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bility of reading Tarku-tusa (cf. Girba-tusa of Ramses, and the Lycian Ova-tisäh, Oútraois) must be taken into account.

Herewith I take leave of this unpleasant subject. As soon as my paper appears in the *P.S.B.A.*, I trust that those who can form a judgment regarding it (I have in view especially Professor Sayce, and Mr. Rylands, Mr. Ward, and Mr. Ball) may give expression to such, and perhaps state their opinion, amongst others, to the readers of THE EXPOSITORY TIMES. Whether I have hit the mark with *Desandas* can be decided only when more materials are at our disposal. But it appears to me to be beyond all doubt that the serpent ideogram is a divine name, and the sign of the hand¹

¹ On the other hand, it still appears to me to be extremely doubtful whether the sign from Boghazköi, claimed by

the general term for 'god' (probably *ghirpa*), and that both are used (as the first element in the compound) to form numerous proper names. As to the rest, let Jensen go farther on his way without deviation and always 'gain deeper insight into the contents of the inscriptions,' I am certainly the last to grudge him this pleasure. But I must enter my protest against the notion that my explanations are for the most part based upon his 'decipherments.' In my article which has been since April last in the hands of the editor of the *P.S.B.A.*, I have conscientiously noted all the advances which Jensen, founding upon Sayce, has made in the *analysis* of the inscriptions.

Jensen for a symbol of the great mother, really represents a clenched fist. I reached my explanation of the outstretched hand (*one* sign with many variants) in quite a different way.

At the Literary Table.

THE BOOKS OF THE MONTH.

FROM the office in Edinburgh (40 Hanover Street) we have received *The Monthly Visitor* (illustrated) for the year 1898, edited by Mr. R. Henderson Smith. *The Monthly Visitor* makes progress. True as ever to the heart of the evangelical faith, it is more alive to the variety of men's minds, more sensitive to the variety of avenues that lead to man's need of the gospel, than it used to be. There are those still who having named the name of Christ scoff at tracts. These are tracts;—it is sheer ignorance that would allow a Christian to miss their interest and usefulness.

THE GOSPEL PROBLEMS AND THEIR SOLUTION. BY JOSEPH PALMER. (*Allenson*. Crown 8vo, pp. 395. 6s.)

'Fools rush in where angels fear to tread.' That is much too severe of course, and we hasten to take the edge off it. But it is not possible after all that has been done on the Synoptic Gospels that Mr. Palmer should be able to settle the unsettled problems with a single sentence of bold type. He has keys—a master key, and three special keys. And these keys open all the locked doors and disclose all the hidden

treasures. There is no doubt that Mr. Palmer has hit upon a most seductive line of argument. Some day soon we should like to show the points of it. But there are things left out, and there are things that will not be explained in this way. Nevertheless, the book deserves to be read, and we can promise anyone who takes to the reading of it that in Mr. Palmer's hands the study of the Synoptic Problem will keep them wide awake.

A PRIMER OF FREE CHURCH HISTORY. BY A. JOHNSON EVANS, M.A. (*Allenson*. Crown 8vo, pp. 144. 2s. 6d.)

'Free Church History' means the history of the Free Churches, as they are coming to be called in England; that is to say, the Churches that are not established by the State. The name may still sound sectarian, the book is not sectarian. Mr. Evans has been scrupulous to discover fact and write impartial history. The only offence that his book can give is by its brevity. We could take much more with profit and with pleasure. It is too short, indeed, for justice either to the subject or to the writer. But it is welcome and well done.

From the Cambridge University Press there has been issued a parallel edition of the Psalter containing the Prayer Book Version, the Authorized Version, and the Revised Version. It is beautifully printed, and gives the marginal readings of A.V. and R.V. If it had added the fine version which Dr. Driver published recently it would have been nearly perfect.

The first part of Mrs. Margoliouth's abridgment of the great *Thesaurus Syriacus*, entitled *A Compendious Syriac Dictionary*, was noticed in THE EXPOSITORY TIMES, vol. viii. (October 1896) p. 19, and accepted as 'a piece of pure scholarship from a woman.' That there are some flaws in this scholarship, as there were already in the larger work, has been shown elsewhere. In the first column of the present part the month *Khaziran* is called the *tenth* Syrian month; the reader of the O.T. will be puzzled by this statement when he reads Est 8⁹ 'in the *third* month, that is in *Khaziran*.' To say that לָרִישׁ (Ac 18³) is the Latin *lorarius*, would have been a better explanation than 'a maker of rough cloth for tents or horsecloths.' Nevertheless the book is most welcome, and when in future times the history of prayer comes to be written, the ejaculations in the present book at the beginning and end of each letter will deserve notice. Frequently the longing is expressed that the book or letter may reach a happy conclusion. It is to be completed in four parts. (Oxford: At the Clarendon Press, 8s. 6d. net.)

THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY AND DIARY OF SAMUEL DAVIDSON, D.D., LL.D. (T. & T. Clark. 8vo, pp. xi, 373. 7s. 6d.)

There is an irresistible fascination about this book. The life was eventful both outwardly and inwardly. There was something of a tragedy in it indeed, and the inward tragedy was far more terrible than the outward. But it is not that that gives the book its chief interest. The story of that is, in truth the one blot and blunder in the book—we mean the story of the outward event, the dismissal that left so deep a scar. But there is a great man's mind laid bare without reserve, a great scholar's judgment on men and movements uttered without restraint. Certainly the judgments are not infallible. But they are capable,

and they stir up thought, sometimes from most unwonted depths. To the student of theology the volume teems with suggestion, and to the student of exegesis no less. But after all it is the man that makes the book, and we did not know that Dr. Davidson was a man like this.

THE TRIAL OF JESUS CHRIST. BY A. TAYLOR INNES. (T. & T. Clark. Crown 8vo, pp. 124. 2s. 6d.)

The Trial of Jesus Christ: a Legal Monograph—that is the full title of the book. By A. Taylor Innes, advocate—that is the name and title of the author. That is the kind of monograph we need on the Trial of Christ, and that is the kind of man to write it. How much there is that is wholly new; how much that is true and helpful! We do not study enough. We do not put questions enough. We are too content with the daily superficial reading. If Mr. Taylor Innes had done nothing more than show us the wealth of suggestion and information that lies in a single episode in our Redeemer's earthly life, he had done us a service indeed.

BIBLE-CLASS PRIMERS. OUR LORD'S ILLUSTRATIONS. BY THE REV. ROBERT R. RESKER. (T. & T. Clark. Pp. 136. 6d.)

A delightful study of a delightful subject. Mr. Resker has hit upon what lay under all our eyes, and made a book out of it that is as pleasant to read as it will be easy to teach. He groups our Lord's illustrations, and then they illustrate one another. And one sees among other things what a wealth of teaching there lies in the illustrations alone.

THE POLYCHROME BIBLE. EDITED BY PAUL HAUPT. THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL. BY C. II. TOY. (Pp. 208. 10s. 6d. net.) THE BOOK OF JOSHUA. BY W. II. BENNETT. (Pp. 93. 6s. net.) (London: James Clarke & Co. 1899.)

Six volumes of the Polychrome Bible have now been published. We understand its purpose, we have learned its utility. First of all it appeals to the serious student of the Old Testament, not to the careless reader or the hungry preacher. Next it considers no prejudice and respects no dogmatism. Then it gives the very best that can be given of scholarship and of workmanship. Professor Toy and Professor Bennett are in thorough

sympathy with the general editor's aim. They are also thoroughly familiar with the books they have undertaken. The feature that is perhaps most remarkable of all, we mean the absence of all that is unnecessary, is as prominent here as in any of the volumes that went before. Problems that have been discussed in previous commentaries at length and with heat, are not even named. The things that scholarship has settled are left at rest. These volumes will always be scorned by the illiterate and cherished by the scholar.

THE HISTORY OF THE LONDON MISSIONARY SOCIETY. 1795-1895. BY RICHARD LOVETT, M.A. (*Frowde*. 8vo Two vols, pp. 832, 778, with Maps and Portraits.)

The history of the London Missionary Society is part of the history of Christianity, part of the history of the world. It deserved to be written; it deserved to be written fully. The two volumes take days and days of reading, but they are happy, fleeting days, for not a chapter is dull or spun out. It is an invigorating book. God has greater things for the London Missionary Society yet to do. Those things are great, but what we feel is that they are the firstfruits of a harvest. And besides that, one is uplifted to get in touch with so many great sympathetic, suffering, and victorious men and women. It is an irresistible apology for Christianity; an irresistible call to higher service.

The Master of St. John's College, Cambridge, has published (through the Clarendon Press, Oxford) a lecture on *The Oxyrynchus Logia*, which he delivered originally at Mansfield College, Oxford, in 1898. Coming latest it is the most useful account of the famous Fragment we have received. All previous literature is used, and Dr. Taylor has been able to add not a little to it, out of his own unique stores, especially his stores of Patristic and Talmudic learning. He has also brought the Apocryphal Gospels for the first time into full parallel with the *Logia* (pp. x, 105, 2s. 6d. net).

ESSAYS AND ADDRESSES. BY R. W. DALE, LL.D. (*Hodder & Stoughton*. Crown 8vo, pp. 398, 6s.)

This considerable volume contains but seven addresses, for Dr. Dale's addresses were not measured by the ticking of the clock. The seven

are chosen from a large number that lay in manuscript. They are certainly worth publishing, whatever others lie unpublished still. Their titles may be given: (1) Christ and the Controversies of Christendom; (2) The Holy Spirit in relation to the Ministry; (3) The Idea of the Church in relation to Modern Congregationalism; (4) and (5) Congregationalism; (6) Mr. Matthew Arnold and the Nonconformists; (7) The Doctrine of the Real Presence and of the Lord's Supper. Circumstances are such that the last may be read first. But we have most enjoyed the essay on the Holy Spirit, It is more than an essay, it is an inspiration. The Spirit has inspired the writer to write somewhat worthily of Himself.

THE CHRISTIANITY OF ST. PAUL. BY S. A. ALEXANDER, M.A. (*Longmans*. Crown 8vo, pp. 216. 4s. 6d.)

The sermons to which Mr. Alexander has given the title of *The Christianity of St. Paul* do not attempt to exhibit a complete system of Pauline theology or a complete system of any kind. They are practical rather than theological, and they are sermons. Yet the name is not so wide of the mark. For a large round of daily life, both personal and social, is covered by the sermons, and always it is the Christian life as St. Paul saw it and lived it.

THOUGHTS ON THE COLLECTS FOR THE TRINITY SEASON. BY ETHEL ROMANES. (*Longmans*. 12mo, pp. 296. 3s. 6d.)

Mrs. Romanes, the author of *The Life and Letters of G. J. Romanes*, has written a little book of thoughts—tender, simple, evangelical thoughts—on the Collects for the Trinity season. They are not for criticism, they are for further meditation. They are stepping-stones to higher thought, bridges to a better life.

THE EPISTLE TO THE GALATIANS. BY E. H. ASKWITH, M.A. (*Macmillan*. Crown 8vo, pp. xx, 153. 3s. 6d. net.)

Mr. Askwith has not written another commentary on the Epistle to the Galatians. He has not even written an ordinary Introduction. He has fixed his mind on the destination and date of the Epistle, and given us a scholarly essay, in which he supports Professor Ramsay's South-Galatian arguments, and adds to their force considerably. In all study of the questions involved

this book must be read. An appendix deals with the great difficulty of the visit to Jerusalem referred to in the second chapter of Galatians.

The fourth volume of the 'Eversley' *Shakespeare* includes *Pericles*, *Cymbeline*, the *Winter's Tale*, and the *Tempest* (Macmillan, globe 8vo, 5s.). On the difficult question of the authenticity of 'Pericles,' Dr. Herford is at home and quite convincing. The Introductions are just sufficient always.

The fifth volume is to hand also. It contains the three parts of *King Henry the Sixth*, and *King Richard the Third*. In a preliminary Note Dr. Herford adopts Professor H. Littledale into co-partnership as a proof-reader and a writer of Notes that will henceforth be marked L. One of these notes occurs in *Richard III.* i. i. 67, where we are told that the name 'Woodville' should be pronounced Wood-de-ville, a trisyllable, 'perhaps with the punning pronunciation, *wood-devil*, i.e. mad devil.'

COMRADES. BY E. C. DAWSON. (*Melrose*. Crown 8vo, pp. 224. 2s. 6d.)

Mr. Dawson is a boys' preacher. He is practical and intelligible. He does not indulge them with tales of pirates, and he does not disgust them with mere moralities. There is something in them to appeal to, but it must be transformed and not merely played with. The boys to whom Mr. Dawson speaks are the bigger boys. They need the preaching most.

Mr. Melrose has published a wholesome book by Adeline Sergeant, called *The Common Lot* (crown 8vo, pp. 224, 3s. 6d.). The heroine set out to do some great thing, and found that she had left her work behind in the little opportunities of everyday life.

Mr. Melrose has also issued a handsome religious story by W. E. Cule, entitled *Sir Constant* (pp. 192, 3s. 6d.). It is of course written for young people, and its outward appearance is in keeping with its chivalric charm within.

In the multitude of Helps to helpless preachers note should be made of *Gospel Seed for Busy Sowers* by J. Ellis (Morgan & Scott). There is a great mass of matter in it, and it is surprisingly clever and sensible.

Mr. David Nutt has published a new edition of a well-known commentary on *Ecclesiastes*—the commentary of Thomas Tyler, M.A. (8vo, pp. 168, 6s. net). The book has been wholly rewritten. It contains an introduction, an exegetical analysis, and a translation with notes. In the introduction the most important section is that which searches the book for traces of the influence of Greek philosophy. Mr. Tyler correctly says that such a thought as the dependence of *Ecclesiastes* on the philosophy of the Greeks is no longer startling. It is, however, sufficiently new and debated still to be of distinct interest, and Mr. Tyler has given himself to the subject with learning and enthusiasm. The analysis, a most difficult part of the work, is extremely useful. It prepares the way for an appreciation of the translation, as the introduction has paved the way to the notes. It is now, in its third edition, the most reliable commentary on *Ecclesiastes* we possess.

A new and copyright volume, by Charles M. Sheldon, has been published by Messrs. Oliphant Anderson & Ferrier (*The Miracle at Markham*, crown 8vo, pp. 255, 2s. 6d.). The question is one of reunion, and if it does not come to pass as we expect, it keeps us at a fine pitch of expectation all the journey through.

METHODS AND PROBLEMS OF SPIRITUAL HEALING. BY H. W. DRESSER. (*Putnam's*. Crown 8vo, pp. 101. 2s. 6d.)

Mr. Dresser is not a believer in Faith-healing or Christian Science as ordinarily practised. He has studied these things long and intimately, but he does not believe in them. Yet he does not denounce them. There is right and there is sometimes much wrong. He believes that if these efforts were directed by more knowledge and less fanaticism they would work great good. And he writes this book to lead the way towards a true science of healing in the name of the Lord.

Messrs. Passmore & Alabaster have issued the third volume of *C. H. Spurgeon's Autobiography* (pp. 376). It carries the preacher's life through the long period of hard and successful service from 1856 to 1878. It will be dealt with fully very soon.

RAMBLES WITH NATURE STUDENTS. BY MRS. BRIGHTWEN, F.E.S. (*R.T.S.* Crown 8vo, pp. 223.)

Mrs. Brightwen is become the young naturalist's greatest favourite. Once the publishers issued her books in commonplace condition. Now they know her worth and publish in beautiful style, with fine paper and profuse illustration, and yet at quite a cheap rate. These 'Rambles' are according to the month of the year. Let the boy or girl use this book month by month. It will be a great delight and a grand education.

GOD FIRST. (*R.T.S.* Crown 8vo, pp. 320.)

The title 'God First' has been given, not inappropriately, to the letters and diaries of Miss Hester Needham of Sumatra. There are missionaries who cannot write. She was a most devoted missionary, and had a fine sense of humour, which also helped to sustain her, and she could write. It is a story of heroic endeavour, told in the most modest and touching way. One of the best small books of mission work we have had of late, and of late we have had many.

UNSEAL THE BOOK. BY MRS. ASHLEY CARUS-WILSON. (*R.T.S.* Crown 8vo, pp. 160.)

Mrs. Carus-Wilson is still best known by her maiden name, Mary L. G. Petrie. She is not a novice in Bible study or in recommending it. There is a fine freedom in her methods and recommendations, the result of distinguishing the matter from the spirit of Scripture. She is tongued by no false notion of the infallibility of the Authorized Version; and yet her study draws us nearer to the Cross. We shall lose no time by reading this book, though it is often lost time to read books about the Bible and leave the Bible itself unread. And it is so saturated with clever modern examples of the mistakes that are made in misreading the Bible that the reading of it is a very great delight.

Mr. Elliot Stock has published the second edition of Mr. William Marshall's little book, *The Bible and the Prayer Book*. Its purpose is to prove that the Prayer Book is in accord with the Bible, but that Ritualists are in accord with neither.

Mr. Stoneman has published cheap unbound editions of the Rev. John Mitchell's *Points and Illustrations*, and of Mr. H. W. Fry's *The Brand*

of Hell. We are not sure what the last is about; with the first most preachers are familiar.

It is already almost too late to notice *Oliver Cromwell*, by Horace G. Groser (S.S. Union, crown 8vo, pp. 140, 1s.). But it will outlast the celebration festivities. For, popular and slight as it is, there is accuracy of statement and Christ-likeness of spirit in it enough to make it live for a good many days to come.

Under the title of *I Promise*, Mr. Meyer has published a small volume of counsel to Christian Endeavourers (S.S. Union, pp. 76, 1s.). Their motive is trust in Christ. Mr. Meyer would keep the young people close to Him, and then all's well.

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE HEBREW TEXT OF THE OLD TESTAMENT. BY THOMAS H. WEIR, B.D. (*Williams & Norgate*. Crown 8vo, pp. xv, 149. 5s.)

We have to say that this book is not bound, but we have no other disparaging word to say about it. There is not finality of course, but there is in it a capable examination of the historical evidence available for the history of the O.T. text, a well-written history itself, and a good selection of illustrations that are carefully executed.

'The Temperance Problem and Social Reform.'¹

It is not long since the *Spectator* felt constrained to write sadly about what it called the increase of callousness. At that time the temperance movement, like every other movement making for high ideals, was affected by the reactionary influences which were at work. Now, however, the tide has turned again, at least so far as interest in the matter is concerned, and probably there never was a time when the drink problem was so much in men's minds. This is largely due, no doubt, to the growing recognition of the fact, which is emphasized by the very title of this notable book,—a book which is at once a proof

¹ *The Temperance Problem and Social Reform*. By Joseph Rowntree and Arthur Sherwell. London: Hodder & Stoughton. Crown 8vo, pp. xxi, 626. Price 6s.

of this deeper interest and a guarantee of its continuance,—that whether as cause or effect, or both, for in this connexion there is often a vicious circle of the worst kind, intemperance is bound up with every phase of the social question.

But other causes have also been at work. The later stages of the Royal Commission and its rival reports have impressed the community with a fresh sense of the difficulties of the situation, and have revealed anew the determination of the trade to prevent reform if they can. The Licensing Courts, too, are increasingly deepening the popular impatience with a system which is as arbitrary, as reckless, and as indifferent to the wishes of those most concerned as a licensing system could well be. The growing expenditure on strong drink is also alarming many who are not readily alarmed. They cannot but see that this terrible tax which the nation is imposing upon itself is far more serious than any foreign competition, or any protective tariffs or bounties. What is perhaps doing most meanwhile, however, to deepen the public interest in the temperance problem is the growing conviction that the liquor traffic has become a great menace to the liberties and well-being of the whole nation. Many who are neither fanatics nor alarmists say that it is to be a battle to the death between the commonwealth and the liquor traffic. Some even think that the battle is already over and lost. But surely the galling tyranny either in politics or trade of a traffic which for the most part flourishes on the fruits of degradation has only to be made known to be swept aside.

And it is being made known. Nothing more powerful or impressive on this theme has ever been written than the chapter in this volume entitled, 'The Social and Political Menace.' Never have the cruel shackles and the galling chains by which the drink interest has stealthily bound the constituencies been set forth in such a dispassionate light. Never have the innate corruption and the brutal selfishness of the whole system been revealed so impartially and effectively. It is hardly too much to hope that as this indictment reaches the more leisured classes, it will do for them what contact with the evil at first hand has already done for so many of the working classes. It can hardly fail to fill those who read it with a determination to destroy a power which is everywhere the untiring enemy of righteousness, freedom and prosperity.

This great chapter is only one of many important contributions to the discussion and settlement of the temperance problem which are to be found in this volume. The appendices alone give it a unique value, and when it is added that the spirit of the book is admirable throughout, and that its authors are manifestly keen and true temperance reformers, its outstanding importance will be apparent.

The discussion begins with a statement of the problem which centres round the fact that in spite of all that has been done, the *per capita* consumption of alcohol in the United Kingdom is greater now than it was in 1840. Startling as this fact is, it by no means proves that temperance reformers have hitherto been moving on wrong lines, and that a new departure such as is here advocated should be made. Alarming as it is that the *per capita* consumption of alcohol over the whole kingdom has gone up since 1840 from 3.89 gallons of proof spirit to 4.30 gallons, it ought not to be ignored that in Scotland the *per capita* consumption of spirits is now about a gallon less than it was in 1852. Now Scotland differs from the rest of the kingdom mainly in this, that during these years the policy of the temperance party has been more fully adopted. There has been earlier closing, and closing on the Lord's Day, and meagre as the improvement has been, it is quite sufficient to show that what is really required is greatly extended restriction along the present lines.

Then, further, it is necessary to bear in mind the vast social changes which have taken place during the period in question. Since 1840 the power of the people to spend, and especially to spend on extras and luxuries, has enormously increased. Not only so, but their willingness to spend money on anything which promises pleasure and comfort, has increased even more than the power to spend it. In addition, there has been the portentous growth of the great towns, which are now such an important factor in the situation. It is quite possible, therefore, that even although there has been an increased consumption of alcohol in the United Kingdom, there may have been decided relative progress in temperance. A reference to the state of affairs in France will show what is meant. The social changes which make for increased expenditure on self-indulgence have been at work there as here, with this differ-

ence, that there has been no counteracting temperance movement. The result is that since 1830 the *per capita* consumption of alcohol has increased fourfold, and France now stands far away at the top of the black list of European countries in respect of their consumption of absolute alcohol, while the United Kingdom only stands eighth. These are not reasons for being satisfied with things as they are. They are, however, considerations which must be present in any complete statement of the case, and which suggest that the movement on the present lines is not at all so hopeless as our authors suggest, and that we might reasonably hope for great progress if only the policy of restriction got a fair chance.

The main interest of the book necessarily gathers round the solution of the problem which it proposes. That solution consists of two parts: the restrictive and the constructive,—the first instalment of restriction being a statutory enactment that there shall not be more than one public-house to each 1000 of the population in any urban area, and not more than one to each 600 of the population in any rural area, a short time-notice being provided for by way of compensation. Thereafter, the scheme is permissive, each locality having the power to prohibit the traffic, to retain the system of private license, or to grant a monopoly of the entire retail traffic within its borders, either to its municipal council or to an authorized company. Our authors expect that the prohibition option would be chosen and successfully carried out in many rural and suburban districts, but they hold that in the present state of public opinion prohibition in the larger towns is to be regarded as impracticable, and for these they argue strongly in favour of public management.

Apart from the company proposals, this scheme is one of which all temperance reformers can heartily approve, and with regard to these proposals it must be admitted that every attempt has been made to remove features which might make for corruption. All the same, it is by the management element the scheme must stand or fall. It is claimed that 'if the proposals fall short of the full aim of the idealist, they in no way conflict with his ideal. They simply lay the foundations upon which he and others may build.' But what of the idealist who holds that public management in any form would trench the traffic more firmly than ever and make it an integral part of our

municipal organization, and that even under these carefully safeguarded proposals an appearance of beneficence would be thrown over the whole system which would make the realization of the ideal altogether hopeless? He may be right, or he may be wrong, but he cannot build on such a foundation as is here provided. Management is not only a necessary part of the scheme, it is a very prominent part of it, and the truth is that the one weakness of the book comes out when the sympathetic treatment of the company systems is compared with the inadequate treatment accorded to experiments in prohibition. Even if it is inevitable that in some form or another the drink traffic will go on indefinitely, it is one thing to continue to protest against it and quite another to enter into terms with it. At present it exists only on sufferance and in the face of constant opposition, but under management it would be recognized as an integral and necessary part of our social system. The true idealist is not able to set political gains over against moral losses, and strike a balance.

But even apart from the moral question, it can hardly be said that what is here adduced in favour of management is sufficient to warrant its adoption in this country. It is admitted, for example, that in Gothenberg, in spite of powers which it is very unlikely any company would ever be allowed to exercise here so long as there are public-houses at all, the number of arrests for drunkenness is not only greatly in excess of what we find here but is steadily increasing. In Norway, too, where the company system is said to have few of the dangers which attach to the Swedish plan, there has been an enormous increase in arrests for drunkenness. In Bergen during the ten years ending 1896 they increased 225 per cent., while the population only increased 33 per cent. No wonder that as soon as they had the power many of the Norwegian towns got rid of the companies and vetoed the traffic altogether.

The two great claims which are here made on behalf of management are that it deprives the traffic of its political influence and eliminates the element of private gain, but while both claims may be to a large extent admitted, it is probable that the benefit would be less than is expected. There would still be a large number of persons interested in the continuance of the traffic. Indeed, there is a sense in which the whole community would be

so interested, while so long as companies carry on businesses of any kind they will carry them on on business lines. At a meeting in connexion with the Hill of Beath experiment held last month to open a bowling-green and club-house provided from the profits, all that the chairman could say was, that 'after making full inquiry, he found that there was *no more* drinking at Hill of Beath to-day than there was before the opening of the public-house.' But so long as the drinking continues and men are what they are, degradation and sin will be the results, and public sanction may be an even greater danger than private greed.

In these discussions there is a great tendency to forget the affinity which apparently exists between fallen human nature and alcohol, and the corruption which has invariably gathered round the free use of strong drink. It might well be asked whether our municipal councils could stand this addition to their responsibilities. Those who know them best doubt it most. It might also be asked whose sons are to be set to sell the drink on behalf of the community and exposed to ruin thereby. The truth is that the proper conclusion from what is found in this volume is not that we should go in for management, but that the liquor traffic is unmanageable either by public or private means. It is so inherently corrupt and corrupting that it sets all conventions and compromises aside, and like some wild beast which has been chained up again and again it breaks out to degrade and destroy. Restriction, and restriction as nearly resembling prohibition as possible, is the true policy, and not management. If this appears an extreme or an impotent conclusion, the reasons for it are to be found in one chapter after another of this book. Even in Great Britain we are told of the police being so corrupted in connexion with this traffic that it is often impossible to get justice; of drink-sellers, who were just like their neighbours to begin with, resorting to the worst devices and even tampering with the children in order to sell as much drink as possible; and of the vast body of

distillers and brewers, and even shareholders, becoming so perverted, that they oppose everything which would stay the flood of evil which is ever sweeping through our land, lest their gains should be interfered with. The truth is, that more than once the drink-seller is too exclusively blamed and the fatal power of the drink itself too much minimized. But in any case, our authors say that every system has failed except management, and they provide the facts which show that it also has lamentably failed.

Little can be said here about the constructive part of the scheme, except that it is not as important as its authors suppose. It is very unlikely that Parliament would agree to the proposals, and in any case, if large sums of money are to go into the public funds from the traffic in strong drink, they should go where they will be least appreciated—to reduce the National Debt, for example, and not to Peoples' Palaces and the like. That the constructive work is needed is beyond doubt, but it should begin deeper down, and it should be carried through otherwise than by the profits of an inherently vicious system.

There is a call to union, but it is to union on the old lines of local veto, the lines on which we have made progress already, and on which the rural populations of Scandinavia have become the most sober in Europe. If it is true that no scheme has any chance which does not carry the moderate men with it, it is equally true that no effective temperance measure can be carried which has not the hearty support of the rank and file of the temperance party.

This is a moral question above all else, and there is one element with which this volume does not deal, and that is the power of religion. The Church in our land should take advantage of the present interest in the question to rally all her forces to the fight, and, waiting hopefully on God, should face the evil as free from the spirit of compromise as from the spirit of fear. W. MUIR.

Blairgowrie.