

Temperance Column.

HYMN FOR TEMPERANCE MEETINGS.

By THE RIGHT REV. THE LORD
BISHOP OF RIFON.

'He goeth after that which is lost.'
—LURE XV. 4.

Once I was lonely
In the desert wild,
Knowing not God's kindness,
Feeling not His child;
Darkness on my spirit,
Sorrow in my heart;
Sin-gloom on my conscience,
Clouds that would not part.

Jesu, Star of Morning,
Chased the clouds away;
Broke the night of darkness,
Led me into day.

Once I wandered blindly,
Stumbling, bleeding, torn,
Till the hand of mercy
Rescued me forlorn;
Led me to green pastures,
Bade me softly lie
Resting by still waters
Flowing peacefully.

Jesu, gentle Shepherd,
Bore me on His breast,
Pardoned and consoled me,
Breathed on me His rest.

But my heart, inconstant,
Led me soon away—
Far from Thee, my Saviour,
Once more did I stray—
Wilt Thou still receive me?
Wilt Thou wash my stain,
Oh most justly leave me
Wandering thus again?

Jesu, Shepherd, seek me,
I have gone astray—
Fold me to Thy bosom,
Show once more the way.

Yes, though weak and fearful,
Faithless, cold, and vain;
Rebel heart and wayward,
Thou wilt cleanse again.
Never Thou, O Saviour,
Broken reed wilt bruise,
Not to hearts repentant
Cleansing blood refuse.

Jesu! Shepherd! Saviour!
Star of Life and Friend,
Shine around and keep us
Till our journey's end. Amen.

THE TREATMENT OF FEMALE INEBRIETY.

By NORMAN KERR, M.D., F.L.S.,
President, Society for the Study
of Inebriety; Chairman, British
Medical Association Habitual
Drunkards Legislative Commit-
tee; Consulting Physician,
Dalrymple Home for Inebriates:

It is a remarkable fact that while there is no provision in the United Kingdom for the treatment in special Homes of destitute male drunkards, or male drunkards of limited means, there are more than a dozen Homes where female drunkards are received, either for a small payment, or for no payment at all. This is but one proof of the appalling fact that Intemperance among women is rapidly gaining on the Intemperance of the "lords of creation." Year by year the proportion of female to male inebriates has steadily increased.

Intemperance among men is decreasing, thanks to the growing influence of the beneficent Temperance reform, the increasing spread of the principles of Abstinence and Prohibition; but, alas, the fair sex are becoming more drunken, and if the recent rate of progress downwards continue, will ere long once more assert their supremacy over man by contributing more than their proportionate share to the inebriety of Britain. Even so conservative and apathetic a body as the House of Lords has been moved as to direct attention to the increasing alcoholic excess of woman constituting a new and alarming danger. Well may the Peers utter this timely note of warning. The drunkenness of a woman is a still more saddening spectacle than the intoxication of a man; but the peril to the nation's health and morality is infinitely greater. As the mother generally wields a more powerful influence than the father over their children, a tipling mother is indeed a dire disaster: and as on the mental and physical soundness of English womanhood the character and disposition of our future children largely depend, the increasing Intemperance of our women involves a fearful tale of aggravated susceptibility to alcoholic excess and of diminished power to resist this heightened susceptibility on the part of coming generations. This prospective accumulating tendency to drunkenness is all the more imminent that already there are more cases of chronic police court drunkards among females than among males.

Add to all these considerations that the drinking mother vitiates the blood and saps the strength of the innocent infant at her breast, by poisoning the wells of her maternal nourishment, by polluting the very springs of life of the helpless babe, whom she would not designedly hurt, and for whom she would be willing to lay down her life.

The commonwealth is in danger, but the nation is blind to its peril.

(To be Continued.)

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