

### Annotations.

#### THE KING AND ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL.

The King has informed Sir Trevor Lawrence, Treasurer of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, that, accompanied by the Queen, he hopes to lay the first stone of the new hospital at the end of June or the beginning of July. This announcement will be received by the public with genuine satisfaction. After all, dear old "Bart's" is the senior Royal Hospital of the Empire, and has a prior claim to consideration from the King and the people.

#### CHILDREN AND TEMPERANCE.

The Bishop of London touched the right note on Sunday night when, speaking in Chelsea Palace in support of the Children's Protection League, he said that "the curse of Chelsea and of all London was not the wickedness of the bad, but the apathy of the good." Have not workers in all causes felt the force of this truth? Active wickedness is unlovely, and the motives which inspire it do not appeal to high-principled persons, but the inertia of those who, in the words of St. Paul, "seem to be somewhat" is a factor which, perhaps more than any other, has hindered the advancement of causes which make for the good of humanity. The aims of the Society, whose temperance crusade was inaugurated by Dr. Winnington Ingram, are to promote temperance teaching in public schools, and to obtain legislation to prevent children from entering public-houses. Considering how the excessive indulgence in alcohol permeates every class in this country, to the serious impairment of the moral and physical fibre of both men and women, the work of the League is worthy of all support. The education of children—many of whom, alas! carry about with them a traitor in the camp in the shape of an hereditary predisposition, urging them to over-indulgence in stimulants—in the evil results of such indulgence should help them to self-restraint. And surely every adult cognisant with the atmosphere of the bar of a public-house will wish to protect the young from the contamination which must result if they frequent such places.

#### THE DEMAND FOR BRAIN POWER.

If we were asked the essential difference between the British and American estimate of life we should say, without hesitation, that the American nation realised long since that the brains of every individual who composes it are

a national asset which must be utilised for the public good, and that the British nation, so far, has not. In summing up the worth of a man we estimate his wealth, his dinners, his wines, his horses. His personality, his brain power enter little into the calculations of most people. If he have the former he can buy his way into the "highest" society, albeit his wealth has been obtained by grinding the face of the poor, and his fortune founded on the ruin of the widow and orphan. The national abasement before the golden image is as willing and obsequious as in the time of Nebuchadnezzar. Further, in the case of women, not only does the possession of brains not count, but it is frequently resented, and the position of intellectual women to-day, if they are not endowed also with wealth, is a most unenviable one. Simplicity of life, ability, pure living count for nothing by the side of fine clothes and brilliant jewels, from whatever source derived.

Again, the sentiments of *noblesse oblige*, of chivalry and honour, are no longer characteristic of our "ruling" classes. We do not say that they do not contain men and women still animated by these ideals, but characteristics of the class they are not. Gambling, card-playing, self-indulgence of all kinds are all too common, and what the "classes" do to-day the "masses" will do to-morrow. The strong nation is the one which leads a "Godly, righteous, and sober life"; the self-indulgent one, with its false estimate of life, is making for its downfall.

We are glad, therefore, that the Prince of Wales put his finger on the vital spot when, speaking at the annual distribution of prizes and certificates to the winning students at the Battersea Polytechnic, he said: "Probably at no time in the history of our country has there been a greater demand upon its intellectual powers than to-day. Keen competition and rivalry characterise the existing relations between communities and nations." The Prince proceeded to quote the opinion of Professor Huxley, that University and other teaching centres are as important as battalions and big battleships, and were, in fact, essential parts of a modern State's machinery.

We need to revise our estimate as to what constitute the essentials of life, to cultivate intellect wherever it is found, instead of persecuting its possessor. We need to appreciate the beauty of simple living, and to learn afresh that it is "righteousness which exalteth a nation."

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