government to successfully grapple with the greater question of total prohibition. Mr. Beaty's system is said to have many sympathizers in the House of Commons, which is quite probable. It goes on the principle that half a loaf is better than no bread. It is an ingenious compromise. Temperance people cannot expect the entire suppression of the drinking habits all at once. They ought to be satisfied with the plan that forbids the manufacture of any more bad whiskey and only permits the making of good beer and wine. Those who like a drop of something comfortable can still indulge in less fiery potations than some of them may have been accustomed to. Were this half-and-half measure in force now it would still be open to enquire how many tipplers in beer and wine would inevitably become drunkards? Filching coppers is just as much an act of theft as stealing dollar bills.

A CORRESPONDENT writes to an English paper in this fashion: "One of the oddest things in connection with our treatment of prisoners is that we always credit the basest criminal with some religious faith, and insist upon knowing what it is. A man is charged with the foulest of crimes. One of the first questions he is asked is, 'What religion do you profess?' If we remain respectable, we may do without any religion; but the moment we commit a crime the police insist upon our finding a creed at the shortest notice. Now, I am informed that a greater outrage than that of the Invincibles has been committed by four of the prisoners at Kilmainham. They have registered themselves as Presbyterians. Of course previously they were Roman Catholics—at least nominally; and they are suspected of confessing to Protestantism in order to avoid confession to priests. But none the less do the Irish Presbyterians resent this imputation upon their communion. The Presbyterians, they truly say, though they are of all classes, are the best educated and most law-abiding people in Ireland. In percentage of illiterates and of prisoners in gaol they have only about one-half of other Protestants, and a much smaller proportion when compared with Roman Catholics. What makes this Kilmainham love of Calvinism so distressing is that the chaplain at that prison was likely to lose his chaplaincy for the honourable reason that he had no Presbyterian prisoners to look after."

IT is stated that a young man, whose family is well known in the Ottawa district, made the acquaintance some little time ago of a young lady living in eastern Ontario. Her friends disapproved of his evident attention to her, and finally he endeavoured to persuade her to consent to a private marriage. After considerable hesitation, she agreed to do so, and a ceremony was performed. The couple came to reside in the neighbourhood of Ottawa, and for a time lived happily together. In a few months, however, the man grew tired of the society of the lady and left her, alleging on doing so that the ceremony which had been performed was, in fact, no marriage at all, the person who performed it not being a priest, but a friend of his own who personated one for the occasion. Thunderstruck at the false position in which she was placed, the unmarried wife was driven nearly frantic, but her heart-rending appeals to the villain who had betrayed and was now deserting her met with no response. He left her, and since that time has held no further communication of any description with her. The poor girl, thus thrown upon the world, wisely resolved to do the best thing she could possibly do, and returned to her friends. There are some young men evidently lost to all sense of honour, not to speak of

moral feeling. The young man of whom the above is told belongs to respectable society, but his conduct could not be worse though he lived in the rogue's quarter. By his despicable action he is entitled to rank among the elite of scoundrels.

ANOTHER of Montreal's Christian merchants in the person of Mr. Edward Mackay has been removed by death. He died somewhat suddenly, on the 6th inst., of acute pneumonia, in the seventy-first year of his age. A native of Sutherland, Scotland, he came to Canada in his twenty-eight year, soon afterwards engaging in the establishment of his brother, the late Joseph Mackay, with whom he subsequently entered into partnership. He was afterwards largely interested in financial and commercial enterprises. Mr. Mackay was a man of great public spirit, a useful citizen, and a large-hearted though unostentatious philanthropist. His generous subscription was usually ready for every deserving object. He was a member of Crescent Street Presbyterian congregation from its formation till the time of his death. The following are his bequests: Theological College, Montreal, \$10,000; Theological College, Manitoba, \$10,000; Home Mission Fund of the General Assembly, \$10,000; Crescent Street Church, in Montreal, \$5,000; Foreign Mission Fund, \$4,000; Ministers', Widows', and Orphans' Fund, \$3,000; towards the erection of churches in Manitoba, \$1,000; total for Presbyterianism, \$43,000. For general objects—Mackay Deaf and Dumb Institute, \$8,000; Montreal General Hospital, \$5,000; to the executors for general distribution at their discretion, \$5,000; Royal Institute, McGill University, \$5,000; Young Men's Christian Association, Ladies' Benevolent Institution, Hervey Institute, Infants' Home, and St. Andrew's Home, \$2,400 each; total for general objects, \$25,000.

WEEKLY HEALTH BULLETIN.—The weather of the week has been below the average in temperature. Bronchitis, has fallen, for the first time during many weeks, below 10 per cent. of all diseases reported. This is not necessarily because of its great decrease, as it is still the most prevalent disease, but because the total number of diseases is very large—amounting to some 2900 cases. Anæmia, as was noticed last week, maintains an area of prevalence equal to that of Bronchitis, while its degree of prevalence is higher than in any Report hitherto. Influenza has apparently receded, while Neuralgia and Rheumatism have decidedly decreased. Amongst Fevers we have again to notice the prevalence of Intermittent, which has greatly increased, amounting to over 6 per cent. of the total diseases. Its appearance in District II, north-eastern Ontario, is worthy of notice. Amongst Zymotic diseases there are various items of much interest. As a general statement, it may be remarked that they have very considerably increased both in their number and prevalence. Thus we have Mumps, Measles, Diarrhoea, Whooping Cough, Diphtheria, and Scarlatina, all appearing at least once amongst the six most prevalent diseases. Of these, Measles, which for several weeks past had been steadily receding, has again risen to 7.1 per cent.; Mumps likewise shows a rapid advance over last week; Diphtheria and Whooping Cough have both increased, the latter rapidly; while Diarrhoea, though prevalent, has slightly decreased since last week. Pneumonia has slightly decreased, while Pleurisy retains its former position. Erysipelas has receded in a marked degree; which fact, from the apparent relations which the disease holds to Puerperal Fever, will be received with pleasure by all. It was remarked in the last Bulletin that Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis had appeared as prevalent to some extent in District III. It is, we regret to say, again present in the reports from that District, while in another small District, No. IX., on the eastern shore of Lake Huron, it has also appeared this week. The fact of its apparent tendency to increase—although the number of cases reported are not yet sufficient to excite alarm—must direct the attention of physicians to an investigation anew of its causes and the conditions apparently necessary for its propagation.