

Osmaston fortunately succeeded in shooting her through the spine, and a second ball stopped her in mid spring. Meanwhile his companion rolled over the hill, and was eventually discovered insensible a few feet away from his terrible assailant. He is terribly mauled, and now lies at Chakrata Station Hospital, where hopes of his recovery are entertained.—*The Colonies and India.*

THE EFFECTS OF TRUE RELIGION.

RELIGION should be a strength, guide, and comfort, not a source of intellectual anxiety or angry argument. To persecute for religion's sake implies belief in a jealous, cruel, and unjust Deity. If we have done our best to arrive at the truth, to torment oneself about the result is to doubt the goodness of God, and, in the words of Bacon, "to bring down the Holy Ghost, instead of in the likeness of a dove, in the shape of a raven." "The letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life," and the first duty of religion is to form the highest possible conception of God. Many a man, however, and still more many a woman, render themselves miserable on entering life by theological doubts and difficulties. These have reference, in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, not to what we should do, but to what we should think. As regards action, conscience is generally a ready guide; to follow it is the real difficulty. Theology, on the other hand, is a most abstruse science; but as long as we honestly wish to arrive at truth we need not fear that we shall be punished for unintentional error. "For what," says Micah, "doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God?" There is very little theology in the Sermon on the Mount, or indeed in any part of the Gospels; and the differences which keep us apart have their origin rather in the study than the Church. Religion was intended to bring peace on earth and good will towards men, and whatever tends to hatred and persecution, however correct in the letter, must be utterly wrong in the spirit.—*From "Pleasures of Life," by Sir John Lubbock.*

NEW FORMS OF NARCOTISM.

AMONGST the existing plagues of civilization must now be added some new forms of intoxication, showing how readily the latest additions to the means of relieving human suffering are seized upon as means of self-indulgence, however dangerous. Cocainism is already a recognized form of self-intoxication, leading to special kinds of hallucinations and insanity. M.M. Magnan and Saury report three cases of hallucination due to the cocaine habit. One patient was always scraping his tongue, and thought he was extracting from it little black worms; another made his skin raw in the endeavour to draw out cholera microbes; and a third, a physician, is perpetually looking for cocaine crystals under his skin. Two patients suffered from epileptic attacks, and a third from cramps. It is important to notice that two of these patients were persons who had resorted to cocaine in the hope of being able to cure themselves thereby of the morphine habit, an expectation which had been disappointed. For more than a year they had daily injected from one to two grammes of cocaine under the skin, without, however, giving up the morphine injections, which were only reduced in quantity. The possibility of substituting cocainism in the endeavour to cure morphinomania, a danger therefore, which must be carefully held in view.—*British Medical Journal.*

ENGLISH RATHER THAN FRENCH.

THERE was a time when French was the only cosmopolitan language; but that time is long passed. To-day the tongue of Shakespeare and Bacon, of Milton and Burke, of Whittier and Lowell is spoken by not far from 115,000,000 people. There is no considerable city of the civilized world where it is not heard. It has long been the language of colonization and of commerce. It is already to a considerable extent, it is every day becoming to a greater extent, it must inevitably and speedily become to a prevailing extent, the language of diplomacy. It is plain to any intelligent student of history why French has been the chief vehicle for international negotiations, and equally plain why it cannot continue to be so. In the Middle Ages the University of Paris was the intellectual centre of Europe. Thither flocked aspiring students from Britain, and from every part of the Continent. Then Latin was the language of learning. It therefore became the means of communication among learners and the learned. Whatever men deemed worth reading was written in that language, whatever men deemed worth knowing was enshrined in that language. Hence the locality in Paris where students most congregated is called to this day the "Latin Quarter." When Constantinople fell, and the buried treasures of Greek literature were exhumed, and that morning dawn called "the revival of learning" broke upon Europe, the University of Paris lost its pre-eminence, but Paris did not lose its prestige. Inevitably, though it might be unintentionally, those who talked Latin to one another in Paris learned more or less of the native speech of Parisian citizens. When the mighty stirring of the human mind, which was at once cause and effect of the conditions belonging to the modern era, took place, men needed a language which was common to at least a few people in each of many nations. Latin would not serve the turn, for no dead speech, however splendid, could adequately express such living thoughts as

were there struggling for utterance in the heart and brain of the awakened world. Under these circumstances the French language became, of necessity, the language of diplomacy, and, indeed, during a long period, was also the language of art, science, letters, and refined social life. It is a law of human nature that makes us cling to customs after their reason has ceased to exist. But even force of habit must yield at length to force of necessity. English, and not French, is and is to be the international speech. Those diplomats at Berlin who are talking to one another in English and not in French, are simply recognising the fact that they live in the nineteenth century verging on the twentieth, and not in the eighteenth or seventeenth.—*Boston Advertiser.*

IN THE TOWER OF ANTWERP CATHEDRAL.

UP, up, higher and higher I mounted, constantly finding the stone steps more and more worn and cracked. It became lighter, and soon a brilliant shaft of sunlight appeared through a narrow Gothic window in the tower. I was now considerably above the roof of the cathedral. Just beneath the window a huge gargoyle shaped like a dragon stretched out its length above the roofs far below. From the square beneath I doubt if one could have distinguished its form, but from where I stood above him the stone dragon seemed to be at least twelve feet long. About him, all carved in stone, were huge roses and leaves—each rose as large as a bushel basket. Doves were flying around at that great height, or, resting upon the grim figures, cooed softly to one another. As I stood gazing out at the wonderful carvings for which this cathedral is famous, a massive, flat piece of metal came jerkily up before the narrow window out of which I was looking. For a moment I was puzzled, but then it suddenly dawned upon me that the object I had seen must be a part of the minute-hand of the huge clock in the tower. It was quite near the window, and I put out my hand and touched it. In three jerks the minute-hand had passed on, making its mighty round at the rate of a foot a minute. From the window where I rested the panorama was unsurpassed. It is said that one hundred and twenty steeples may be counted, far and near, upon a clear day. I did not attempt this, however. Toward the north, the river Scheldt wound its silvery way until it was lost in the mist of the horizon as it joined the North Sea. Looking east, toward Holland, I saw dimly the towns shining in the sunlight. When the atmosphere is clear, the guide-book says, one can see towns fifty miles away. Below, the great square seemed to have contracted, and the few lazily-moving cabs, drays and people looked like flies creeping across a piece of coarse bagging. Soon I realized that it was quite late in the day, and that if I wished to see the famous carillon I should lose no time. The bells in the tower of Antwerp Cathedral are doubtless quite as interesting to many tourists as are the great pictures by Peter Paul Rubens in the cathedral itself. These bells have curious histories, and quaintly worded inscriptions may be deciphered on many of them. Besides the forty bells comprising the carillon, there are five bells of great interest in the tower. The most ancient of these is named "Horrida," and is said to date from 1316. It is a peculiar pear-shaped bell, and is rarely rung. Next in importance comes the "Curfew," and it is the sweet note of this bell that is heard far over the polders of Belgium, every day at five, at twelve, and at eight o'clock. Next in rank is the bell called "Ste. Marie," said to weigh between four and five tons. Charles the Bold heard its first peal as he entered the city in 1467. At its side hangs "Silent St. Antoine," so called because its voice has not been heard for nearly a century; and, finally, we come upon grand "Old Carolus," the greatest of them. It is called Carolus because it was given by the Emperor Charles V. The popular belief is that gold, silver and copper enter into its composition, and it is valued at nearly \$100,000. I saw where the clapper, from always striking in the same place, had worn away the metal from the sides. Far below hangs the rope, by which it is rung on rare occasions, with sixteen ends for as many ringers; and even sixteen strong bell-ringers are none too many.—*George Wharton Edwards in St. Nicholas.*

SMALL-POX AND VACCINATION IN BELGIUM.

IN Belgium there is no law compelling parents to have their children vaccinated; and though children before admission to school, and workmen sometimes before being employed on public works, are usually obliged to show a certificate of having been vaccinated, there is a very large number of totally unvaccinated persons in the country—more probably, than in most other European countries. Besides, revaccination is rather the exception than the rule, and primary vaccination is too often very inefficiently performed, so that when an epidemic of small-pox comes it claims a great many victims. Dr. Titeca has recently been endeavouring to stir up professional opinion on the subject of the sadly unprotected state of his fellow-countrymen; and Dr. Dejae has just written an article in the *Scalpel* in which he mentions what occurred in his own locality when there was an epidemic. There were 107 cases amongst non-vaccinated and 68 amongst vaccinated. Of the first mentioned series, however, more than 80 per cent. were serious, and amongst the second, or more or less protected cases, there were under 14 per cent. of grave cases. Again, in the Belgian army, where vaccination and revaccination are required, there is a minimum of small-pox. There is, it seems, an anti-vaccination league,

but this body finds little need to carry on an active propaganda, as indifference, which is peculiarly rife in Belgium, seems to answer its purpose. Medical men are attempting to influence public opinion in favour of a compulsory law, but it is very doubtful if they will get many people to listen to good advice.—*Lancet.*

THE VICTIM OF A DANGEROUS HABIT.

A COCAINE habitué, who recently died at Cincinnati of traumatic tetanus, and a physician of ability and former mark, took as high as fifty grains of cocaine a day, in from three to five-grain doses. The *American Lancet* states that "he always said that he who died from the use of cocaine would retain his consciousness till the last, and this was the case. He was conscious to the very second of his death. He frequently made efforts to dispel the influence the drug had over him, but it was useless. He always looked to the time when he would be free from its hold, and hoped against hope." The following hallucinations and delusions formed a prominent part of his symptoms. He imagined somebody, some enemy, was continually pursuing him, trying to kidnap him. He frequently thought he saw a dark lantern flashed at him. He would sometimes hear noises and imagine enemies were pursuing him in the night. His appetite is also recorded by the *Lancet* as "capricious," eating but one meal a day; sometimes "eating a bit and walking about," and he "ate nothing for the three days previous to his death."

THE SPIRIT OF PURITANISM.

THIS is an extract from one of the leading articles in the *Daily Telegraph*:—"We are not exaggerating in declaring that we have in our midst a thoroughly conscientious, undeniably powerful, and most mischievous set of zealots, who, if they had their way, would make the London of the nineteenth century as gloomy, dejected, and dispirited a city as the Puritans made it during the Commonwealth. Desperate dullness is the aim and object for which these worthy but exasperating people strive. The hope which they most dearly cherish is to stamp out merriment and stifle amusement." The foundation for this extraordinary nonsense is that the man who spread the filth of "La Terre" broadcast in English translations has been sent to gaol, that Mrs. Fawcett has conducted a crusade against the usage that deprives children employed in theatres of the protection secured by law to all children employed in factories, and that some logical member of the County Council believed that, as they had authority over theatres and music-halls, they should see what goes on in them. Surely all these efforts put together, even if successful, would not add a featherweight to the "gloom and dejection" of London, or diminish in the least the merriment and amusement which prevades the city of the *Daily Telegraph*!—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

THE Imperial Bank, of this city, has been appointed agent in the Dominion for the Cheque Bank Company, of London and New York. The appointment is a good one, and sure to add materially to the Canadian business of this useful banking institution.

In this issue will be found the annual reports of the Imperial Bank and the Merchants' Bank. The business of both institutions seem to have been marked by a large measure of prosperity; and in both cases the retiring boards were unanimously re-elected. The general manager of the Merchants' Bank addressed the shareholders in a speech—some features of which may claim more than a passing notice next week.

THE wave of prohibition is undoubtedly receding. The defeat of a prohibitory amendment in Massachusetts will almost certainly be followed by the defeat of a similar amendment in Pennsylvania next month. This does not mean a relaxation of the people's resolve to regulate the liquor traffic and abate its worst evils. It means simply that the popular mind throughout the country is becoming fixed in the conviction that high license and local option are the most efficient methods of attaining the objects aimed at.—*St. Louis Republican.*

IT is estimated that the number of horses and mules employed for street car services in Canada and the United States is, in round numbers 115,000; 1 being the smallest number owned by any one company, 7,683 the largest, and 165 the average. The general average of feed per animal is 26½ pounds, and the average for Kentucky is 45 pounds. The daily consumption of food is approximately 1,600 tons, or 584,000 tons per annum; and the cost of feed per animal varies from 17 to 50 cents per day, according to locality and season of the year.

THE project of a through Siberian railway is still the subject of two commissions and three sub-commissions, one of which is presided over by General Annenkoff. There is much discussion on the question of choosing the northern or southern route, the latter being virtually a continuation of the Transcaspian Samarcand Tashkend Railway through Semipalatinsk, Kopal Kuldja, and as far as possible along the Chinese frontier. The *Moscow Gazette* says that the northern route has been decided upon, and that the line will be commenced in 1890. The Russians are fully convinced that this great undertaking is important, both politically and commercially.