

Temperance Column.

DISCIPLINE AND ORGANISATION OF PAROCHIAL BRANCHES.

A Paper read at the Annual Business Meeting of the Salisbury Diocesan Branch, held at Marlborough, May 27th, 1887, by the Rev. G. R. Hadow, Rector of Calstone, and Hon. Sec. for the Archdeaconry of Wilts.

Church of England Temperance Chronicle, London, Eng.

(CONTINUED.)

He is ex-officio, the President; but he may have, and perhaps will want all these—Vice-President or Vice-Presidents, Committee, Treasurer, Secretary. Now, none of these officers can he afford to have as mere names or vanities. It will be ruin to his Society if one of his officers is regarded as half-hearted. Let them, by all means, belong to either Section, but if they belong to the General Section, let them be at least real Temperance men. Not those who, themselves, no doubt, never exceeding bounds of sobriety, are not prepared to make a stand against the evil customs so common, e.g., he had better not have for one of his officers a man who allows drinking to go on in his own house at almost any hour, though perhaps no one is drunk; who is well-known to give drink to any who leaves a parcel or message at his house; who will wet a bargain, give a glass of beer to the railway guard or engine driver; in short, let him be one who does not merely talk or loudly profess his hatred of Intemperance, but who acts towards himself and others according to the strictest habits of Temperance. First, however, he must choose his Secretary, and here I have no hesitation in saying, that if the President be not himself a Total Abstainer (and even if he is) the Secretary should always be a Total Abstainer; beyond that, how am I to find words to describe the firm gentleness, the winning sympathy, the undaunted hopefulness, the untiring laboriousness, the devoted energy, the unobtrusive ubiquity that should adorn my ideal Secretary. Let the Treasurer be really one who knows how to look after money. Let your Committee be, if possible, equally divided, provided there is no dummy on the Committee. Now as to membership. Avoid the temptation to make your Society look well on paper, while there is in reality no flesh and bones.

After all said and done, the true and lasting work of the Temperance Society will not be found in the crowded and excited meeting, with perfervid oratory, and emotional experiences, followed by a crowd of hasty converts; but in the quiet rescue work in the shop and home, and that followed by the reclaimed being brought to a meeting and then signing the pledge for a time. Let there be a term of probation, three to six months, then a signing of the definite pledge; let full membership follow in due course, after perhaps another six months.

Let this full membership carry with it such privileges as the wearing of the badge, or bar, or ribbon, and the having a vote.

The meetings should be varied. There is too much inclination to have nothing but entertainment: one month a public meeting; and another month a concert; another month a lecture; another month a service in Church; another month a tea and conference; another month an entertainment by members only, and so on. The members must be regularly visited, either by a Vigilance Committee, or divide the Society into so many bands, and let each band elect its own bandmaster, who shall whip up his bands for the meeting, collect the subscriptions, report any breaking of pledges, take round publications and literature.

(To be Continued.)

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