

EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE "PROPAGANDA OF HEALTH," in England, somewhat analogous, excepting in the end in view, to the *Congregatio de propaganda fide*, or society for propagating the faith, founded in Rome in 1622, has done more practical good, probably, than all the compulsory legislation in England. Last month it held a "public function" under the presidency of Sir Spencer Wells. The Duchess of Westminster presented prizes and certificates to some hundreds of persons, chiefly ladies, who had distinguished themselves in a numerous series of examinations in subjects appertaining to "the health of the home," the principles of domestic economy and hygiene, elementary physiology, and "first aid." Classes have been formed, and examinations held all over England, in fashionable and aristocratic drawing-rooms, as well as in the poorest parishes of the East End; mothers' meetings and minors' classes being equally within the sphere of the Society's operation.

TESTIMONY to the good work of the Society was borne by the Chairman (whose daughters have passed through the classes), Mr. S. Pope, Q. C., Dr. Thorne Thorne, Mrs. Garrett Anderson, and Mr. Owen Lankester. Mr. Pope observed that nothing lied like a proverb; and the proverb that a little knowledge is a dangerous thing only applied to those who did not know how little their knowledge was. In summing up the proceedings as Chairman of the Council, Mr. Ernest Hart, editor of the *British Medical Journal*, referred to the great value of the cheap sanitary pamphlets and flysheets which the Society publishes and distributes; its readiness to give teaching and advice in all the poorest districts throughout England; and the great devotion and ability of Miss F. Lankester, the Secretary of the Society—"one of the most successful of public officials." Dr. Thorne dwelt on preventable infant mortality, in a speech which should be reprinted *verbatim*. The Society provides lectures, circulates diagrams and cheap sanitary literature; opens classes, conducts examinations, supervises and gives lectures on first aid, on home nursing, and domestic economy and physiology, and generally undertakes and aids the propaganda of health wherever its aid is needed and invoked.

IN CANADA such a society would do an immense amount of good. Of course here there are not the men of leisure and wealth such as there are in England; but there are, nevertheless, a large number of philanthropic individuals in the cities of Canada who give liberally to various charitable objects, and who, it seems to the writer, should only require to have their attention drawn out in the right direction in order to

induce them to assist liberally with their time and means in propagating the gospel of health. Several ineffectual attempts have been made in at least three of the principal cities of the Dominion, to organize a society with this object—that of educating the people in health subjects. It is to be hoped the matter will not be allowed to rest until an efficient society of this kind becomes established in this country.

THE DOG QUESTION, to which we have repeatedly drawn attention in its relation to hydrophobia, is of the utmost gravity. From the way in which thousands of useless dogs are allowed to run at large, no one is safe from a bite. As the law stands now, all dogs, it appears, are allowed their first bite. Any dog, especially at this season, may suddenly become rabid. A great many cases have been reported in different countries recently in our exchanges. Canada, *so far* has been fortunate in this regard. But no one knows but he may be the next victim. In the city of Odessa, there has been an epidemic of the disease. In one day alone twenty-one cases of bites from rabid dogs were received at the station; and during the last twenty days no fewer than thirty-eight cases, occurring within the city, were treated by Pasteur's system of inoculation.

MR. DURY, Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, if we are not mistaken some time ago made some strong remarks on the uselessness of dogs, and proposed legislation. In view of one possible case of hydrophobia—of the disease in a human being, nine-tenths of the dogs are ten thousand times worse than useless. We trust the minister will take some vigorous action in accordance with his views.

THE EXECUTIVE Committee of the Middlesex (Eng.) County Council, have unanimously adopted the following resolution:—"That this authority, considering the terrible character of hydrophobia and the increase which has occurred in the present year, both in that disease and in canine rabies, and the danger of still greater increase of those diseases, desires to urge most strongly upon the Privy Council the necessity for such prompt action as will ensure the proper muzzling of dogs and their proper control throughout the United Kingdom, and the prevention of importation of dogs from other countries unless under strict quarantine regulations.

MEDICAL CLASSICS often gives some practical advice. Some of the latest is on diet, and in this wise: What shall be eat? This question confronts us daily. Upon its wide solution depends, to a great extent, the health and happi-