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Notes of the Week.

DR OTTO PELFIDERER, professor of Systematic Theology at Berlin, is to be the next Gifford lecturer in Edinburgh University. He holds a prominent place among continental theologians and Biblical critics, and was Hibbert lecturer in London in 1885.

THE jubilee of the Scottish Church Disruption, which is to be celebrated next year, falls on the same day of the week and of the month as the day on which the event happened—Thursday, May 18. Rev. Dr. Laird says there are forty-six still alive of the 474 ministers who came out, and thirty-seven of them, he thinks, have seen their jubilee.

MR. ALEXANDER ALLAN, of James & Alexander Allan, shipowners, Glasgow, died recently at Blackwood House, near Lesmahagow, in his sixty-seventh year. He was predeceased by his wife on the 18th of February last. Mr. Allan was an elder in Wellington United Presbyterian Church, Glasgow. He was a director of the Scottish Temperance League, and was a liberal supporter of benevolent and religious work.

THE Rev. Lewis B. Paton, of East Orange, N. J., a graduate of Princeton College and Seminary, has been invited to the chair of Old Testament Languages and Literature in Hartford Theological Seminary, made vacant by the departure of Professor E. C. Bissell to take the chair of Biblical Theology in McCormick Seminary, at Chicago. Mr. Paton is a young man, but has already won a high place among Oriental scholars. He has been for two years in Germany making a special study of Hebrew, Assyrian, Arabic and cognate languages.

THE announcement of the death of Dr. Colingwood Bruce, of Newcastle, the learned historian of the Roman Wall, a contemporary says, will be received with deep regret, for Dr. Bruce was as much beloved for his truly Christian character and life as admired for his great, and in some ways unique, accomplishments. He had reached the age of eighty-two. Dr. Bruce, though never an ordained minister, was one year Moderator of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of England. He was an elder in the congregation of the Rev. Richard Leitch at Newcastle, and frequently preached.

THE *Christian Leader* says. It is the penal quality of sensuality and insobriety that they weaken and destroy the will, so that it fails to respond to the behests of an aroused conscience. Moral suasion becomes powerless except to kindle remorse, and the last state of the man is worse than the first. Inebriety hardens into a disease, mental and physical, and the confirmed drunkard's case is hopeless if he cannot be brought under the sway of a stronger will that will break the spell that defames and subjected to such medical treatment as will supply innocent counteractives and compensations to his cravings. It is in this direction that the strong advocacy of temperance by a large number of doctors has led them, for cure as well as prevention is required to meet the present evil of drunkenness. The Society for the Study of Inebriety is on the right track. We are glad to see that in the colonies, said to be worse than ourselves, the question of alcoholism is receiving attention.

THE *British Weekly* says. After labours extending over more than thirty years, the complete revised edition of the German Bible has been published by Canstein's Press in Halle. The work has been carried out with the utmost caution, the diction of Luther's Bible being interfered with as little as possible. Obsolete expressions are removed, but archaisms are occasionally allowed to stand, and the spirit of the old version is well preserved. The New Testament, which was published separately in 1870, has already gone through fifty-nine editions. There has been no question of superseding Luther's Bible. That great work is not only the chief monument of German literature, it enshrines a period of history. Begun at the Wartburg and carried on with eager haste at the professor's house in Wittenberg, it is regarded by the masses with affectionate veneration. A revision was necessary, for the first translation was made under many disadvantages. But for the people at large there can be only one German Bible.

THE New York *Independent* says. The election of an almost solid anti-Briggs delegation to the Presbyterian General Assembly from the New York Presbytery is regarded by some as a great surprise. The Presbytery dismissed the charges against him last November, and now it turns around, we are told, and elects as commissioners men who will take ground against him in the General Assembly. It is not strange at all when the facts are considered. The Presbytery, weighing all considerations, deemed it wisest and best last fall not to proceed to try Professor Briggs. They evidently believed, after his statement, that he would be more careful in his utterances in the future, and that to drop the matter at that stage would stop further agitation and further cause for complaint. But Dr. Briggs was not more guarded. He delivered a series of lectures which some regarded as more objectionable in some respects than the Inaugural Address; he treated the Presbytery's decision as though it were a vindication. The majority of the Presbytery evidently do not approve his utterances, and do not want his champions to represent them in Portland. This, we take it, is the meaning of the vote on commissioners recently.

PRINCIPAL BROWN, in his closing address at Aberdeen College, warned the students against that worst of all forms of scepticism—the scepticism of those who, while professing the faith of all orthodox Christendom, preach it so as to lead to a doubt if they believe it. At the root of it lay a desire to naturalize all in revelation. They threw the great historical transactions of the Old Testament into a state of solution, and the Pentateuch, on which rested the whole edifice of the Jewish dispensation, and with it Christianity itself as our Lord taught it, they turned upside down. In Edinburgh Principal Rainy in his address at the close of the New College dealt with university reform. He thought the selection of studies required for a degree in arts was a remarkable and worthy combination of lines of knowledge and training capable of very vigorous defence, and for his part he would not say that the alternative course now to be open to the student would always be wisely selected by him. But on the whole the change was for the better. More freedom and concentration would be brought into undergraduate studies, with the result that the new system might develop a greater variety of type of outlook and intellectual character than the old did.

THE following pungent paragraph appears in a report on the State of Religion presented to the Synod of Hamilton and London at its meeting in Stratford last week. Our country at present is cursed and dishonoured by political corruption. It is carried on so systematically that it might be classed as one of the fine arts. Satan's insinuation against Job that he was bribed or bought was a base lie, but even the father of lies would for once tell the truth if he should now say that many in our land can be bribed and bought, and he might safely include in the statement constituencies and

provinces, and yet, in the face of this, we are expected to believe that the state of religion is improving. Look at a map of our Province and see the shape of some of the constituencies. They look as if their boundaries had been marked out by chain lightning. We all know why they are so irregular; and still professedly Christian men chuckle over it and say, "It's so clever," and many of our young people are taught to believe that it is an evidence of great ability, and are encouraged to imitate the conduct of men so devoid of moral principle as to resort to such base methods to keep themselves in power, and also to deprive their fellow-citizens of their just rights.

THE American evangelists, Messrs. Moody and Sankey, have brought their Scottish campaign to a close with several meetings in the Free Assembly Hall, Edinburgh. The building on each occasion was crowded to suffocation, and even the Free High church next door was insufficient to accommodate the overflow meetings. In an interview with a representative of the *Scottish Ledger*, Mr. Moody said that during this visit to Scotland he had found greater spiritual life among the people and more Christian work being carried on than during his former visits. A number of Established Church doors had been closed to him during his last visit but this time he had preached in as many such churches as those of other denominations. He believes that before Scotland can be raised very high one-roomed houses must cease in the land. He is also emphatic on the subject of workmen's hours. These must be reduced. He found much of the religious indifference at many places he visited to be due to the excessive hours of labour. He is annoyed at the reports of his decrying an educated ministry. He, on the contrary, believes in it, but it ought to be supplemented by a band of Christian workers thoroughly trained for evangelizing the masses. Mr. Moody has gone to France to join his wife and family. After a rest he will return to England and conduct a short campaign there. He will also be present at the great open-air meetings at Fenaghy, near Belfast, in July, and may visit several other parts of Ireland. Mr. Sankey goes to Liverpool to meet his wife. He will resume work with Mr. Moody in England.

THE Belfast correspondent of the *British Weekly* writes: The time has again come round for the closing of the theological session in the colleges of the General Assembly at Belfast and Derry. It is at the closing function in Belfast that the degrees in Divinity granted by the Presbyterian Theological Faculty are publicly conferred. This year four ministers are to receive this honour, viz., the Rev. Oliver Leitch, Letterkenny; the Rev. James Maxwell Rodgers, M.A., Derry; the Rev. William Moore, M.A., Principal of the Missionary Training College, Puerto Santa Maria, Spain; and the Rev. Samuel Robinson, M.A., St. Kilda, Melbourne. Mr. Moore and Mr. Robinson were both students of theology in the Belfast College. The Training College at Puerto Santa Maria, of which Mr. Moore is Principal, is that lately taken over by the Irish Presbyterian Church from the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland. The closing address in Belfast is to be given by Dr. Watts, on Dr. Driver's "Introduction," and the projected International Library of which it is the first volume. He adds. In connection with the ministerial jubilee of the Rev. Dr. Johnston, Belfast, to which reference was made lately, it has been determined by the members of the congregation of Townsend Street to perpetuate his memory for themselves by a marble bust to be placed in the vestibule of the church, and by a large oil portrait to be placed in the church library. Mrs. Johnston is to be included on the canvas. The bust is to be committed to Mr. Bruce Joy, of London, who is a Belfast man. Dr. and Mrs. Johnston, being both philanthropists in the best sense of that term, strongly urged that the money to be expended on the bust and portrait should be devoted to some Presbyterian charity, but the congregational committee insisted upon having its way in the matter, and consent was given.