



The Doctor's Lamentation.

In dressing gown tattered and torn, his thin hair all lanky and grey,
A poor surgeon sat by his surgery fire, and thus he was heard to say,
'Oh, would I had never been born, it would much better have been for me,
For here I sit like a being forlorn, and nobody brings me a fee.

'It is wait, wait, wait! From ten till half-past four,
And not a carriage has stopped at my gate, nor a patient has rapped at my door.
Oh, it was not always thus: it was drive! drive! drive! as fast as my horse would go;
It was drive! drive! drive! through hail and rain and snow.

It was pill and blister and draught, and draught and blister and pill,
Till the sight of a phial made me sick, and the smell of it made me ill.
I know what has caused the change, why my rounds I so seldom go—
'Tis the Temperance cause, with its sapient laws, that has left me nothing to do.

'Alas that the people should know, what some doctors took care not to say,
That if they'd abstain from the poisonous drink they'd have very few doctors to pay.

—'National Advocate.'

Girls' Responsibilities to Girls

(The Hon. Mrs. Bertrand Russell, in the 'Daily News'.)

The modern girl has many privileges and much greater freedom than was granted to our grandmothers, but she does not always realize that increased opportunities mean increased responsibilities, and that the liberty which gives to girls of wealth the safeguard of a better education often gives to her poorer sister only increased temptations. It is, unfortunately, a sad fact that drinking has very much increased of late years among Englishwomen, and more especially among young Englishwomen. But even the number of police court convictions of girl-drunkenness conveys but a poor idea of the extent of the evil, as none but the extreme cases are brought before the magistrates. In their homes and at their work these girls are surrounded by temptations to drink to which many of them succumb through ignorance and lack of moral courage. To few of their more fortunate sisters has been granted the vivid imagination that will enable them to realize how monotonous and wearisome is the daily toil of the working-girl, or how squalid the dwelling-place which she calls 'home.' Then often does she know more of the mother's drunkenness and neglect than of her love, and from her father's brutality she shrinks in fear and aversion. Inside the factory are many snares set to entrap her unwary feet. In the evening, her day's work over, she longs, like all young things, for a little pleasure and excitement, and can often find it nowhere but in the public-house, the new music-hall, or the dancing-saloon.

A great responsibility rests upon girls of education and leisure, whose own lives are sheltered and happy, to help their less fortunate sisters. So often it is girls, and girls alone, who can help one another, forming a sisterhood of the happy and the unhappy, the sheltered and the tempted, the educated and the ignorant.

I should like to be very practical, and offer a few useful suggestions as to the way in which girls can help in this great and necessary work. First of all, let us no longer be ignorant on the subject. Ignorance of the temptations of other girls is not innocence—it is an unjustifiable want of knowledge of

facts and a shifting of responsibility. Let us face the facts of the temptations which beset these girls, and as we do this, and try to get a clearer comprehension of the terrible desolation wrought by drink in their lives, the desire to help them will come as a burning call which cannot be resisted.

And in trying to help them, we shall learn from them many a valuable lesson, lessons in unselfishness, and endurance, and generosity. It is impossible to realize, without seeing it, the courage of these girls, who perform the work of the world so simply and without complaint. When they have the good fortune to work in a model shop or factory, and are not themselves exposed to temptation, they are ever ready to help a friend in trouble without counting the cost to themselves, and will cheerfully bear burdens that to us would seem well-nigh crushing.

As a practical measure, I think we should encourage all the girls we know to belong, for mutual help and support, to a temperance society, which is affiliated to some larger organization. Let each individual girl who is tempted feel that she is supported in her efforts to resist temptation by her immediate friends, and by the circle in which she lives, and also that she is part of a larger association. When a small isolated society will droop listlessly, a Band affiliated to a National Society will bring with it a sense of power, of usefulness, and of sisterhood, which is invaluable in sustaining interest. Speaking from my own experience, I can testify that much successful work has been accomplished among working girls in London and elsewhere by the formation of 'White Ribbon Bands,' which are affiliated to the National B.W.T.A., and through this to the World's Women's Christian Temperance Union, which has branches in every civilized country in the world. It is an inspiration and an education to these girls in their narrow, monotonous lives to be linked on to a world-wide sisterhood of service, and encourages them in their uphill fight with constant temptation.

The best methods and details to be adopted vary according to the circumstances of those who are seeking to help, but I want to impress upon every girl who reads this article the responsibility which is owed by her in this matter to those around her who are less favored than herself.

Two Thousand Seven Hundred and Forty Million Cigarettes.

The above enormous figures were taken from 'The Smokers' Magazine,' published in New York, and represent the total number of cigarettes on which taxes were paid in ten months time.

It is impossible for us to conceive of what such large figures mean, but far more impossible is it for us to follow upon the consumption of these more than two billion cigarettes.

Shorn of all descriptive adjectives it means; loss of money, health, intellect and moral sense to the men, women, boys and girls who use them.

There have lately come to my notice two incidents which speak only too plainly of the effect upon the moral life of boys.

A mother told me that her little son had learned to smoke cigarettes, having been taught by a boy about the same age. As both boys were under the legal age to buy for themselves, the mother asked how the cigarettes were procured. The answer was that an older brother bought them and gave to these little boys. When I spoke to one of these little fellows he stoutly denied smoking at all until made to understand that I actually knew the facts, then he admitted smoking 'just a little.' This emphasized to me a fact which I already knew, that cigarettes made boys lie.

The next incident hurt deeper. In speaking with a Sunday school teacher concerning cigarettes and her class of boys, the fact developed that one small boy who has acquired the cigarette habit, was, each Sunday, taking a little from his class collection. How my heart ached!

What can we do when in our very homes and Sabbath schools the foe enters? Were it not that the cause is so great, were it not for the bright eyes and rosy cheeks, were

it not for the manhood to be of the dear boys that we must see saved, we might be justified in giving up the fight. But while their little faces are before us we cannot stop and while we have a greater and a stronger Power than ours upon which to depend, we need not lose heart.

But oh, may these stories (and there are others sadder) only serve to spur us on to greater activities.

Two billion cigarettes!

Even these, our untiring efforts, our unceasing prayers can overcome.

What a Fall.

A minister of the Gospel told me one of the most thrilling incidents I have heard in my life. A member of his congregation came home, for the first time in his life, intoxicated, and his boy met him upon his doorstep, clapping his hands and exclaiming, 'Papa has come home!' He seized that boy by the shoulder, swung him around, staggered, and fell in the hall. The minister said to me, 'I spent the night in that house. I went out, bared my brow, that the night dew might fall upon it and cool it. I walked up and down the hall. There was his child dead! There was his wife in convulsions, and he asleep. A man of thirty years of age asleep, with a dead child in the house, having a blue mark upon the temple, where the corner of the marble steps had come in contact with the head as he swung him around, and his wife on the brink of the grave! Mr. Gough,' said my friend, 'I cursed the drink. He had told me that I must stay until he awoke, and I did. When he awoke he passed his hand over his face and exclaimed, "What is the matter? Where is my boy?" "You cannot see him." "Stand out of my way! I will see my boy!" To prevent confusion I took him to the child's bed, and as I turned down the sheet and showed him the corpse, he uttered a wild shriek, "Ah, my child!" That minister said further to me, "One year after he was brought from the lunatic asylum to lie side by side with his wife in one grave, and I attended his funeral!" The minister of the Gospel who told me that fact is to-day a drunken hostler in a stable in the city of Boston. Now tell me what rum will not do. It will debase, degrade, imbrute, and damn everything that is noble, bright, glorious, and God-like in a human being. There is nothing drink will not do that is vile, dastardly, cowardly, and hellish. Why are we not to fight till the day of our death?—J. B. Gough.

The Drug Habit.

The 'Presbyterian' says: The desire for stimulants and narcotics in various forms is deep-rooted, and the growth of the habit is insidious. The scientific researches of Dr. Richardson and others in England have resulted in a great decrease in the use of alcohol in medical practice in Great Britain, and it is stated that the bills for alcohol in the British hospitals are only one-fourth of what they used to be. Temperance reformers have waged war against the liquor traffic, but the evil shows itself in other forms. There is an enormous increase in the use of patent medicines, the chief constituent of which is alcohol. An eminent authority states that \$200,000,000 are annually spent in quack and patent medicines in the United States alone. It is stated also that wide-awake manufacturers of patent medicines in order to cultivate the tastes of their customers are introducing liberal quantities of morphine, cocaine, and other narcotics into their preparations. It is not a matter for great surprise that the army of drug fiends is alarmingly on the increase. The drug habit is an insidious and a dangerous one.

A Bagster Bible Free.

Send three new subscriptions to the 'Northern Messenger' at forty cents each for one year, and receive a nice Bagster Bible, bound in black pebbled cloth with red edges, suitable for Sabbath or Day School. Postage extra for Montreal and suburbs or foreign countries, except United States and its dependencies; also Great Britain and Ireland, Transvaal, Bermuda, Barbadoes, British Honduras, Ceylon, Gambia, Sarawak, Bahama Islands, and Zanzibar. No extra charge for postage in the countries named.