

## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE President of the Ontario Women's Christian Temperance Association sent a communication to the Ontario Medical Association, which met in Toronto last week, desiring the latter to pronounce on the effects of alcohol on persons, both in sickness and health, also urging the introduction of temperance text-books in the public schools. The matter was referred to the committee on public health.

RITUALISM continues to grow in favour with Canadian Anglicans. In the Synod of Niagara, held in Hamilton last week, the subject occasioned considerable discussion. In that, as in other dioceses in the Dominion, opinions are sharply defined. People in the Episcopal communion regard ritualism as a vital matter. In the discussions referred to, there was a general effort to avoid extremes, and to formulate a mild but apparently meaningless resolution, with a view of securing peace on this disturbing subject—a result not likely to be reached just immediately.

THE resolution came to by the ministers of Hamilton to discountenance Sunday funerals has received the support of the Church of England clergymen of that city. They agree to discountenance the custom as far as possible by refusing to read the necessary services over the dead on that day, except under urgent circumstances, such as may arise from hot weather, danger of infection, etc., because it interferes with our Sunday school work; because it encourages desecration of the Lord's day; because it hinders many from attending the evening services; and, further, it deprives the caretaker of the cemetery and his assistants of their right, in common with all men, to rest on the Lord's day. They earnestly ask the co-operation of all who may be called upon to order funerals to assist them in carrying out the above suggestions.

THE "Christian Leader" informs us that Dr. F. L. Robertson, of Glasgow, at a meeting in connection with the Friendly Societies' conference, said he had long been of opinion that if churches were to direct a little less attention to studying the affairs and adjusting the conditions of life in the kingdom which is to come, about which we know scarcely anything, and were to devote a little more of their attention in trying to advance the kingdom of Christ on earth, attending a little more to mundane affairs, and not standing aloof from the great mass of their fellow-creatures busily engaged in the world's fighting, they would win a deeper hold than ever they had upon the whole population of the country, and would help to weld and bind all classes of the community together into one great whole.

STYLE of matter is to a preacher more important than the manner of delivery. So says Prof. Austin Phelps. He points out that good style, as he uses the term, involves perspicuity, energy, elegance, and naturalness. He declares that a large class of middlemen between the scholars and the vulgar do not know enough to refrain from slang in their own practice. The surest way to be understood is to speak the pure mother tongue. Not a thought exists which must go outside of the English tongue for a clear, precise, forcible utterance. Good sense must have literal expression. "Did you ever see a rank and top-heavy growth of clover just after a thunder storm?" he asks. "Such is apt to be the style of a preacher who always extemporizes. The guiding enthusiasm of extemporaneous delivery is apt to cast the style in inextricable confusion."

POPULAR conceptions of what a minister ought to do, or ought not to do, are often very conflicting. The Brockville "Recorder" thus expresses an opinion with which most sensible people will agree: "It is a very unfortunate day for the cause of Christianity when professing Christian men, who claim to be devout followers of the lowly Nazarene, so far forget themselves as to attempt to ostracise their spiritual adviser

because he happens to hold political views opposed to their own, and dares to exercise the franchise. It is certainly no part of a clergyman's duty to use his position to influence any of his charge politically, but it is every man's duty to exercise the franchise, and we cannot see why a clergyman should be debarred from voting for the man most likely, in his opinion, to advance the interests of the country, simply because he is a clergyman."

It is reported that Dr. Macgregor of St. Cuthbert's, at a recent meeting of the Edinburgh Established Presbytery, very quickly repudiated "some slight allusions to disestablishment" by Mr. Gordon, W.S. one of his own elders, "because such opinions as he might have formed on matters of that kind were totally unshared by any other member of the kirk-session." Speaking as the representative of the session in regard to the junior pastor's, Mr. Barclay, resolution to accept the call to Montreal, Mr. Gordon said it was a remarkable and, he fancied, a unique thing in the history of the Church that such a charge as St. Cuthbert's, which not merely gave to its ministers their legal stipend, but voluntarily and without compact of any kind had supplemented it up to something like £1,000 a year, should have been deprived of one of its ministers by a colonial congregation in a disestablished Church. To himself (Mr. Gordon), who, while holding the Established principle, did not attach to it the vital importance which many people did, such a circumstance as that was calculated to make people look with greater calmness than some were able to do upon disestablishment, if that should ever come about.

QUEEN VICTORIA has instituted a new Order, which will probably take a high rank in Christian chivalry. Her intention was to recognize and reward with the insignia of a special decoration such services rendered in nursing the sick and wounded of the Army and Navy as furnished examples of particular and signal individual devotion. The decoration will be called the "Royal Red Cross," and is to consist of a cross, enamelled crimson and edged with gold, bearing on its arms the words "Faith, Hope and Charity," with the date of the institution of the Order and an effigy of the Sovereign in its centre. On the reverse side will appear the royal and imperial cipher and crown, and the cross will be suspended by a dark blue ribbon edged with red tied in a bow, and worn on the left shoulder. Ladies of foreign as well as British birth will be eligible for the new honour, if they be deemed to have merited it by exertion on behalf of British soldiers and sailors, and have been recommended to the Throne by the Secretary of State for War for the time being, or the First Lord of the Admiralty. The names of those on whom the decoration may be conferred will, of course, be published in the London "Gazette."

LONDON this year is highly honoured in the matter of ecclesiastical conventions. Last week the thirteenth annual meeting of the Congregational Union of the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec was held in the Congregational church, Dundas street; this week the ninth General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada meets in St. Andrew's Church, in the same city. A matter of much interest at the former was the appointment of the Rev. Dr. Stevenson, of Montreal, to the presidency of the Congregational Theological College, owing to the retirement of the venerable Dr. Wilkes. Dr. Stevenson is a gentleman of great ability, an evangelical divine, a clear thinker, and an eloquent preacher. He will doubtless exercise a healthy and powerful influence for good in the new position for which he has been chosen. The following statistics were given at the London meeting: Stations (not churches) 50; preaching stations on Lord's day, 97; average attendance at Sabbath services, 14,000; under pastoral charge, 20,000; additions to membership, 700; Sabbath schools, 75; officers and teachers, 817; scholars on roll, 7,283; baptisms, 428; number of church edifices, 78; sittings, 25,000; value, \$22,125; value of parsonages, \$31,625; total value of church

property, \$553,750; church debts, \$145,310; total amount raised for local and other purposes, \$92,000; increase over previous year, \$10,500. The Province of Ontario, of course, contributes a much larger proportion of these numbers than Quebec. Congregationalism has obtained a firm foothold in Manitoba and the North-West, and is likely to make rapid progress.

THE annual meeting of the Protestant Orphans' Home was held in the Home, Sullivan street, on Tuesday evening, 5th June. Ex-Mayor McMurrich, in the chair. There was a large attendance of the friends of the institution. A report was read showing that there are now 113 children in the Home, thirty-four of these being admitted during the year. There was a balance on hand from the previous year of \$878; the receipts during the year, \$5,850; expenditure \$6,999. A report was read by Mr. McMurray of the building committee, stating that the new building on Dovercourt road would be ready for occupation in September. The cost of the building will be \$38,000, of which \$19,555 have been paid. Votes of thanks were passed to the ladies who managed the institution, to the physicians and solicitor for the services gratuitously rendered, and to the Orangemen for their contributions to the funds of the Home. In moving and seconding these votes several interesting addresses were given by Rev. Messrs. H. M. Parsons, P. McF. McLeod, and R. Wallace of the Presbyterian Church, and Rev. Messrs. Cayley, DuMoulin, S. Jones, Lewis, and McCarroll of the Episcopal Church. Several of the speakers advised that an annual collection be taken up either in the churches or Sabbath schools in aid of this well managed and deserving charity, where so many children are so carefully trained and fitted for respectable positions in society; and thus are saved in many cases from a life of crime which would cost the community more than their support at this institution—each child costing only between \$50 and \$60 per year. It is now unsectarian and open to all Protestant orphans, or to any child one of whose parents is dead. We commend it to the sympathy and support of the Christian public.

WEEKLY HEALTH BULLETIN.—The general condition of the health of the Province has continued the improvement noticed last week, this being aided greatly by the absence of any extremes of temperature or change of pressure. The total number of diseases has again decreased from last week. The change which was noted last week in the falling tendency of Bronchitis has continued, it amounting to only 8.9 per cent. of the total diseases, and is almost equalled in degree of prevalence by Anæmia. Neuralgia and Rheumatism have remained in much the same position as last week. Influenza is steadily receding, while Pneumonia and Pleurisy are showing the same tendency. Amongst Fevers, we see the upward tendency of Intermittent to be very marked, it having extended its area of prevalence till it appears this week in five Districts. With its upward tendency we are glad to be able to chronicle the fact of the absence of Enteric and Typho-Malarial fevers. Amongst the contagious Zymotic diseases Measles still stands forth most prominently, amounting to five per cent. It has, however, receded since last week. Mumps maintains its previous prevalence, while Diarrhoea shows some recession. Whooping Cough and Scarlatina remain almost unchanged. Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis, apparently contagious, retains its hold in District III, Muskoka and Parry Sound, but has not extended its ravages. The chief feature of the diseases reported for this and for several weeks past is the apparently greater prominence of what we may more especially call chronic diseases. This, as will be seen, must be due to either one of two causes; an increase in their prevalence by the accession of new cases or the lessening of other and acute diseases. As already seen, the grand total of diseases has very considerably decreased; hence Heart Disease, Consumption, etc., which have remained in prevalence much the same as in months past, must appear proportionately more prominent.