

the absurdity of their suspicions and told them in effect to mind their own business.

The writer who has taken on himself to defend the profession in this high-handed fashion has made a great mistake. The repudiation, however vehement, of the statement that medical orders are sometimes the cause of intemperance is absurd.

We say most emphatically and of our own knowledge that the way in which some medical men recommend people to take intoxicating liquors has been one cause of intemperance, has started or restarted men and women we know on the road to ruin, and has been a serious obstacle to the success of the temperance cause. We do not say that the medical men concerned have intended to ruin their patients. But we do know of cases in which medical men, well aware that their patients were addicted to intemperance, have not only not insisted on total abstinence, but had told them to take some form of intoxicating liquors. Besides that, it is not perfectly clear that people would not develop a craving for drink if they had not been in the habit of taking it; next, most people would not take it unless they thought it was good for them; and what is more convincing (to persons, we grant, only too ready to be convinced) that this drink is beneficial than the fact that the majority of medical men are constantly ordering it?

This thing is done lightly; done without sufficient consideration of the awful consequences which sometimes follow; done, we suppose, under what we cannot but call a misapprehension; done because old teaching and habits have engrained themselves deeply; done because others do the same and a contrary course is, or is supposed to be, unpopular. But, whatever the motive, good, bad or indifferent, the consequences are the same, and the profession must in one way or other be constantly reminded that something more is expected from them than mere routine advice regardless of consequences. There is superabundant proof that alcohol is lowering the average vitality and morality of the nation; those who advise the means to this end are partly responsible for the end itself. It is time that those who pride themselves, and justly, on their efforts to stamp out disease and remove its causes, should take special pains not to recommend that which is a more prolific cause (immediate or remote) of disease than any other.—'Medical Temperance Review.'

In a New York Opium Den.

During her recent visit to America to attend the W.C.T.U. Conventions, Sister Lily, of the West London Mission, took the opportunity of exploring the slums of New York, and shortly after her return to London she gave at St. James' Hall an interesting account of her slumming experiences and impressions.

Being told that they wanted to see the very worst that New York had to show, a well-known saloon keeper of the 'Bowery' suggested to Sister Lily and her companions that they should go into one of the opium joints of China Town, to which he promised to conduct them. The suggestion was agreed to, and about half-past two in the morning they set out. Reaching a quiet-looking house, they were shown into a dark, unventilated cellar, in which were several opium-smokers, one of whom had been there for ten months. After describing the way in which this man prepared a small piece of opium for smoking, Sister Lily says: 'Then

THE MOST AWFUL EXPRESSION came over the man's face. It was really almost a devilish look. . . . Then he said to me, 'Here, have you ever smoked opium?' 'No,' I replied. 'Won't you try? I will give you a new pipe, and I will teach you gently. Try once. You do not know what it is. Try once; I will teach you.' And then something happened which made a great impression on me. A haggard-looking boy of about twenty years of age was standing watching at the other side of the room, and he suddenly came across and said, 'Do not touch that, I beg of you; do not, do not touch that. If you tried it once, it would be the beginning of hell upon earth for you,' he said. And although I assured him he need not be afraid, he never took his eyes off me and when I was going out he said, 'Oh, I am so glad.'

'We then went upstairs, and I think it was worse than what I had seen below. I found the room filled with American girls and Chinese men, and these men were

teaching those girls the beginning of opium. It seemed horrible to me—girls of seventeen and eighteen just beginning that life.'

Surely such testimony against opium from one of its slaves, 'It will be the beginning of hell upon earth for you,' should make Christians in this country more than ever determined not to rest till they are free from complicity in a trade which makes a hell upon earth for those whom it is their duty to love 'as themselves.'—'The Sentinel.'

A Costly Drinking Bout.

A case which came before the Admiralty Division of the High Court recently disclosed the costly consequences of drink. It seems that a steamer named the 'Harold,' in passing through the Manchester Ship Canal, was driven at a high rate of speed, and 'ran into and smashed the Latchford lock gates, her engineer, who was intoxicated, not having eased the engines.' The Canal Company claimed damages to the amount of £13,701, and they were finally awarded £12,987. Mr. Justice Barnes, who had to review an assessment of the damages which had been made by the assistant registrar and merchants, said it was a 'singular and extraordinary accident, due to the negligence of the man in charge of the engines.' An abstaining engineer would have saved his employers this large pecuniary loss, and the Canal Company an undefined inconvenience and loss which are not met by the money award. The 'Morning Advertiser,' in reporting the case, omits to say that drink was the cause of the negligence.—'Temperance Record.'

Writing of the International Congress against the abuse of alcoholic drinks, which was held in Brussels, Mrs. Hunt says:—'Every paper there given which represented scientific investigation taught total abstinence most convincingly. "No one could attend the sessions of this Brussels Congress as I have done and not be convinced that total abstinence is the only safe rule for individual life," said Baron Plessen, Lord Chamberlain of Denmark, who was one of the delegates. His friend, Dr. Combe, from Switzerland, surprised us by saying that alcohol found few advocates in the section of the Congress devoted to medicine, while a delegate from Germany reported a medical temperance association in that country with a membership of 130 total abstaining physicians.'

Correspondence

Sydenham, Ont.

Dear Editor,—I thank you most sincerely for the good I have received from your delightful paper, the 'Northern Messenger.' I believe you are a good man. I believe you love children, for you take a fatherly interest in their welfare. I live on a farm, seven miles from Owen Sound. My brother joins with me in wishing that you may long be spared to carry on your good works.

GRACE H.

Bobcaygeon, Ont.

Dear Editor,—Our village is situated on three small islands. In the summer time tourists come from the United States and parts of Canada, to fish. We have five churches here.

BERTHA B.

Guest, Ala.

Dear Editor,—A kind friend is sending the 'Messenger,' and I enjoy reading it very much. I am a 'shut in,' and have been all my life. I would like very much to correspond with friends of our little paper. I enjoy reading so much, that is all that I can do to pass the long day. If any one would write me I will assure you of an answer.

MARGRET HAMIL, Guest, Ala.

Blissville.

Dear Editor,—I read the 'History of Greece' one week. I was much interested in the stories of Perseus and Jason; also at the droll legend of King Midas of the Bryges. Midas was missing fruit from his beautiful garden, and set a trap for the thief, and caught him. The robber was Silenus, the tutor of Bacchus. He was released on the condition that everything that Midas touched would turn to gold. And so it did—

clothes, food and everything that the king touched turned to gold, and he found himself starving. So the gift was taken away. In remembrance of his folly his ears grew long like those of a donkey. He hid them by wearing a tall cap. Nobody knew of them but his barber, who was threatened with death if ever he mentioned those ears.

STANLEY K. (aged 12).

Northport.

Dear Editor,—I enjoy reading the Sabbath-school lesson, and it is a great help to me in my lessons at Sabbath-school. We live by the seashore, and have great fun to bathe and take our books and sit on the banks and read.

JANIE B. (aged 11).

Fulton Brook, Queen's Co., N.B.

Dear Editor,—My oldest sister takes the 'Messenger,' but she is away this winter at school, as we have no school here in the winter. She intends to be a teacher if she can. My little baby brother will be five on Oct. 2 next. He is very cute, and says some very funny things. His name is Ralph Augustus Lloyd. My papa and oldest brother work in the lumber woods.

E. EDNA F.

Dear Editor,—I am going to tell you a story about a little boy. He was an orphan, and lived in the boys' home. We lived near the home, and I used to take Sunday-school papers and cards there very often. One day this little boy met with an accident. He called and said he wanted to see me. 'Oh,' he said, 'I am awfully afraid to die.' 'Why,' I replied, 'if you trust in Jesus and give your heart to him, he will take care of you.' I then told him the wonderful story of Jesus and the little children. He told me he thought it was only big rich people that came to Jesus. He gave his heart to Jesus, and that night he passed peacefully away, murmuring the sweet words of Jesus: 'Suffer the little children to come unto me, for of such is the kingdom.'

L. S.

Halfway River, N.S.

Dear Editor,—My home is surrounded by maple trees, which are very pretty in summer and autumn. The train goes by our place, and my father keeps the post-office. I was at Pugwash last summer; it is a very pretty place in summer, but in winter it is cold and bleak.

MINNIE F. (aged 11).

Inisfail, Alberta.

Dear Editor,—I am very fond of reading and sewing. We live fifteen miles from town. I was converted at the age of eleven, two years ago last May. I would like to get a letter from L.S.

MAY HILL.

Glencoe, N.B.

Dear Editor,—I thought I would like to tell the readers of the Correspondence Page this time about the wild flowers of spring in Glencoe. The snow stays here till about the first of May, so our wild flowers are kept back; but when they burst forth from their green beds they seem to be rushing on to make room for the others which follow soon after them. About the first flowers we have is the Spring Beauty. It is seen in abundance along our roads, and is a very delicate looking little flower, and fades soon after it is pulled. About the same time as the Spring Beauty appears we have the wild Bleeding Heart. This is a queer little flower, and affords great amusement because of its funnily shaped flowers, all along one stalk, like our garden Bleeding Heart. When these two flowers have almost all faded and gone, the Dog Tooth Violet appears. This flower has the loveliest scent of all the rest, and is of a bright yellow color, with rich streaks of brown through it. The Purple Trillium then comes forth with its great green leaves. This has a very pretty blossom, but I never cared for the plant because of its very disagreeable perfume.

All this while we have some violets, of three colors, white, blue and yellow. By the twenty-fourth of May these are in their magnificency, and we often gather great bunches of them. These violets are just a small species of the Mayflower, which really does not grow in our part of the province. Shortly after this we have the yellow pond lilies, chocolate blossoms and the more common daisy, dandelion and buttercup. I love these spring flowers, and would like to hear about the spring flowers in other part of our Dominion from some of the correspondents.

MAMIE.