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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THIS we are often reminded is an enlightened age. There is unfortunately a good deal of ignorance and not a little superstition still lingering. The *Boston Advertiser* asserts that a religio-philosophical sect in that city, whose chief tenet is that disease is caused by the absence of God from the body, and can be cured by the passage of the divine effluence from the well to the sick, as they sit with their spines in contact, numbers among its adherents "people of influence and prominence, and some whose names are as familiar as household words."

A PETITION is in circulation in Galt for presentation to the council, asking that the liquor licenses be separated from groceries. From the complexion of the new council, the *Reformer* believes that the contemplated change will meet with their sanction. The friends of the Scott Act in the county of Oxford have resolved on its submission to the popular vote. An Order in Council has been passed and the 13th of March is the day fixed for voting. It is the intention of the advocates of the Act to press the campaign more vigorously than ever. A hard fight is anticipated.

THE report of the Toronto Society for the Suppression of Vice contains the following reference to one of the most ridiculous anomalies in Canadian legislation. Attention was called to the discreditable enactment passed in 1860 by the Legislature of the late Province of Canada to amend the Lottery Act and legalize gambling by raffles at bazaars held for charitable objects, for prizes not exceeding in value \$50 each. This attempt to unite the service of God and mammon is a disgrace to our Statute Book. It seriously embarrasses all honest endeavours to suppress lottery gambling, and it should be repealed.

RECENT despatches state that English and American residents of Nice are renewing their efforts to suppress gambling at Monte Carlo. The newspapers at Nice record four violent deaths that have taken place at Monte Carlo within a week, as the results of gambling. A clerk of a commercial house, after losing some money, committed suicide outside of the gambling hell in which he suffered. Another loser hanged himself on a tree behind the Hotel Londres, and a third put a bullet through his brain in the Hotel Paris. Another man, who was a winner of 7,000 francs, was robbed of his winnings and stabbed to death in the gardens of the casino. Gambling is as wicked and injurious in Toronto as it is at Monte Carlo.

EXEMPTION from taxation of church property is generally considered unjust. For years a more or less active agitation has been kept up. Where there are wealthy religious corporations [holding valuable city properties, the injustice] becomes at once apparent. It is a source of revenue to the religious society owning it. Its value is enhanced by municipal protection for which the owners pay nothing. The cost of civic government has to be borne by the humblest as well as the richest tax-payer. There is neither reason nor justice in the continuance of these exemptions. A conference of municipal representatives has just been held at Toronto. Various reforms were considered, the removal of exemptions among the rest. The system as it is cannot continue much longer.

A SHORT time ago a tragic death occurred at Sherbrooke, in the eastern townships. A man died suddenly from the effects of poison. Suspicion fell upon his wife. Circumstances greatly strengthened that suspicion. The case went to trial and the evidence adduced was very direct and damaging. The woman was described as good looking. The jury reluctant to condemn, returned a verdict of not guilty (and the accused was discharged. From the same place comes the report of another dreadful crime. An Englishman, who recently came to this country, died suddenly

under circumstances that aroused suspicion. An analysis of the stomach disclosed that death had been caused by Paris green. What the result of the investigation will be is not yet known. If punishment for the taking of human life were as certain as it is in the case of petty larceny the murder record would not be so alarming as it is at present.

THE fashion of this world passeth away. It is well that it does. Many are the gibes and sneers levelled at "fashionable" Christianity in these days. Humble people, who are of no account, may be over-sensitive in feeling abashed before the impressive displays of toilets, upholstery and general surroundings of many of the churches of the present. It is doing an evil work. It is one of the direct sources of the alienation of the working class. A writer in the *Montreal Witness* presents some forcible considerations on this subject, which does not seem to receive the careful and conscientious consideration it deserves. He says: "God is no respecter of persons. Instead of the love of the brethren which is so often enjoined in the Scriptures, the cruelties of civilization with its grades of society, respectabilities and despisings of those beneath by others above in the social scale, abound and drive many poor Christians to seek a more congenial sanctuary if such can be found, and in many cases is found in a Church of another name from the one in which they had been brought up. How many also are chilled and repelled from such churches, so-called, and, failing to connect themselves with any other, join the fatal ranks of the lapsed and lapsing masses, who spend their careless lives in stolid indifference as to the changeless eternity to which they are fast hurrying."

SOCIETIES organized for the suppression of prevalent forms of vice too often are a thankless task. They come into direct conflict with those interested in its maintenance. Too often abuse and ridicule are heaped upon the more thorough-going and energetic members of such societies. In spite, however, of interested misrepresentation, and thoughtless ridicule, much good has been accomplished by the steady and persistent efforts to repress the dens where gambling and licentiousness lure the young to their ruin. The Toronto Society for the Suppression of Vice has done good service, and is preparing for more extensive and efficient work in the future. The report of the year's operations shows that valuable services have been rendered to the community by the energetic steps taken to repress lotteries. The success attending these efforts has been marked. But for the timely intervention of this society the demoralizing effects of the lottery swindle would by this time have been widely felt. All kinds of organizations were preparing to launch their schemes in the wake of the London Masonic lottery. Now, so promptly has the law against these mischievous devices been vindicated that designing schemers hesitate to incur the risk of exposure, fine and imprisonment. The Toronto Society for the Suppression of Vice has merited the thanks of the community for the work they have so well performed.

IN the city of Montreal a quiet and unobtrusive society is doing excellent Christian work. Under the title of the Working Girls' Association it seeks in various ways to promote the welfare of a deserving class in the community. There are public rooms used in the evenings for classes and meetings, and during the day are open from nine a.m. to six p.m. to receive young women seeking employment and lodging. Mere figures cannot convey any idea of the work done in these rooms; advice, counsel and a helping hand are daily extended to many. 300 applied for employment; 150 procured it during the year. There is also a strangers' room which is comfortably furnished, and defrays its own expenses at a charge of ten cents a night. A small stove is provided so that those not wishing to incur a week's board can board themselves for a few days. This room meets a want much felt, in providing a respectable and inexpensive place for young women. Sixty-two availed themselves of it, some for

longer and shorter periods of time. The society maintains a Bible-woman who has been devoted and zealous in her efforts. In addition there is connected with the association an educational class, a singing class and a Gospel meeting weekly, and there is once a month a social gathering, at which refreshments are served. All the incidental expenses, such as lighting, refreshments, etc., are borne by the members. A similar institution for Toronto has been talked of. It has a large field before it and cannot begin its work a day too soon.

ACCUSTOMED as we are to the diligent dissemination of news items of an incendiary character by the Associated Press, and extracts from American journals that pander to the Saxon-hating Irish-American voters we are apt to forget the fact that real Americans have no sympathy with the rabid but mercenary patronage extended to the dynamite and bluster brigade. It is gratifying to meet with the sentiment that finds expression in the following pithy language of the *Interior*: We understand that this is the vapouring of worthless and irresponsible fellows, and that it is nine parts whiskey to one part brains; also that the one part has no other function than to dupe money out of the ignorant Irish to supply the nine parts. And yet, let us suppose that meetings were openly held in Montreal, Quebec, London and Liverpool to raise money and train men for the work of blowing up American shipping and railways and buildings, and for assassinating our public men, what would we Americans do about it? The President would call the attention of the British Government, and if no action were taken, he would then notify that Government that these conspiracies were still in progress. This failing the Queen's ministers would be notified that England would be held responsible for any damage done by the conspirators. That claim would be enforced, if necessary, by war. We cannot say that England has not a just grievance against us, and we cannot be sure that it will not end in a severance of friendly relations. It is disgraceful to us that these criminal aliens should be permitted to come to our shores to plot crimes against our friends; and if our Congress fails to repress such offences, it will be set down by the English either to a lack of good will, or to demagogic servility to the Fenian vote. It is a great scandal to us as a people, and one that seriously impairs our standing as a civilized and a Christian nation.

WEEKLY HEALTH BULLETIN.—The continued prevalence of Intermittent Fever after a month, during which the ground has been covered deeply with snow, and having throughout an extremely low temperature, while in some degree supporting Oldham's theory of its being caused by exposure to extremes of cold, would seem to require other explanation, since the disease is reported mostly from those districts which during warmer seasons are essentially Malaria districts. Enteric or Typhoid has disappeared from amongst the twenty most prevalent diseases, and does not appear prevalent in any district. Concerning Zymotic diseases, there appears a tendency on the part of all of them, but especially of Scarlatina, to become more prevalent. Mumps and Measles are still present, while Whooping Cough is still prevalent in the Lake Erie districts, with a downward tendency. Diphtheria, as usual, has a prominent place, and persists endemically in many parts. Referring more especially to Scarlatina, a marked rise in it is evident. In the large District IV., north of Lake Ontario, it appears amongst the six most prevalent diseases, while a number of other localities have it present in epidemic form. In one place the schools are closed, and in another there is a danger, from disregard of isolation precautions, of it spreading from its centre of origin. An interesting case showing the prolonged vitality of the germs of the disease is reported, where a family which had moved into a house which had not been occupied for several years contracted the disease. It was subsequently found that the previous inmates had had Scarlet Fever there, and had never cleaned the house. From many quarters skin diseases are reported prevalent, especially among school children.