

Last week the Women's Total Abstinence Union held a meeting in the Mansion House. Dr. Annie McCall said that the three things which encourage the drink traffic are:—heredity, grocers' licenses and "doctors' orders."

Lady Henry Somerset lately arrived at Southampton by the s.s. Paris. She spoke at Leeds on March 20 at a public meeting in the Victoria Hall, organised by the Leeds B.W.T.A., in connection with the visit of the National Executive Committee, who held their quarterly meeting there on the 19th inst. A Public Conference, at which delegates were present from all the Yorkshire Branches, took place on Wednesday morning, the 20th inst., in the Philosophical Hall, Leeds. A Parliamentary Drill was held under the Presidency of Mrs. Eva McLaren, Vice-President B.W.T.A.; and a reception was given to the delegates and friends attending the meetings, in the Mayor's parlour in the afternoon.

An interesting feature of the World's Women's Christian Temperance Union Biennial Meetings, to be held in London next June, will be the unveiling of the Children's Fountain which is to be placed in London as a mark of British children's love and loyalty to the Temperance cause. The fountain has been sculptured in bronze by Mr. George E. Wade, of London, and is a copy of the fountain which stands in Chicago as a memento of the loving interest children in America and many other nations have taken in the cause of Temperance, and which was erected at the time of the World's Fair. Mrs. Ward Poole, Treasurer of the Child's Fountain Fund, Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, will give further information if desired.

Mrs. Amie Hicks, the Secretary of the Rope Makers' Union, who is an authority upon all Labour questions, says that when in Boston recently, she found the advanced and cultured women of the city eager to study the Labour question. Mrs. Hicks addressed the members of the "Twentieth Century Club" upon the subject of "Women and the Labour Movement," and found that much interest was taken in the subject by the women of Boston.

A Pamphlet of the Week.

LIBRARY WALL FLOWERS.*

MR. ARTHUR HUMPHREYS, of the firm of Messrs. Hatchard, Bookmen, Piccadilly, has conceived the excellent idea of writing to various well-known writers and literary critics to ask them to state what in their opinion were the two or three books which the public would like to know more of. Most of those applied to, responded. Mr. Humphreys reminds us himself in a foreword—which is, I believe, the correct new name for preface—that Lord Rosebery remarked at the last Academy banquet that Lord Lytton's "Pelham," was, he thought, a neglected book. After the foreword, Mr. Humphreys simply publishes the letters he has received with a few connecting and explanatory paragraphs. Among the most interesting of the sugges-

* "Library Wall Flowers; a Symposium on Neglected Books," edited by Arthur L. Humphreys. 6d. Messrs. Hatchard, Piccadilly.

tions as to neglected books, and books with which the British reading public are not sufficiently familiar, the following are worthy of note:—

The editor of the *Fortnightly Review*, Mr. L. Courtney, LL.D., quotes the late Professor Jowett, who said "that if a young man or a young woman would read Miss Austen for diversion and Emerson's Essays for profit, the time would assuredly not be thrown away."

Mr. Sidney Lee, the editor of the "Dictionary of National Biography," thinks that "persons of good education and intelligence who have more time at their disposal than their neighbours, fall victims at times to a morbid passion for reading contemporary fiction, and it might possibly be of service to suggest in their behalf a remedial course of treatment." Mr. Lee advises that "Boswell's 'Life of Johnson,' Carlyle's 'Lives of John Stirling and Cromwell,' Lockhart's 'Life of Scott,' Trevelyan's 'Life of Macaulay,' Bosworth Smith's 'Life of Lord Lawrence,' Southey's 'Life of Nelson,' and Morley's 'Life of Burke,' should be attacked first, and afterwards Cowper, Lamb, Fitzgerald, Hazlitt, Macaulay, Froude and Leslie should follow. . . ." and he thinks that "the exertion of the effort to understand these books will keep those who have been prone to excess as novel readers in a healthy frame of mind."

Mr. Arthur Waugh thinks that "it is a thousand pities that we must waste on the tedious problem novel, time that was meant for 'The Vicar of Wakefield' and Jane Austen."

Mr. Richard le Gallienne considers that apart from his own books, Mr. Raymond's "Love and Quiet Life," Mr. Adams' "A Child of the Age," Mr. Ernest Rhys' "A London Rose and other Poems," Robert Murray's Poems, and Mr. Grant Allen's "Post-Prandial Philosophy," have lacked the appreciation they deserve.

The editor of the *Spectator*, Mr. Hutton, being asked to name the best books upon the religious movement of the present century, recommended the "Life of W. G. Ward," by Wilfrid Ward, from the Roman Catholic point of view, and Dean Church's "Oxford Movement," from the Anglican point of view; and he considers Cardinal Newman's "Apologia," and the letters he wrote while still in the Anglican Church, indispensable.

Dr. Garnett, of British Museum fame, mentions Nichol's "Architecture of the Heavens," Müller and Donaldson's "History of Greek Literature," Finlay's "Histories of Greece," Wheaton's "Northmen," Arnold's "On Translating Homer," and Borrow's "Lavengro," also Darwin's "Voyage of a Naturalist."

Judge Hughes, author of "Tom Brown's School Days," does not think he can suggest a list, but wonders if Mr. Maurice's, Mr. Llewellyn Davies', Mr. Drummond's and Mr. Kidd's books are neglected or not; he fears that the reading public of the day can have little time to spare from the floods of sensational and shady fiction for serious reading.

Mr. Frederic Harrison suggests a list of books which includes translations from the Spanish and French and Gibbon's "Autobiography."

Mr. Grant Allen thinks that Mr. J. G. Frazer's "The Golden Bough," has "failed hitherto to attract a tithe of the attention to which it is entitled."

Sir John Lubbock considers that the great masterpieces of antiquity, such as Homer, Herodotus, Plato, Epictetus, Marcus Aurelius and Plutarch's "Lives," are unaccountably neglected.

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