

The Normal Treatment of Alcoholism.

To attend a meeting upon the subject of inebriety has not, perhaps, a very attractive sound about it; and possibly fifteen or twenty years ago it would have been dull, uninteresting, and unsatisfying. But those who have eyes to see and ears to hear will have observed what a great advance has been made in social science. A speaker said a little while ago that if you leave out science in your efforts at reform, however good and kindly your intentions may be, you will fail.

All things, even those with most dull sounding names, can be made to appeal to the minds of men and women if the matter is dealt with not only sympathetically but scientifically. Is not this almost the same as saying commonsense must be abundantly utilised in dealing with social problems.

This is what impressed me forcibly while listening to the interesting speeches made on behalf of the Normal Treatment Association at a drawing-room meeting at Grosvenor House by the kind permission of the Duke and Duchess of Westminster on May 26th. One other point was also very noticeable—namely, the note of hopefulness and optimism which all the speakers struck, obviously the effect of the greater understanding of this difficult problem.

The report for the past year was in every way satisfactory.

The Secretary, Mr. Porteous, briefly described the objects of the Association and the method of treatment, the chief features of which are:—

1. Its inexpensiveness; the inclusive cost is £3 3s. Twenty-four bottles of medicine (composed of the special combination of drugs) have to be consumed, one for every waking hour for 24 days.
2. Its convenience and secrecy; the patient can be treated in his or her own home, which renders it unnecessary for the friends to know about it, and ordinary occupations need not be interrupted.
3. The reliability of the treatment. The failures are supposed to be not more than 7 or 8 per cent., and in nearly every case of failure it has been proved that the conditions of the treatment have not been faithfully carried out.

The audience had the advantage of listening to the two brothers Chapman—the Rev. Hugh Chapman, Chaplain of the Royal Chapel of the Savoy; and Mr. Cecil Chapman, Police Magistrate—both of them friends, faithful and true, to the great cause of women's enfranchisement.

The latter spoke in a very optimistic vein. He denounced despair as a cruel thing, and affirmed that no inebriate need be despaired of, and warned his hearers of the ineffectiveness of lip sympathy only, urging upon them the duty of "*doing something*" to help the poor victims. One way in which everyone could help, he said, was to help them to find work after treatment.

The Rev. H. B. Chapman referred to the sorrows of life as the grim skeletons in the cupboards, and added earnestly that the curse of inebriety was "the national cupboard"; it belonged to us all, and needed the key of love to open it. In his

estimation, we could best show our loyalty to our late King by doing something practical for the good of our fellow creatures.

Lady Constance Lytton made a short and interesting speech, emphasising the importance of preventive work and the necessity of subsidising sympathy with active service in the cause of humanity.

The Chairman, General Sir Edward Chapman, K.C.B., proposed a vote of thanks to the speakers and to the Duke and Duchess of Westminster for their kindness in lending their house, after which the proceedings terminated.

The offices of the Association are at 91, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.

B. K.

Southalls' Nurses' Companion and Laundry Book.

Everyone who knows Messrs. Southall Bros. and Barclay, Ltd., Bull Street, Birmingham, knows that everything they do is well done, and there are many people who, having dealt with this firm for the last half-century, always write to them, in preference to dealing nearer home, for drugs and preparations, of whose high standard they can be absolutely assured if they come from this old-established firm. But though it has been founded since 1820, it keeps in the forefront with modern demands, and has recently brought out a Nurses' Companion, and Laundry Book, which would be most valuable to any obstetric nurse.

In a compact space it includes a great variety of useful information, such as obstetrical tables, Post Office regulations, the principal antiseptics used in midwifery, their uses and strength, the temperature of baths, the clothes required for an infant, necessaries for a confinement, a dentition table, notes on muscular development, notes on the artificial feeding of infants, and on invalid cookery. The meaning of Latin terms used in prescriptions, the law as to the registration of births and deaths, and much more besides, including illustrations of some of Southall's well-known specialities for maternity cases, calendars for two years ahead, space for the record of cases, and printed laundry lists with counterfoil. All maternity nurses should possess one of these handy Companions, which Messrs. Southall are willing to supply to them on application.

L'Esperance Preparations.

We have pleasure in drawing attention to "L'Esperance Preparations," supplied by Mme. Gertrude Hope, 7, South Moulton Street, W., which include many dainty toilet preparations. In Mme. Hope's salons special treatment can be applied for the discolouration of the skin which sometimes occurs after residence in the tropics. Superfluous hairs are also removed by electrolysis, on which subject consultations and advice are given free, personally or by letter. Pupils are also taught this delicate manipulation, and special terms are given to hospital nurses.

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