

rude to set them coughing and to give them pain.

17. Q.—Did smoking form part of the religious customs of the Indians?

A.—It did. They believed tobacco to be a gift from God for their especial benefit, and that he used it also.

18. Q.—Two hundred years ago, when an Indian was converted, what did he do?

A.—He immediately threw away his tobacco to prove his sincerity in the new belief. We wish all white men would do the same.

19. Q.—Is tobacco-using a sin?

A.—It is, the Bible says:

'Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.'—I. Cor. x., 31.

20. Q.—What can truly be said of the use of tobacco by Christians?

A.—Tobacco is doing more harm to-day in the churches than spirituous liquors, because Christians who think it wrong to drink, often use tobacco freely to their great harm.

Doctor's Duty About Drinking.

'If the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?' The application of this is obvious. Deference is very properly paid to the opinion of medical men on dietetic subjects. They are supposed to know what men ought to eat, drink, and avoid. But what can the public conclude when 'doctors differ,' and differ on such a simple matter as the value of alcoholic beverages in ordinary dietetic use? It is scarcely credible, but nevertheless a fact beyond all question, that in 1839, nearly sixty years ago, Sir Benjamin Brodie, Sir James Clark, Dr. Marshall Hall, Barnsby Cooper, Richard Quain, Dr. Andrew Ure, Benjamin Travers, and other eminent men signed a declaration that it was altogether erroneous that the habitual use of wine, beer, or spirits, was beneficial to health or necessary for labour. Has the truth of this statement ever been disproved? On the contrary, has not experience abundantly confirmed it. Have not our prisons, our workhouses, our soldiers and sailors, our friendly and insurance societies demonstrated, beyond all question, that total abstinence is not only safe, but advantageous? If that is so, we ask why the medical profession, both the leaders and the rank and file, are not out-and-out advocates of total abstinence? Some are so, and their influence for good is great; but it is largely neutralized by the indifference of others and the active example and public support which the majority contribute in favor of alcohol.

It is a matter of notoriety that a large number of medical men exceed the bounds of moderation in the matter of drink. Take a public dinner, such as the annual dinner of the British Medical Association. How many attending that dinner did not exceed the one and a half ounces of alcohol, which the late Dr. Parkes affirmed was the outside amount which an adult man should take in twenty-four hours? That would be contained in about one wineglassful of port or sherry and two glasses of champagne or hock, and that is on the supposition that none had been taken earlier in the day. As is very well known, there are very few drinkers who do not take more than that (and many very much more) every day of their lives. There are hundreds of failures in the medical profession, and the majority of them through drink. Why does not the profession purge itself of this evil? It is chiefly hindered by the respectable moderate men who sneer or mock at total abstinence and the other men who have not the desire or the moral courage to expose themselves to contempt or ridicule. It is pure cynicism on the part of many, who believe they shall never develop the drink-crave themselves, and who do not care a straw as to what becomes of others. Nevertheless, these ultimately supply the majority of the drunkards.

We need a higher moral standard in this matter. There are plenty of men who will despise or condemn the sot, who will laugh or joke at the man who has become foolish through an occasional excess. Where are the drinkers who never take more than a definite small amount, and who have never felt excited or exalted under the influence of alcohol? And what is that but drunken-

ness, the good old Saxon word for intoxication? Definitions of drunkenness are legion, and frequently devised to exclude all stages preliminary to the last. But, after all, drunkenness is due to the action of alcohol on the brain, and is in its essence the diminution or abrogation of self-control. But physiological experiments have proved that this begins with the first perceptible action of alcohol, and that all the symptoms or consequences of drinking alcohol are only more or less palpable results of the paralysis of various groups of nerve-cells. A man is intoxicated who is affected by the poison alcohol, so that he thinks, says, or does that which he would not have thought, said, or done if he had not taken it. Facts prove that it begins this paralytic influence on the highest centre first, affecting the judgment, the conscience, and the will, warping the whole mind in its judgment of itself and its surroundings, poisoning the very centre of being, and giving the rein to the lower passions and instincts.

The man becomes more and more an automaton under the influence of alcohol, and voluntarily abandons his position and powers as a man. In this consists the essential immorality of the habitual use of intoxicating liquors. We want to see the medical profession take the lead in delivering men and women from the delusion that these drinks are beneficial or even harmless, and in face of the effects which have all through the centuries followed more or less, and inevitably from the common use of alcohol. The nation needs regeneration in this particular. Indifference is criminal. If there is any better or safer or surer remedy than total abstinence, in Heaven's name let us have it, and have it quickly. If not, then it is the bounden duty of all men to urge total abstinence both by precept and example.—Medical Temperance Review.

An old doctor got into conversation with an old pauper. 'What was your trade?' asked the doctor. 'A carpenter,' said the man, 'and a very good trade it is.' 'How came you, in so well-paid a trade, to become a pauper? Did you drink?' 'Not at all; I only took my three pints of ale a day.' 'For how long?' asked the doctor. 'Well, I am eighty—probably about sixty years.' The doctor got paper and pencil and figured, and then told the poor deluded, befooled, old carpenter pauper, that his sixpence per day for sixty years would have amounted, with compound interest, to £3,226, or at 5 percent to £150 per annum.—Slings and Stones.

Correspondence

Mitchell.

Dear Editor,—I have taken very much pleasure in reading your 'Messenger.' My father has been an elder in Knox Church for eighteen years; my mother is a Sunday-school teacher. I have five sisters and one brother. My two oldest sisters have a dressmaker-shop, and my brother has a blacksmith's shop. I go to school and have very nice teachers.

BARBARA (aged 12).

Percy.

Dear Editor,—I have been greatly interested in reading the correspondence, but have not noticed any from Percy, so I thought I would write. I have two sisters and one brother. My brother and I go to school every day, and I like the teacher very well. I read in the part II., and can do addition and subtraction very well. My papa is a farmer; we have thirteen cows and seven calves, eighteen sheep and eleven little lambs.

We are having holidays this week, and have a good time going to the barn watching the calves and lambs playing.

MAGGIE M. H. (aged 7).

Winnipeg.

Dear Editor,—I have been taking the 'Northern Messenger' for about two years, and like it very much. We live near the Red River; the water of the river is very muddy. It has been very cold here this spring. I go to school, and like it very much. I am in standard six, but I hope I will pass into seven after the summer holidays. We have two months of holidays in the summer, and two weeks in the winter. We soon get tired of all the holidays in the summer, as it is so hot. My sister and I go to Sunday-school very regularly; we have a large Sunday-school. We also have a good minister, whom

we like very much. I like going to church in the morning, as the minister always speaks to the children. We have children's services every three months, which we all enjoy. We are longing for the summer to come, when the flowers grow, and birds begin to sing. We always have hot weather at exhibition week in July. There were a great many people last year from the United States at the exhibition.

FLORENCE (aged 13).

Calgary, Alta.

Dear Editor,—I get the 'Northern Messenger' from Sunday-school, and some Sundays it has been too cold to go to Sunday-school, and all through the week I miss it as I would a friend. I have saved up all my 'Messengers' and made books of them, and given them away.

My parents are not in Calgary, but I stay with a lady. I have two brothers and one sister. I learned to skate this winter. My friend Bertha Kent has a horse and I have learned to ride very well. I am trying to be a Christian. At Sunday-school I am in the Junior Bible Class, and our teacher's name is Mr. Robertson. I liked Nellie S.'s letter very well, and I hope she will write again.

JEANNEATE S.

Vancouver.

Dear Editor,—I enjoy reading the letters in the 'Messenger.' I was back east last summer, and when in Montreal we went to the 'Witness' office, and Mr. Dougall took us all through and showed us all the machinery, and he gave me a stamp with my name on it. We brought grandma out with us to Vancouver. She stood the journey well, and she is quite happy and smart. She was eighty years old the third of April last. My papa has a boot and shoe store, and my three brothers work there. I go to school every day. We attend St. Andrew's Church and Sunday-school. There are between three and four hundred attending. Two of my sisters teach at Sunday-school. I belong to the Junior Endeavor. Vancouver is a very nice place. We have a nice park called Stanley Park, with all kinds of animals and birds in it. We have a beautiful bay, and we go out bathing every summer.

NORMA C. (aged 10 years).

Shag Harbor, N.S.

Dear Editor,—I have taken your paper a long time, and like it very much. I go to Sunday-school every Sunday. I have one brother. I attend the week school. I will be eight years old in August. I am sending you six names besides my own for the 'Northern Messenger.' I am very fond of dolls. This is my first letter to the 'Northern Messenger.'

VERNA M. N.

Sutton.

Dear Editor,—Your paper comes to me every week, and I like it very much. I am 13 years old, 5ft. 6in. tall, and live on a farm. I walk nearly a mile to school. I am as far as interest in my arithmetic. I have a lame foot, caused by spinal meningitis, but it is much better now. We make maple sugar. I have four pets, a gray squirrel, a calf, a black cat and a dog. I have one brother and one sister younger than myself.

CHARLES T.

Mansfield.

Dear Editor,—I am collecting for the foreign missions. It is very sad to see the little children in foreign lands without the bible. There are forty million souls whom we don't think will be saved if we do not make a great move for missions. Our Pastor, the Rev. A. P. Latter, is very much interested in foreign missions. My oldest sister belongs to the Methodist Church. I think it would be wise if the people every week would put away a small sum of money for the little heathens. The ladies that were sent out together for the missions were Miss K. E. Richer, Miss J. E. Desmond, Miss C. A. Pike, Miss W. M. Watson, Miss L. T. Abertson. I would like some of the little girls about my age to correspond with me.

ELSIE P.

Addresses Wanted.

Will "Clara," of Olive, Man., and Stanley S., of Gunter, kindly send their addresses to the Editor of the 'Northern Messenger.' The prizes which they were awarded in the letter competition are waiting for them.