

earth's surface with armies, and enriched its soil with the best blood that ever flowed in human veins. It is only right that at length, in the cycle of ages, something should touch man's heart and set him humbly down to find out some way of mending as much of his mischief as he could. Perhaps he 'buildded better than he knew,' for in that one effort he touched the spring that sooner or later will mend it all.

But is man doing this work alone? No—gladly, no. Scarcely had he made his first move when the jewelled hands of royal women glistened beside him, and right royally have they borne their part. Glance at the galaxy: The great leader and exemplar of them all, Empress Augusta of Germany; her illustrious daughter, the Grand Duchess of Baden; the entire Court of Russia; and to-day, the present Empress of Germany, and the hard-working Empress of Japan, with her faithful weary Court, even now busy in the Hospitals of convalescing Chinese. The various auxiliary societies of women of all the principal Red Cross nations are a pride and glory to humanity.

The second advantage of other nations is that the citizens, the men of wealth in those countries, have created a Red Cross fund for its use, varying in amounts from a hundred thousand to several millions of dollars. Russia, I believe, has a fund of some three millions. It seems never to have occurred to our wealth-burdened men that possibly a little satisfaction might be gained, some good accomplished, and some credit done the nation by a step in that direction. It will dawn upon them some day, not perhaps in mine, but in some of yours, and then, ladies, you can well join hands with them, and discern more clearly than now the significance of the Red Cross as related to philanthropy."

Our Foreign Letter.

FROM FRANCE.

STATISTICS show that 11,000 people die of consumption annually in Paris.

The Académie de Médecines has recently chosen the spread of this disease by contagion as the subject of several animated debates, in which the necessity of special precautions for medical men, students and Nurses attending on tuberculous patients was proved by the statements of various learned members.

M. Jaccoud, an eminent medical orator, enthralled his hearers by his eloquence. In a magnificent speech, M. Jaccoud raised and answered the questions, "Do patients risk infection in hospital wards?" "Is it not necessary to isolate all tuberculous cases?" At the end of this special meeting, M. Dumontpalier rose to express doubts on the contagious character of tubercular diseases. A general murmur of dissent greeted his remarks.

At a meeting of the same Society, on February 7th, 1896, various members contributed facts illustrating the contagious nature of the disease under discussion. Professor Terrier gave terrible statistics relating to the number

of medical students and Nurses infected by patients.

M. François Franck, lecturing physiologist of the College de France, gave his observations on the deaths of pupils who had been engaged in studying the bacillus.

Finally Professor Debove deducted from foregoing statistics the absolute proof of the necessity for isolation in special wards of all cases of tubercular disease in hospitals.

The Académie de Médecines has elected M. le Professeur Poncet (of Lyons) national correspondent.

Terrible revelations on the spread of alcoholism in France (especially among the fisher-folk of Brittany), have recently been brought before the public.

Whole families are found plunged in a state of deepest degradation consequent on the more or less continual state of intoxication in which both parents exist. The physical, mental and moral development of the unfortunate children of such parents naturally leaves everything to be desired.

Doomed before they are born, cheated of their childhood, old before they have been young—an early death is the kindest fate that can befall them. From the ranks of survivors lunatic asylums and hospitals draw recruits.

Does the *liberty* of any people demand the sacrifice of innocent victims?

Scientists and economists are agreed that the French *eau-de-vie* is poison, that its effects are to be traced in physical and mental degradation, yet—(irony of civilisation!)—in a single canton there are 600 sources of this poison open to the people, 600 traders licensed to sell a beverage that burns and nauseates a healthy and unaccustomed palate! *On an average* no fisherman of Brittany consumes less than 70 centilitres of alcohol a day. Statistics prove that one man will drink 25 centilitres of *eau-de-vie* a day, besides 2 litres of cider, and 30 centilitres of wine! Thirty per cent. of the sailors of France are reported Bretons. It is difficult to calculate the influence of these men in spreading what all sane people will surely agree in terming a disgusting disease and a national calamity.

Eau-de-vie literally signifies "water of life," it should fitly be termed "water of death." So say all sensible and healthy-minded folk—rulers, thinkers, and philanthropists. But the sale goes on all the same, and while they argue and debate, children are born to suffer and fade, to know all the bitterness and none of the joy of life, neither the gladness of action nor the triumph of thought. Their life was not their choice. The liberty of healthy beings they never know, and yet (horrible mockery of justice!), their lives were allowed to be stunted and poisoned in the sacred name of *liberty*!

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