

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE "Sanitarian" recommends for the purification of the air in the sick room to "place in the bed a small basket or other porous article containing wood charcoal for the purpose of absorbing the foul air, which, if diffused throughout the surrounding atmosphere, would be constantly returned to the lungs and cause the patient to die of auto infection. 2. In a sick-room in which infants are sleeping, it is necessary to put a box or basket containing quicklime and some wood charcoal, for the purpose of fixing the carbonic acid exhaled from the lungs and of absorbing all the foul air generated in the system and given off by exhalation from the skin or otherwise."

TEMPERANCE workers in the Province of Quebec conduct the movement with much energy and enterprise. Closely following the offer recently made by the Quebec Branch of the Dominion Alliance of prizes for Essays on Temperance by the theological students, is an offer of three prizes—for the best, second best and third best essays on "Total Abstinence as a Means to Success in Life," the essays to be written by a boy or girl under sixteen years of age. The first prize, a complete set of Chambers' Encyclopedia, value \$25, is offered by a member of the Alliance Committee; the second and third prizes, \$15 and \$10 respectively, are offered by the Montreal Women's Christian Temperance Union. The prizes are offered through the Alliance.

ST. PETER'S is accommodated with confessionals for all or almost all the languages of Europe, so that penitents who know no speech but their own may readily find a confessor to understand them. The other day the English priest fell ill, and his place was taken by an Italian ecclesiastic who assured his superiors that he was a perfect master of the British tongue. An English lady, a recent convert to Romanism, unaware of the change, come to the confessional as usual, and relieved her mind of some trifling offence she had committed during the Lenten season by eating a little butter, or something of that kind, in mistake. What was her surprise to hear a non-familiar voice, with a strong Roman accent, begin an exhortation to penitence with the words "You big scoundrel." The worthy Italian had no idea that he was doing other than administering the mildest of rebukes to his penitent.

THERE is such a thing as a man knowing too much, if the cost is counted. A young newspaper man died recently in Baltimore. The cause of his death is not to be called mysterious, for the paper on which he was employed gives reasons enough. By profession, this young man of twenty-six, telegraph editor of a newspaper, was a civil engineer. He had been educated in Germany, and had been professionally employed in Mexico and the United States. He was a poet and musician. He had composed orchestral music and verses. He was an artist and an amateur actor. He was a mechanical draughtsman and author of an opera. He spoke three languages besides his own—and does anybody wonder he is dead? If this Jack-of-all-trades had been contented with proficiency in one or other of the vocations he tried, and had husbanded his bodily as well his mental strength, a long and useful life might have been his. But, like many who had gone before him, he wanted to know and do too much. Indiscreet students ought to lay the warning to heart.

BORDER towns possess many advantages. They afford scope for social and business intercourse. When a good lecturer or an able divine visits Windsor the inhabitants of Detroit can cross the river to enjoy the treat provided; and as occasionally happens, something attractive may take place in the American city which is easy of access to the good people of Windsor. These frontier towns have also most decided disadvantages. They afford a refuge for the rascality ever on the alert to escape from the grasp of

the law. Last week five ruffians crossed to Windsor for a riotous outburst on the Canadian side of the river. Getting disgracefully intoxicated at a tavern a few miles below Sandwich, they became very disorderly, and on their return abused the horses they were driving, and when remonstrated with became abusive and brutal in their conduct. Efforts for their apprehension were strenuously resisted. Knives, daggers and revolvers were drawn and many and serious injuries inflicted by them. One man they injured so badly that for a time his recovery was despaired of. They turn out to be members of a criminal gang. Their cases will be attended to. Windsor has a Police Magistrate who is not remarkable for his admiration of heroes of the Jesse James type.

INSTANCES are often to be found of the pernicious effect of much of the cheap, sensational literature which is so plentiful on this continent. As bearing on this subject a remarkable report has just been issued by Professor Greenwood, of Kansas. He says that he examined 1,371 boys and 1,506 girls to learn what they read. Thirty per cent. was fiction, nearly eleven travels and adventures, eight and a half history, nine and a half biography, eight per cent. scientific, and eleven per cent. "trash." Four hundred and thirty-two pupils had read one or more copies of a flashy New York sporting paper. They said they read it because it "had lots about fights and killings in it," and with great unanimity they thought "it ought not to be sold for children to read it." The report concluded as follows: "I found some children who read no books; others, again, that read only the poorest. All were anxious to read. The teachers are only too glad to help them. Nearly all children that attend school are reached; but who is able to reach the waifs and outcasts, and others who do not attend school? Nearly all those who can read revel daily over the very lowest class of literature. Hundreds and thousands pity them, but pity is not what they need: they need help, and that immediately." Other reports are in accord with this, and the need of definite and decided action is more manifest every day.

PROFESSOR GEORGE PAXTON YOUNG, writing to the "Varsity" on the subject of "University Examinations," gives expression to opinions with which he will find many sympathizers. The Professor's experience as an educationist, not less than his eminent attainments in philosophy, entitle his views to great weight: "I have long been convinced that the interests of education in Ontario are grievously suffering from over-examination. The whole tendency of our university and college system is to raise examinations to the first place, and to make teaching quite a subordinate thing. This is a dreadful evil. The greatest advantage that a student can have is a teacher of originality and strong individuality of mind; but if the professors in University College are to be turned into machines to grind up students for university examinations, originality and individuality of mind will be out of place in our college chairs. Having this conviction, I looked on the amendments that Professor Loudon some time ago proposed to introduce into the scheme of university examinations as a step in the right direction; and I have the strongest sympathy with you when you say: 'Let there then be two examinations—for admission and for degree—and no more; and let it be determined that between the slavery of the school and the dull routine of practical life there shall be at least a few years of freedom. Intermediate examinations are the burden and curse of university existence!'"

THE death of Louis Veullot, the ultramontane journalist, is announced. In early life a visit to Rome awoke in him a resolve to devote himself to the defence and extension of Catholicism. He entered on the editorship of "L'Univers" in 1847, which position he held till his death. The violence of his attacks on the educational authorities of Paris in 1844 sent him to prison for several months. After hailing the Revolution of 1848 as a providential event, he repudiated the

Republic, then parted company with Montalembert and Falloux, to wage an impartial war on Socialists, Revolutionists and Philosophers. When, in 1853, the French Bishops were discussing with much earnestness the subject of classical education, M. Veullot, always a foe to the classics, attacked with characteristic violence the bishops who held views opposed to his own, and when censured by the Archbishop of Paris, appealed in person to Rome and carried his point; none the less did Mgr. Dupanloup and other prelates banish "L'Univers" from their dioceses. During the exciting period of the Italian wars (1859-61) M. Veullot supported the papal cause so vehemently that the Emperor had no option but to suppress his paper, which was only restored to him in 1867. In the interim he published "Le Monde," but it was much less successful. The ardour with which he pleaded the cause of the dogma of Infallibility, attacking its opponents and terrorizing the timid and undecided, won for him the special commendation and protection of the Pope. In 1874 "L'Univers" was twice suspended by the Government of M. De Broglie, as an enemy to the public peace and the dignity of the press; in fact not a year passed during his long career as a journalist in which he was not before the courts or engaged in an internecine fight with a rival paper or a Liberal bishop. Under the milder rule of Leo XIII. the importance of the Ultramontane chief visibly decreased; but he was combative to the last, though in the hurly-burly of contemporary Radical journalism his war-cry was no longer heard high above the rest. His character has been thus tersely summed up by a modern writer: "M. Veullot knows of only two sound Catholics, the Pope and himself, and he is not quite sure about the Pope."

WEEKLY HEALTH BULLETIN—It was seen in the last report that the diseases, Bronchitis and Pneumonia, were markedly present. This week they will be seen to be likewise very prevalent, but along with them we have Neuralgia and especially Rheumatism greatly extended in area of prevalence. It is interesting to note in this week's report the great uniformity shown by the ten districts in the six most prevalent diseases. Only eleven different diseases appear amongst these. This uniformity, greater than has appeared in any previous report, must be considered as marking the very special characteristics of the weather at this season of the year, these being in nearly every case diseases especially dependent upon cold and dampness. Amongst Fevers, Intermittent retains its position in Districts VII., VIII., and X, including north shore of Lake Erie, and the south-western peninsula. Others do not appear amongst the twenty most prevalent diseases. Zymotic diseases do not show any increase, but on the whole seem to have lessened in prevalence. Thus Scarletina has wholly disappeared from the twenty most prevalent diseases. Mumps and Diphtheria retain much the same position as last week; while Measles, which for four weeks past had steadily increased, has this week receded very markedly, falling from 10 to 7.5 per cent. in degree of prevalence. Several, however, report it as being epidemic in their localities. Erysipelas shows much the same prevalence as last week; while Smallpox, noticed last week as being present in one place, has, according to report, been suppressed. The continued prevalence of Anæmia from week to week is a fact which is too important to pass without notice. The term is that commonly applied to that condition in which, while there may be no actual localized disease, there is yet a general debility arising from impoverished blood, which places the system in a position peculiarly susceptible to any specific morbid influences to which it may at any time be subjected. The influence of unsanitary methods of living—as improper food, impure water, and unventilated dwellings—in producing this condition has been so clearly demonstrated that the attention of the general public cannot be too frequently called to the fact, inasmuch as it often is the first stage, followed by some Zymotic or other specific disease, too frequently of a fatal character.