

EIGHT DEATHS FROM POISONING.

OUR readers are doubtless all familiar with the Robinson poisoning cases, which have recently come to light in Somerville, Mass., a suburb of Boston.

It seems that eight deaths have occurred from arsenical poisoning, seven in one family, and within five years. It is doubtful if the murderers would have been brought to justice had not an organization in which the victims were insured began an investigation as to why so many persons had suddenly died in one family.

But the sensation, from a medical point of view, connected with the case, took place in Boston at a recent meeting of the Massachusetts Medico-Legal Society, when it was stated by Dr. Holt that there was general ignorance of the symptoms of arsenical poisoning, and because of such ignorance the Robinson poisoning cases had gone on without arousing the suspicion of medical men. The Robinson cases were all treated by regular physicians, with correct diplomas, men supposed to know what they were doctoring for, and to know the effect of drugs on certain diseases. Yet in the five deaths from arsenical poisoning of which we speak, certificates of death were given for pneumonia, typhoid fever, meningitis, bowel disease, and Bright's Disease.

Is it any wonder that patients are losing faith in their doctors?

In the very same manner thousands of patients are being treated this day for pneumonia, heart trouble, dropsy, incipient consumption, etc., when these are but symptoms of advanced kidney disease, which is but another name for Bright's disease. The doctors do not strike at the seat of the disease—the kidneys; and if they did, nine times out of ten they would fail—as they are on record as saying they can not cure Bright's disease of the kidneys. Rather than use Warner's Safe Cure, a well known specific for this and all other forms of kidney disease, they would let their patients die, and then give a death certificate that death was caused by pericarditis, apoplexy, phthisis, or cardiac affection.

Is this not the honest truth? Do you not know in your own personal history very many instances where physicians doctored the wrong disease, and caused untold suffering, and many times death?

SHALL WE ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY FOR MURDER?

ONE great reason for retaining capital punishment for the worst crimes (and scarcely anyone in England would advocate any other for such men, say, as the Chicago Anarchists, or the Whitechapel murderer, if he is ever caught and not found to be insane) and, indeed, we think for all cases of deliberate murder, is the almost insuperable difficulty of finding an adequate substitute.

Life servitude is never carried out in England, sentences being revised at the end of twenty years. Colonel Henderson before the Commission said it would take almost a century to get criminals to believe in its being carried out, and if it were carried into effect, prisoners with no hope would have to be treated either as lunatics and made comfortable, or as wild beasts at the Zoological Gardens. "We have men now," he continued, "who are very little removed from wild beasts. I do not say they are mad, but they can never be approached by one man at a time; they are none the less obliged to be treated like wild beasts, and the warden always goes with, as you may say, his life in his hand."

This point has very recently been treated by Mr. William Tallack, the Secretary of the Howard Association. He is a man of the greatest experience in the matter, having devoted over a quarter of a century to the investigation of all the branches of the great subjects of crime prevention and punishment. He gives it as his opinion that life servitude is impracticable, and suggests as a substitute a term of twenty years' penal servitude with a subsequent period of supervision, in all but the most outrageous and alarming cases, for which he advocates the death penalty. We do not think that such a punishment for intentional murder is sufficient on any ground. In the first place, we should have to lower the whole scale of penalties in proportion, which would hardly be advisable. Then it must not be forgotten that it is a rule without exception, that the moment the penalty (either inflicted by the law or by public opinion) is lowered, the popular detestation of the offence is proportionately lessened. Lastly, it appears to us that the moral aspect of the matter requires greater severity. In order to show this, we must inquire what are the objects of punishment? and in answer we will accept perhaps the latest important dicta on the subject: those of Sir Edward Fry, L.J.

He considers the ends of punishment to be reformation, repression, and example, but looks upon these as secondary only to the great end which he calls the moral root of the whole doctrine, namely, association in some degree of suffering with sin, in order to which there is a duty laid upon us of making this relationship as real, actual, and exact in proportion as possible. His conclusions are that the deepest ground of punishment is this purely moral one; that there are other and independent reasons why society ought to inflict punishment; that the measure of punishment may vary with the different reasons for its infliction; and that the highest of the measures of punishment may vary with the different reasons for its infliction; and that the highest of the measures of punishment for any given offence is that with which society ought to visit it.

Now, we think that the death penalty when inflicted for murder pre-eminently answers these four ends of punishment. The immediate prospect of death certainly ought to work a reform in the condemned man's spiritual condition. The penalty itself obviously prevents further crime on his part. And we feel certain that the example would have great effect upon others, if the legal definition of murder were so conformed to the popular idea of the crime, as to make a verdict and execution certain in clear cases of deliberate murder. We submit that when death was directly or indirectly intended or looked upon as probable by the perpetrator of the deed which caused the death, although of a different person from the one aimed at, morally the crime would be murder; but we doubt whether this would not be too wide for the British jury, and probably it would have to be confined nowadays to cases of direct intention to cause death, coupled with an act which did cause death to someone, whether the person aimed at or not. We think even with some such definition as this, some provision would have to be made to enable a jury to find as a fact that the act was done through some violent and sudden temptation, and to give a judge, under such circumstances, a discretion to lower the penalty. Perhaps, also, the question of provocation might be treated in this way, instead of as it is now, and the limits of provocation as it affects the crime might be enlarged. These suggestions, however, are thrown out with the greatest diffidence, having regard to the difficulties with which the subject is beset; but our meaning is that murder in law should be made as much as possible like murder in common parlance, and that a discretion should be given to the judge in passing sentence, where, though the crime may clearly be murder, yet there exist real, and not merely extenuating circumstances in the French meaning.

Finally, the punishment of death, more than any other which could be inflicted for murder, associates the greatest offence with the greatest, or at any rate the highest, form of suffering, and thus realises the exalted standard at which the learned Lord Justice was aiming when he said, "In a word, you can never separate the idea of right and wrong from the idea of punishment without an infinite degradation of the latter conception. Punishment is a part of justice if it is anything of moral worth; and I cannot bring myself to think of justice without regard to right and wrong, without regard to the utterances of the human conscience, without a thought behind all of an infinite and perfect Judge. To make justice a mere term for the enforcement of laws which have no moral colour, and rest only on the balance of the scales of pain and pleasure, is to rob it, to my mind, not only of all its dignity, but of all its meaning."—*W. C. Maude, in The Month.*

POOR PEOPLE'S CHANCES.

SOME years ago a city missionary was crossing one of the parks in London on the Sabbath day, and said to a lad, "What are you doing here, breaking the Lord's day? You ought to be at Church and worshipping God instead of breaking the Sabbath in this way." The poor lad in his rags looked up and said: "Oh, sir, it's very easy for you to talk that way, but God knows that we poor chaps ain't got no chance."

The sentiment seems to be growing that in the United States the time has arrived when "the poor chaps don't have no chance."

There is some truth in it. The poor are not shut out from making a livelihood, but the gulf between riches and poverty continually grows more difficult to cross. As the country becomes densely populated keen business competition decreases the chances for accumulating wealth by ordinary business methods.

But the same conditions vastly improve the chances for great success to those who can strike out in new paths, can furnish something to the world that others cannot.

True merit, in commodity or ability, will win easily if the masses can be induced to recognize it.

What a marvellous success has attended the thorough introduction to the world of the merits of that wonderful remedy for kidney disease—Warner's Safe Cure. Hon. H. H. Warner first came to know of its curative power by being restored to health from what the doctors pronounced a fatal kidney trouble. He concluded the world ought to know of it, and in the ten years since he began its manufacture he has spent millions of dollars in advertising the Safe Cure.

But mark! he never would have secured a four fold return of the vast sums thus expended if the real merit of the remedy had not been fully proven to the millions of people reached by his advertisements.

Ten years of increasing success of Warner's Safe Cure is due, first, to intelligent and pleasing advertising, by which the people were made acquainted with the remedy. Second, to the true worth of the remedy, proved by actual experience, showing it to be the only specific for kidney disease, and all diseases growing out of kidney derangements.

THERE are usually two agents in bringing on the condition known as drunkenness—the one who sells and the one who buys and drinks—and it is certainly inequitable to assume that all the culpability rests with the seller.—*Pittsburgh Commercial Gazette.*

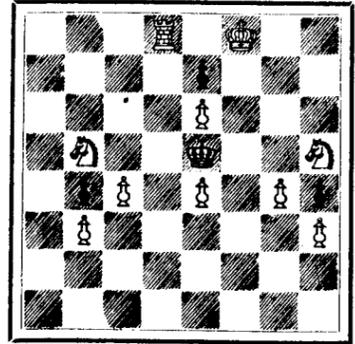
THE *Electrician* reports a rumour from Berlin to the effect that a means has been discovered of using electricity for ascertaining the true north, instead of the magnetic needle; that, in short, the new means will be superior to the compass and is likely to supersede it.

CHESS.

PROBLEM No. 351.

By E. H. E. EDDIS, Orillia.

BLACK.



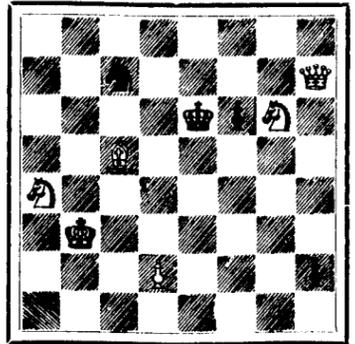
WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

PROBLEM No. 352.

By G. HEATHCOTE, Manchester.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS.

- | | | | |
|----------------|------------------------|-------|---------|
| No. 345. | | No. 3 | |
| White. | Black. | | R-K R 2 |
| 1. Kt-B7 | B x Kt | | |
| 2. R x P + | P x R | | |
| 3. P-Kt6 mate. | | | |
| | If 1. B x R | | |
| | moves | | |
| 2. Kt-Q5 | | | |
| 3. Kt mates. | | | |
| | With other variations. | | |

GAME BETWEEN DR. RYHALL, OF HAMILTON, AND WM. BOULTREE, TORONTO.

Played at Hamilton on Friday, the 19th April, 1889.

White.	Black.	White.	Black.
W. BOULTREE.	DR. RYHALL.	W. BOULTREE.	DR. RYHALL.
1. P-K4	P-K4	12. Kt-Kt5	Q-K2
2. R-B4	K-Kt B3	13. P-Q4	P-KB3
3. Q-Kt-B3	B-B4	14. P x Q Kt	P x Kt
4. P-KB4	Q-K2 (a)	15. P x P	Q x P
5. Kt-B3	P-Q3	16. Q-Kt4	Kt-Q2
6. P-KR3	B-K3	17. B x P	Kt-B3
7. B x B	Q x B	18. Q-R-K1 +	K-B2
8. Kt-QR4	Kt x P	19. B x Kt	P x B
9. Kt x B	Kt x Kt	20. Q-B4 +	K-Kt2
10. Castles	Kt-B3 (b)	21. R-K6	P-Kt4 (c)
11. P x P	Kt x P	22. Q-Kt4+ and Black resigns.	

NOTES.

- (a) B x Kt best.
- (b) Castles is much better.
- (c) An oversight, but Black cannot save the game.

Four members of the Toronto Chess Club visited Hamilton on the 19th inst., and played a match with the members of the Chess Club of that city. The Toronto players were victorious by the following score:

Toronto.	Games won.	Hamilton.	Games won.
Mr. Boulthée	2	Dr. Ryhall	0
" Muntz	1	Mr. Lister	1
" Freeland	1	" Shaw	1
" McGregor	1	" Judd	0
" Davison	0	" Kitson	2
Total	5	Total	4

U. S. CHESS TOURNAMENT.

NEW YORK, April 20. Following is the result of to-day's games at the Chess Tournament:—Delmar draw with Macleod, Burn won from Bird, Tschigorin from Hannam, Gunsberg from Pollock, Blackburne from Martinez, Judd from Lipschultz, Mason from D. G. Baird, Showalter from Burrille, Weiss from Gossip, Taubenhause from J. W. Baird. Score to date:

Won.	Lost.	Won.	Lost.		
Weiss	18½	3½	Delmar	10	12½
Blackburne	17	4	Showalter	10	11
Tschigorin	17	5	Bird	8½	13½
Gunsberg	15	6	Burrille	8½	12½
Burn	15	7	Gossip	6½	13½
Lipschultz	13	8	Hannam	6½	13½
Mason	12	9	Pollock	6½	14½
Taubenhause	12	10	Martinez	6	15
Judd	11	10	Macleod	5	16½
Baird, D. G.	10	12	Baird, J. W.	4	17

PRESIDENT PATTON, at the Princeton Alumni Dinner in New York, a week or so ago, announced that by the end of the year the financial result of the first year of his presidency would be \$250,000 added to the endowment of the university. He also announced the formation at Princeton of a school of electrical engineering.