TEMPERANCE COLUMN.

THE TREATMENT OF INEBRI-

By DENIS ARKWAIGHT.

(Continued.)

But there are so many obstacles to such a scheme, so many difficulties involved in it, perhaps some-one objects. Of course there are. Who ever started any scheme to benefit humanity since the world began without encountering them? There is, I believe, no obstacle that cannot be overcome-no difficulty that cannot be conquered in this. The genius of Christianity has proved itself equal to greater ones over and over again. Have we not lately seen that it can accept even joyfully long-life exile in an island peopled with victims to the most loathsome and terrible of all diseases? If there are amongst us men and women whose ardent charity does not shrink from immolation in a leper settlement, there must be also those who, if the untrodden path is but indicated to them, would cheerfully come for-ward to aid their brothers and sisters to conquer in the terrible hand-to-hand conflict with alcoholic cravings. Not in the ways we all know so well-I had almost said ad nauseam; but working with them as well as for them to restore the lost sense of honorable independ ence and self-respect-to give them hope for the future, when the shame of a miserable past weighs down their spirits; to give them some end in life, and labor practically to induce them to adopt some occupa tion for brain and hand. Let any taste for music, for painting, carving, modelling, art needlework, writing, be warmly encouraged; let access to the best and noblest literature be freely given; also to gardens stocked with beautiful and curious plants, perhaps with aviaries of sweet singing or brilliant birds, that Nature, with her healing influences, may soothe the morbid, troubled soul. Though I would have such an arrangement cleemosynary in the very highest sense, yet let those who can-or whose relations can—pay for their sup-port according to their means; only the greatest care should be taken to let no soupgon of the ordinary boarding house creep into the management of affairs. Above all let them not be always, or, in-deed, very much together, but let them have bright energetic companions, ready always to help and strengthen them.

Only those who have had special means for studying the subject know of the pressing need for such homes-for such succour. frequently acute and needless suffering is caused by patients of re-fined feelings and gentle birth being placed in the charge of coarseminded men and women, entirely their social inferiors, with little better than a jailor's instinct, and a vulgar feeling of triumph over one who is their superior by birth and breeding. I could tell you of a patient kept in a lunatic asylum longer than was needful because of

the difficulty of finding a home, which. when found, proved to the last degree unsatisfactory. I have known attempts made to prevent the Commissioners in Lunsoy from letting an inmate know of his legal freedom, of a suggestion to abstract such a letter if it did arrive. Happily, both these scandalous proposals were frustrated. But there may be other cases in which low cunning like this has succeeded. These are extreme cases. Yet even in "home" where a far more humane and upright ruling prevails, self-interest seems so far to carry the day that serious and sustained attempts to help patients to return to a professional career are rarely if ever made.

None are more helpless, lunatics scarcely excepted, than men or women who have given way to habits of intoxication. There is a shameful and degraded past behind them; its memory and the faces of business-like strangers are with them in the present. Old friends shrink from them, turn away coldly and distrustfully from faltering promises of amendment, and draw aside their children quickly-" unkindest cut of all," as if contagion. What wonder if for trembling hands and palsied gait there seems nothing on which to lean,-for dimned vision and that can kering remorse which makes a foretaste of hell within, there seems no future refuge, but madness, or suicide, or a drunkard's grave.

By all means urge total abstinence on sech. But do not think your work ends there; it is begun —there is "aching void" to fill, or seven devils may return with the first to take possession of the empty, swept and garnished dwelling. We know it is almost a ling. common place that many of the finest and most highly wrought minds, the most brilliant intellects, have become slaves to the wine Why should not noble brocup. therhoods and sisterhoods band together to reach and rescue those who cannot be gained by the more ordinary methods? And those who remember the Divine compassion expressed "for the weak, and diseased, and them that are out of the way," the halting, the torn and wounded in life's battle, will need no other motive in laboring to restore to this poor flock "the grass which the locust and palmer-worm have eaten."

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