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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

IN discussing the subject of increase of nervous diseases in modern times, Dr. Covernton stated that among the causes enumerated were grief and severe intellectual labour. He quoted from several authorities to show that the tendency of modern education was to increase nervous diseases. The tenor of these authorities was that true education would not produce these baneful results, but that the mischief was wrought by the introduction of elements of worry and hurry competitions, examinations, the bestowal of prizes and marks, etc.

CONTRARY almost to expectation the bill to make seduction a criminal offence has been read a third time and passed by the Dominion Parliament. The majority in its favour is small, only five. It may now be regarded as certain that it will not become law this year. The Senate may be depended upon for its rejection, following the precedent set by themselves, a year ago. There must be many more victims to a great wrong before Canadian law will have the courage and humanity to say that the heartless betrayer of youthful innocence is the scoundrel that all men know him to be. The time is coming when it will.

IT is announced that the civic authorities in Kingston have resolved to request the discontinuance of Salvation Army processions on the public streets. Of late disagreeable encounters have taken place between drivers of vehicles and the processionists. Police court proceedings, far from edifying, have been the result, and it becomes a question if any good end is served by these street parades. Here in Toronto, people friendly enough to the objects of the Salvation Army, are at a loss for good arguments to defend the noisy processions that rudely shock many people's ideas of quiet and decorous observance of the Sabbath day.

THE following is a list of the constituencies in which the Scott Act has been adopted. Nova Scotia—Annapolis, Cape Breton, Colchester, Cumberland, Digby, Hants, Inverness, King's, Pictou, Queen's, Shelburne, Yarmouth, Prince Edward Island—Charlottetown (city), King's, Prince, Queen's. New Brunswick—Albert, Carleton, Charlotte, Fredericton (city), King's, Northumberland, Queen's, Sunbury, Westmoreland, York. Ontario—Halton, Oxford, Manitoba—Lisgar, Marquette. In the following counties Scott Act campaigns are in progress—Northumberland and Durham; Russell and Prescott; Stormont, Glengarry and Dundas; Ontario.

THE Act passed last session by the Dominion Parliament, known as the McCarthy Act, is by the disposal of Mr. Houde's motion virtually a dead letter. The decision of the Privy Council in the case of the Queen v. Hodge removed all doubt as to the validity of the Crooks or Ontario Temperance Act. This session Mr. Houde, member for Maskinongé, introduced a bill for the repeal of the McCarthy Act. The debate resulted in the adoption of an amendment by the Hon. Mr. Langevin, providing that the constitutionality of the Act be referred for decision to the Supreme Court of Canada or the Privy Council in England, and that until its decision the penalties named in the Act will not be imposed. This simplifies matters considerably. It leaves the action of the Crooks Act unimpaired, and to the various Provinces the right to regulate the liquor traffic.

CONCERTED efforts are being made to repress the murderous and destructive aims of anarchists. There is reason to believe that these efforts will be effective. Were these extremists confined to one or two nationalities united action for the repression of their crimes would fail. As they exist in every country a common interest binds all civilized communities to counteract crimes against civilization itself. The right of asylum for political refugees is in no way impaired when men

who preach murder and devastation are firmly prevented from carrying their designs into execution. Continental anarchists conspire in London, Irish dynamiters talk ferociously in Paris and New York, and even a miscreant like Johann Most has a following in the United States. Dealing with desperadoes of this stamp does not come within the range of politics at all; it belongs only to the police and courts of justice.

AT the Sanitary Convention held in Ottawa last week Dr. Covernton, of Toronto, read a paper on the abuse of alcohol and increase of nervous diseases of modern times. The abuse of alcohol led men to a premature death, after destroying body and mind, and perverting the moral and intellectual faculties. It was also a frequent cause of insanity. In his visit to Geneva to attend the International Sanitary Convention, he had gathered startling statistics in regard to the matter. At an asylum at Basle, out of 364 admissions, 110 cases were caused by intemperance. In the twelve asylums of Switzerland the proportion was not very large. Alcohol could not be considered a food, inasmuch as it did not furnish nourishment. The greater part of alcoholic drinks offered for the public contained in greater or less degree the more poisonous kinds of alcohol, and these were coming into more common use.

As was confidently expected the submission of the Scott Act to the electorate of Oxford county, has resulted in an unmistakable victory for the cause of temperance. The verdict rendered in its favour is all the more significant from the fact that the question at issue was thoroughly understood by those who recorded their votes. An ordinary political election is frequently complicated by side issues, and affected by local interests and the devious ways of political trickery. In this instance the merits of the case were squarely pronounced upon. The temperance cause was placed clearly before the people by ministers and others, Rev. Messrs. W. A. McKay and W. T. McMullen, of Woodstock, and Bethout, of Milton, rendering valuable aid to the movement which has triumphed. Those connected with the drink traffic were no less zealous in the cause they represented. Each side threw its whole strength into the contest. A majority of eight hundred is good evidence that the temperance movement has got a hold on the popular mind. Other counties will soon make a similar decision.

AMONG the many excellent benevolent institutions in Toronto, doing good and efficient work in an unostentatious way, the Boy's Home occupies an important place. For the past twenty-three years it has been doing a good work among an interesting class. The annual meeting was held last week and the occasion was taken advantage of to inaugurate the fine addition made to the building. The report read by Dr. Daniel Wilson was most satisfactory. The total number of inmates, including those on the roll of January 1st, 1883, is 136. Of these twenty-seven were removed by their parents, twenty-two were sent out to situations, sixteen received temporary shelter, and one, a deaf mute, was sent to the Newsboys' lodgings, being too old for the institution. At present there are seventy boys in the house, and of those sent to situations only one has been returned as unsuitable. There is a constant demand amongst farmers for boys as apprentices, and at present fifty-four are bound out. The treasurer's report, read by Col. Czowski, was equally satisfactory, showing a substantial balance at the credit of the institution. Several of the city ministers, among them Rev. G. M. Milligan, being present delivered brief and appropriate addresses.

THE complete and effective exposure of an infamous attempt on the part of a few political adventurers to buy up several members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario is regarded with feelings of satisfaction throughout the country. To the honour of the parties approached none of them yielded to the seductive in-

fluences brought to bear upon them. Equally satisfactory is the healthy feeling of indignant repudiation with which the infamous attempt has been regarded by the honourable men of both political parties. Political life, personal reputation and the country's good name are dishonoured when party tricksters resort to such disreputable devices to compass their ends. Worse than all, the tolerance of such methods in our midst saps the foundation of all true patriotism, and aims a deadly blow at moral integrity. Next in baseness to the iniquitous conspiracy itself is the effort to avert scorn and contempt from a political party by conscious and disingenuous misrepresentation and false suggestions. There is a woe pronounced against those who call good evil and evil good, darkness light, and light darkness. Would honourable men raised to official positions by means such as have just come to light, have respected themselves. If they could it is certain nobody else would have respected them.

A RECENT article in the *S. S. Times* on "Prayer as a Means of Personal Abuse," is a very suggestive one, and the *United Presbyterian* very justly comments on it thus.—It refers to the practice, sometimes adopted by irreverent persons, of using prayer as a convenience for venting spleen or malice on an opponent, or of reproving and rebuking some one that the petitioner thinks deserves it. It is an abuse of prayer to make it a means of abuse of somebody to whom the prayer is directed. It is often said by men who are out of place or sympathy in their churches that the prayers are always directed at them. Perhaps they are, yet possibly because they are all wrong they take up such a notion when there is no foundation for it. It is not an unknown thing, however, for one minister to contradict another in the prayer succeeding his sermon, in which case, of course, he introduces a stump speech into the body of his petition, and tries to win the people away from the doctrines that he thinks improper. When one does so he is so discourteous that the flagrancy of his fault as a petitioner is almost lost sight of. And yet that is not his principal fault. He is prostituting prayer to a use to which it should not be devoted, and employing an opportunity for thrusting his opinions upon a minister and into the faces of the people because he has no other opportunity for doing so. The effect of it is always to invite opposition. People resent being prayed at. They instinctively feel that prayer is an appeal to God, solemn and full of sublime obligation, and when they see it so grossly perverted they naturally become indignant. In all cases of personal praying, even when the motive is good, there is needed a great discretion, lest it run into a particularizing that will excite feelings that are disagreeable, and, therefore, less than edifying.

WEEKLY HEALTH BULLETIN.—The weather shows a very great change from that of the preceding week. From the abnormal cold of the previous week, the temperature during this, along with rain and high winds, has become higher, in every way indicating the approach of spring. The effects upon health are seen in the continued prevalence of Bronchitis, while Influenza has likewise made an advance. Pneumonia similarly shows an unusually high prevalence. A comparison with the same week of last year shows that this disease is at present much more prevalent than at the same time last year, at least comparatively. Rheumatism and Neuralgia have appeared somewhat more prominently during the week. Amongst Fevers, Intermittent is less prominent than last week, but one reason of this may be in a number of delayed reports from malarial districts. The contagious zymotics, show an unusually small prevalence. Diphtheria appears amongst the six first diseases only in District I., eastern Ontario. Measles and Scarletina and Whooping Cough are similarly decreased in amount, but Mumps retains a more prominent position. Erysipelas appears more prominently than for some weeks past. For the month of March, the reports would seem to indicate a higher condition of health than is usual in Ontario.