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Note and Comment.

The word "perityphlitis" says the Westminster Gazette, was inserted into one of the most widely circulated of cheap modern dictionaries while it was at press last Wednesday.

The Lord Justice General of Scotland, Lord Blair Balfour, upon whom a peerage of the United Kingdom has been conferred, is a son of the Manse, and he is also related by marriage to the late Rev. Sir Henry Wellwood Moncrieff, Bart., who was for long a prominent leader of the Free Church.

The collections at the opening services in connection with the new St. Andrew's United Free Church, Blairgowrie (Rev. William Muir, B.D., B.L.), conducted by the Rev. Dr. John Watson, Liverpool ("Ian Maclaren"), and Rev. Dr. Walter Ross Taylor, Glasgow, amounted to £500.

Englishmen are eminently practical, says the London Spectator, but their poetic literature proves them to be also highly imaginative, and though their imagination plays round power, and makes them turn their eyes with delight to their "far-flung battle line," it also gives them the faculty of sympathy, and their history shows them to be the least cruel people in the world.

The reappearance on Tuesday last week of Queen Alexandra as a participant in a public ceremony practically marks the end of the period of anxiety caused by King Edward's condition. Her presence at the review of the colonial troops in London by the Prince of Wales greatly increased public enthusiasm over what in itself was a picturesque and interesting event.

Lord Randolph Churchill declared that King Edward would have made a splendid judge by virtue of his unerring perception of character. His memory of faces and facts is unimpeachable, and he speaks French, German, Italian, and Russian, as fluently as he does English, which is his favorite language, though Queen Victoria decreed German in the home life of the Royal family. No man knows more of modern history than His Majesty, while in everything that appertains to India and its varied peoples he is an expert.

The director of the observatory at the California State University has made a discovery of great importance to the astronomical world. He has determined the orbit of a new comet which is remarkable in that it travels around the sun in a much shorter period than any hitherto known celestial wanderer. It makes a revolution round the sun in 320 days. The shortest period of any other known comet is three and a half years. This same comet was first discovered in 1848, and has not been seen since until a few weeks ago.

Turgenieff, the Russian novelist, is an amusing instance of the world wide fame unknown in a man's own birthplace. At Oranienburg, his native town, says the "Independence Belge," some foreign admirers asked the permission of the Town Council to raise a memorial, which the Council declined to grant on the ground that nobody in the district seemed to be acquainted with Turgenieff. Happily, the incident got to the ears of the Governor of the province, and he put things in so much better train that the dead novelist will before long have his statue in his birthplace.

The King's Descent.—In looking back over the line by which King Edward is descended from William the Conqueror, we find he connected in direct line with 15 out of the 35 monarchs who have preceded him—namely, William I., Henry I., Henry II., John, Henry III., Edward I., Edward II., Edward III., Edward IV., Henry VII., James I., George I., George III., and Victoria. Those who trace his lineage back to the Roman emperors and Armenian Kings find the connecting link in the marriage of Edward II. with Elizabeth of France, who was a daughter of Philip le Bel. It is said he was a descendent of Constantine VIII.

Gov. Taft seems to be progressing favorably in his attempt to settle the status of the Catholic friars in the Philippines. Instructions cabled to him in Rome last week from Washington make it appear that if the United States buys the friar lands the Catholics will have to vacate them entirely. Gov. Taft and the Washington authorities believe that the difficult matter of installing a civil government in the Philippines will be much simplified if the friars and priests are deprived of the influence which they formerly exercised through land ownership. Meanwhile a prominent Philippine churchman has been ordered by the Pope to draw up a scheme for educating missionary friars in Rome when the arrangements between Judge Tait and the Vatican shall have been concluded.

Two large gifts to charity were announced last week. One was by John M. Burke, a retired merchant and railroad director in New York, who celebrated his ninetieth birthday by giving \$4,000,000 worth of property to the endowment of a home for convalescents in or near the city. The other large gift was from the heirs of Leonard Lewishon. Mr. Lewishon died March 5th in London and left it to the discretion of his nine children as to what sum should be set aside from the estate for charity. It became known Thursday that the nine children had agreed each to contribute \$100,000 to charity as a memorial to their father, making a total of \$900,000. The value of the estate is between \$20,000,000 and \$30,000,000.

It is an appalling statement that is made in the daily press to the effect that heavy drinking is excessive and increasing among women, and especially among girls under twenty years of age. Numerous cases are cited setting forth the results of observations, in hotels and restaurants, on trains and

steamboats, at picnics and excursions, in which girls accompanied by young men commit great follies in this respect. The cause is held to be the freedom allowed young girls. They choose their own hours and companions, and those from good homes are as apt to be misled as others. The statements referred to seem somewhat sensational. The claim that well-bred girls make the majority of these offenders is evidently wide of the mark, because well-bred girls and public tipplers cannot be united in the same persons.

The Spanish government has on hand the delicate and difficult task of bringing the Roman Catholic religious orders under more stringent civil control. A bill has been drafted with this view, which permits no order to establish itself in Spain without previous legal authorization; which subjects the instruction of the orders to the same regulations as State instruction and to government inspection; which prohibits religious associations from acquiring or holding any property beyond their places of residence, and which gives power to the Council of Ministers by a unanimous vote to dissolve any religious order in the public interest.

Dr. Meharry is considering the invitation which he has received to Australia, says the Belfast Witness. The cablegram reads—"Woolahara vacant. Would you consider offer? Cable reply." Woolahara, by the way, is one of the wealthiest suburbs of Sydney, and Dr. Meharry is well known there by reason of his occupancy of the pulpit, two years ago for a term of six months. It was in 1888 that Dr. Meharry came to the North London suburb of Crouch Hill. His preaching is, of course, occasionally perturbed, and during some of his most eloquent periods the friendly critic feels constrained now and again to whisper to himself—"Blarney." Nevertheless, Dr. Meharry is assuredly a gifted and acceptable preacher, and many an English Presbyterian church would "jump to get him," as the phrase goes.

Club life is the ruin of many of our brightest and most promising young men. The temptations connected with it are many and perilous. With many, perhaps nearly all, of the clubs in city and town, there are bars, or opportunities for drinking. There are also card-playing and gambling devices in too many of these resorts. Luring companionship is there found, and numbers yield to the various agencies at hand for their moral overthrow. Many a father and mother have had to lament the downfall of a loved son wrought by the associations and contaminations of which he was a member, and with which he was fascinated.

With pleasure, we record the fact that a contract has been signed by the managers of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition to be held at St. Louis, which guarantees that the Exposition will not be open to visitors on Sunday. This is right; and it is well that the matter is settled in advance.