

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

It is reassuring to learn from reliable sources that reports concerning the Queen's illness have been considerably exaggerated. Her recovery from the accident she met with has been slow, and no doubt her medical attendants have had occasional apprehensions as to her general health. Happily, no real cause for alarm exists at present. Her Majesty will, it is hoped, be speedily restored to her usual health, and that years of usefulness and happiness are yet in reserve for her.

THE magnificent suspension bridge uniting New York and Brooklyn has been opened with an enthusiasm worthy of the occasion. The President and several members of his cabinet took part in the opening ceremonies. Eloquent speeches were made, one of the chief speakers being the Rev. Dr. Storrs, of Brooklyn. No wonder the enthusiasm bordered on extravagance. Contrasts were made between Cæsar's bridge across the Rhine and Hadrian's over the Danube. These structures have long since disappeared, but some Brooklyn people are confident that twenty centuries hence the wonderful bridge opened on the 24th May will even then be an object of admiring wonder. At all events, for the present it takes its place among the grandest triumphs of modern engineering.

M. BONJEAN founded in 1880 a Society for the Protection of Abandoned and Criminal Children. He is himself profoundly Christian, but he does not ask his colleagues to make professions of religious faith. M. Bonjean is the soul of the society, but he wishes so to organize it that it can go on without him. This social reformer laments the growth of wine shops in Paris, and the brutalizing effect on the labouring population of the drugged liquors. His experience as a magistrate has proved to him that there are two great causes to explain the growth in Paris of the criminal population. One is the multiplicity of drinking establishments, and the other the dearness of food and house rent. As the price of the loaf rises, crime increases. When bread is cheap, police magistrates enjoy most leisure.

THE Bishop of Santander, in Spain, a short time since, launched the following episcopal thunderbolt upon that portion of the press in his diocese which favours civil and religious liberty:—"May Almighty God curse these journalists with the perpetual malediction launched against the devil and his angels! May they perish with Nero, Julian the Apostate, and Judas the traitor! May the Lord judge them as He judged Dathan and Abiram! May the earth swallow them up alive! Let them be cursed day and night, sleeping and waking, in eating, in drinking, and in playing, when they speak and when they keep silence! May their eyes be blinded, their ears deaf, their tongues dumb! Cursed be every member of their body! Let them be cursed from to day and forever! May their sepulchre be that of dogs and asses! May famished wolves prey upon their corpses, and may their eternal company be that of the devil and his angels!"

THE applauding echoes of the Brooklyn bridge opening had scarcely subsided when a sad wail is suddenly heard. A woman, ascending the lower flight of steps at the New York end of the bridge, stumbled and fell. The bridge was very much crowded at the time. She screamed, and the crowd who heard, but could not see, became panic-stricken. Crushing, to find out what the trouble was, they fell in heaps on the planking. Many lives were lost, and many more people were seriously injured. This is a painful memory to be associated with the opening days of this grand undertaking. To some it will be indelibly sad. What contrasts human history records! Here is one of the grandest triumphs of engineering skill and applied science—a noble achievement of the human intellect, just completed, and in connection with it, an unreasoning panic. A want of

order and restraint results in the extinction of many lives!

THE following are the statistics to which the Rev. John Hall, D.D., referred in his speech at the recent meeting of the Upper Canada Bible Society: When Luther began his Reformation, 80,000,000 out of 100,000,000 who owed allegiance to Christian rulers were under Papal rule; the remainder, chiefly under the Patriarch of the Greek Church. In A.D. 1700, the Roman Catholic peoples had increased to 90,000,000; the Eastern Christians to 33,000,000; while those of the Protestant faith numbered 32,000,000, or about one-fifth of nominal Christian people. In 1800 there were under Protestant governments, 194,000,000; under Papal, 134,000,000; and under governments owning the Greek Church, 60,000,000. In 1876 the record stands as follows: Under governments professedly Roman Catholic, 181,000,000; Greek Church, 96,000,000; and under rule professedly Protestant, 403,000,000.

A CONGRESS will assemble in Paris on the 15th of June to discuss the best means of dealing with criminal and abandoned children. It has been convened by M. George Bonjean, son of the late President Bonjean, shot by the Communards, who has for many years devoted his best energies to the task of reclaiming young gaul-birds and street arabs. Nearly all the States in Europe have furnished him with statistics about juvenile malefactors and vagabonds, and will be represented at the Congress. M. Bonjean is of opinion that, if the money employed in State charity in France were properly spent, there would not be any necessity for a Recidivists' Bill. The funds which should go to relieve distress and to bring up deserted children in an honest and industrious manner are devoured by officials with high-sounding titles. The head of a charitable institution lives handsomely by it. He is "M. le Directeur-Général," and is well-housed, and receives a salary which enables him to keep up the dignity of his function.

THE work carried on by the Toronto Willard Tract Depository, corner of Yonge and Temperance streets, is useful and important. The success attending it hitherto has been very encouraging. The first annual meeting of the shareholders was held at the rooms of the Depository on Saturday, the 26th inst. There were present Mr. Henry O'Brien, chairman, Rev. H. M. Parsons, W. G. Stone, H. B. Gordon, R. J. Kilgour, John Donogh, Joseph Oliver and S. R. Briggs. The statement submitted, being a record of the first ten months' operations of the Company, was exceedingly encouraging, showing that the business had increased over fifty per cent. more than when carried on by Mr. Briggs in Shaftesbury Hall. The following shareholders were elected as the Board of Directors of the Company: W. H. Howland, J. L. Blaikie, H. M. Parsons, S. H. Blake, Henry O'Brien, R. J. Kilgour and S. R. Briggs. The new Board then met and elected W. H. Howland, President; R. J. Kilgour, Vice-President; S. R. Briggs, Manager.

THE closing meeting of the Toronto Ministerial Association for this season was held in Shaftesbury Hall, last week, Rev. Elmore Harris, B.A., Vice-President, in the chair. After the usual opening exercises, conducted by Mr. Harris and Mr. Cameron, an interesting conversation arose in regard to the results of house to house visitation work, as done by the various Church committees. Those results, as far as possible, will be summarized and prepared for publication at an early date by Rev. Mr. McLeod. A letter from the secretary of the Ingersoll Ministerial Association was received and read by Mr. Tovell, in which was contained a copy of a resolution referring to the regretted departure of the Rev. Mr. McEwan from Ingersoll for his new home and duties in this city. A vigorous paper was read by Rev. Mr. Harris on the "Church's Relation to Evangelistic Work," which was followed by a kindly and profitable discussion, in which Revs. Messrs. Burton, Parsons, Wallace, Johnston, Hewitt, Macdonnell, Cullen and Milligan took part.

OUR excellent contemporary the Peterborough "Examiner," is an ably conducted journal. It is said that Homer nodded, and it is a matter of current belief that wise men sometimes do and say very foolish things. This latter is the predicament in which the "Examiner" finds itself. It comes gallantly to the rescue of female suffrage from the recent attacks of a Toronto divine. In its zeal it has lost its usual common sense and fairness. Clear and forcible argument in behalf of woman suffrage is always in order; rant like the following is utterly beneath a journal of the "Examiner's" reputation and ability: "One of Toronto's clerical orators has been airing his eloquence on the subject of woman's suffrage. The gentleman in question is we fear, scarcely competent to give a right decision in the matter for several important reasons. In the first place, the pulpit in our opinion, is not the proper arena for the discussion of social questions like this, and about the very last person to whom we would apply for a correct solution of any problem respecting sociology, would be a clergyman. Students of theology have almost invariably set themselves against all liberal advances in the past. There is a narrowness in their consideration of all deep topics which precludes them from taking a proper view of living issues; and when they begin to generalize they invariably not only make grievous mistakes, but in their way act the part of cruel, heartless tyrants. As students of history, clergymen should know this and act accordingly."

WEEKLY HEALTH BULLETIN.—Stated generally, the past week is the first which has distinctly shown that recession of disease which is the ordinary accompaniment of the last spring month; for, although the number of reports received for the week is unusually large, the total number of cases of disease has very perceptibly decreased. In keeping with the excessive humidity of the early part of the week, Rheumatism, has somewhat increased over that of the preceding week, Neuralgia remaining much the same. Amongst fevers we notice, along with the almost total absence of Enteric (Typhoid), that Inter-mittent is found occurring in District II., north-eastern Ontario, as well as in the Lake Erie Districts. Amongst Zymotic diseases there is nothing specially prominent as compared with last week; but the wave of Measles which, for two months past, has alternately advanced and receded has this week again made a very great advance. Scarletina is present in very small degree, while Whooping Cough is following the course of Diphtheria, which, though endemic here and there, has this week decreased so generally as not to appear amongst the twenty most prevalent diseases. Mumps also has somewhat decreased. Small-pox, of which an isolated case, probably imported by railway navvies, has appeared, shows signs not only of great persistency in certain parts of the United States, but a decided tendency to extend its ravages. Should it once gain any foothold it is impossible but that, with the very imperfect vaccination at present existing and the lack of the enforcement of the compulsory provisions of the Vaccination Act, its ravages would extend, as they have to thousands during the past year in one city alone of the United States. Regarding the causation and spread of the various Zymotic diseases, it may be interesting to quote the remarks of Dr. Sternberg, one of the biologists of the United States National Board of Health, regarding the acquisition of virulent qualities by the germs of disease. He says: "The fact observed by myself, that during the summer months the mud in the gutters of New Orleans possesses an extraordinary degree of virulence, shows that disease-producing varieties of bacteria are not alone produced in the bodies of living animals. The more I study this subject the more probable it seems to me that in this direction lies the explanation of many problems which have puzzled epidemiologists, and that the sanitarians are right in fighting against filth as a prime factor in the production of epidemics." It is regrettable to again have to notice the continued prevalence of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis in District III., Muskoka, and Parry Sound.