

to be sent back to their friends, or if they are friendless and indigent, as is very likely to be the case, their township or county councils ought to be compelled to have them cared for in some other way than by incarceration.

We feel that the part of the report which treats of the causes of insanity ought to be as fully as possible brought under the notice of parents, teachers and others who have to do with the training of youth; and that to pass it over even in such a brief notice as this would be a dereliction of duty. Various causes are assigned, to some of which, such as intemperance, a large portion of cases is attributed; but there is one cause of insanity which is perhaps as prolific as all other causes put together, a cause which has its root in the folly, ignorance and immorality of the victims, a cause which can only be removed by the proper training of youth and the implanting in their minds of the pure and noble principles of Christianity. This monstrous evil, this terrible crime against God and man, against the individual's own soul and body, is the canker at the root of modern manhood. It does not always lead to insanity; it would take a good many lunatic asylums to contain its victims; but while in most cases it falls short of producing actual lunacy, it is to its ravages that very much of the untold misery of human life is to be attributed. Here are the words of Mr. Langmuir:

"It will be observed that the physical causes tending to the development of insanity preponderate in a very marked degree over the moral and mental, and again that debasing and vicious habits predominate largely in the assigned causes of insanity. It is to this lamentable feature of the subject that the attention of physicians and social science reformers must be earnestly directed in order to stem the flood of profligacy and vice that is overturning the reason of so many, and filling our asylums with mental and physical wrecks. It may be, and no doubt is quite true that, in many instances when physical causes are charged with being the exciting factors of insanity, predisposing cause and hereditary taint may have existed, but it is equally true that these conditions might have remained latent and undeveloped, had they not been excited into existence by vicious habits. It is to this great field of preventable insanity that attention must be turned, for while asylums and asylum treatment may do a great deal in restoring dethroned reason or in mitigating its terrible effects, whether the assigned causes be of mental or moral character, it is to be feared that little or nothing can be done with these wretched victims of vicious or depraved passions."

Dr. Clark, the medical superintendent of the Toronto asylum, speaks in still plainer language. So much importance does he attach to this matter that he has had the part of his last year's report which refers to it published in tract form and distributed among the ministers throughout the country. In this year's report he repeats his warning with an emphasis added to it by another year's experience in dealing with the deplorable effects of the evil in question. He condemns a portion of the press for its fastidious silence on the matter, and seems to think that any harm which could possibly arise from publicity is not for a moment to be weighed against the good that might now be effected by unsparing exposure and outspoken rebuke.

AN Advent Conference is to be held in Mildmay Park, London, England, in the beginning of March.

A MEMORIAL statue to William Tyndale to be placed on the Thames Embankment, London, is talked of.

## News of the Churches.

REV. H. J. COLWELL has received and accepted a call to the pastorate of the churches at Watford and Warwick.

THE evangelistic services at Forest are most encouraging, the attendance large, and enquirers many. Rev. Robt. McKay and pastor R. Hay are greatly encouraged.

ON Feb. 12th, the ladies of the First Congregational Church, Kingston, held their annual sale of useful and fancy articles. The receipts were a little over \$100.

THE Rev. E. C. W. McColl left Unionville for Quebec on the 6th. He carried with him the best wishes of his friends whom he was leaving. There was a large number assembled at the station to bid him fare well. Mr. McColl and his family have gained many friends during their stay in this field of labour.

EDGAR. A welcome social was given to the Rev. J. I. Hindley by the Edgar congregation, on the 10th inst. There was a large gathering and their reception of their new pastor was most hearty and sincere. The prospects are most cheering to both pastor and people. We send congratulations to church and people. May they work together in the bonds of the Gospel "until death do them part."

DONMOUNT. A musical and literary entertainment (one of a series) was given on Wednesday evening, Feb. 12th, by the Total Abstinence Society in connection with Mount Zion Congregational Mission. A proof of the popularity of these gatherings is seen from the fact that the building is always crowded. The reason of this is that the committee always provide an attractive programme. This society is doing a good work especially among the young.

THE Queen's Co. Congregational Association met in Milton, on the 6th inst., in the Congregational church, for re-organization and work. A Constitution was adopted and officers appointed. The Association sermon was preached by the Rev. D. McGregor, M.A., from 2 Cor. ii. 14. In the afternoon, after devotional exercises, a paper was read by Mr. McGregor, on "The Model Deacon," which elicited a lively and interesting discussion. The Association then discussed the question of "Church Finances," after which reports were heard from the churches as to their spiritual condition. In the evening, a missionary meeting was held in connection with the church at Milton, when addresses were made by Revs. Mr. De Wolf, D. McGregor, and Messrs. Geo. McLeod, Wm. Anderson, W. H. Freeman, and Chas. Whitman. The pastor (Rev. E. Barker) presided. The next quarterly meeting of the Association will be held at Brooklyn. There are at present six Congregational churches in the county, and four ministers. The following are the officers of the Association: President, Rev. E. Barker; Vice-President, Geo. McLeod, Esq.; Secretary-Treasurer, Rev. D. McGregor, M.A.; Executive Committee, consisting of the officers and one member from each of the churches, viz: Chas. Whitman, Esq. (Milton); W. Anderson, Esq. (Liverpool); Thos. Gardner, Esq. (Brooklyn and Beach Meadows); Nathan Waterman, Esq. (Pleasant River); and Mr. Silver (Ohio).

THE annual meeting of the church and congregation of the First Church, Kingston, was held on the evening of the 12th inst. After refreshments had been served, the pastor (Rev. S. N. Jackson, M. D.) took the chair, and the annual reports of the church work were presented. These were interspersed with selections of music very tastefully rendered by the choir. The Rev. E. C. W. McColl, who was on his way to assume pastoral charge in Quebec City, was present, and in a brief speech referred to his past connection with this church, and his joy in its present success. The statistics showed for the past year, 4 deaths, 9 baptisms, 6 removals from membership, 9 additions to the roll. The offerings for denominational purposes, reported in a recent issue of the CANADIAN INDEPENDENT, are raised by a system of quarterly collections. The treasurer's report showed that \$4,154.41 had been

raised for church and denominational purposes. \$250 was in hand for organ fund. Sunday School report gave 200 scholars on the roll, with an average attendance of 127. This, with the attendance of twenty-two officers and teachers, gives a total average of 149. School collections amounted to \$110.71. The Ladies' Association which meets monthly for social ends had raised \$282.94, and has the sum of \$1,363.24 in hand. Reports of the Young People's Association and the District Prayer Meeting, were also rendered, all showing a healthful and earnest state of life in the church. The meeting was a most pleasant and successful one, and a worthy close to a prosperous year.

## Religious News.

MR. C. H. SPURGEON is at Mentone, in France, and his health is improving.

ILLINOIS churches receive 118,000 members from the Sunday Schools last year.

THERE are 137 sects in Russia which were brought into existence last year.

THE East Congregational Church, Brooklyn, more than doubled its membership last year.

THE Methodist churches of Chicago, without exception, use unfemented wine for communion.

SOME Christian ladies in Chicago have opened a five-cent lodging house and made it a success.

REVIVAL meetings are held at several of the Cincinnati churches with marked success.

THE new Bishop of Durham, Canon Lightfoot, is well known in the world of theology and Biblical literature.

THE Seventh General Conference of Christians of all nations is to begin in Basle, Switzerland, on the 31st of August.

BROOKS HERFORD, a Unitarian minister, in Chicago, says that the reform of the drama must come from the actors themselves.

LONDON *Punch* is to be hereafter edited by a Roman Catholic, F. C. Burnand. *Punch* has been noted in the past for its antipathy to Romanism.

KANSAS Congregationalists are trying to raise \$5,000 for home missionary purposes by contributions of one dollar from each member.

THE Park Congregational Church, Brooklyn, has cleared off \$17,000. A number of gentlemen in Plymouth Church make up \$6,000 of the sum total.

THE eight Congregational churches of the Hartford South Conference, Conn., are divided into two groups, each holding a fellowship meeting once a month.

THE Church at Woburn, Massachusetts, is 237 years old. It has just settled its fourteenth pastor, Dr. Daniel March, recently of Philadelphia.

FATHER HYACINTHE is trying to establish a Catholic Gallican Church. The service is to be conducted in the French language.

A CONGREGATIONAL Church in Illinois lately rejected a candidate for its pulpit solely on the ground that he used tobacco. Served him right.

A DANCING-MASTER in a suburb of Chicago suspended school during a revival effort. Significant fact. Religion and dancing do not thrive together.

THE Japanese Government has authorized the issue by a Japanese publisher of the Book of Genesis in Chinese, prepared by the American Bible Society.

WASHINGTON GLADDEN, of the North Church, Springfield, Mass., and editor of "Sunday Afternoon," is preaching a series of sermons on "Signs of Moral Progress."

REV. P. P. STANTON, of Greenville, Conn., has been pastor of the church there for twenty-three years, and during that time 452 have been received into fellowship by him.

OVER twenty per cent. of the gentlemen in the college classes in Oberlin are absent teaching schools, that they may have something to put into their pocket-books.

A NUMBER of seceders from the Established Church, at New Deer, Scotland, formed themselves into a Congregational church, on the 21st of January.

PETER COOPER proposes to give to the American Missionary Association his interest in 900 acres of land in South Carolina for the benefit of an educational institution for the freedmen.

THE music halls of London are not remarkable for their good character, and the Middlesex magistrates want some means of better regulating them. Why not try prohibition?

THE American Home Missionary Society was out of debt on the 31st of January. Our Congregational brethren across the lines must have wrought nobly during the past few weeks.

A NEW chapel and school-room has been opened in Zion Church, Wakefield, under the charge of Rev. J. R. Wolstenholme. The late Rev. Henry Sanders of Hamilton was formerly pastor of this church.

DR. HUGH MCNEILE, Dean of Ripon, lately deceased, was famous at one time for his denunciations of Romanism. He was also celebrated for his eloquence in the pulpit, and for his successful evangelical labours at Liverpool.