

TEMPERANCE AND HYGIENE.*

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WE teachers believe that the true end and aim of education is the formation of character. Believing this fact then, it is evidently our duty to press upon the attention of our pupils the great danger of indulgence in the vices common to our time. Among these certainly not one stands out more notoriously than the use of alcohol.

Professor Calderwood, of the University of Edinburgh, says:—"If there be any one vice against which the teachers of our country should seek to warn the young it is drunkenness. Our national reproach because of this one vice is a bittier one; our national loss and suffering appalling to a degree not realized by those who do not ponder the statistics of the subject. Intelligence and debauchery cannot go long together, either in personal or national history. Drunkenness is a vice at which school training should level its heaviest blows." Dr. Willard Parker says: "We shall never control alcohol until we have taught the people its nature and effects, and I can see no way of doing this except through our schools."

If, then, the school is the proper channel for the diffusion of this knowledge, I have a personal word for our teachers. Many are working skilfully, faithfully, and have been for years, to discharge their obligations and duty to the community, fully realizing the responsibility resting upon them. Many of our teachers are young, just entering on the struggle, with minds and purposes only partially developed, but with this one purpose strong in

them, of leading the children placed under their charge to form purposes of true usefulness, and to train their pupils that they may be able, in time, it may be long future, to leave the world better than they found it, in short, so to live that they are each regarded as "a man among men." These leave their mark and a loving memory in every community that has been fortunate enough to secure their services. There is a third class, and fortunately their number is very small, who have no love for their work, or any work for that matter, except that it serves their purpose in the meantime. Such usually are soon understood, and are so kicked about from pillar to post that they shortly leave the profession and there are none to regret their departure.

In my estimation temperance teaching comes next to morality and religion. The man who imparts instruction on this subject must believe in it, live it, practise it, not only in regard to alcohol, but also in respect to temperance in the broadest sense of the term. He must have personal magnetism, strength of will, and that properly trained and directed, that wisdom that maketh not ashamed nor sorry. He must be a man whom the children believe in, and desire to have for a leader. He must be no *crank* to make his very earnestness distasteful to those with whom he comes in contact, but still an enthusiast, one who possesses that enthusiasm which is "catching," and carries along with him the best impulses and warmest endeavours of his children.

Surely the teacher who loves to indulge in intoxicating liquor or debauchery of any kind, or who daily

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