

second that has been made since the establishment of the prize. Ample time is given from the present up to the 1st February, 1880, at which period all the essays that are intended to compete must be in the hands of the committee. Here is a chance for our Canadians, as the competition is open to all Americans as well as those from abroad. Philadelphia has, we understand, carried off both the prizes that have been awarded.

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PARRISH HALL,—A PRIVATE HOME FOR OPIUM HABITUÉS, BROOKLYN, N. Y.

We have received a circular announcing the opening of this institution. This home is the only one, specially devoted to the care of opium eaters, in the United States of America. The home is located in the most elevated suburb of Brooklyn, and commands a view of the city of New York, Staten Island, and New York Bay, as well as New Jersey. The consumption of opium must be very large in the neighbouring Republic to necessitate the opening of such an institution. We have long known that morphia and other preparations of opium are largely used by Americans, very frequently has the habit been acquired by the injudicious prescribing of opiates by physicians, and in course of time the indulgence in the constant use of opiates has been inevitable. It should be regarded as a step in the right direction to provide a means to overcome this pernicious habit and we believe that nothing will conduce to a more careful administration of opiates on the part of physicians than this practical protest against the custom. That the custom has become very general is a fact which few will deny who have had any opportunity of judging of this matter.

Some isolated cases have come before us personally, wherein large doses of morphia have been indulged in, and, indeed, become the habit of life. The agony of abstinence from the customary stimulus is graphically portrayed by de Quincy and other writers, who have detailed their own experience of the misery they endured. It is far greater misery than abstinence from alcoholic stimulants. In the case of the habitual drunkard the latter class are excluded from the home, inasmuch as it has