

OUR CURBSTONE OBSERVER.

On Profanity.

HERE is nothing so easy to acquire as a habit, or a peculiarity; and there is nothing of which it is more difficult to get rid. In fact one glides almost imperceptibly into a custom or manner, while it takes a considerable amount of determination and energy to depart from the same.

lieve that our adversaries were engaged. Any way the games progressed admirably, and somewhat silently, as is usually the case in whist. There was a neighbor who dropped in to chat, and seeing us at the game, he planted himself behind the young man, at our table, and looking at his cards began a series of running comments, or semi-exclamations, concerning his and his fair partner's play.

A QUEER HABIT.—Many years ago I was acquainted with a gentleman in the lumber trade, a thoroughly good man and a practical Catholic. He had scarcely any of the faults that are common in the great world to-day: he was moral, sober, honest, devout. He had, however, contracted—how I could never learn—the unpleasant habit of saying, almost in every sentence, "damn me," or "damn my soul."

CONCLUSIONS.—Although I headed this contribution "Profanity" I cannot well say that I have clung to my subject. But what stands good in the case of vulgar talk, or of slang words, or of pet expressions, or of mild swearing, stands equally good, though in a more serious way, when it is a question of profanity or blasphemy. It is no wonder that the law of the land punishes this sin as a crime; for actually it is an abomination and a scandal for any Christian community. And it is so absolutely profane. Few men commit any sin or crime (except fools, or lunatics) without expecting to obtain some real, or some imaginary benefit. The robber secures his booty; the murderer satisfies his revenge; the one guilty of immorality satiates his passions; the drunkard has the fleeting enjoyment of the intoxication; the liar may reach some end that the truth would not procure for him; and so it is through the long list of crimes. The result may be unsatisfactory, it may recoil in a punishment; but, all the same, he has some fancied good to attain, and he has an object in view. He may miscalculate and find that instead of pleasure his sin brought him misery, instead of happiness it brought him death—but still he imagined that he had something to gain. But the one addicted to profanity, the blasphemer has absolutely nothing to gain, and positively everything to lose. He cannot satisfy any human desire, nor satiate any passion, nor perfect any sense, nor enrich himself, nor procure for himself a moment's enjoyment, nor have even the satisfaction of possessing one extra iota of pleasure, not to speak of happiness, by means of blasphemy. All he does is to alienate God, and to render himself despicable in the eyes of men. A very poor satisfaction! And yet at every corner, if you only would stand on the curbstone with me for an hour any day, you will hear the most horrid imprecations, senseless oaths, meaningless curses, outrageous profanity, in all the abomination of its infernal versatility. It is a wonder that Heaven can be so mysterious patient as to hearken and to refrain from striking dumb the miserable creatures.

A DISCORDANT NOTE.—I remember once, in Quebec, being invited to spend an evening with a private family. During the course of the visit, we were six strangers to the family, a game of whist was proposed. At one table sat a clergyman, the gentleman of the house and two ladies; at the other I sat with the lady of the house—a very serious and scrupulous dame—for partner, and a young gentleman and young lady as our opponents. I be-

average age was 72; the youngest was 53, the oldest 90. In 1902 five millionaires died and their average age was 78. Longevity, and not brevity, is a striking fact in the lives of very rich men. There is a good reason why this should be so. The wealthy—by their wealth—can and do secure the advantages of change of scene and of climate, and command all the results of scientific progress, including the aid, skill and advice of the greatest of our doctors and surgeons. They, therefore, should live long; and as a matter of fact they do so.

Great men are of two general types, that may be called, roughly, men of genius and men of high talent. We may take Shakespeare, and Mozart, as types of genius, and it would not be difficult to select a group of the second sort—all of whose members have attained eminence through enormous receptivity and power, rather than through acuteness and creative faculty.

Nor is it difficult to determine the relation of each group to the struggle for existence, says a writer. Men of high genius too often find it difficult even to live. They conquer only when their ideas and works are suitable to be quickly adapted to immediate practical uses. There are many ideas now in printed books still waiting for recognition. Moreover, much of the work of genius has, from its very nature, little bearing on the struggle for existence. Music and painting have few vital relations to modern needs. They are rather means of pleasure, distraction and amusement to those seeking a refuge from the struggle for existence. The position of the men of talent is, on the other hand, assured. The stability of a country and its place among the nations depends upon the number and ability of men of this stamp. They obtain the rewards of to-day because they do the work of to-day. They found families by reason of their strength and virility; and their steadfastness and cheerfulness are as characteristic as the instability and originality of the man of high genius. His daring suggestions and deep insights are often not unconnected with bodily discomfort and distress and with profound dissatisfaction with the conditions of life about him.

On more than one occasion during the last year, says the New York "Sun," we have called the attention of our readers to the fact that drinking water is the chief carrier of the germs of typhoid fever. A serious outbreak of this disease in one of the most popular private military schools in the United States was then in progress, many of the pupils were stricken down, and several died. It was shown then that the water supply to this institution was from an artesian well carefully guarded from contamination, and yet a defective sewerage pipe was discharging its myriads of typhoid germs into this well.

The relation of the water supply to this disease has again been emphasized by the deplorable epidemic still prevailing at Ithaca, while another serious outbreak is now raging in a neighboring city in Pennsylvania.

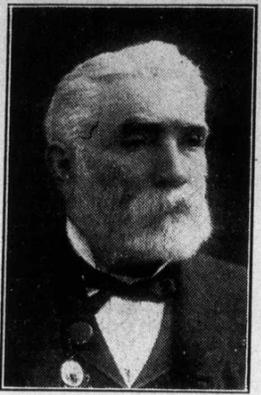
In the "New York Medical Journal" of Nov. 29, 1902, is a very interesting publication upon this subject by Prof. A. Seibert, M.D., of the New York Polyclinic Medical School and Hospital, an active practitioner of medicine in this city and a recognized authority on hygiene. His studies here and abroad in connection with cholera infantum have attracted a great deal of attention in Europe and America. His latest work upon the relation of typhoid epidemics and typhoid mortality to water filtration should be carefully studied by all in authority who are responsible for the water we drink.

Prof. Seibert has analyzed the death rate from this disease in several of the larger cities of Europe, among them Hamburg and Berlin, and shows that for ten years prior to the installation of filter plants the death rate reached as high as one in every 2,600 inhabitants. For the six years after filtered water was furnished the death rate sank to one in 11,000.

In the United States, in those cities where the water supply is derived from well-known polluted sources, as is the case with Philadelphia, Baltimore, Chicago and St. Louis, the necessity for thorough filtration is emphasized. All hygienists recognize the fact that there is no absolute immunity from typhoid infection except where the organisms are killed by boiling; yet there is so much protection secured from thorough filtration that no water supply to any community should be without a filtration plant.

Annual Meeting of Catholic Sailors' Club.

The annual meeting of the Catholic Sailors' Club was held on Saturday last in the rooms of the Club, and was one of the most representative and enthusiastic gatherings which has taken place since its organization.



MR. F. B. McNAMEE, President of Club.

Seated beside the president of the Club, Mr. F. B. McNamee, on the stage were: His Grace Archbishop Bruchesi, Rev. Fathers Filiatrault, S.J., Gagnier, S.J., Kavanagh, S.J., and Doyle, S.J., Rev. Father Donnelly, P.P., St. Anthony's; Rev. P. McGrath, Rev. M. J. McKenna, and Rev. Dr. Gerald McShane, S.S., St. Patrick's.

The president, after a few words of welcome to His Grace, and to the priests, and laity, read the following report of the management for the year just closed. It gives an idea of what may be achieved by willing hands and earnest hearts. It is as follows:—

The Committee of Management in issuing their seventh annual report tender their thanks to all those donors, subscribers and workers who have so generously assisted them, and have much pleasure in stating that the past year has been the most successful in the history of the organization.

The formal opening of the season was held under the distinguished patronage of His Grace, Archbishop Bruchesi. The presence on this occasion of a large and representative gathering fully testified to the increasing interest taken by the citizens of Montreal in the work of the Club on behalf of the seamen visiting this port.

It is especially gratifying to note that the kindly offices of the friends of the Club are meeting with a hearty appreciation and co-operation on the part of the sailors. Their presence in daily increasing numbers and participation in the advantages offered them by way of reading and recreation rooms, tax to the utmost the quarters at their disposal for comfortable accommodation.

The religious services held in the reading room at convenient hours continue to exercise a wholesome influence, and the attendance on Sunday evenings is constantly improving.

In self-sacrificing efforts Rev. Father Larue, S.J., Chaplain, overlooked nothing that could aid him in ministering to the spiritual needs of the sailors. His lectures, illustrated with stereopticon views, were always welcomed and were a continual source of interest and instruction. His call to Sault Ste. Marie, the present scene of his labors, was a cause of regret to the seamen and the Club, and all wish him success in his new mission.

In his successor, Rev. Father Gagnier, S.J., the committee have been fortunate in associating with them one who took an immediate and active interest in their charitable endeavor.

Entering on his office almost at the close of the season he took up the work with all the enthusiasm of his predecessor, and at once endeared himself to those under his charge.

With the possible exception of the annual subscriptions, that which contributed most to the beneficent results of the year's work was the success of the weekly concerts. Thanks to the various societies which generously assisted the Club, the committee had no difficulty in providing a weekly entertainment in which the sailors took part.

Reference must be made to the handsome revenue derived from these concerts. During the year they alone realized the sum of \$913.85.

The collection of the annual subscriptions was again directed by the energetic president and the 1st vice-president of the Ladies' Board. The thanks of the Club are due them for their activity in this important feature of the work, and for their unsparring efforts to promote the general welfare of the institution.

On the eve of the departure of Mgr. Falconio, Papal Delegate, to take up his residence in Washington, D.C., a delegation consisting of the president and vice-president proceeded to Ottawa, and there, on behalf of the Club, presented him with an address. His Excellency received them most cordially, and replying, expressed his regret at leaving so many of his kind friends, assured them of his sympathy with their objects, was pleased to note the non-sectarian character of their work and would pray that prosperity would continue to attend their philanthropic aims.

For many reasons it was deemed advisable to advance the date of the annual general meeting from the first Monday in May to the second Thursday in December; thus at a meeting held on the 17th of November last, a resolution affecting such a change was proposed and adopted.

The Club hereby tenders its thanks to the directors of the steamship lines who have materially aided it by their liberal contributions from the proceeds of concerts held on board.

The results accomplished during the year have been most satisfactory. The increased revenues have greatly assisted the management in its endeavors to cater to the wants of the Catholic seamen; nevertheless the aims of the Club and the scope of its work are constantly broadening, and in view of the improved facilities under way for accommodating the steamship interests at the port of Montreal, a proportionately greater demand will be made upon its energies.

The Club makes an urgent appeal for assistance by means of an additional number of workers and subscribers and increased subscriptions, and it hopes thereby to obtain permanent and more spacious quarters, to add to the number of amusements it has to offer its visitors, and to make its rooms more attractive, and as a Sailors' Home, complete in every respect.

The committee desire to record their appreciation of the valuable services of the Supt., John Doyle, and his assistant, Redmond Keys.

M. A. PHELAN, Secretary.

The Club opened for the past season on April 26th, and closed on November 29th. During that term thousands of seamen visited its room and availed themselves of the privileges afforded, as may be seen by the following summary:—

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. Includes: Number of men visiting rooms (23,516), Letters written (4,158), Packages of reading matter distributed (4,239), Prayer books distributed (493), Prayer beads distributed (463), Scapulars distributed (440), Carpet hand protectors for firemen (5,953), Ditty bags (222), Total abstinence pledges (361), Car tickets (690), Internments (2), Outdoor relief—Meals (80), Beds (40), One railway ticket.

Weekly concerts ... 31
Money held for safe keeping \$279.74
Money sent to seamen's families ... \$352.34

The report of the treasurer shows that the receipts from annual subscriptions and weekly concerts were \$3,485.11, and the expenditure, consisting of rent, caretaker's wages and other items to be \$1,563.50. After transferring the sum of \$2,250 to the New Building Fund, which now amounts to \$7,139.69, there remained cash available \$327.83. This financial result is indeed very creditable to the administration.

After the reports had been read, His Grace Archbishop Bruchesi delivered a brief address, during the course of which he eulogized the president and the members of the different executives upon their zeal and self-abnegation in such a worthy undertaking. He made a special appeal to the members of the various religious and national societies to organize entertainments for the public nights upon which the seamen were entertained, and closed by asking all his flock in Montreal to help the Club.

The chaplain, Rev. Father Gagnier, S.J., made a few remarks on the aims of the Club and the good results attained during the past year.

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The Montreal City and District Savings Bank.

The Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders of this Bank will be held at its Head Office, 176 St. James Street, on Tuesday, 6th May Next, At 12 O'Clock Noon, for the reception of the Annual Reports and Statements, and the election of Directors. By order of the Board, A. P. LESPERANCE, Manager. Montreal, March 31st, 1903.

SUPERIOR COURT. CANADA. PROVINCE OF QUEBEC, District of Montreal. Dame Elmira Camirand, of the city and the District of Montreal, wife common as to property, of Desire Houle, contractor, of the same place, duly authorized to the present, Plaintiff, vs. The said Desire Houle, Defendant. An action in separation as to property has been instituted in this case, the 28th of February, 1903. LEBLANC & BROSSARD, Attorneys for Plaintiff.

Old Letters

(By a Regular Contributor)

"The police are on my trail. How do I come in? at once?" This is not exactly a letter more than a tiny slip of paper pasted on a book. It is more than half a century old and it was originally very per. But it means an award. It is the compendium of a history you want to hear about it. It sits down and prepares for you to have to take you back to scenes described in my last issue.

It was 1848; Clonmel was "Insurrection Act;" Sir O'Donnell commanded the was a lover of science, botany and astronomy; he spent evenings at the gas-amining specimens of flow and herbs with the young—or talking over the latest in the realms of the her brother.

One evening the entire been on the track of a fugitive O'Mahony—whose name was conspicuously in Irish events in the early sixties. Miss Ryan's baker-shop, Main street. About four ing a woman came into the shop and whispered: "The work going on in the Irish they are hunting every for O'Mahony, and I am come here next."

"Stay there a moment," Ryan. Leaving the woman shop, she slipped upstairs pered through the key-hole the police are in the ho was all. Half an hour later came, and the Captain himself, but insisted on the house. Miss Ryan le Her heart was palpitant came in the room in v hony had been hiding. B ing the door the room v Not a trace of him; the closed; and she was far fied than the disappoint O'Mahony had slipped the window, sat on the pulled the window down drop ten feet on to the roof below. Along this until he came to a shed which he slid, and finally ground. It was growing his only remaining refuge gas-house; but he was o side of the street.

Seeing a small boy with a basket on his ar the lad, and scribbled t—"The police are on my I came in? at once? Jo blank piece out of his and gave it to the boy the lady at the gas-ho as she received the note boy to go back and say man who gave it to h did so.

At that moment Sir seated in the room ex from Mount Melaray. A later a knock came to lady excused herself, an open the door. It was hony. The moment he she said: "John, do y commander of the for was his reply. "Then, you?" "No," again at "Well," she said, "pu face and walk in."

In they went, the con up, and the lady said: allow me to introduce Belfast, who has come brother's coal boats mander and the rebel, and soon were lost in esting conversation. In the chat the lady com the difficulty Mr. Ray going and coming from account of the watchf military and constabu gested that, before t Sir Charles to be in o'clock), he would a and Mr. Ray to the q mander gladly agreed, past eight the three The lady took the e one arm and O'Mal other arm, and march guard—the soldiers pr of course, as they pu quay was reached, S the lady returned, le posed Mr. Ray to do boat man named Joh

WITH THE SCIENTISTS

Not long since Dr. Alfred Russel Wallace remarked upon "the comparatively short lives of millionaires." As everything that comes from his pen commands attention, this statement was taken to be the result of statistics till, a few

weeks since, an English writer went back to the data. He finds that the phrase is not justified by recent statistics. During 1900 nine English "millionaires" died, leaving in the aggregate \$105,000,000. The average age for these nine testators was 74; the youngest was 59, and the oldest 91 years. During 1901 the deaths of eight millionaires were recorded whose joint estates were valued at \$52,500,000. In this case the