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Worse than Leprosy.—A report of horrible cruelty comes from the Philip pine Islands. Some natives caught an American soldier, and, out of malice or for the sake of revenge, injected a leper's blood into his veins. What that leper's blood did for the poor soldier's body salutacious literature, found even in our public libraries, is doing for the minds of innocent boys and girls.



Imperfect Conduits.—About forty per cent. of the electrical energy is wasted because of the imperfect conduits through which it is transmitted. Through Christian men God designed to transmit divine grace to sinners, but what poor conduits we make. In the Argentine Republic small spiders spin long webs which settle upon the telegraph wires with the result that when it rains each microscopic thread establishes a minute leak. In this way whole lines of telegraph have been rendered useless. So it is not the gross immorality or outrageous sin, but relatively small inconsistencies and inconspicuous which sap the strength of influence.



A Stirring Appeal.—In pleading for more systematic attention to the work of caring for the children, Rev. Ross Parrish says: "We are behind the Jew of two thousand years before Christ. How much longer shall we neglect it? How much longer shall we try to recruit the school of Christ chiefly from the streets, rather than from Christian cradles? How much longer shall we permit the wicked Herods of our time to hunt down and murder the Christ children in our cradles, without a protest of tears and blood, if need be? Our heart is hot with this theme. Burning words must be sounded through some megaphone from sea to sea before we awaken manifestly from our slumber. Lord, in mercy, stay Thy coming, and hasten to arouse us to the rescue of the innocents!"



How to Make Things Go.—Ex-Mayor Abram S. Hewitt, of New York, believes thoroughly in New York, as his answers given below show. A comparative stranger in the metropolis asked: "To what do you ascribe New York's greatness?" "To push," laconically responded Mr. Hewitt. "But your city has been greatly favored. You will admit that?" "Only in giving birth to citizens who are resourceful and energetic, and in the ability always to attract men of the same stamp from other places." "But haven't the natural advantages of New York much to do with the city's progress?" "Sir," replied Mr. Hewitt, closing the conversation, "nature would make grass grow on Broadway if we didn't interfere." The same law holds

good of Christian work. The difference between a progressive League and one that is going down hill is that one is characterized by push and enterprise and the other by indifference and laziness.



What The Prayer-Meeting Is Not.—Some people have a mistaken view of the object of the prayer-meeting. They seem to think that it is the place where one may go to exploit his hobby, pour forth his complaints, and indulge in lamentation. It is the last place in the world for any of these things. The *Presbyterian* expresses the right view in the following sentences: "The prayer-meeting is the place for wholesome, stimulating testimony, not for personal

hearts, and bring up their whole lives and actions to the bar of conscience. The class of sermons which, I think, are most needed are of the class which offended Lord Melbourne long ago. Lord Melbourne was seen one day coming from a church in the country in a fine fume. Finding a friend, he exclaimed, 'It is too bad! I have always been a supporter of the Church, and I have always upheld the clergy. But it is really too bad to have to listen to a sermon like we had this morning. Why, the preacher actually insisted upon applying religion to a man's private life.' But that is the kind of preaching I like best—the kind of preaching which men need most, but it is also the kind of which they get the least."



Useless Star-Gazing.—From the *Sunday-school Times* we clip this story: "There is a Jewish story of a little boy who, while studying his Hebrew alphabet, was told that when he had learned his letters an angel would drop him a piece of money from the skies. Thereupon the little fellow, instead of redoubling his lesson study, began to look up to see the promised money drop from the skies, and so his progress in knowledge was stayed. There is a great deal of this kind of looking for the reward of work before the work is done. Men begin to look for the promised reward instead of sticking at that which would bring it to them—or bring them to it. On every side there stand idle star-gazers expecting the dropping of unearned rewards from the skies; and there they are likely to stand."



Microphobia.—Dr. Justin De Lisle, of New York, makes a sensible protest in the *International Dental Journal* against that fear of microbes which may do the individual a much graver injury than the microbes themselves. He points out that of the seven hundred varieties of bacteria which infect animal and vegetable life only forty-one infect animals and only thirty-one human beings. Furthermore, unless the skin or the mucous membrane is broken these noxious microbes cannot enter the body, and it has been demonstrated that to keep the body sterile to microbes would be to court death. Probably the contests of the microbes with each other or with the animal tissues play a very important part in the economy of good health. These facts should reassure those who are in danger of contracting the terrible disease known as microphobia. If that once gets set in the brain there is no help for you. It is not anticipating Providence to make the funeral arrangements forthwith. You might as well be nibbled to death or burrowed to death by microbes as scared to death by your imagination. The result would be the same.

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lamentations. Spiritual ailments should not be ventilated there, but everything be done to brace up the spiritual system. We want gospel tonics administered there, so that all shall go away stronger and better for the coming, and be all the more ready for life's duties, trials, and responsibilities."



Mr. Gladstone on Sermons.—Mr. Gladstone once wrote very strongly upon the subject of sermons. He said: "One thing I have against the clergy, both of this country and the town. I think they are not severe enough on their congregations. They do not sufficiently lay upon the souls and consciences of their hearers their moral obligations, and probe their