

A Doctor on Alcohol.

At the recent annual meeting of the Dundee and District Band of Hope Union, Dr. Mackie White said that alcohol was useless as an energiser—a small dose has been proved to diminish muscular energy—but it was true in a way that liquor would stimulate a person. It paralysed the very highest nerve centres—those that had to do with self-control and attention to outside objects—and consequently the lower centres acted more freely. An after-dinner speaker, for instance, very frequently said that he could not talk unless he had a glass of wine—or more than one. The reason was that the liquor made him slightly disregarding of impressions that otherwise would flock in upon him from all parts of the room, and, while he might think he was making a brilliant speech, he very often found that it was much different when he read his newspaper the next morning.

From Our Mail Bag.

Of the many encouraging letters being received, here are a few:—

Lower Selmah, N.S.

Messrs. John Dougall & Son,—

Respected Sirs,—We gladly welcome the 'Northern Messenger' and 'Witness' to our home. May God bless you in your noble work.

Yours sincerely,
(MRS.) A. ANTHONY.

Union Road, Queen's Co., P.E.I.

Dear Sirs,—Your notice for renewal of subscription to the 'Daily Witness' to hand. In reply may say I get the best return for money sent your office than from any expenditure I make. Really, I could not do without the 'Witness' nor our little girl without the 'Northern Messenger.' With many others, I think the 'Witness' the best paper in Canada to-day, and wish it every success possible, and the triumph of those principles for which it so ardently contends. Wishing you a prosperous year at the beginning of the new century, I am yours most truly,

W. C. WESTE.

St. John, N.B.

Messrs. John Dougall & Son, Montreal,—

Dear Sirs,—Find enclosed order for the amount of \$20.00 for renewal of one hundred copies of the 'Northern Messenger.' We are well pleased with the 'Messenger' and find it highly satisfactory, and you are to be congratulated in your effort to supply such a Sabbath-school paper. We wish you every success in the future.

Yours in the Gospel,
(REV.) B. BEATTY.

East Farnham, Que., Dec. 2, 1900.

Gentlemen,—We have used the 'Messenger' in our Sabbath-school for many years, and believe it to be one of the best papers published.

We have recommended the 'Messenger' to others, and I understand that one of the Sunday-schools in our village has decided to subscribe for it this year.

Wishing much success to the most excellent 'Messenger,' I am very sincerely your friend,

JOSHUA BULL.

9 Cutter street, East Somerville, Mass.

Sirs,—My son, Ernest Hayward, has taken your 'Messenger' for the past year and has got you three new subscribers on the same street where we live. My father used to take it when I was a little girl and I have always prized it very highly, and I should feel I had lost a friend if I did not see it every Friday afternoon. I think it is the best child's religious and temperance paper I have ever read.

Yours sincerely,
(MRS.) F. HAYWARD.

BILLY BRAY.

An interesting anecdotal sketchy life of one of the most effective preachers ever used by God for the salvation of souls. It is a wonderful record of what the Holy Spirit accomplished through an illiterate man. Paper cover. Free to every subscriber sending two bona fide new subscriptions to the 'Northern Messenger,' at thirty cents each.

Correspondence

St. Eugene.

Dear Editor,—I am a subscriber to the 'Messenger,' and think it is a grand little paper, and hope that in the near future it may meet with grand success and be read in every home, as it should be. And I hope we will all try to get more subscribers than ever for it this new year. Wishing you all a happy New Year, and long live the 'Messenger.'

HELEN F.

Chatham, N. B.

Dear Editor,—My papa has taken the 'Messenger' about twenty years, and he thinks it the best little paper in the world. I like reading the correspondence. My sister got eighteen subscribers for the 'Messenger' last year, and got two nice Bibles. She intends to canvass again this year. Two boys about twelve years old, were skating on the Miramichi river before the ice was solid; they both fell in and one poor fellow was drowned and never came up. It was very sad. Wishing you a happy New Year.

A. H. M. (Aged 8.)

Maxwell.

Dear Editor,—I live near Maxwell. My brother has taken the 'Messenger' for a good many years, and I like reading the children's letters. I go to school nearly every day. Our teacher's name is Miss M. Inglis, and I like her very much. I have one brother and two sisters.

LEILA M. (Aged 7.)

North Gower.

Dear Editor,—I live in the village of North Gower. I have been taking the 'Messenger' for three years, and like it very well. I have one pet—it is a cow.

WILLIE C. M. (Aged 13.)

Vankleek Hill.

Dear Editor,—I have been taking the 'Messenger' for two years and like it very much. I live about a mile and a half out of town. I have two brothers, one is named Willie and the other Lawrence, and we all go to Sunday-school.

IRENE D.

Inglewood, Newfoundland.

Dear Editor,—I take the 'Messenger,' and like it very much, and as the year is almost up I am sending my subscription for another year. I wonder if any of the little boys or girls who write in the 'Messenger' have ever seen an octopus? I never did until a few weeks ago there was one ran ashore on the beach here. No one about here ever saw anything like it. My father measured it and the body was eight feet from the beak to the tail, and four feet two inches around the body. It had ten arms and two of them were each twenty-four feet long; the others were shorter but larger around, and it had a large brown beak, like the beak of a bird.

SADIE B. C. (Aged 8.)

Carleton Place.

Dear Editor,—I have three nice chickens. I feed them every day, as I think it is a sin not to feed dumb animals. My grandmother is over eighty-two years old, and can see without spectacles yet. Wishing you and the readers of the good old 'Northern Messenger' a happy New Year.

EDWIN R. C.

Baltimore.

Dear Editor,—We have two pets, a cat and a little dog. My father got my brother the dog for his birthday. The cat is pretty near as old as I am. She is seven years old and when you pick her up she will rub her head all over your face. My birthday is Nov. 11. I have one brother and one sister. We get the 'Messenger' at Sunday-school, and I like to read the letters and the stories.

ISABEL M. (Aged 9.)

Dear Editor,—I thought that the little girls and boys of this Correspondence Circle would like to hear of our school entertainment before the Christmas holidays. We had recitations and readings. I recited 'Ring out, wild bells,' and read 'The New Year's bridal,' and all the scholars took part in a recitation entitled 'What says the

clock?' each scholar reciting one verse of the poem and then all joining in the last verse. In a recitation 'Dorothy Dimple's sewing lesson,' by one of the smaller girls, one of her classmates was Dorothy Dimple sewing one of her dolly's dresses. The boys of the school each recited a verse of 'When I'm a man' in turn, and then the last verse in concert. The teacher had a Christmas tree in the school on which she had placed a card or a calendar for each of her scholars. Before the school was dismissed Santa Claus handed these around. My card was a book-mark with a cluster of violets on it.

At home we were learning a beautiful cradle hymn, 'Hush, my dear, lie still and slumber.' We also had a circle song:—

'O, see our round, round circle,
We are a happy band,
For on this day the angels sang,
"On earth good will to men."'

We children clasped hands in a circle and sang this while the air was played on the organ.

On Christmas morning my little brother and sisters and I found in our stockings the prettiest little candy-filled boxes out of Santa Claus's pack. Mine was a dainty little white and gold cradle.

Santa Claus had splendid weather for his merry trip with his reindeer on Christmas Eve. On Christmas, too, the roads were so good, that we took the pleasure of a drive in the clear fresh air.

AGNES M.
M. ISABELLA.
H. HELENA.
W. WELLINGTON.

As many men, so many minds. 'World Wide' reflects the thought of both hemispheres.

HOUSEHOLD.

Obedience.

The home ought to teach industry, promptness and order. The market value of a child's work is not the measure of its worth. Whatever portion of the daily work falls to the child's share, he should understand that it belongs to him legitimately as a member of the partnership, and that his reputation depends upon his doing it promptly, regularly and in a workmanlike manner. Whether he likes the work or not is not at all to the question. Your child needs to learn what a multitude of men and women have never learned, that what the judgment approves is to be conscientiously carried out without any reference to the fact that it is no fun. A great stumbling-block with children is the idea that people, when they are grown up, do just what they please, because there is no visible compulsion upon them. It is in the home that they must be taught that obedience is the law of life, under which parent and child both live, and that we are to do the right not because we say must to ourselves. If promptness be the most difficult of all virtues to teach our children, it is that whose possession will be a priceless boon to them. It is worth a small fortune to them to be taught to go without delay from one thing to another, neither wasting their own time nor stealing that of others.—Emily Huntingdon Miller.

Recipes.

Potatoes with Parsley Butter.—Put the boiled potatoes in a dish. Melt one tablespoonful butter, add one tablespoonful fine chopped parsley and pour it over the potatoes.

Apple Fritters—a breakfast dish.—Pare and core six large, tart apples, cut transversely in thick slices and lay in an earthen dish for an hour with nutmeg or cinnamon. Then, with a fork, dip them in a batter made of half a pint of flour, and the beaten yolks of three eggs, made of the right consistency with a little cold water. Lastly, add to the batter one level teaspoonful of baking powder. Then dip the apples, slice by slice, into this batter, and fry a rich brown in plenty of hot fat.