

IN "THE WEEK" of August 14th, "Bystander" draws attention to the lively controversy which had been going on about religion in the English Reviews between the agnostic, Mr. Herbert Spencer, the positivist, Mr. Harrison, and Sir Fitzjames Stephen, a sort of freethinker. "The result," writes "Bystander," "tends to show that perplexity is not confined to the Christian camp, and that, if we are forced to give up received beliefs, we are not likely at present to find certainty or repose elsewhere. Mr. Harrison pours scorn on Mr. Spencer's Religion of the Unknowable; Mr. Spencer pours scorn on Mr. Harrison's Religion of Humanity; Sir Fitzjames Stephen pours scorn on both. Mr. Herbert Spencer, who opened the discussion, evidently thought that he had mown down Christianity and all existing religious beliefs by one fell sweep of his philosophic scythe. Religion, he says, has its origin in dreams, which generate a belief in ghosts." Bystander distinctly shows that for the dream and ghost hypothesis of the origin of religion there is not a particle of historic evidence, and says: "A more special Study of history, including the history of opinion, might perhaps make Mr. Spencer more philosophic and less acrimonious in his criticisms on Christianity."

IN "THE WEEK," on Hanlan's defeat and the report that he had sold the race, we find, "Manly sports are productive of much good, and when engaged in by gentlemen in a rational manner, are free from objection. But the moment they are made a business of by professionals, and are made the medium of betting, honour and they part company.".... "Be the upshot what it may, his glory is departed, and the people who made a demi-god of a man of no calibre and questionable antecedents merely because he had the knack of using his knees better than other scullers he had met, may well profit by the lesson, and be more discriminating in conferring future honours."

#### PAMPHLETS RECEIVED.

ADDRESS, by the Rt. Rev. Hugh Miller Thompson, D. D., Assistant Bishop of Mississippi, A reprint from the Proceedings of the American Health Association by the State Board of Health of New Hampshire. This may be regarded as a bit of the Gospel of Health.

PREVENTION AND RESTRICTION OF CHOLERA. Document issued by the Michigan State Board of Health, Dr. H. B. Bakers, Lansing, Mich., Secretary.

THE RECIPROCAL ATTITUDE of the medical profession and the community, by Alexander Hutchins, A. M. M. D., Brooklyn, N. Y.

COMMON LAW CITATIONS relating to nuisances by Irving A. Watson, M. D., Concord, N. H.; reprint from the Report of the State Board of Health.

CHANGES IN NEW ENGLAND POPULATION, by Nathan Allen, M. D., LL. D. Reprinted from the *Popular Science Monthly*, August, 1883.

THE PREVENTION OF DISEASE, insanity, crime, and pauperism; a paper read before the Conference of Charities at Cincinnati by Nathan Allen, M. D.

#### Publisher's Notices.

ONLY reliable advertisers can obtain space in the *SANITARY JOURNAL*, and it will always be "worth while" for the reader to look over the advertisements in the *JOURNAL*.

THE PUBLISHER is not disposed to mix advertisements amongst the reading matter in a general way, though it is done in many first class journals, even the *Sanitary Record* (Lond. E) permits colored advertising sheets amongst the principal articles, but in future.

"ITEMS OF INTEREST," of a very useful character, will be found among the advertisements of this *JOURNAL*, which readers of it will do well not to overlook.

WORTHY SPECIALTIES will also be noticed under the above head from time to time as formerly.

As cleanliness is next to godliness, "Morse's Mottled" Soap, which is said to be obtaining a high reputation, should be freely used.

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