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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE Nihilistic terror is again becoming rampant in Russia. Accounts of the assassination of Colonel Sudeikin have been published. It is also asserted that the recent injury, from which the Czar was suffering, was the result of an attempt made on his life by Nihilists, who shot at him on his return from a hunting excursion. The comparative quiet enjoyed of late by Alexander III., has not, apparently, inclined him towards constitutionalism. The Nihilists are getting tired of waiting.

In addition to the Humber catastrophe, another railway disaster has occurred, in the Province of Quebec. The regular passenger train from Montreal to Ottawa was run into by a freight train. The heavy snow storm at the time prevented the train men seeing any distance ahead of them. So far as at present known, no fatal injuries were received, though several persons, among them Dr. Sterry Hunt, were severely hurt. When the collision occurred, a terrible panic among the passengers ensued, which was fortunately quieted by those who retained their presence of mind.

AFFAIRS in Egypt do not present a very promising appearance at the present moment. The Khedive is at his wits' end. He seems powerless to act and is puzzled as to the course he should adopt. There is a popular desire for the return of Ismail Pasha, and Tewfik is disposed to fall in with it. He again talks of resigning. The British Government's policy in the crisis lacks vigour and decision. Meanwhile El Mehdi is advancing on Khartoum and his cause is reported as growing in popularity as he proceeds northward. Energetic and well concerted measures would speedily render the collapse of the False Prophet's movement certain, but in the meantime no one seems disposed to cause him serious inconvenience. Modern France, the bravest nation—in word—through her Consul General in Egypt, declares she is willing and able to undertake her defence.

ANOTHER murder was added last week to the record of Canadian crime. A young man and an accomplice entered a store at Middlemiss in the evening. They overpowered the occupants, father and son, and demanded in orthodox highwayman fashion the money or life of the former. The misguided youth took both. The poor grocer was assisted up stairs to his room where he died soon after. The evidence obtained at the coroner's inquest clearly brings the crime home to one of the young men under arrest. His career has been somewhat varied. For a time he gave promise of being a credit to his family, who were disposed to be rather indulgent to him. He took a deep interest in a revival movement in the neighbourhood where he lived, but he changed for the worse and his descent was rapid. He joined a disreputable troupe of variety actors, and soon his degradation was complete, and now he awaits his trial for a serious crime. The sad event teaches lessons. They can be understood at a glance.

A CONTEMPORARY, very correctly, says.—We regret to observe that there is a strong tendency among the press of the present day to give undue prominence to the details of horrible crimes. Not a day passes but the telegraph brings news of horrors of various kinds, and these are printed with all their sickening details and scattered broadcast to pander to a depraved taste and stir up a desire to emulate those who have become notorious by their foul deeds. There can be no question that familiarity with the details of crime is one of the greatest incentives to commit crime, especially among the young. The mass of the people have no time for reading anything but the newspapers and novels: many read nothing but the papers. Instead, therefore, of pandering to a depraved taste, the press should endeavour to raise the tone of public sentiment, and while giving a true and faithful record of all pass-

ing events, should avoid, as far as possible, dwelling on the details of depravity and crime, which can only have a deleterious effect on the morals of the community.

NORTH of the United States boundary, we are different, in some respects, from our brethren to the southward, and yet there are points of resemblance, as the following from the *Pittsburg United Presbyterian* will show:—A good brother—not a minister—contemplates going to a congregational meeting with these reflections: "I know of no assemblages so dismal, depressing, and irritating, as these congregational meetings. The people snap, scold, and snarl, and one is never sure that his own expressions will be given their best meaning." This is not a description of all such meetings, but it is, unhappily, too true of many of them. It is not that all the people are willing to be ugly and contrary, but that a few captious and cranky ones are permitted to assume a prominence that does not belong to them. They are often deferred to in a way that is a misuse of charity. Their rasping ill-temper ruffles up many who determine they will be amiable, and drives others into a shrinking silence that destroys their influence. It would often be a blessing to churches, and a means of grace to the men themselves if such disturbers were subjected to a rigorous discipline.

In an interesting article on the condition of the Insane, which appeared in a recent issue of the *Globe*, it is stated that Dr. Clarke agrees with other modern alienists in largely attributing the prevalence of insanity in Canada, as well as the United States, to the high tension under which so many people live. "If you try to get twenty-five horse-power out of a twenty-five horse-power engine," he remarked tersely and emphatically, "the engine is likely to break down. There are at present about 2850 insane patients in the asylums of this Province, and if you add to these the number confined in gaols and those living with their friends, you have not less than about 3,000 as the insane population of the Province, exclusive, of course, of idiots, who are not, properly speaking, insane. This gives us about one insane person for every 640. The proportion in the United States, according to the last census, is about one person for every 522. As to the causes, about sixty-five per cent. are hereditary—the sins of the fathers, visited upon the children—about ten per cent. are due to alcoholic intemperance. Upon this point, I may say that I went carefully into the history of 5600 patients, three years ago, and found that the proportion of insane cases due to intemperance was a fraction over nine per cent. Worry of one kind or other, business troubles, and religious excitement are responsible for about ten per cent., sexual excesses ten per cent., while the remainder are due to a variety of other causes."

It is difficult to obtain anything like reliable information respecting the deliberations of Catholic Church dignitaries. For the most part, the average reader has to depend either on the guesses of enterprising correspondents, or the careful compilation of Romish officials, who desire that only certain facts be known, and with just the medium of light through which they are to be seen. The doors of the Romish Churches stand open to receive casual worshippers all day long, but the representatives of the press do not find the doors of the halls where the dignitaries of Rome deliberate open to them. In connection with the recent meeting of American Bishops in Rome, a special despatch was recently telegraphed to the *New York Herald*, in which it is stated that the programme for the Baltimore Council will probably include:—First, the bishops are to organize their seminaries according to the principles established by the Council of Trent; second, parochial schools are to be established, and in doing so the principals of the Middle Ages are to be borne in mind; third, commissions are to be appointed for the administration of ecclesiastical property; fourth, for the nomination of curates the system ordained in France is to be adopted, with the exception, of course, of the co-operation of the State, which, un-

fortunately, in America, has no relation with the Church; fifth, a system of legislation is to be decided upon for religious marriages. Such are the chief resolutions that have been adopted by common accord. There is every reason to hope that the national council will consecrate these principles by their final and solemn sanction. You thus see that the future of this grand and beautiful Church of America opens with the most brilliant and assuring perspective.

FRAUDS in connection with educational examinations produce painful impressions. Their occurrence in recent years has unfortunately been far from rare. At the same time it has to be remembered that the great majority of those engaged in the teaching profession are of unblemished reputation. There is not the slightest reason why the teachers of Ontario should be viewed with suspicion. The sad exposures made from time to time have led some to the conclusion that, admirable as our educational system is, there are defects connected with it calling for remedy. The system, however, is not alone responsible for these irregularities that occasionally come to the surface with startling effect. The eager struggle in the race of life makes many competitors reckless of moral considerations. This utter disregard of common honesty in compelling success in examinations is one of the saddest things in the history of education in Ontario. The evidence adduced last week at the investigation held in Barrie reveals an unblushing system of fraud of the worst description. The lads who stole and trafficked in examination papers no doubt aspired to professional life. With their present ideas it is only too evident that they could but become legal rogues or disreputable physicians. In public life the chicanery and scheming are utterly out of proportion to the population of the country. We need more, not less, honesty and straightforwardness in our national life. The educational authorities are doing the cause they seek to promote and the moral health of the community a service by thoroughly investigating the frauds that have disgraced recent examinations. This mean and contemptible form of cheating must be stamped out speedily.

WEEKLY HEALTH BULLETIN.—The humidity of the week was above the average, and it is not surprising that respiratory diseases have not only kept their previous position, but especially in the case of Influenza and Pneumonia made a decided advance, the former increasing from 45 to 95 per cent., and the latter from 1.3 to 3 per cent. of the total reported diseases. Regarding Neuralgia and Rheumatism, it is sufficient to say that they have not materially changed in their prevalence. Of Fevers it may be said that Intermittent has not decreased since the previous week, but that it is again exhibiting the same character of persistency during the winter months that it did last year. Typhoid (Enteric) has shown a slight tendency to decrease, but its prevalence in total cases is yet very considerable. Taken as a whole the contagious Zymotics show a relatively less prevalence than last week, but this is in some degree accounted for by the increased number of cases of diseases specially affecting the respiratory organs. Measles and Whooping Cough are both present in considerable amounts, but Scarlatina does not appear amongst the twenty most prevalent diseases. Diphtheria, however, shows in different localities a great prevalence, again illustrating the endemic character of the disease in a very marked manner, and at the same time its contagious character is seen in many instances, of which the following reported by a correspondent in District I., Eastern Ontario, is a good example: "Diphtheria began here about three and a-half weeks ago. No precautions were taken to isolate the first cases. It then spread to another family, one of which died. The remaining five children and the mother have it, these making six of my cases, and I have one in another family. Two of the five are very low, and will not likely recover. I have reason to believe that there are several other families in the town afflicted with it. In the family above mentioned I was called in after the first one died."