

surely not too much to ask that the latter be also revised. It has been well said that the mathematical is an admirable piece of machinery, but that the value of what it yields depends upon the quality of what is put into it. That there must be some flaw in the physical argument I can, for my own part, hardly doubt, though I do not pretend to be able to say where it is to be found. Some assumption, it seems to me, has been made, or some consideration has been left out of sight, which will eventually be seen to vitiate the conclusions, and which, when duty is taken into account, will allow time enough for any reasonable interpretation of the geological record."

These words are not only those of a high authority, but delivered, as they were, before a recent gathering of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, were received by them with the profoundest consideration. His last sentence is especially worthy of attention.

The Individual Communion-Cup.

As an illustration of the readiness of large numbers of people to be carried away by every new idea that may be suggested, or to adopt every new fad that may be advertised extensively, the demand for the individual communion-cup stands well to the front. No money-making device ever had a better gratuitous advertisement. We suggest the formation of a new denomination, to be known as the Church of the Anti-Bacilli or the Bacilli-phobists. We would propose as one of the first laws to be enacted for its government that every cup to be used at a given service of communion be subjected to a microscopic test, and that subsequently to its use it be compelled to submit to a process of sterilization. It should also be rigorously demanded that the person preparing the bread for the service be subjected to a careful examination as to her innocuousness, and that the knife used by her be sterilized, say by a bath in carbolic acid and water, be-

fore the bread is cut by it. Of course the bread might not be so palatable; but who would not be willing to endure a little temporary discomfort for the sake of the well-being of a community?

Progress.

THE tremendous progress that is being made against the liquor traffic is becoming more and more apparent not only in this country, but in Europe. Even in Paris the agitation has spread and is bearing fruit. Before the Academy of Medicine, Dr. Lancereaux summed up the results of the great growth in the consumption of alcohol as follows: "A mortality greater than that from the greatest epidemics, the ruin of labor, the steady diminution of riches, and—what is already startlingly evident in France—the diminution of the very population of the country by the extinction of the family." This we quote from the Paris correspondence in the New York *Tribune*, March 25. Let no temperance agitator grow weary. Victory is certain.

Slips of Tongue and Pen.

"WE come confessing of our sins." The *of* is redundant, *confess* taking the direct objective. We *partake* of refreshments, of which we take but a part in association with others. *Admit* is used with and without *of* according to the sense. The entrance *admits* to the grounds, the porter *admits* the visitor, the mind *admits* an explanation; but a difficulty *admits of* explanation, and could not be said to *admit* it.

"I have no *i-de-a*." Always and only *i-de-a*. So, too, *i-dé-al*, not, *i'd-al*, or, still worse, *i-deel'*. *Or-de-al* is frequently mispronounced, by a contrary error, *or-dé-al* (even sometimes *or-deel'*); *or-de-al* only is allowable.

THE word of God is continually showing us that power is not always where it seems to be, but very often where it seems not to be.—*Clemance*.