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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE New York Society for the Suppression of Vice makes, in its annual report, the startling statement that "of the 441 criminals that were arrested in New York during six months, none of them being over twenty-one years of age, (many acknowledged that their first impulse toward crime was derived from reading bad books."

THE prospect of obtaining an international park at Niagara is brightening again. The Senate of New York have voted in its favour. It may be sometime, however, before the safety of the project is assured. A Bill in the hand of senators is sometimes like the tourist in the grasp of the hackmen of Niagara. Neither emerges without being despoiled.

DR. CUNNINGHAM, of Crieff, has been lecturing on Sunday trading, which he would regard as an ecclesiastical and not as a civil offence. He would first warn and then excommunicate both sellers and purchasers. He said it was to some extent pardonable for a poor widow to sell chocolate and peppermint lozenges on Sunday, for "there is a class of people who in listening to a certain kind of sermon can only be kept awake by munching these."

PRINCIPAL RAINY, in closing the Divinity Hall, Edinburgh, last week, delivered an able and interesting address on "Preaching." He said that while evangelical preaching is the most important, ethical and practical preaching should be utilized, and care must be taken against degenerating into moral essayists with a pale shimmer of Christianity gleaming dimly over their horizon. To be a great preacher was to be the master of a Divine art. It was a study for life and for life long effort.

MR. SHAKESPEARE, M.P. for Victoria, B.C., paid a visit to the Ontario Business College, Belleville, on Saturday afternoon, and was not only delighted with the thoroughness of the course of instruction, but astonished at the magnitude of the attendance and the distances from which students come to avail themselves of its advantages. Victoria, he says, is ahead of Belleville in streets and sidewalks, but the latter's public institutions (especially the Deaf and Dumb Institute, the Commercial College and Albert College) and public buildings are far ahead of those of the capital of the Pacific Province.

DR. MARCUS DODS, in closing a series of lectures on the History of the Church in Scotland, said that we have to look forward to a thorough reconstruction of the Scottish Church. The first step towards that must be the disestablishment of the Church of Scotland, and it must be upon the basis of a short creed. The task before the Free Church is to maintain an intelligent faith. In the Established Church it is an open secret that there is a considerable number of ministers who have very little thoroughgoing belief in the supernatural, while in his own Church he did not know a single minister who is not a thoroughgoing believer in the supernatural.

THE first general census taken in India is nearly completed, and some of the facts revealed respecting England's immense possession in the east are interesting. The area of India is 1,372,588 square miles, or a little over one-third of that of the United States. There is a population of 253,891,821, or over five times the population of the United States. The males exceed the females by 6,000,000. Amongst the native population of 228,000,000 there were found 20,938,626 widows, or about 16.32 per cent., as compared with 1.22 per cent. in England, and 2.71 per cent. in Italy. Of the vast population only 13,000,000 can read and write, and only 4,900,000 are under instruction. The religious status of India shows in what a minority the Christians stand. Hindoos, 89,937,450; Mohammedans, 50,121,585; native worshippers, 6,426,511; Buddhists, 3,418,884; Christians,

1,862,634. There are besides several millions of minor divisions of Oriental beliefs.

THE press has much to say about the dynamite fiends. They are not fiends, only very wretched and wicked men. Under the delusion that they are patriots, they dare deeds at which humanity shudders. Happily recent attempts have been harmless. There has, no thanks to them, been no sacrifice of life. A vigilant police have been on the alert and the dynamite conspirators have been captured. They are where swift justice will overtake them, English courts are not to be trifled with. The artifice of the pettifogger is no doubt great, but it is powerless to deflect the course of justice. Bad as these men are there are others that ought to keep them company. Those who applaud and approve their acts and supply them with resources are equally bad; but their cowardice shields them from the consequences of their acts. These men are the worst foes Ireland has. Means like these never achieved a nation's freedom. Patriotism is cast in a nobler mould. Dynamite is not an element of moral and political regeneration.

AN event has occurred at Quebec calculated to make the most thoughtless pause. It is the same miserable old story of death from drinking. A young man named Turgeon had imperilled his health and lost his situation by intemperate habits. He had a wife and young family dependent on him. At the urgent solicitation of his father he had signed the pledge. The foolish man that he was, two days after visited a tavern and forgetting his pledge, his wife and children, and his father's solicitude, again took the accursed thing. It was his last drinking bout. For a wager he drank an enormous quantity of liquor. It did its deadly work speedily. He sank down in a comatose state, was carried home and died in the morning. What can be said of the reckless crowd that thus urged him to his death? The bar keeper remonstrated, but the tavern-keeper is said to have replied, "Give the party all the drink they want as long as they have money." Is it matter for surprise that the cry for the repression of this social crime by prohibition is become loud and imperative? The wonder rather is that right-thinking people are so tolerant of an evil so palpable.

THE correspondent of the London "Standard," at Tamatave, Madagascar, brings to light some facts that ought to make "Commerce" mend her manners. The chief seaport of Madagascar, says this intelligent observer, is ruined by rum. The inferior and poisonous rum of the Mauritius sugar estates is shipped to Madagascar, where it is retailed at fourpence the quart bottle. To stroll through the native quarter of the town is to stroll amid a host of rum casks and among an intoxicated population." The Hova Government is most anxious to keep out this poison, but yielding to "united consular pressure"—in which America took the lead and England assisted—they are forbidden to levy more than ten per cent. import duty—that is to say less than one cent per bottle. The result is that "the demon rum" is eating the heart out of Tamatave, and the consuls or all civilized powers, including Great Britain insist that the process shall continue unchecked. That, or something very like that, is too often what takes place when new countries are opened up to the beneficent influences of commerce by the enterprise of the British trader and the energy of British consuls.

IN the April instalment of Mr. Robert Buchanan's "New Abelard," in the "Gentleman's Magazine," there are some striking characterizations of celebrated men. Bismarck is described as "a man with the moral outlook of Brander in 'Faust,' a swashbuckler politician, who swaggers up and down Europe and frowns down liberalism wherever it appears." M. Zola, "originally a printer's devil, is to modern light literature what Schopenhauer is to philosophy—a dirty, muddied, gutter-searching pessimist, who translates the 'anarchy' of the ancients into the bestial argot of the Quartier Latin." Hegel "began by the

destruction of all religion and ended in the totem-worship of second childhood" Schopenhauer was "a piggish, selfish, conceited, honest scoundrel, fond of gormandising, in love with his own shadow, miserable, and a money-grabber, like all his race. The Germans have given us Schopenhauer and Strauss as types of their own degradation; and when we have thoroughly digested their bitter Gospel we shall know how little hope for humanity lies that way. Meantime, the Divine Ideal, the spiritual Christ survives—the Master of the secret of sorrow, the Lord of the shadowy land of hope. He turns His back upon the temple erected in His name; He averts His sweet eyes from those who deny He is or ever was. He is patient, knowing that His kingdom must some day come. I am thoroughly convinced," Mr. Buchanan says, "that there is no *via media* between Christ's Christianity and Schopenhauer's pessimism; and these two religions, like the gods of good and evil, are just now preparing for a final struggle on the battlefield of European thought."

WEEKLY HEALTH BULLETIN.—The general character of the weather is that of spring, the daily variations from the average being very slight indeed. As a consequence of this the total number of cases of disease seems on the whole to have decreased throughout the Province. The presence of cool evenings after the warm days will, however, serve to account for the continued prevalence of Bronchitis, though Influenza has fallen very greatly—from 10 to 7 per cent. of all diseases. Neuralgia has likewise very greatly receded, while Rheumatism, in many cases chronic, remains in much the same position as it did last week. Anæmia, specially noticed last week, retains, as it has always done, nearly the same position with regard to other diseases. In fact it appears that however great the variations which any other disease may undergo, this disease and consumption vary but little in their average degree of prevalence. Amongst Fevers, Intermittent, which is the only one appearing in the twenty prevalent diseases, has this week made a decided advance. It not only appears in its three favourite districts, but appears in District VI., from Wellington county on the north to Oxford on the south, and from Peel on the east to Lambton on the west, while in its degree of prevalence it is 6.1 per cent. of all diseases. Amongst Zymotic diseases, Measles still holds the place of prominence. The retrogression of it noticed last week has continued into this week, it being 5.6 instead of 7.5 per cent. as it was then. Mumps has again, after a long period of comparative quiescence, become active, it having risen as high as 5.9 per cent. of all cases. Its prevalence in both the west and east of the Province is a point of interest. Whooping Cough and Diphtheria show but little change. Diarrhoea, remaining much the same as last week in degree, has very considerably increased in area of prevalence. A correspondent, noticing the fact of its continued prevalence, points out the urgency of the prompt removal of all deposits of organic materials which may have accumulated during the winter, before their decomposition with the summer heat becomes the occasion for the increase of Diarrhoea with the enormous infantile mortality which our statistics show is due to this cause. Householdors should remember that the retention of deposits of such materials is legally a nuisance; and, quoting the words of Mr. Justice Fry, of Kensington, London, when granting an injunction in the case of such a deposit, "Many a man has been found guilty of manslaughter for offences less morally criminal than the conduct which these defendants admitted they were pursuing." Amongst the less prevalent diseases, Erysipelas remains stationary, while a new point of interest is seen in the appearance of Peritonitis (non-puerperal). What is most remarkable is that it has not only never appeared in any previous report amongst the twenty diseases, but also that it has a percentage of 1.3 of all cases. Without in any way endeavouring to draw any inferences from the fact, it would appear that some more special cause than cold must be assumed as accounting for its appearance.