

work it would fare badly for our race. This eliminating process is humane in one respect: such die as the fool dieth, but they think they are enjoying life and are drinking deeply of the cup of pleasure. To some extent this is true. Many forms of sin are doubtless, for large numbers, pleasant. Their moral natures are low, and conscience does not trouble them; so there is no cruelty in their cutting off. An early death of the vicious is always an advantage to relatives and to a community. Few such parasites and dangerous citizens live past thirty-five years of age; but the large majority fill dishonored graves much earlier in life. At this age well-behaved citizens are only entering upon their active duties. Society is better to-day than it ever has been in the history of the world. The bad are diminishing. They die sooner than formerly in our fast age. They propagate fewer of their kind, and a purer and physically healthier, although a more nervous race, is taking their place. This is nature's method, but human laws should assist this beneficence of our being, not only by education, example, and precept among the young, during the plastic period of life, but also by methods of a radical kind which will prevent the increase of crime in all classes, especially in the army of defectives. It is to be remembered that crime usually springs from, 1st, vindictive impul-

ses; 2nd, selfish passions; 3rd, want of moral sense, *i.e.*, no conscience.

If these are the sources of law-breaking, it becomes our clear duty to the community, as well as an act of justice and mercy to the offender himself, to take him in hand as soon as a second conviction has shown that he belongs to the criminal classes, and in this way protect society against him in the only way in which all experience has proved it can be protected—by reforming him and incapacitating him until he is reformed. He has forfeited his citizenship by abusing it; he has made war against society, and it is for society thenceforward to decide his fate; he has given society a right to protect itself against him in the manner it deems most effectual. The history of ruffianism shows that short sentences are mistakes. The object of law should be to keep such from doing further harm. The hardened brute is let loose upon society after a short imprisonment and then he makes many as bad as himself, as the loosened devils are said to take to themselves seven others. First offences should have the punishment probational, but subsequent infractions of law should mean work and imprisonment until indubitable evidence is given of genuine reformation. Sentences should not be determined by time, but by conduct.

EDITORIAL

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

"What's a' the steer kimmer?"

FOR two weeks the glory of an Italian sky made our metropolitan city of Toronto, by day and by night, a "palace of delights," lighted up during the two weeks of her world's Fair, with a brilliancy before unheard of, from transparencies breathing loyalty in every "welcome" and "royal crown," to Sebastopol conflagrations, and every-day and periodic electric lights. Two hundred thousand visitors said, "How beautiful!" and all visitors to the city and their many friends went home convinced the city was healthy, as well as beautiful, for not even the shadow of *pallida mors* was to be seen.

But the ubiquitous newspaper man, like a certain historic personage, is never at rest, and items had vanished with the fading show. Between the

hours of midnight, Saturday and Sunday, a Guy Fawke's plot had been hatched. It was certain that none would read anything not highly spiced after the hundred sensations of a previous fortnight. The cockatrice had lurked for a fortnight and had suddenly come out into broad daylight. Small-pox had seized—had been seizing—victims, and eternal smash was imminent. Another twenty-four hours produced in a single paper four solid pages of *potpourri*, with the heading, "An Inquiry into the Present Outbreak of Typhoid, Diphtheria, Small-pox, and Scarlet Fever—Latest Details." The effort was striking and effective. A morning paper was sold: gossip was supplied for the day. In a few days it was discovered that diphtheria was much less prevalent than for several years, typhoid not at all excessive in its prevalence, and that the small-pox was confined to two families. We do