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One of the many pleas that are put forward in behalf of the liquor traffic is that we are lessening the value of hotel property. The facts are not all in favor of this view. One of New Zealand's temperance men, a Mr. Ferguson, member of the Presbyterian Assembly which met in New Zealand last November, told of an hotel which had sold under local option for \$5,500 more than had previously been paid for it, and in Toronto Junction the hotel properties are actually assessed at a higher valuation than they were when they possessed licenses. One by one these bugaboos that have been used by the whiskey party to frighten timid temperance men with are found to be nothing but stuffed scarecrows.

Ring in the New, by Richard Whiteing. Those who read "No. 5 John Street" will welcome a new book by the same author. Interest is very keen to-day in the way "the other half" lives, and Richard Whiteing shows a very accurate and discerning knowledge of the various problems confronting those who have to earn their own living in a city like London. "Ring in the New" is the story of a young girl, orphaned, unworried, unskilled, thrown on the world by her own proud independent spirit, and determined to make a success of life. The discomforts she meets with, the friends she makes, and finally her small successes, are described in an entertaining if not quite convincing way. The author's style is good if somewhat abrupt. One chapter is thoroughly worth while, the one which gives "The Natural History of a Crime," describing the life and character of "The Bloke" from babyhood up to his twentieth year, when he is hanged for a very cold-blooded murder. The Musson Book Co., Toronto.

### FRENCH PROTESTANTS

An interesting article in a contemporary gives particulars of Protestantism in France now that it is separated from the State. Protestants, it is true, number when all told, only a fraction of the population of France. Out of nearly 39 millions, about 36 millions are ostensibly Catholic, though of these not more than 4 or 5 millions are reckoned by observant judges as really devout adherents of the Papacy—a consideration which largely explains the comparative sang froid with which the present "persecution" of the Church is being received by the French people as a whole. But there are at least 1,000 Evangelical congregations scattered now throughout this nominal Roman Catholic country, and Protestantism is becoming every year better understood. It is dawning on many minds that it is not an English or German product of recent importation, but represents a cult which had an independent Scriptural origin in French soil, and had identified with it once some of the most brilliant names in French history. The Protestants (Presbyterians, in fact) have compiled with the new conditions, and so secured both money and buildings. The Romanists could have done the same only for the interference of the Papacy. Unhappily there is a minority of Unitarian views who meet in separate synod. But the great majority are Evangelical, who are facing their financial difficulty as fearlessly as Presbyterians did in Scotland and Ireland when thrown on their own resources. Under lead of Pastor Wagner, or Pavis, a movement is being promoted to secure a union, so that the old Huguenot Reformed Church may be once again.

The Christian Guardian calls attention to the following clause in the new Dominion Lord's Day Act, which will come into force on March 1, and which it claims has a very distinct bearing on any Sunday School that uses foreign lesson helps or any kind of foreign Sunday-school periodicals. The clause reads: "It shall not be lawful for any person to bring into Canada for sale or distribution, or to sell or distribute within Canada, on the Lord's Day, any foreign newspaper or publication classified as a newspaper." This clause, our contemporary suggests, was "intended to shut out foreign secular newspapers from being sold or distributed in Canada on the Lord's Day. It was not in the original draft submitted by the Lord's Day Alliance, but was inserted on the initiative of the Honorable the Minister of Justice at that time. Its action was probably foreseen by very few at the time of passing, but it now becomes very clear. It forbids the distribution on the Lord's Day of any foreign religious periodicals, in Sunday-schools or elsewhere. It is well that all our schools should understand this, as otherwise there may be liability incurred through ignorance of the new law. If foreign Sunday-school periodicals are used, the only legal way will be to distribute them upon some week-day." We do not think the clause in question was intended to apply to religious periodicals or Sunday school literature—these come in on week days, and their giving out on Sabbath as a mere matter of convenience can hardly be regarded as infringing either the letter or spirit of the Lord's Day Act. Nevertheless, as attention has been called to the matter, it might be well to have it looked into.

### THE DRUG HABIT.

Many of our ministers preach useful sermons on the prevalent evils of the day, but not too frequently. Intemperance in the use of intoxicants is a vice, or disease, that is always present with us. How best to deal with this crying evil is a problem that seems heretofore to have baffled the wisest.

Dr. Lyle, of Hamilton, thinks that drunkenness is diminishing and that the use of drugs is increasing. On this point, in a recent sermon, he said:

"There were a great many people who thought the saloons were the greatest cause of intemperance, but he believed the wine habit was diminishing and was being replaced by the drug habit, which was growing at an alarming rate. It was a well-known fact that many thousands of children were born into the world in an exhausted condition. They would sooner or later resort to the use of drugs. It was against law terrible condition that a remedy had to be found. The cause of the habit was crime, poverty and overwork. Children heard swearing of parents at an early age, and copied their habits. He protested against such example being set before the children. The only effective cure was comfortable homes, with good women to manage them. The man who drank was the enemy of the whole community, and all such made their minds subservient to their bodies. Men had the right to use their senses and appetites; to abuse them was to place a wisp in their hands to drive the soul. Many men toyed with these pernicious habits, but they should remember that habit would break down will it continued. It was terrible that many of our best men should become drug fiends and drinkers. The remedy for the hereditary drug habit was plenty of play grounds for the children. Many, before they were ten years old, had too much work and too little play. He advised wives not to nag their husbands and children. The sole remedy against all this was to be full of the grace of God, which was far better than the gold cure or prohibition, both of which were good in their way."

At a recent meeting of the American Bible League held in Chicago, an address was given by Prof. G. Frederick Wright, indicating the marvelous way in which modern research and investigation are confirming historic statements made in the Bible. Take one incident—the destruction of Sennacherib's army. He says that in this we have a remarkable series of undesigned coincidences in the agreement of the story with the physical conditions involved. The catastrophe occurred while the army was on the borders of the Mediterranean Sea during the siege of Lachish and Libnah. It was in the vicinity of the Serbonian Bog, which in all ages has been noted as breeding pestilence destructive of pilgrims and armies. A plague raged in that region more than once during Justinian's time, and infected the armies of the Crusaders and of Napoleon. It is in the same region that the Philistine epidemic, in connection with the movement of the ark, ran such a curious career in the time of Samuel. Respecting this, it is significant that the Philistines were repeatedly smitten with emerods in the secret parts, and that one remedy proposed by the Philistines was to make "images of your mice that mar the land;" while in the account of the disaster to Sennacherib's army Herodotus states that "field mice poured in upon the Assyrian army" and played an important part in bringing about coincidental allusions, physicians of the present day find indubitable evidence that the tragedies were due to the bubonic plague, which rats play so important a part in spreading.

The divorce and separation statistics of Scotland for 1906 show no appreciable increase over the average for the last decade. The figures for the last six years are:—1900, 178; 1901, 206; 1902, 246; 1903, 228; 1904, 221; 1905, 200; 1906, 201.