

TEMPERANCE COLUMN.

ECHOES FROM C. E. T. S. PLATFORMS.

Temperance workers may be pardoned if, feeling the tremendous weight of the doctor's words, they have sometimes been a little impatient, and expected more than they have any right to expect.—Rev. D. W. Sitwell.

Drink alone, is the cause of one half of the younger children being consigned to industrial schools, reformatories, and prisons.—Dr. Barry.

I am not concerned to-day with the question as to whether total abstinence may or may not be the right course for Christian men and women to adopt in the present social condition of England in regard to the drink question; but, without entering at all on that much debated subject, I think I may assert, that we are all agreed as to the necessity for safeguarding our children against that which may become a grave moral danger in their future lives. Every parent must desire to send forth his children into the world protected in every way which prudence and foresight and Christianity can suggest. With this object in view, we shall surely be most careful to discourage the formation of any habit which may possibly become a source of temptation. For that boy who is sent forth to run in the race of life is surely heavily handicapped, if not absolutely over-weighted, when, having left the shelter and the controlling influence of home, he starts with tastes and habits already formed, perhaps with an incipient craving already existing, which may eventually form a temptation so powerful that he has not strength of will or moral courage to resist it.—Rev. Patrick Watson.

The record of many of the habits of our ancestors constituted, as it were, sidelights on history, and, being unprejudiced, were thus of greater value even than direct evidence in determining to what extent the evils of intemperance stained their annals at different periods of our country's progress.—Rev. J. Dennis Hird.

USE OF ALCOHOL IN WORK HOUSES AND INFIRMARIES.

We were very much amused one day when visiting a London infirmary, at the disgust of a patient with the new order of things inaugurated by the appointment of a fresh medical officer. 'The doctor don't understand my case,' was the laconic reply in answer to our inquiry as to whether he was getting better. 'How is that?' we replied. 'Well, you see sir,' he said, 'mine is a peculiar case, and requires plenty of nourishment. Now the doctor who was here before, he knew my case exactly. When I came in, he would come and look at me, feel my pulse, and say to the nurse: 'Give this man two-half pints of beer a day.' He was the chap; he understood my case exactly.'

We very much fear, from the

report of the late meeting of the guardians, the doctor of the Birkenhead Workhouse is one who would likewise have understood his case. We do not wish in any way to deprive the workhouse doctors of the legitimate use of alcohol in absolutely necessary cases, but we do most strongly protest against any excessive use of stimulants. Many, alas! are inmates of these places simply on account of their intemperate habits, and therefore it is a matter of paramount importance that the use of alcohol should be rigorously excluded, except in very exceptional cases. In this respect Wrexham Workhouse stands well, having used 'no alcoholic stimulants for a length of time.' In others, such as Chester, the quantity used is very small indeed. It is therefore difficult for us to understand why such large sums are spent in others. Ratepayers should scrutinize with an eagle eye the amount spent on intoxicants in the workhouses within the district in which they are ratepayers, and call public attention to any very large sums being spent by the Guardians, for the purpose which has brought so much discredit upon the administration of the Birkenhead Workhouse.—Temperance Chronicle.

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