

WOMEN DRUNKARDS.

WHAT an ugly subject, — the least important however of those I shall have to treat, — so let us get rid of it immediately, if you are willing.

"Are there women drunkards?" — "Yes," — I am forced to answer, while I blush with you, "there are women drunkards." One proof only, but an unanswerable one. During the year 1903, the last for which I have the official statistics, there were 16,532 condemnations for drunkenness in Canada, out of which, would you believe it, 1,777 were pronounced against women, 1,777! 1,777 women picked up drunk in the streets! For here public drunkenness only is in question. But of secret drunkenness known to God alone!... We should no longer write 1,777, but thousands and thousands! For indeed woman's bashfulness and a certain instinct which tells woman that in her, intemperance is a monstrosity, cause her to hide, in order to give way to this degrading passion.

How it does degrade woman!

It is repugnant to me to insist upon this sad subject. Listen, pray, to a physician and moralist, who will tell you all that needs be told of the woman drunkard.