

feels he is on the defensive; for the world expects that his morality and Christianity will show itself there.

HYPNOTISM.—We used to call it "Mesmerism" when we were boys; but there is nothing in a name. It is claimed to provide a cure for drunkenness. The person is put into a hypnotic state, and then it is impressed upon him that he is to loathe *drink*, and taste it no more. A travelling lecturer declared to us of the INDEPENDENT that he had tried it with complete success. Higher authorities state, that if repeated several times, it will have a good effect, as far as *the craving* is concerned. But if a man has been led into drink because he was afraid of ridicule should he refuse, he will likely go so again. In wise hands it may do much good. The newest success of hypnotism is on the rabbits of Australia. On a dark night, a man swings a lantern rapidly round in a circle. Another jingles a large number of iron rings, hung on strings which are combined together in the hand. The rabbits come running from all directions; and in their "hypnotized" condition are killed, sometimes many hundreds in an evening, by a number of men guarding a loose circle round the light. And in this way their plague of rabbits is abating.

HEALTH RESORTS.—Some of our sanitarians are valuable because they insist upon exact methods which have been chosen from a sanitary and medical standpoint. But as a rule we are far behind the German Spas, where the cure or relief results far oftener from the discipline than from the virtue of the waters. It has become such a custom to send various classes of invalids away from home, that there is need of more expert study of this whole subject. Where I shall go may be of great importance, but how I shall go, how I shall behave as to hygienic care and how I shall conduct to cure is of far greater importance. In the present loose method of valetudinary journeying and staying we are sure that much more harm than good is done. While the more robust are benefited or some by chance escape the perils through which they pass, others are battered about by their errors or their carelessness, and, if they return, fall an easy prey to the powers of disease. Health

everywhere and always must be sought in accord with the laws of health, and, as a rule, is not to be won merely by new skies and new scenes.—*N. Y. Independent.*

WHY SHOULD NOT CHILDREN JOIN THE CHURCH?—Dr. Gordon, a most wise judge, says: "My testimony is most emphatic for the general steadfastness and constancy of these child converts. The number who apostatize among this class is less than among adults. Indeed, I may say that instances of discipline are rare among those who enter the church thus early." Another pastor says: "Not only have children received into the church maintained their faith more generally than those received in later life; they also as a rule advance beyond others in the development of Christian character, in devotion of service and missionary zeal. Why should they not? They have the advantage of an early start and a more thorough turning of the whole life by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit." A Methodist bishop bears similar testimony: "It has been my experience," says he, "that such children develop into our most steadfast and consistent members."—*Advance.*

ADVANCES IN ASTRONOMY.—What has not photography done to enlarge our knowledge of the heavenly host? The eye, looking into a telescope at a barely visible star for a second, sees as much as it can do if it gazes at it for an hour. It is not so with the photographic plate, for after the lapse of an hour it has seen, roughly speaking, 3,600 times as much as it did during the first second's exposure—it accumulates and does not repeat its impressions. Thus it comes that the plate records that which the eye cannot detect, and this is true not only of the quantity but also of the quality of the vibrations. As an illustration of this, it is interesting to note that on one of the numerous photographs of solar eclipses taken by Professor Shuster something like a smudge appeared on development near the solar limb. For a short time this was supposed to be due to an imperfection in the plate. Closer examination, however, showed that the apparent smudge was in reality the image of a comet lying close to the sun, and therefore invisible to the naked eye, which the more sensitive photographic retina had seen and preserved.—*The Speaker.*