

## TEMPERANCE COLUMN.

### WHAT OUR C.E. TEMPERANCE BRANCHES MAY DO.

(From the Church of England Temperance Chronicle.)

A short time ago the sermon of a clergyman leaving his parish came into my hands. It was a farewell address to his people, containing many kindly words and much friendly sympathy. Prominent in the retrospect of his work amongst them was the satisfaction that he had been able to organize so much parochial machinery. They had clubs, societies, and guilds, each with their rules and duly appointed officers, for the encouragement of thrift, or intellectual improvement, or for charitable aid; nothing was wanting. The reading of that sermon made me very sad. This is an age for societies and guilds. We can scarcely do anything without arranging one, and appointing a president, a secretary, and a treasurer. Nor would I, for one moment, detract from their value. Yet, let us realize that it is not in themselves that they are useful, but that they are simply a most valuable means of usefulness.

They are machines—nothing more. Of what use is the most costly machinery without the motive power? The most perfect locomotive is but so much dead metal, beautifully polished and built, no doubt; but it is only dead and useless, until the water and the fuel are added. Even so all our clubs, our various societies, are but dead machinery. It is the human soul alone that can make them powerful. By their means, the living voice, the tender sympathy, the magic eloquence of the eye, can speak from soul to soul, and awaken hope and true courage into life. As a means of bringing us into contact with those whom we would wish to help or encourage, their value is untold. But as no amount of hot water will stir the locomotive, it is nothing at all unless it boils at high pressure—so, also, our labours in those various organizations will be of no avail if we are lukewarm or indifferent.

"It needs the overflow of heart  
To give the lips full speech."

One only power could redeem the world, and only that one same power—the power of love—can save our brother now. Just as this is the main-spring of our effort, to that extent, and only to that extent, we shall succeed. If that is wanting, we must fail. However beautiful the order and accurate detail of our arrangements, there will be without it, no true life, no real success. We have but the egg-shell without the egg.

How can we make our C.E.T.S. Branches a living power amongst us? This is a question which it may be well to study and consider.

It is good to get a certain number of people to sign the pledge; good to provide simple and pleasant amusement at intervals, for those whose days are spent in toil.

It is good, indefinitely good, to win, here and there, those who are fast sinking into that well-nigh hopeless abyss of inveterate intoxication. All this is good, but there is yet higher and better work that we might do. Temperance work is pre-eminently missionary work; each one who joins the ranks should realize that he in turn, by example and by precept, must seek to win another. That is one thought.

(To be continued.)

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