

A NEW AUSTRALIAN BISHOPRIC.

Arrangements have been made by the Colonial Office, on the one hand, and the Lord Bishop of Newcastle, on the other, for the creation of a new diocese, out of that set, to be called the diocese of Grafton and Armidale. A wealthy colonist has offered £2,000 towards the endowment, and the remainder will be provided out of the Colonial Bishopric's Fund, by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign parts. The nomination of the first Bishop will be made in a few days, and the Bishop will probably be consecrated in the Autumn, with the new Bishop of Rupert's Land.

PREMATURE SMOKING.

Like many other profound thinkers, *Mr. Pouch* is fond of smoking, and he naturally entertains a sympathy for smokers. To have his sympathy, however, smokers must smoke sensibly, and not commit excesses. *Mr. Pouch* likes moderate drinking, but he hates to see men drunk, and he regards immoderate smokers as only a shade less to be despised by him than drunkards.

Smoking prematurely is, to *Mr. Pouch's* thinking, the worst form of excess, and the one which moves in him most hatred and disgust. Smoking prematurely is a selfish snobbish practice, and it is matter for regret that there are not more means to stop it. Clearly it is nonsense to pretend that boys can really have a need for tobacco, or be a whit the better or the happier for using it. Boys who prematurely smoke do so not because they like it, but because they think it manly to be seen able to smoke. Such smokers are, in fact, mean silly little snobs, and all right-minded people justly hold them in contempt. Nature does her best to act as their tobacco-stopper; but by practice they acquire the power to smoke without being made sick by it, and, this done, they delude themselves by fancying that tobacco has become a real need to them, and when they smoke they try to think they really relish it. This however is sheer nonsense, for the true taste for tobacco comes alone with age, like the appetite for turtle, and is not to be acquired by those who prematurely seek it.

Moreover boys who take to smoking have not the sense to put due bounds on their indulgence, and they are apt to smoke at times when it does them the most injury, and is to others, the worst nuisance. Unable to control themselves, they smoke in business hours and in going to their business; and when going out to dinner they take a furtive pipe, and even come into a drawing-room with coats that stink of stale tobacco.

Now, tobacco is a good thing, and good things ought not to be wasted.

Smoking prematurely is worse than waste, for it annoys people about him and only harms the smoker. One cannot will doubt this, if one but sees the pimply cheeks and tallowy complexions of the young short-pipe-smoking fools who meet us everywhere. Every whiff they take but helps to blow their brains out, and puts out of tune their organs of digestion.

Few men can smoke early in the day without its hurting them, and any boy who does so must assuredly be weakened both in body and in mind by it. A boy (which word applies to all youths under twenty) who goes to business daily with a pipe between his teeth has put an enemy into his mouth that will steal away his brains, and it is well that his employer should be warned against his robbery. Smoking prematurely is a habit as injurious as taking early morning drinks, or drinking port wine before dinner; and as the evil has increased to really serious dimensions, *Mr. Pouch* may be excused for making serious remarks, and not making a joke of it.—*Pouch*.

GIRLS' SCHOOLS.

BY ARCHIBALD MACLAREN OF THE GYMNASIUM, OXFORD.

"Girls are naturally weak, and therefore do not require strengthening." Absurd as this may sound—monstrous as this may sound—it is repeated to me many times in the year by people of almost every rank of life and every degree of education. "Girls are naturally weak, and a feeble organization is natural to women." There is a class of errors not inapplicable called vulgar errors, though not quite in the sense of the strictly literal interpretation of the word; but this is a vulgar error in its most vulgar sense, for it seeks to screen wrong, and ignorance, and pretension, and to perpetuate the evils springing from these, under the stolen mantle of knowledge.

During the period of nursery life are not our girls as healthy and as hardy as our boys? Are they not as active and as strong? Have they not limbs as firm and frames as lithe, cheeks as ruddy and spirits as high? And why? Because, the laws of their growth being the same, and the manner of their life being the same, the same also is their mental and bodily advancement—identical their progress. But from the day that brother and sister part company at the nursery door the manner of their lives is changed; and, while that of the boy is usually a healthy, hopeful, happy march on to maturity, that of the girl is a dull and languishing advance—uncertain, contradictory, monotonous, artificial. The laws of their growth remain identical, the agents that promote it the same; but the whole manner of the administration of these agents is changed, and, in the case of girls, the natural action of these laws is perverted.

When a lady opens a school she usually does so in an ordinary dwelling house. The bedrooms—large or small, detached or collected, as the case may be—are allotted to the pupils; and the drawing-room or library is appropriated as the school-room. But few drawing-rooms or libraries, except in houses which we rarely see devoted to this purpose, possess space enough, or admit air or light enough, for a school-room; and for the simple reason that they were never intended for the purpose. It was never anticipated when they were built that they would be required to hold air for so many pairs of lungs, and during so many consecutive hours of habitation.

I have already, when recommending a judicious use of the bath in the nursery and in boys' schools, endeavoured to show that the cleansing of skin by ablation is but one of its many advantages; for in many es-

ential points bathing is virtually exercise, and in a modified form possesses some of its most valuable attributes. If for these reasons the bath was important to nursery children and to school-boys, how much more urgently is it required by girls, who, as we shall presently see, have absolutely no exercise at all deserving of the name? And yet how seldom do we hear of a school for girls that has made provision for the proper ablutions of its young and delicate occupants. Do we not rather know that the custom is to permit them daily to put on, and nightly to remove, their manifold and bulky and close-fitting garments from a skin that water or brush or towel never touches from Midsummer to Christmas and back to Christmas?

After the routine duties of dressing and prayers, it is customary for school-girls to go straight to the breakfast-table. Their lungs have not been inflated, nor the chest uplifted, by a single breath of the external air; the pulse has not been quickened and the nerves have not been braced by the refreshing tonic of the bath; so the morning meal needs to be both stimulating and substantial, at once to arouse the appetite and to satisfy it. For the activity and energy of both mind and body will be greatly dependent upon it; and they are just beginning the day. And what an exhilarating stimulating meal is set before our delicately-nurtured girls, and how nourishing and sustaining for their fast growing frames at this age, when the drain upon its resources is at its greatest! Bread and butter, with milk and water, or weak tea, daily, without change or addition throughout the half year. We have just discovered that we have been killing our soldiers by thousands by our persistent neglect of a few sanitary laws, the principal of which are these two—a proper supply of fresh air, and a reasonable variety of diet. Now these were all men of mature frame and approved health and strength, with whom variety was not so important; and the early lives of the men who fill the ranks of our army have, we may suppose, been very pampered; yet the impure air of barrack life, and the unvaried dinner of boiled beef sapped the physical energies of these hardy and hard-faring men, and consumption, more potent than an enemy's sword, slew them by thousands.

From the breakfast-table it is not unusual to go straight to the school-room, there to be occupied for three or four consecutive hours at mental task-work. Not yet have they breathed the external air, nor stretched their young limbs but in passing from one room to another. But after the school hours come the relief and the change, the amusement and the relaxation, the recreation and the exercise—all at once, and all in one—a veritable *bonne bouche* of physical enjoyment. Having attired themselves in bonnet and mantle, linked together arm-in-arm, two and two, they go forth—for a walk! As they did yesterday, as they will do to-morrow, and the next day, and the next; at the same hour, in the same order, along the same road, the same distance—wheeling round at the same spot, and back again at the same pace. And no one must laugh or speak except to her companion, and then only in an under tone, because loud talking is unladylike; and no one must quit the path, or run or jump, because all romping is unladylike. This is when the weather is fine. When it is not fine they must stay within doors, the younger ones playing in the school-room, if they can contrive to do so without disarranging the books or tables or making a noise, and the older ones sauntering about the room, writing letters, reading, or listlessly turning over the sheets of music or drawing in their port-folios. A welcome sound is the dinner bell; not that they are hungry—that would be unladylike—but many are faint and all weary.

If consumption thinned the ranks of our grenadiers, how comes it to spare this most melancholy procession of a girls' school? Does it spare it? We know sadly to the contrary, and that a feeble organization is natural to women.

If the whole establishment cannot be built expressly for this all-important purpose, as recommended for boys' schools' the first act of occupation should be to erect a school room on the most approved plans for ensuring perfect lighting and ventilation or if this cannot be done, so to alter the special room so to produce a full admission and uniform distribution of light, and a free opportunity for the change and interchange of the air with the least exposure to the inmates. It is wonderful how much may be done in this respect in promoting their health and comfort—almost as wonderful as the little that is done.

THE DICE.

FROM THE GERMAN.

(Continued.)

As the fatal day drew near, a tempest of passionate grief assailed the three prisoners. One of them was agitated by the tears of his father; the second, by the sad situation of a sickly wife and two children. The third, Rudolph, in case the lot fell upon him, would be summoned to part not only with his life, but also with a young and blooming bride, that lay nearer to his heart than any thing else in the world. "Ah! said he on the evening before the day of final decision, "Ah! if but this once I could secure a lucky throw of the dice!" And scarce was the wish uttered, when his comrade Werl, whom he had seen fall by his

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