

TEMPERANCE TOPICS.

Some idea of the strength of the drink traffic in foreign countries may be gathered from the fact that Belgium has 5,500 schools and 136,000 drinking shops. For public instruction it spends £600,000, while for intoxicating liquor it spends £5,000,000.

The Western Temperance League has appointed a lady as its president—Mrs. Helen Bright Clark, a member of the Society of Friends.

The drink bill of Glasgow is stated to exceed £2,000,000 a year.

Miss Weston states that she issued 8,103 pledge-cards to men in the Royal Navy last year, and presented 171 silver medals, and 713 cards of honour to men who had kept the teetotal pledge unbroken during periods of from one to twenty years.

Sir W. Harcourt, speaking at Glasgow, declared that the great cause of Temperance stands in the front rank of reform for the whole of the United Kingdom, and the Liberal party was firmly resolved that in the matter which deeply concerned the health, the wealth, and the well-being of the nation, each locality and community should have the right to decide for itself what protection it needs and desires.

No fewer than 5,163 women residing in West Ham, England, have signed a petition praying the Legislature to withdraw State support from the drink traffic and opium trade.

Let into the outer wall of the vicarage garden at Kindford, in Essex, is a tablet of stone, upon which is engraved the following inscription:—"There is no sin which doth more deface God's image than drunkenness. It disguiseth a person, and doth even unman him. Drunkenness makes him have the throat of a fish, the body of a swine, and the head of an ass. Drunkenness is the bane of nature, the extinguisher of reason, the shipwreck of chastity, and the murderer of conscience. Drunkenness is hurtful to the body. The cup kills more than the cannon. It causes deafness, catarrh, apoplexy. It fills the eyes with fire, the legs with water, and turns the body into an hospital."

The Bishop of London spoke out boldly at Plymouth his conviction as to the fallacy of the Mortimer Granville contention. He said: "In spite of Dr. Granville's statements, they claimed that they not only lived longer lives, but had less illness in the course of those lives, than those who took stimulants. He became a total abstainer from conviction, and his conviction had deepened from that day to this, and he was always glad to have an opportunity of professing it in the strongest language before all those who were willing to listen to it."

When so much is being said on the effects of "drink" on the human body, it may not be out of place to quote a remark of Mr. Gladstone's on the subject. "There is a general belief," the right hon. gentleman said, "that alcoholic liquors tend to give greater bodily vitality, but I do not

believe that there is a greater superstition than to suppose that these liquors can give men a greater capacity for bodily or mental exertion, and in this I am supported by the highest medical testimony."

That drink is no respecter of persons goes without question. Education is not proof against its effects, nor is it a remedy against its cravings.

One of the best Greek scholars in New York is said to be a guard on the Sixth Avenue Elevated Railway running through that city. "How does it happen," he was recently asked, "that you, a Greek scholar of first rank, should be doing such work as this?" He looked at his questioner sadly. "I was the best Hellenist of my year at Dublin," he said; "my Greek is still what it used to be, but my career has been ruined by whisky."

A writer in *The Times* asked, Where are the great men who have been total abstainers? The answer is supplied by a correspondent. We have, he says, Samson, Samuel, and John the Baptist in Holy Writ, Socrates among ancient philosophers, Hippocrates, the Greek physician, who tells us distinctly that as a diet water is best, and a long line of eminent men who have advised the avoidance of strong drinks; and in our own day, without referring to living men of the greatest eminence, such as the Bishop of London, Cardinal Manning, and many others, including at least one member of the present Cabinet, he has only to mention John Bright and Bishop Lightfoot, who were life-long abstainers.

ABOUT SOME TREES.

Once in one hundred years blooms the century plant. Cut the sandalwood tree and it perfumes the air. The cedar and the sassafras both cast a very sweet aromatic perfume into the air. The roadside ivy seems to dislike company, and some people it seems really to hate; if some touch it, it exudes a juice that poisons your hand; other people it lets play with it and never harms them. The sensitive plant will coil all up if you touch its leaves. The oldest tree, after all, is called the angry tree. If you strike it, it rattles angrily all over and then throws out a very unpleasant smell. Many other trees emit bad odors—the alanthus and so on—but this one does it only if you annoy or offend it.

The tree, anyhow, is a sort of human being—a vegetable animal. It has, of course, a body and limbs as we have. It has veins and arteries; the sap is the blood, and it circulates through these all over the system. Its roots are really stomachs, and with these it masticates. The leaves are lungs for trees and plants; the vegetable animal breathes in on one side of the leaf and out on the other. The tree has a heart. It sleeps in winter and wakes up in spring.—Trees have sickness, may be treated and cured; horticulturists and arborists are tree-doctors; various chemicals and fertilizers may be called the tree foods and tree medicines; and by and by trees get old, much as other beings do, and finally die.

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