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NOTES AND COMMENTS.

One of the speakers at the Toronto Fair laid stress on the importance of conscientious work in the matter of judging exhibits. The judges, he urged, should not only be thoroughly competent, but in addition should be absolutely fair. Men of honor, integrity and moral worth were required in the ring just as much as on the bench and in the pulpit. The speaker was, of course, quite right. One of the outstanding needs of the day is a large infusion of such men in every line of business. The world is finding out the value of honest men, as it has done at all times. Whatever the appearance of things to the contrary the saw holds that “honesty is the best policy.”

The truth of this is not self-evident to all people, especially to the young who lack experience, and to the old who are morally blind. Certain methods in business, questionable in themselves, though probably within legal bounds, yield glittering results, and the love of money and the luxury and splendor it may bring, carry away men and women, otherwise estimable enough, into courses which conscience would condemn. They suppress any passing qualm by the thought that they are not worse than their neighbors and that the practices of the age must be conformed to. But that idea was exploded long ago. The Psalmist observed the practice and exposed the fallacy: “I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree. Yet he passed away, and, lo, he was not; yea I sought him, but he could not be found. Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace.” And though

times change truth remaineth, its incidence is now as then, and the dishonest course can have but one ending—not success but failure.

The orator at the Fair backed up his remarks by showing how an error in judgment, arising from prejudice or incompetence would seriously injure an exhibitor's business, and from that practical standpoint his argument was conclusive. But the area might well be extended beyond the ring. There are judges in many walks of life. In the market, the store, the office, the professions, and in the church judging is ever going on. The housewife rightly throws a critical glance over the goods she wants to buy, but the competing vendor too readily cries down his neighbor's wares, and this wrong extends through business. One merchant extols his merchandise at the expense of his fellow-merchant and of truth, and his competitors and customers suffer wrong. To do so may be business, but it is also wickedness.

The professions are robed with etiquette which is supposed to help to a high standard of honor. The lawyer observes a certain code of honor to his fellows; and the doctor is hemmed in by the good forms of his profession. But these are often violated in the race for business, mayhap in the struggle for existence in these days of overcrowding. The teacher and the preacher are too often subjected to ill-conceived and jealous criticism, divorced from charity and usually entirely against the facts. In professional life—in whatever department may be named—reputation is as the breath of life and to play fast and loose with it from base motives is not only most cruel, but most criminal. Alas that the practice prevails and that it is indulged in so often for selfish gain. The plea of the exhibitor at the Fair holds good in the whole business and professional arena, and furnishes a suitable weapon for the social and religious reformer.

It will be noted with satisfaction that the Ewart Missionary Training Home, which, it is expected, will be formally opened on the 1st October, will be under the charge of Mrs. Anna Ross, formerly of Brucefield, Ontario, as lady superintendent. Mrs. Ross is well-known to our readers as a valued contributor to our columns, and in Western Ontario as the wife of the late highly revered Rev. John Ross, the “Apostle of Bruce.” The institute has been fortunate in having secured her efficient services.

The approach of the 250th anniversary of the completion of the Shorter Catechism of the Westminster Assembly of Divines is to be celebrated in various ways, but one of the most appropriate is by a fac-simile of the first edition of the book. On the 28th November, 1647, 600 copies of the Catechism were published by order of Parliament, for the service of both Houses, and the fac-simile is of one of these copies preserved at the British Museum. It has been reproduced by photographic process and will be in absolute