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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

By the will of Agnes Logan Gale, second daughter of the late Judge Gale, and wife of the late Andrew C. Stuart, of Quebec, the University of McGill College receives \$25,000 for the endowment of a chair of law, in connection with the faculty of law, to be called the "Gale Chair," in memory of the father of the donor.

ACCORDING to the official report of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade of London (Eng.), last year 78 fires were caused by children playing with matches, 154 from lamps, 106 by candles, 144 by lights thrown down, 22 from smoking, 100 from defective flues, and 126 from sparks from fires. In fact, it seems that nearly 90 per cent. of the total number of fires arises from preventable causes.

OWING to losses in the Temporalities Fund of the Presbyterian Church, efforts have been made to adjust the difficulties occasioned, and to prevent farther inroads on the capital of the Fund. With this end in view, Mr. Charlton introduced a Bill to legalize a slight reduction in the annuities payable to the various beneficiaries. Those having claims on the Fund, however, are not agreed as to the proper class of annuitants on whom the loss should fall. To afford an opportunity for amicable adjustment of opinions, the Bill has been withdrawn for the present, and the hope is expressed that a satisfactory measure may be introduced next session.

ANDREW D. WHITE, President of Cornell University, says the co-education of the sexes is a good thing. No scandals have arisen at Cornell growing out of the system. Indeed, as regards morals, the young women have acted as a restraint upon the young men. The results have been better scholarship and better deportment. He remarks: "We find in the classes that men will outrank the women in study, and that two or three of them will be far ahead; but we also find that, taking the class altogether, women have a better average—that is a better general average. Taken altogether, the results thus far have fully realized the most sanguine hopes of the friends of co-education."

THE Toronto Ministerial Association at its last meeting resumed discussion of Mr. Parsons' proposal to substitute a Bible reading for one of the present Sunday services. The question was introduced by a brief, but comprehensive and thoughtful, paper by Dr. King, of St. James' Square Church, in which he took the ground that though in villages and country places the method suggested by Mr. Parsons might be adopted with advantage, it would in large congregations be found impracticable. The tone of the discussion was admirable throughout. The excellent system of expository preaching was spoken of with favour by most of the brethren who expressed opinions on the subject. Carefully prepared discourses designed to elucidate the meaning of Scripture would awaken a sustained interest in Divine truth, to which many are at present strangers.

JUDGE RAMSAY, who tried the case of Reinhardt against A. M. Foster & Co., informed the jury that owing to the invalidity of the indictment under the existing statute, he must instruct the jury to render a verdict of not guilty. He said, however, that as a matter of fact, false pretence—as absolute and false as it could possibly be—had been made out against the defendant, A. M. Foster, and in his mind the evidence had not left a doubt that the whole transaction was a gross fraud. Owing to the fact that the deed of partnership had been signed the indictment did not come within the meaning of the statute. Thus a loop-hole is easily found for the big swindler, while ordinarily the meshes of the law are sufficiently fine to capture the small criminal fry. This little episode in commercial life has also another use. It shows how virtue is its own reward, and that there is plenty of room at the top.

THE strong effort made by New York to prevent the production of Salmi Morse's Passion Play has occasioned tremendous persistency on his part. Though not allowed to produce it publicly, the law, it seems, cannot forbid its performance before invited guests in private. It is announced that arrangements are being made for the public performance of the Passion Play in St. Louis. How will the Christian people of that western city regard the outrage on their most cherished convictions, which makes the sacred sufferings of the Saviour an amusing pastime and a source of pecuniary profit to a Jewish dramatist? Judas Iscariot repented and hanged himself, Salmi Morse might imitate his countryman in the repentance, and then people will only wish him happiness and prosperity in all laudable undertakings.

DR. MCCOSH handed in lately the following statement to a committee of the Board of Trustees of the College of New Jersey: "Hitherto I have felt myself called on to do double work; I have had the responsible duties of President of the college, and the teaching of certain important branches of philosophy. I am in excellent health, but it is inexpedient in me to undertake both these departments next year. I mean to ask the Board of Trustees to relieve me from one or other at next Commencement. My personal friends seem to think I should adhere to the teaching of philosophy, and I am willing to do so provided the trustees and friends are ready to support me in rearing a School of Philosophy, including Mental, Moral, and Political Science with History. I am happy to be able to report that the college is in a prosperous state, with more than double the students it had when I came here, with well organized courses of study, and able professors, older and younger."

HOWEVER lax popular feeling may often be regarding the morality of public men, when a case of more than ordinary turpitude disgraces a politician, indignation is apt to reach fervent heat. One Duke, a Pennsylvania senator, has been tried for seduction and murder. The jury, to the surprise of everybody, returned a verdict of not guilty. The impression seems to be universally entertained that a process, only too common among our neighbours, had been resorted to for the purpose of securing a verdict favourable to the accused. An indignation meeting was held, at which the jury were execrated with as much heartiness as the criminal himself. Hotels refused to accommodate the "hon." senator while on his way to enter on his legislative duties. This ebullition of popular indignation will speedily subside, but the man's disgrace will attach to him. It would, however, be much more satisfactory for people to refuse their votes to candidates for public life whose characters are disreputable. Those who vote for libertines to govern us incur a fearful responsibility.

MR. DEARNESS, School Inspector for East Middlesex, at the Perth Teachers' Association, discussed the Temperance Text Book, and the best method of teaching temperance. He advocated a strictly scientific treatment of the subject. Show a child the evil effects of alcohol on the human system, as observed and recorded by science, and let it draw its own conclusions. He combated every objection that could possibly be raised to this method of teaching temperance. He would make no reference to the social or moral aspect of the question but deal with it as a purely scientific one. Any man might teach from Dr. Richardson's book. He could see no reason why even a moderate drinker could not point out to a class the bad effects alcohol had on the system. That the plan suggested by Mr. Dearness for giving pupils an idea of the injurious effects of intoxicants on the physical system would be very useful there is no doubt. The report, however, is so meagre that it is just possible the speaker's position is not fully defined in reference to the social and moral aspect of the evil. If he seek to exclude this aspect from the method of teaching temperance in the schools, it would be difficult to account for so one-sided a theory. No one questions that intemperance is a gigantic moral evil and a social

curse. Why not tell the pupils in our Public Schools what intemperance really is? Is that method strictly scientific which eliminates half the facts?

AN important petition with reference to the Province of Quebec license law was presented to the Senate last week. It asks that the restrictions on the traffic in intoxicating liquors be not relaxed, but on the contrary, be made more stringent. Several suggestions are made as to how this should be done, among them being the following: That the necessary certificates to obtain a license should be signed by a majority of the municipal electors. All applications for licenses to be taken into consideration by authorities from January 1st to February 1st, and from August 1st to September 1st of each year, and at no other time. To make the refusal to grant a license obligatory on the part of the authorities each time that it is proved that the applicant has infringed the license law during the twelve months preceding his application. Keeping disorderly houses, selling drunk on Sunday, selling during prohibited hours, selling drunk to intoxicated persons, selling to minors, permitting card-playing for money—all these to be considered as infringements of the law, and punishable as such. The petition also asks for an increase in the custom and excise duties on liquors; and that no license be granted for the sale of liquors in parks and exhibition grounds. Two condemnations during a year for the violation of the law to revoke the license. The names of applicants for licenses to be published for two months in the newspapers. The police to have power given them to enter any house at any time where liquor is sold or suspected to be sold. Among those who have signed the petition are Archbishop Taschereau, of Quebec, Bishop Bond, of Montreal, the Roman Catholic Bishops of Three Rivers, Sherbrooke, Rimouski, Montreal, Ottawa, St. Hyacinthe, and Chicoutimi; Mr. J. G. Brown, President of the Quebec Branch of the Dominion Alliance; Dr. McVicar; Dr. Wilkes, Principal of the Congregational College of British North America; the Principal of the Theological College of the Methodist Church of Canada, Dr. Clarke, Dr. Douglas and many others.

WEEKLY HEALTH BULLETIN.—Bronchitis and Influenza still maintain an extreme degree of prevalence. An interesting fact, however, is seen in Influenza having displaced Bronchitis from the position of the most prevalent disease. Influenza with March has greatly risen, it having been last week over 10 per cent., while this week it attains 14 1 per cent in degree of prevalence. Amongst the Fevers, Intermittent retains its former position in three districts, while Enteric and Typho-malarial do not appear at all. With the exception of the enormous advance of Influenza, the most noticeable fact of the week is the great increase, amongst Zymotic diseases, of Measles. Its rapid increase was remarked last week, but this week it makes another advance from 5.15 to 6.6 per cent. Last week it appeared among the six most prevalent diseases in two districts, while this week it appears in three. Its extreme prevalence in the populous District IV., bordering on Lake Ontario, is quite remarkable; for it stands first in degree of prevalence amongst a total of 739 diseases reported from the district. In one place where it is very prevalent, it appears to be of a mild type; but some idea of the danger from this so common disease is seen in the fact that amongst the causes of the 18,780 deaths in the twenty-eight towns of England and Wales, during January last, it stood third, there being 330 deaths from it. How terribly fatal are these Zymotic diseases in spite of the advanced sanitary laws of Great Britain, is seen in the fact of 11 per cent. of this enormous number of deaths in twenty-eight cities being due to the following seven. Thus: Whooping Cough, 533; Scarlatina, 438; Measles, 330; Fevers (mostly Enteric), 320; Diarrhoea, 192; Diphtheria, 137; Smallpox, 44. Surely the time has more than come when individuals and the public generally shall make use of the measures so easily carried out for the isolation of affected persons, and thus prevent the spread of such fatal maladies.