

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

TEMPERANCE, involving as it does one of the great principles which underly the work of this JOURNAL, the promotion of the public health, we are naturally strongly in favor of the strictest temperance in all things, and especially in the use of alcoholic beverages; but we cannot favor prohibitory legislation. We would tax such beverages, especially ardent spirits, heavily, and put up the license for selling them so high that there would be but few saloons or dram shops, or perhaps none at all; favor all efforts to counteract the influences of the saloon, such as the establishment of coffee houses and places of profitable amusement; establish asylums for treating those who have become strongly addicted to the use of alcohol; and, and far above and beyond all, we would endeavor by every possible means to so educate the people of all classes and ages that they would strive for and eventually obtain that degree of physical health and vigor in which there would be no desire for stimulation, or in which there would be a power of self-control far superior to prohibitory laws.

IT IS NOT UTOPIAN to look forward to and strive for a condition of the people in which all shall have healthy bodies—each possessing an organism so developed and built up as to work smoothly in all its parts, conferring that ease (and not disease), vigor and happiness which makes life contented and “worth living,” and gradually and eventually if not at once confers a stamina and will power in which intemperance and crime too would become rarer and rarer until eventually extinguished. There are many such people now in existence, more, probably, than ever there were in any previous age of the world. There will probably soon be communities of them. Why not nations? Probably man will never become perfect, physically or spiritually, in this world. Yet there are sensible people who believe that the dragon (which may be disease) shall be overcome by the angel from heaven (which may be hygiene) and that there will then be a “millennium.” No one doubts that the human race can be improved. If so, where shall be the limit of improvement?

IF “PROHIBITIONISTS” would but “come over and help us,” as we often have contended, they would be able to do vastly more eventually

in promoting the happiness of the human race than they ever can do in the line they are now pursuing. We have always felt the desirability of enlisting them in the cause of public health,—first; temperance (without “prohibition”) afterward. If all the vigorous blows the earnest, well organized “temperance” people have struck at alcohol (which is not “king,” but simply one of the little devils in the army of the dragon) during the last quarter of a century had been struck also at the other devils—foul, over breathed air in dwellings, schools, &c., malarias from want of drainage, improper food, filth and the microbes of infectious disease in all their various sources and conditions, combines of capitalists, which keep the poor down, idleness, and bodily surface dirt, from want of baths and bathing, tobacco and patent medicines containing alcohol, there would now be vastly less “intemperance” and more public health. It is not now too late. There is an apparent pause now in the prohibition movement. Can not there be an union of forces? Can not the temperance people join in “heart and soul” with Sanitarians, every where? Especially cannot those in Parliament now join with Dr. Roome in his movement for a general Canadian effort for promoting the public health in Canada, and this chiefly by the education of the people in the rules and requirements of health?

THE EDUCATION of the Canadian people in all matters pertaining to health would not be a very expensive thing to do, gradually. And the education required, it may be here observed, is not at all of that character which comes under the general term education, as applied to schools; although the schools should be in a measure utilized for the purpose. The education to be fairly effectual would need to be largely based on certain enquiries, investigations and statistics relating to existing conditions of the public health in various localities. As Dr. John S. Billings, a high United States authority in Washington, says: “Information relative to localized causes of disease and death is the essential foundation of public hygiene.” The causes of mortality differ in kind and degree in different localities. And in regard to alcoholism for example, as the Lancet says: “We should require to investigate the causes