

**Temperance Column.**

**TEMPERANCE NOTES**

The decision of the British Women's Temperance Association to include female suffrage in its objects has aroused considerable discussion amongst its various branches in England and to avoid a split in the Association the Executive Committee have been obliged, to declare that the action of the Council approving of women's suffrage does not pledge the branches to take any action in the matter. Lady Elizabeth Biddulph and other leading members are very strongly opposed to women's suffrage becoming "a plank" in the platform of the Association.

Statistics prove that France is a more sober country than England. But statistics can prove anything. The fact is that drunkenness is now a very serious problem in France. The vice has made enormous strides during the last few years. And drunkenness makes the Frenchman mad. An undecided question among our neighbours at the present moment is whether dipsomaniacs should be classed as criminals or lunatics. The drunkards who are the cause of this perplexity either belong to those who under the influence of drink commit criminal acts, or who, suffering from delirium tremens, need to be confined until they recover from their hallucinations and terrible excitement. As a matter of fact the latter class are dealt with in hospitals or lunatics asylums, according to the extent of mental mischief that their habit has brought upon them. But the cases are multiplying, and the doctors agree in saying that the disease is incurable treated as it is at present. The impression is that the incurable thirst which means alcoholism has been produced by "doctored" wines.

"The sale of intoxicants," declares Dr. Richardson, "is the sale of insanity, the sale of disease, the sale of crime, and the sale of poverty."

On May 30, at a meeting of the Ashford Branch of the Women's Union, C. E. T. S., Mrs. Tindall in the chair, Miss Philips, of Bromley, in an interesting address, insisted strongly on the great influence possessed by women, which should be exercised quietly in the home without preaching or nagging. The word wife meant weaver, so that it was in the power of women to weave into the lives of husband and children peace, love, and joy. She reminded wives of those solemn words, "Those whom God hath joined together let no man put asunder." That "man" was usually the husband or wife who

by their intemperate words and deeds weakened or severed the bond. She insisted strongly on the help in all difficulty that church-going afforded, and spoke of the rest in God's own house. In conclusion, she strongly urged the necessity of union in the struggles against intemperance, the weapons needful being prayer, patience, courage, and perseverance.

From the sixth annual report of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Branch of the C. E. T. S. it appears that there has been an increase of 1046 members in the year; 8 new branches have been formed making a total of 127 in the diocese: the total membership is as follows—Total Abstinence section 8170 General section 1702, Juvenile Section 12,203: a total of 22,075 members. One feature of its work is the annual Choral Temperance Festival which is always looked forward to with great delight and which gives unity to the work of the branch.

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