

WORSE THAN USELESS.

"The Founder" of the Boy Scouts, we are sorry to say, avowedly encourages Sunday scouting, and in a letter to the London Times says: "The first—the knowledge of God—we inculcate through the medium of nature—study and observation." Upon this, the "Lord's Day," the quarterly paper of the (English) Society for Promoting the Due Observance of the Lord's Day, forcefully comments: "No saving knowledge of God lies that way. Experience proves the futility of the method. The truant from Sunday school and Bible class, and church, in a country village, often practices 'Nature-study and observation' to an extent of which the average city-boy will never have more than the faintest conception. He knows the homes, the eggs, the ways, the songs of nesting birds; he knows the wild creatures of the woods and fields and streams; he knows the times and haunts of trees and plants and flowers, as hundreds of country boys have known them without having to evade the religious duties of the Lord's Day in pursuit of shadowy and elusive 'religious ideals.' Yet this fullness of knowledge never, of itself, drew the keenest of boy nature-searchers an inch nearer to God. Nay, rather, the truant from religious duties of the Lord's Day was regrettably regarded by experienced Christian folk as having taken the first fatal step on a downward road which leads farther and farther away from God."

One of the best abused public men in the present House of Commons is the Minister of Marine and Fisheries. He has been pursued by a section of the press with a persistency and vindictiveness truly surprising. It is gratifying, therefore to quote the following from that ably conducted Conservative journal, The Montreal Gazette, written when it was reported that continued ill-health might render necessary the resignation of the minister. The Gazette said: "Mr. Brodeur has had a singularly successful career in parliament. Elected to the House of Commons before he was 30 years of age, he was Speaker before he was 40, and filled the office with an ability and dignity that caused his term to be remembered as something his successors should aspire to equal. Since 1894 he has been a member of the national administration, and in some difficult positions has managed to secure a good share of respect for his ability and loyalty to his predecessor's memory. He is one of the comparatively small number of members of the cabinet of whom it can be said that his retirement will mean a loss to its strength and capacity."

Dr. Watts, of Moose Creek, has intimated that a paragraph which appeared in our issue of the 23rd ultimo is unfair to him in referring to his loss of membership in the Church and his connection with a proceeding against him for assault without giving due prominence to his contention that both proceedings were in their results unjust and unfair to him. Dr. Watts complains particularly of our coupling his loss of church membership with a downward course. Without entering into the Doctor's version of what led to the proceedings in the Church and Civil Courts, we admit that we should not have used words indicating that a man in Dr. Watts' position is on a downward course. We regret this reference to him and cheerfully withdraw it.

TREASURER'S STATEMENT.

Rev. Dr. Somerville sends us the following, under date of 14th March: The statement below, shows the amount received from all sources, except interest from endowment and reserve funds, for the several schemes of the church, for the year ending February 28th, 1910. There was a very large amount of money on hand February 28th, 1910. There was a very large been made by the congregations. Communications were received from congregations up until Saturday morning, March 12th., showing the allocations desired. Interest from endowments and reserve has still to be added to the several funds, which will make a substantial increase. I hope next week, to be able to give a comparative statement of 1909 and 1910, showing the amounts received from all sources. It will then be seen that this year's receipts show an advance all along the line.

Knox College	\$ 10,018.00
Queen's College	2,655.99
Montreal College	2,049.00
Manitoba College	5,380.00
Westminster College	2,084.00
Home Mission	201,367.00
Augmentation	35,852.00
Foreign Mission	150,653.00
Widows' and Orphans'	14,675.00
Aged and Infirm Ministers' ..	18,145.99
Assembly	7,164.00
French Evangelization	15,547.00
Points-aux-Trembles	19,745.00
Moral and Social Reform	8,587.00
	\$497,921.00

It is pleasant to hear of an old and valued friend, even if in a round-about way. The Presbyterian Witness says: We are glad to have a cheerful note from Dr. Fotheringham, Orland, Cal., who is again in harness, preaching twice, teaching a Bible class and driving 24 miles every Sabbath—a pretty good account of a "retired" minister. But Dr. Fotheringham is never happier than when working to his fullest capacity.

The national (U.S.) hydrographer, in his report of last week, urges the necessity of Federal control of water power. He shows that they are far behind the best European countries in this matter.

SPARKS FROM OTHER ANVILS.

Presbyterian Standard: Where are its struggles for the faith once delivered to the saints. The heroic in its life can scarcely be found. It is conducting no dead in earnest campaigns against oppositions of science falsely so-called, against antagonisms of skepticism, and oppositions of the world, the flesh, and the devil. It is laughable and preposterous—a most ludicrous use of words—to talk of our services, so formal, at times merely sentimental, at others as cold as they are beautiful, when even these, such as they are, engage us only if the sky is sunny and everything is fair, and we are not too sorely tempted to go visiting or on an automobile ride. Are we fighters, wrestlers, runners on the course all intent upon the goal?

N. Y. Christian Intelligencer: We should not permit our hours of worship to be invaded by the "step lively" of the trolley car and the street. People who have sat without a murmur through three hours of opera or theatre on Saturday night should not take it as a personal insult if the pastor unwittingly prolongs the service ten or fifteen minutes over the hour. The quietude, dignity and absence of haste in the church service in themselves are elements of spiritual helpfulness not to be despised, and the opportunity for worship with the people of God should be hailed as a welcome relief from the constant struggle with the people of the world.

ECHOES FROM PRESBYTERIAN PULPITS.

Rev. Walter Moffatt, Chalmers church, London: "He saved others, Himself He cannot save. These words were uttered by His enemies, but are true in a sense they never thought of. He saved others, and in order to do so could not save Himself. The principle of sacrifice enters into all true service."

Dr. James Ross, St. Andrew's, London: "Gambling destroys the proper conception of the rights of property, because no proper value is given for money won. It seriously affects the well being of society; leading men to seek personal gain at another's loss. It develops the worst kind of selfishness, and is one of the chief causes of crime."

Rev. James Rollins, King Street church, London: "It is humiliating when a nation's glory consists not in what it is and does, but in what has been done for it by nature and by history. Material prosperity is but a very secondary consideration in nation building. Rome's wealth was the burden which crushed her, and to this day institutions built upon imperial prosperity and not upon virtue and truth cannot endure."

Rev. Dr. Mackie, St. Andrew's church, Kingston: "I condemn the perpetual round of card playing parties, consuming the best hours of the day, always lessening and often utterly destroying all interest in domestic duty, and deadening the nature to the claims of public utility, philanthropy, and religion. Excessive card playing lowers the moral standard of the community banishes hightoned fellowship, intellectual converse, and the refining, ennobling influences of truly cultured society."

Rev. J. W. H. Milne, Glebe church, Ottawa: Sport should be taken as a medicine, not as a chief aim in life. A sport that is sinful is injurious, a sport that unites a participant for his daily work, is injurious, and a sport that wastes a person's time or money is not for his good. Ottawa Presbytery at its last meeting, voted that each congregation should give \$5 to Jewish missions, and men pay \$5 a seat to see a hockey match. Referring to those who sneer at the church and the minister saying that they are behind the times he said they do it to hide their own evil acts and practices. Men give more for hockey than they give towards a minister's salary and missions combined.

ALCOHOL POISON.

Editor Dominion Presbyterian: In the English Temperance Chronicle of February 4th, D. G. Ricard says that the steamship bar "sells only good quality," which is "the next best thing to not selling liquor at all." Once upon a time within my personal memory a certain university had a professor who, trusted and capable, was yet acquiring the appetite for drink which subsequently led to his resigning and going to a foreign land, ostensibly for his health, but really to die. I mention this to show that he was no "temperance fanatic." There was much talk of the adulteration of liquor being the real cause of the evils flowing from drinking, so temperance men collected samples in various cities and submitted them to this professor for analysis. His report was, in effect, that there was more or less adulteration, but the most deleterious poison found in any of the samples was alcohol. The fallacy that pure liquor is harmless, if not beneficial, dies hard.

ULSTER PAT.