

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Liquor Question and the New York Daily Press.

THE agitation of the alcoholic liquor question in New York city is one of the significant signs of the times. Sunday closing has become a burning question in the daily press, in advocacy of which "spreads" are given freely, and many interviews with leading politicians, lawyers, business men, and now and then with clergymen, who, mostly, are off on vacation, are published. It is most gratifying to see familiar temperance statistics and other facts and arguments marshalled prominently in the columns of the great metropolitan dailies. The world moves.

The following letter appeared on the editorial page of the *New York Sun*:

RUM, CRIME, AND MISFORTUNE.**Dr. Funk States the Prohibitionist Idea of Excise Law Enforcement.**

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—*Sir*: There is a side to Sunday selling that the public mind just now should be fixed upon; it underlies the entire liquor problem. Permit me to illustrate it: In your to-day's issue, several of your columns drip with blood. Mr. Lane, "a respected citizen" of Kentucky, recovering from a drunken debauch, shoots to death, unprovoked, a father and son; in a saloon row in New York a man is scalped, and the ambulance surgeon narrowly escapes being cut to pieces by drunken rowdies; in Brooklyn a drunken driver rips open the nose of his horse. These are but sample drops of the daily deluge of crime and sorrow caused by liquor. Gladstone says that it is the business of a government to make it easy to do right and hard to do wrong.

But, it is urged, "A man's drinking is his business; it is his personal affair; he drinks and takes the consequences." Did that drunken driver or that Brooklyn horse take the consequences? Did Lane or Capt. Rodenbauch and his son take the consequences of Lane's drinking? "But," we are told, "we must not interfere with the personal liberty of men to drink or not drink." The genius of our government guarantees life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. What chance have the tens of thousands of children of drunkards in this city of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness? Have

not the taxpayers any personal liberty or rights that should be considered?

Judge Noah Davis says that his experience for a score of years on the bench is that 80 per cent. of all the crimes that came before him would not have come had it not been for the traffic in alcoholic liquor. Dr. Willard Parker, one of the ablest physicians New York has ever had, in his preface to the Lectures of Dr. B. W. Richardson, said that the liquor traffic is responsible for 35 per cent. of idiocy, 45 per cent. of lunacy, 80 per cent. of crime, 90 per cent. of pauperism, and 10 per cent. of all deaths. Apply that to New York city and it means that last year the liquor traffic is responsible for the birth of scores of idiots, 400 lunatics, the sending of 76,000 men and women to jail, the pauperizing of 10,000 families, and for 4,000 deaths.

Let our taxpaying, hard common-sense business citizens climb the rounds of these figures and get a clear conception of this monster evil which demands seven days in the week to do its awful work and demands exemption from obeying the law, an exemption that is not granted to businesses that are making the city prosperous, morally clean, and happy! It is estimated that one third of all the enormous evil wrought by liquor results from Sunday sales. Surely Roosevelt is right in demanding that liquor-sellers obey the laws, as the rest of us have to do. Here are a few truths that apply: Charles Sumner said, "If you would save the nation you must sanctify it as well as fortify it." Said Powderly, "The liquor traffic is responsible for by far the larger part of the evils that afflict labor." Every child has a right to be well-born. It is the business of the city government to help in every way it can to this end. As Byron said to enfeebled and degenerate Greece:

"When Grecian mothers should give birth to men,
Then mayest thou be restored, and not till then."

Whatever tends to help children to a healthy birth and healthful surroundings, moral and physical, is a fundamental blessing. Anti-liquor is the incoming tide.

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I. K. FUNK.

The Age of Lay Activity.

THE dedication of the new headquarters of the Salvation Army in 14th street, New York city, the mammoth convention of the Y. P. S. C. E. in Boston, the International Conventien