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Notes of the Week.

THE death in London of Rev. W. E. Boardman, for some time associated with Dr. Cullis in his evangelic labours in Boston, and the author of the "Higher Life," is announced. He has been for some years past an evangelist in England, working with Dr. Asa Mahan. He has been a special teacher and defender of the "faith cure." He was a devoted and eminently useful Christian minister.

BISHOP POTTER, of New York, says that the drinking usages of society, using that last word in its narrow and conventional sense, are greatly altered for the better. Scenes that were common enough at the tables of reputable people fifty years ago are to-day practically unknown. The danger lies now rather in other directions, especially in those connected with the "high-pressure" lives of business men and the cheerless poverty of the poor.

ANTICIPATIONS of immediate conflict arising out of the attitude of Greece in refusing to comply with the advice of the Great Powers have been agreeably disappointed. The fateful day has come and gone, but Greek and Turcoman have not yet met in deadly combat. At the last moment the Greek Cabinet have yielded to the pressure brought to bear upon them. Bulgaria likewise displays a more tractable disposition, so that at present the armed truce is unbroken. Despatches say that the Russo-Austrian relations are becoming strained. European peace is at present very brittle and may be easily broken.

WHILE the Indian and Colonial Exhibition is being held in London, a British and Colonial Temperance Congress will hold a three days' session, beginning on 14th July. Bishop Temple is to preside the first day and deliver the opening address; and the morning sittings of the two succeeding days will be presided over by Cardinal Manning and Archdeacon Farrar. The congress is to be inaugurated by a special service in Westminster Abbey on Monday evening, July 12, when Bishop Temple will be the preacher; and the Colonial members of the congress will be invited to a reception at the Crystal Palace on July 13, the day of the national temperance fete.

IT is not so very long since the custom of permitting women to work in coal mines was denounced as barbarous. Yet it is stated that a movement to discontinue such labour in England meets with opposition. A meeting of pit-girls was held lately at Pemberton, near Wigan, to consider the proposed insertion of a clause in the new Mines Regulation Act forbidding the employment of women about collieries. The Mayoress of Wigan presided. The Countess of Lathom and other ladies wrote letters protesting against any attempt to deprive the women of their right to labour. A petition protesting against the prohibition was unanimously adopted.

THE fortieth annual report of the Glasgow Church of Scotland Sabbath School Association shows that there are now ninety-one societies with 152 schools embraced in its beneficent operations. The teachers number 3,499 and the scholars 27,426, the average attendance being 20,820. These figures indicate an increase for the year of 940 teachers, 399 scholars, and

144 of average attendance. If ministers' classes were included there would be a total of 35,000 scholars. The examination scheme has been most successful, no fewer than 912 boys and girls having taken part in it. The mission collections amounted to \$4,355, a decrease of \$320. The funds of the association amount to \$2,910.

THE Rev. Alexander Balmain Bruce, D.D., Professor of New Testament Exegesis and Apologetics in the Free Church College, Glasgow, is now delivering a course of lectures on the Ely Foundation, in the Adams Chapel of the Union Theological Seminary, New York. His general theme is "The Miraculous Element in the Gospels," and the ten lectures proposed, the first of which was delivered on Thursday week, will continue until Thursday, April 22nd. As is widely known, says the New York *Evangelist*, Dr. Bruce is one of the ablest divines of Scotland. Genial, broad, progressive, he is at the same time thoroughly orthodox and evangelical. Dr. Bruce intends visiting the Pacific coast before returning to Scotland.

AN Eastern exchange says: An elaborate and stringent bill respecting the sale of liquors has been introduced in the Nova Scotia Legislature. It is intended to sweep away bars at hotels, and make considerable changes in wholesale and retail licenses. By the terms of the bill, an hotel license shall authorize the licensee only to sell liquors in quantities not exceeding one quart, to bona fide guests residing at the hotel, and to be drunk in their rooms or at table. Wholesale licenses will be restricted to quantities not less than two gallons, or of bottled liquors not less than one dozen bottles. The license fee for hotels is fixed at \$200, shops \$300, and wholesale \$500. The bill will meet with strong opposition from the liquor interest in Halifax, but so strong is temperance sentiment in the rural constituencies that although a majority of the representatives are not total abstainers, it is expected to pass the house substantially as introduced.

THE strike on the Gould railway system unhappily continues. The railroad autocrat spoke exultingly of his success in utterly defeating the Knights of Labour. He had conferred with their Executive who, with the exception of Mr. Powderly, disabled by illness, went to St. Louis hoping that the conflict would come to an end. In seeking an interview with the general manager there they met with a chilling and ungracious repulse. The Knights of Labour were refused recognition. Both parties to the quarrel now clearly understood that the very existence of the order was menaced, and now that is the issue being tried. The Knights earnestly counsel the employment only of lawful measures in carrying on the struggle. They deplore the murderous outbreak at Fort Worth, knowing well that such deeds put them outside the sympathy of all law-abiding men. What the end of the present difficulty may be it is difficult to foretell. Each party seems inclined to put a rosy tint on its press despatches.

IN the Railway Committee of the House of Commons it transpired that two honourable members promoting a Manitoba railway enterprise had fallen out on a matter of "casual advantages." Both were, no doubt, anxious to benefit settlers in the North-West, but they were not wholly oblivious to personal interests connected therewith. One M. P. charges the other with attempting to blackmail him, and the other replies that the representative of a Toronto constituency was endeavouring to procure the lion's share of the plunder. What should be noted is that one of the honourable legislators openly expresses his belief that the parliamentary representatives of the people are agreed that the influence with which their position invests them may be legitimately used to promote their own interests. The ministrants, of course, use their positions to that end; with the opposition it is different, simply because they have not the opportunity. The public conscience may not be as sensitive as it ought to be, but it is keen enough to resent such a code of cynic morality.

AN eminent and conscientious statesman who is faithful to his convictions and resolved to do his duty need not calculate on unwavering popular support and approbation. Even the opportunist who always seeks to float with the tide is certain sometimes to drift into an eddy, where he is visited with the scorn of his former admirers. Mr. W. E. Forster, after a lengthened illness, has completed his earthly career, according to many, a discredited politician. Few English public men had so stainless a record for integrity and honesty of purpose as Mr. Forster. Twice in official positions he had to face much undeserved obloquy. In promoting national education he was for a time made a target for unmitigated abuse, because his opinions were a little more advanced than many of his compeers. As Chief Secretary of Ireland he had to contend against rampant lawlessness. This the Irish Nationalists could never forgive, and their hatred was venomous. Now that his career is ended he will be judged fairly, and for his virtues and public services his memory will be held in high esteem.

THE crusade against impurity is steadily gaining in power and influence. The very necessary and very moderate measure that Mr. Charlton has advocated year after year in the Canadian House of Commons has again passed with a large vote in its favour. The fate of the bill in the Senate will be watched with interest. In Scotland the Established Church has a guild for the promotion of personal and social purity. Its principles are akin to those advocated by the White Cross League. At a meeting under the auspices of the Young Men's Guild in Edinburgh, the Rev. Dr. MacGregor said: Young men of all classes were permitted to grow up with the profound, though unwritten, belief upon their young souls that the sin of impurity was no sin. It was said that certain evils were necessary evils and necessary conditions of society. He had heard that from the lips of pure women. If they were to get rid of that damnable lie it must be by some special means. Society was burying its head in the sand while there was a reeking Sodom and Gomorrah in their midst. Thousands of their young men and young women were being yearly ruined by this sin. A man who, if he cheated at cards, would be kicked out of society, was esteemed worthy of admiration if he blasted the virtue of a young woman! Should any one see a better method of dealing with this sin than the White Cross movement he would be glad to hear of it. The result of the movement would be that it would not allow the public mind to keep the prevailing impurity out of sight.

MR. JOHNSTON has introduced a Local Option bill dealing with the liquor traffic in Ulster. The preamble declares that it is expedient to confer powers upon parliamentary voters in the towns and districts of Ulster for the control or prohibition of the traffic in intoxicating liquors, because that traffic "is one of the main causes of poverty, disease and crime, depresses trade and commerce, increases local taxation, and endangers the safety and welfare of the community." The machinery for putting the principle of local control into operation is provided by the second clause, under which not less than one-tenth of the voters of any town, division or district are empowered to require the returning-officer to take a poll on the three specific resolutions, and the returning-officer, after obtaining, if he thinks fit, security for the cost of the proceedings, must comply with the requisition. The three resolutions specified are as follow: 1. That the sale of intoxicating liquors shall be prohibited; 2. That the number of licences, excise licences, and wholesale beer dealers' licences respectively shall be reduced to a certain number; 3. That no new licences shall be granted. Only one resolution is to be adopted at any poll. If the first be carried, it is to be adopted, whether either or both of the other resolutions be carried or not. If the second resolution be carried, but not the first, the second must be adopted, whether the third be carried or not. If the third resolution be carried, and the first and second not carried, the third is to be adopted. A majority of two-thirds of the votes recorded will be necessary for the adoption of any resolution subject to the above provisos.