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Notes of the Week.

A new cure for diphtheria is said to have been discovered. It consists in inoculating the patient with a few drops of the blood of an animal which has been rendered immune by having been itself inoculated with a weak culture of the diphtheria bacteria. Some hundreds of cures have been effected in Berlin and London by the treatment.

Ireland is prospering under Mr. Morley's government. Not for twenty years has there been such an increase in the balances of the Irish savings banks. The Joint Stock banks show an increase in the year of deposits and cash balances to the tune of three-quarters of a million. The post-office savings banks deposits have increased by £2,632,000, quite beating the record.

English intervention with the Porte has resulted in the release of the Armenian prisoners at Yuzgat, 170 in number, and an order of the Sultan for a new investigation of the cases of the seventeen prisoners condemned to death. Lord Kimberley has communicated the welcome news to the Anglo-Armenian Association. Though the nominal charge against such prisoners is sedition, the real offence is their race and their Christianity.

The forest fires, which lately swept over parts of Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan were the most destructive in the history of the country. Between 500 and 600 persons at least perished; the loss in property being estimated at \$10,000,000 and including the destruction of nineteen towns. "The number of lives lost," the *North-western Christian Advocate* says, "may reach 1,500. Heavy rains extinguished the fires;" otherwise still greater damage might have been done.

Mayor Wier, of Lincoln, Nebraska, U.S., has honored himself and the trust reposed in him by issuing orders to close all wine rooms in the city of Lincoln. He declares that it is war to the knife, and he will be sustained by the better elements of the Capitol city. This is a good example to other mayors. These wine rooms, which are helltraps where innocence is blighted forever, should be everywhere suppressed. With them slum rule will be dethroned, and these festering ulcers on the body politic be purged.

The Necrological Report of the Princeton Theological Seminary for the past year gives the record of forty-two alumni deceased. Of these the oldest had reached the age of ninety-four years and three months, and the next the age of ninety-three years, less one month; twelve others had passed their eightieth year, ten their seventieth, and nine their sixtieth, the youngest was twenty-eight years and two months old when he died. The average age of the forty-two was sixty-nine years and one month. A remarkable record.

Seven Jubilee celebrations have been held in the history of the Presbyterian Church in the Maritime Provinces. The first was that of the Rev. John Brown, Londonderry. Then followed Dr. Keir, of Princetown, P.E.I., Rev. John Sprott, of Musquodoboit. Rev. T. S. Crowe, Maitland, Dr. McCulloch, Truro, Dr. McLeod, Sydney, and Rev. John Cameron, Bridgetown. Pictou, though an old Presbyterian county, has never been honored with a jubilee. The Rev. Lewis Jack, if spared until next June, will have reached 50 years in the ministry.

The *Lancet*, in discussing the question "Is Cycling Healthy?" divides cyclists into three classes. There are those whom the exercise does not suit; it wearies them from the first, shakes their nervous centres, strains their muscles, and brings out latent gout if they have any. There are others who find in it a pleasure and a relief quite phenomenal, who

praise its many and obvious advantages, and become its ardent supporters. And then there are those to whom cycling comes as a business. It saves time and carries loads, and they become cycling animals.

The differences between the Hova Government and the French have come to a head, and the French Government appears resolved on war in the event of the Hovas refusing to sign a satisfactory treaty. M. Le Myre de Vilers has been entrusted with a special mission to Madagascar, with the object of negotiating the treaty. In the treaty so much is demanded that it is obvious that it means the complete destruction of Malagasy independence. It is impossible for English people not to sympathize with a race, Christianized by English missionaries, in their struggle for freedom to work out their own national destiny.

At the International Hygienic Congress Professor Löffler, in a paper on diphtheria, pleaded strongly for a systematic bacteriological examination in all diphtheria cases. The diphtheria bacillus is now well known, he claimed, and it is only by the discovery of it that diphtheria can be distinguished from croup and other kindred throat affections. As preventive measures against diphtheria, he recommended that dwellings should be kept clean and dry, that the utmost care should be used in the cleansing of the mouth and nose, and that the throat should be gargled with a weak solution of salt and carbonate of soda. Inattention to these matters favours the preservation of the germ, and spreads the disease.

The British Government long ago secured possession of the telegraph system of the country and now, after protracted negotiations, it has concluded an agreement with the telephone companies of the United Kingdom by which the control of the system is vested in the postoffice department. Only the trunk lines are transferred at present, but the movement looks to the eventual absorption of all the telephone lines of the kingdom. The lines already acquired have been obtained at cost price plus 10 per cent. for cost of administration. Great Britain's example in regard to the telegraph and telephone show that that country is far less conservative and timid in the way of experiment than we are in this country or in the United States.

A question before the Presbyteries of our church in the Maritime Provinces is, "Shall the Synod designate one or two brethren as evangelists and recommend them to churches and ministers, wishing for evangelistic services, or shall it recognize some one and appoint him as Synodical evangelist, and enable him to go forth where he is invited, clothed with the prestige of Synodical authority. The latter is the course apparently preferred. Regarding this subject, the *Presbyterian Witness* says: "We ought to be willing to make experiments in church work as long as we keep within the lines of Scriptural authority. It may be that hitherto we have been too diffident, too unaggressive, too much restricted within the lines of use-and-wont. The proposed experiment is one that might be tried without serious risk of any kind. A step of this kind should not be taken without careful consideration, and without the very general concurrence of fathers and brethren."

The Rev. Dr. Horton, of the Lyndhurst Road Chapel, London, speaking recently on Social Evolution at an artisans' monthly evening lecture, strongly endorsed the theory that society is shaped by religion, and that the better the religion the more perfect the society. In spite of appearances to the contrary, he believed they would indeed misjudge the society in which they lived if they concluded that it is less religious than it was fifty years ago. Undoubtedly, a smaller proportion of the population are regular attendants at places of worship, but they had to consider what notions are influencing the men who do not go to church. They had to observe

how the people of this country choose by preference as their leaders in trade disputes and in political movements religious men. He maintained that we are not less influenced by religion, but more than our fathers were. And the society in which we are living is tending every day to be more impatient of the irreligious religion, and more impatient for a religion which is truly religious.

Japan's blue book for the year 1892, just issued, gives some facts of special interest in view of the war she is now waging against her populous neighbor. The population of the empire is something over 41,000,000 with a total of less than 40,000 Japanese residents abroad. The urban population of Japan is distributed in 111 towns of from ten thousand to thirty thousand inhabitants; thirty-six, which have over thirty thousand; and three, Osaka, Kioto, and the capital, which have over three hundred thousand. The cultivated lands scarcely equal one-eighth of the total area of the country, yet this comparatively small area furnishes the food for the whole country. Of the 11,390,000 acres of arable land, 6,813,000 acres are devoted to rice, the main yield of which is about thirty bushels to the acre. The progress in Japan since the adoption of her new constitution has been more marked than in any other nation, and should she emerge successful from the present war, her future will be still more closely allied with Western progress and civilization.

The *Interior* has this to say of the Roman Catholic political propaganda which apparently is being now systematically carried out in the United States: "That is the sloppiest kind of Protestantism and patriotism which denounces the A.P.A. and has never a word to say about the Jesuitical conspiracy which gives every municipal office that is worth having to Catholics. To be a Protestant in Chicago or New York is a civil disqualification. And look what sort of work this double-headed monster is doing in the large cities—the governments of which are so corrupt that they threaten to kill republican institutions by blood-poisoning. The President had to be notified, not long ago, that there were Protestant democrats qualified for public trusts in Chicago. It was an eye-opener to him. He had not taken religious beliefs into account in making appointments; but he discovered that the managers here had in recommending them. We notice that a Catholic paper in St. Louis has declared a boycott against Protestant business men who are conspicuous for resisting this religio-political conspiracy."

A wonderful "find" is said to have been made in Western Australia of a gold bearing region 1,000 miles in length by 350 in breadth and of unusual richness. Six men made the first great find, the oldest of the group being over seventy, the youngest a stripling of twenty-one. They are all Australians, born or naturalized, two of them old hands at mining. The man of the party who actually compassed the discovery was one Mills, hailing originally from Londonderry, hence the name of the mine, which is called the Londonderry Claim. In six weeks they got £17,000 worth of gold out of a hole three feet deep, and that with the most primitive appliances; and now that they have sunk a shaft and struck the reef at the fifty-foot level, as rich as it was on the surface, a "perfect blaze of gold," they may be said to have £200,000 worth of gold in sight. It was kept a secret for a time, but at last leaked out of course, then there was literally a siege of Londonderry. Men wheeled their goods in a wheel-barrow through the 115 miles of bush that intervene between the gold find and the railway terminus at Southern Cross. Some even packed all their belongings in a barrel and rolled it. There are now 9,000 people at Coolgardie, who are mainly occupied in prospecting on their hands and knees in all directions, and six hotels, together with miscellaneous stores of all kinds. Londonderry is now a township of nearly five hundred inhabitants.