

The Testimony of a Physician.

A few months since a memorandum appeared in the public journals signed by two hundred and sixty-six distinguished physicians and surgeons engaged in hospital practice in Great Britain, in which an earnest appeal was made to the medical profession at large to be careful, when using alcohol as a remedial agent, so to employ it as not to give ground that can afterwards be construed into a sanction for its excessive, or even for its habitual, dietetic use.

Through Life.

We slight the gifts that every season bears, And let them fall unheeded from our grasp, In our great eagerness to reach and grasp The promised treasure of the coming years;

Friendships.

Among the fruits of harvest lives are its friendships that have borne the test of years of experience, and have not weakened but strengthened. To look back on the friendships of the early and the latter days of life, and find them culminating at the brightest point of the passing years like a sparkling star, or unbroken like a rare gem, "it is the sweetness of life. It makes the world young again."

How beautiful, also, was the devotion of Auanda, the beloved disciple and friend of Buddha, who stood by the dying form of his master beneath the forest tree all night, till death and daybreak came together. So through all the ages. Our friends are ourselves in other shapes. As the years advance, and we grow with them in wealth of spirit, in honors that do not fade, in the divine life that shows something noble and glorious, as well as something beautiful and touching, the harvest of these earthly friendships is a golden one, the fruit sound and precious that shall be gathered at the last. —Churchman.

The Cure for Gossip.

What is the cure for gossip? Simply, culture. There is a great deal of gossip that has no malignity in it. Good natured people talk about their neighbors because, and only because, they have nothing else to talk about.

As we write, there comes to us the picture of a family of young ladies. We have seen them at home, we have met them in galleries of art, we have caught glimpses of them going from a book-store, or a library, with a fresh volume in their hands. When we meet them, they are full of what they have seen and read. They are brimming with questions. One topic of conversation is dropped only to give place to another, in which they are interested. We have left them, after a delightful hour, stimulated and refreshed; and during the whole hour not a neighbor's garment was soiled by so much as a touch. They knew something, and wanted to know more. They could listen as well as they could talk. To speak freely of a neighbor's doings and belongings would have seemed an impertinence to them, and, of course, an impertinence. They had no temptation to gossip, because the doings of their neighbors formed a subject very much less interesting than those which grew of their knowledge and their culture.

And this tells the whole story. The confirmed gossip is always either malicious or ignorant. The one variety needs a change of heart and the other a change of pasture. Gossip is always a personal confession either of malice or imbecility, and the young should not only shun it, but by the most thorough culture relieve themselves from all temptation to indulge in it. It is a low, frivolous, and too often, a dirty business. There are country neighborhoods in which it rages like a pest. Churches are split in pieces by it. Neighbors are made enemies by it for life. In many persons it degenerates into a chronic disease, which is practically incurable. Let the young cure it while they may. —Dr. J. G. Holland.

What Produced the Cold of the Ice Period.

The theories which have been proposed to account for the cold of the ice period divide themselves into two groups, viz., the cosmic and terrestrial; or those which invoke extraneous or astronomical influences, and those which look to changes in the earth itself, or on its surface, for a sufficient cause or causes. In the first category may be enumerated the theory of Prof. Croll, that variations in the eccentricity of the earth's orbit have induced great alterations of climate on portions of the earth's surface; that of Belk and Drayson, which supposes the known variability of the angle of the pole with the ecliptic to have been at times sufficiently great to have brought arctic conditions locally down into the temperate zone; also, the speculations that the heat evolved from the sun has been variable in quantity, that the earth has at various times passed through cold spaces in the universe, etc. In the second category are the views first put forth by Lyell, according to which all the variations of climate recorded in geological history have been induced by changes in the earth itself or on its surface. —Popular Science Monthly.

The session of the British Parliament for 1877 was opened by Her Majesty the Queen in person on the 8th inst. The weather was fair and mild. The Prince and Princess of Wales were present, and there was a brilliant assemblage of ladies. All the foreign ministers and the Chinese and Japanese embassies were also present. The Earl of Beaconsfield carried the Sword of State before the Queen. In her address to Parliament she gives a history of the course of her government in regard to the Eastern question, which course she apparently regards with much satisfaction, and expresses the hope that an honorable peace will yet be secured before the expiration of the armistice. She alludes to her assumption of the imperial title at Delhi, which was welcomed with professions of affection, and the famine in India, to arrest which every resource will be employed. The rest of the speech is devoted to colonies and home matters.

British and Foreign Notes.

"Victoria, Empress," is to be stamped on Indian coins. There were 108 deaths from small pox in London, last week.

A DISPATCH to the London Times from Calcutta reports that a gunpowder explosion occurred at Adhemabad, India, by which fifty persons were killed and 1,000 wounded.

REV. DR. FRASER of London intends to urge the appointment of Prof. Christlieb of Bonn, to the chair of Apologetics and Pastoral Theology in the Divinity School of the English Presbyterian Church.

PROF. PROCTOR says that it is computed that hundreds of thousands of meteors or shooting stars fall upon and become incorporated with the earth every day, and 400,000,000 each year.

MR. MOONY, the evangelist, has written a letter saying that the subscriptions for the children of the late P. P. Bliss are sufficient for their support and education, and suggesting that contributions be discontinued.

HERBERT SPENCER, the English philosopher, is in very poor health, and his friends think it is affecting the character of his work, his last volume bearing "marks of hurried thought and fragmentary writing." He is not fifty, and is unmarried.

The Commissioner of Education reports 128 theological seminaries in the United States, with 615 professors and 5,284 students. The Roman Catholics have 18 of these seminaries, with 124 professors and 1,819 students.

About 800 members have been added to the Second Reformed Episcopal Church in Chicago during the past three months. The two Bishops, Choney and Fellows, entered heartily into the revival as conducted by Moody there.

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Efforts will be made during the coming year to make the PRESBYTERIAN increasingly attractive and useful to the large constituency it aims to represent. To this end the Editorial staff will be strengthened; a larger variety of Missionary intelligence will be furnished by Dr. Fraser, Formosa; Rev. J. Fraser Campbell, and Rev. James Douglas, India; and special papers are expected from the following gentlemen:— Rev. Dr. Waters, St. John, N.B. Rev. Prof. Bryce, M.A., Winnipeg, Ma. Rev. Principal McVicar, LL.D., Montreal. Rev. John Cook, D.D., Quebec. Rev. Prof. Gregg, M.A., Toronto. Rev. John Laing, M.A., Dundas. Rev. W. McKerran, M.A., Kingston. Rev. F. D. Ballantyne, B.A., Pembroke. Rev. G. M. Grant, M.A., Halifax, N.S. Rev. W. Houston, M.A., Bathurst, N.B. Rev. Geo. Bruce, M.A., St. Catharines. Rev. John Gallaner, Pittsburg, O.; etc., etc. Rev. Alexander McKay, D.D.

The Sabbath School Lessons will be continued; and increased attention will be paid to the question of Prohibition now happily growing on the public mind. All matters affecting the interests of our Church shall have prompt and careful attention; and the legislation likely to come before next General Assembly will be fairly discussed, and its bearing on the future of Presbyterianism in the Dominion duly examined.

We invite the cordial co-operation of ministers, elders, and people generally to aid in extending the circulation of the PRESBYTERIAN. Much has been done in this way already; but much still remains undone. Our circulation is now 6,000; there is no good reason why it should not be 16,000! If each of our present subscribers will only send us ANOTHER NAME we shall at once reach 16,000; and this to get the remainder will be a comparatively easy matter. Friends, help us in this particular.

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Notwithstanding the almost insuperable difficulties in the way of getting our Sabbath Schools to even introduce the S. S. PRESBYTERIAN, we have resolved to continue the publication for another year, believing that students and teachers will one day see the justice and propriety of making it a part of the numerous papers usually sent to each school for a few copies of a month or two especially for our own schools.

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Ministers and superintendents are earnestly invited to forward their orders without delay, so that we may know in good time the number to be printed for January.

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along with a great deal of editorial writing and remark.

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The information in regard to the ten Presbyterian Churches of the United States is very full and complete. This year, the only annual exhibit indeed of this kind as yet published on this continent.

ALLIANCE OF PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES.

The Constitution, and (as far as it is possible to ascertain) the names of the members of the Alliance of congregations and Churches belonging to the Alliance of Presbyterian Churches that holds in 1877 its first Triennial Convention in Edinburgh, are given in full. There follows this the usual information in regard to the Universities of the Dominion, Postal Laws, etc., etc.

OPINIONS.

The Year Book has established for itself a high character, not only in Canada but in the United States, for editorial ability and care, lucidness, clearness, and correctness in matter and arrangement, in witness of which statement we append one or two of the many notices and reviews that have reached the Publisher.

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The Argonaut Advertiser says:—"The Year Book is in its second issue, and shows itself to be a valuable work for Presbyterians, and ought to be in the hands of all belonging to the Church especially its office-bearers."

The Christian Guardian, (Methodist), says:—"This is a pamphlet of over 100 pages, giving a large amount of valuable information concerning the Presbyterian denomination of this country. Interesting papers are contributed by Dr. Kemp, on 'Colleges for Young Ladies'; by Dr. Patterson, on the 'New Toronto Mission'; by Dr. Snodgrass, on 'The University and College'; and 'From Union to Union' by Rev. Robert Torrance. Additional to the information given respecting the several Presbyterian sections which now form the United Church in the Dominion of Canada, valuable statistics are furnished of Presbyterian Churches in Great Britain and Ireland, in the United States, on the continent of Europe, in Australia, etc. The chapter on 'Union' is particularly readable, and as the record of a memorable year in the history of Canadian Presbyterianism, the Year Book for 1876 will find a permanent place in the history of this country."

It is a very valuable publication.—J. F. Cochrane, D.D., Clerk of the Church of S. A. "Full of valuable information."—WOODS, Clerk of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. "Almanac is a credit to the Presbyterian Church of Canada."—Yours respectfully, J. T. Cochrane.

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