A VERY QUEER CAROL.

"The Wandering Jew: a Christmas Carol." By Robert Buchanan. (London: Chatto and Windus.)

Mr. Robert Buchanan has played many parts. He is a very successful playwright, with town house and country house, and we believe he is in the enjoyment of a literary pension from the Government; he is the "Thomas Maitland" who made such a ferocious onslaught on "The Fleshly School of Poetry;" and he is himself a poet who has drawn many of his themes from such unspiritual quarters as the gutter and the felon's cell—in fact, he was once attacked for this double qualification in language far too vigorous for us to repeat, for the very excellent reason that the previous editor who published it was cast in damages of £150; and he is the "Caliban" who once made a sensation by a poetical contribution to the *Spectator* in which the band of his contemporary poets were handled with great license of language, and yet he brings an action for libel when a controversialist of his own perfervid temperament slightly outruns discretion in his epithets. But of all the parts he has played—with varying and sometimes with great success—novelist, playwright, poet, pamphleteer, and polemist, perhaps the strangest of all is the one in which he makes this latest appearance—the singer of a Christmas carol, and the apologist, or the interpreter, or the critic, or the celebrant (for we cannot be quite sure which it is) of Christ. With many faults the poem is a powerful and picturesque piece of versification, and as the book is distinctly one to read, the reader must judge of this vital question for himself.

The poem opens with an invocation, of which the following graceful lines are an example:—

> Come, Faith, with eyes of patient heavenward gaze!
> Come, Hope, with feet that bleed from thorny ways!
> With hand for each, leading those twain to me,
> Come with thy gifts of grace, fair Charity!

The poet describes himself as wandering "on that night which ushereth in Christ's day," in the bleak and snow-covered streets of the great city.

> I mark'd the long streets empty to the sky,
> And every dim square window was an eye
> That gazing dimly inward saw within
> Some hidden mystery of shame or sin,—
> Lovebed and deathbed, raggedness and wealth,
> Pale Murder, tiptoe, creeping on in stealth
> With sharp, uplifted knife, or haggard Lust
> Mouthing his stolen fruit of tasteless dust.

Suddenly he became aware of the presence of a very old man "in antique raiment, and around his waist a rotting rope was loosely bound," who slipped into his hand a hand "dank as the drowned dead's."

> Shivering he stood there,
> The consecration of a vast despair
> Cast round him like a raiment; and ere I knew
> I moaned aloud, "Thou art that Wandering Jew,
> Whose name all men and women know too well!"
>
> Strangely on me his eyes of sorrow fell,
> And bending low, as doth a wind-blown tree,
> In a low voice he answered:
> "I am He!"

After further light falls upon him, however, in various visions, he recognises the Wandering Jew not to be the old Kartaphilos of one legend, or Ahasuerus the cobbler of the other, but the Man who came once long ago, in whose eyes were "the passion and the peace of Paradise."

> For lo, at last I knew
> The lineaments of that diviner Jew
> Who like a Phantom passeth everywhere,
> The World's last hope and bitterest despair,
> Deathless, yet dead!—

Then—of course this is but a crude epitome of the course of Mr. Buchanan's Carol—arise the Spirit of Man and his Acolyte, Death, who sit in judgment upon the ever-wandering Christ, charging him with having destroyed the old pleasures and the old hopes and the old simple days, and, above all, the primal comfort of death, and of having replaced them by "the poison of a Dream that slays repose"—

> So that the Master of the World, ev'n Death,
> Hated in his own Kingdom, travaileth
> In darkness, creeping haunted and afraid,
> Like any mortal thing, from shade to shade,
> From tomb to tomb.

And their charges are preferred with a frankness and vigour which we feel sure will form very uncomfortable reading for many whose notions of a Christmas carol are the conventional ones.

> This Jew hath made the Earth that once was glad
> A lazar-house of woeful man and mad
> Who can yet will not sleep, and in their strife
> For barren glory and eternal Life,
> Have rent each other, murmuring his Name!

Having concluded the charge, they call their witnesses, and an almost endless stream of the phantom victims of Christianity testify of their undoing. Here is a specimen of the accusers' account of the rise of the new faith:—

> Now, mark the issue. Where this rumour spread,
> All other gentle gods that gladden'd Man
> Faded and fled away; the priests of Pan,
> That singing by Arcadian rivers rear'd
> Their flowery altars, wept and disappeared;
> And men forgot the fields and the sweet light,
> Joy, and all wonders of the day and night,
> All splendours of the sense, all happy things,
> Art, and the happy Muses' ministerings,
> Forgot that radiant house of flesh divine,
> Wherein each Soul is shut as in a shrine,
> Because this Phantom, like a shape in sleep,
> Showing his red wounds, murmur'd, "Pray! and weep!"

And here is another, which will be read with interest in Belfast:—

> Pass on. From land to land the tidings flew
> That Christ was God, and that the World was doom'd!
> Then droopt the lilies of delight, then bloom'd
> The martyr's rose of blood; Kings on their thrones
> Cast down their crowns and crawled with piteous moans
> To the baptismal font where Priests, grown bold,
> Held high the crucifix wrought round with gold.
> And soon (how swiftly seeds of evil spring!)
> They set a Priest on High and crowned him King,
> Yea, King of all earth's Kings, and next to Christ!
> There reign'd he, at his will the realms were priced,
> And each, grown blind to worldly gain and loss,
> Paid tribute to the King and to the Cross.

Judas Iscariot, who explains that he betrayed Christ in order to see Him "put forth His power and vanquish Death," is the first, and there follow him Ahasuerus the real Wandering Jew, Pilate, the "lewd and infamous" Roman Emperors who persecuted, especially Nero, then Julian, Hypatia—

> Stript naked to the skin and bruised with blows,
> Yet fair and golden-haired and azure-eyed,

Mahomet, Buddha, Galileo, Columbus, Voltaire, the Jews, all the Martyrs and dead soldiers of the Church, and many others, each preferring his charge. This is the finest part of the poem as a poem; as we have said, it is powerful and picturesque in a high degree. Then at last Christ replies. He is weary and "has no word to answer."

> The winter of mine age hath come, and lo!
> My heart within sinks 'neath its weight of woe!

He is asked to produce His witnesses in turn.

> And Jesus made reply:
> "Hosts of the happy Dead whom I have blest!"
> "Call—let them come!"
> "I would not break their rest."

But the witnesses do come—"Countless as desert sands," and at length Christ denounces His accusers and mankind that have denied Him—

> Woe to ye all! and endless Woe to Me,
> Who deem'd that I could save Humanity!
> I labour'd and I labour, last and first,
> Within a barren Vineyard God hath curst.

But Christ is condemned by his accusers to wander homeless through the Universe, ever bearing His Cross. Such is the explanation of the figure the poet saw in the streets of the great city on Christmas night, and this is the conclusion of the whole matter:—

> And lo! while all men come and pass away,
> That Phantom of the Christ, forlorn and grey,
> Haunteth the Earth with desolate footfall. . . .
> God help the Christ, that Christ may help us all!

The spirit of the poem is reverential beyond possibility of reproach, but it is a very queer carol all the same, and different readers will put different interpretations upon it.

Mr. Buchanan's fertility of rhyme and imagery are not controlled by much restraint and do not give the impression of having been subjected to any careful and critical auto-revision. Hence the poem strikes the reader occasionally as rather slap-dash in general style and unnecessarily crude in many individual instances. The words "Golgotha" and "hierophant" are misaccented, the former a dozen times; the appalling rhyme of "bereaven" and "heaven" is introduced so often that the reader comes to the conclusion the writer must be specially proud of it; the last syllable of the past tense in -ed is almost always accented, producing a lame and leaden metre; for instance—

> And while my heart shut sharp in sudden dread
> Against the rushing blood, I murmured—

and the poem abounds with trifling plagiarisms—no doubt quite unconscious to the author, but none the less distracting to the reader on that account. For example, "clouds white as wool" is Joaquin Miller; "when hawthorn blossoms scent the flowery ways" is Dennis Florence M'Carthy; and "Crowned with the calm of a divine despair" would be Mr. Watson's "crowned with august despair" if it were not so entirely an echo of Tennyson's "Tears from the depth of some divine despair." The following couplet is perhaps sufficient to justify the charge of occasional woodenness—

> 'Twas more than heart could suffer and still beat,
> So with a hollow moan I fainted at his feet!

And we ought perhaps to draw Mr. "Thomas Maitland's" attention to the fact that there are some very remarkable expressions in this poem, of which the

> —slumbers wild
> Of puerperal women—

is not the most unusual.

A PLEA FOR SHORT HOURS.

"A Shorter Working Day." By R. A. Hadfield and H. de B. Gibbins. (London: Methuen and Co.)

This is a little volume on "Social Questions of To-Day," one of the ever-growing "series" into which certain classes of modern books tend more and more to run. It is an unpretending work, the product of a student of economics and a man of business, and there is therefore a certain practical note, the outcome of direct relations with industry, which removes it from the category of works due to theorists. This is alike its strength and its weakness; for there is not only a certain lack of literary form, but an insufficient concentration of continuous intellectual argument. On the other hand, the authors stick fast to their intention of meeting all the business arguments which an intelligent person can adduce for or against a shorter working day by legislative enactment. To this proposal for further restriction of the hours of labour by law, we may at once say the authors are favourable. They examine much of what has been said and written, and the conclusion reached is undoubtedly that an economic survey of the situation justifies the eight-hour movement. The whole question turns on "whether this reform is a luxury which in our present stage of industrial development we can afford," and the authors seem to think it is. The demand for the eight-hour day is due, it is contended, to its human interest, the advance of the workman, the influence of education, that impalpable but very real factor, the *zeitgeist*, and to special reasons in special cases, as, *e.g.*, railway men, miners, and shop assistants. The authors are well advised in wasting no space on arguments with so-called Individualists who object to any interference with an alleged theoretical "freedom of contract"; although they give in an appendix the full report of the interview between Mr. Gladstone and the London Trades Council, in which Mr. Gladstone appears in the *rôle* of an opponent of legislation. So many steps have been taken in this collectivist direction which cannot be retraced, that the authors doubtless think it useless to argue the previous question. They plunge direct into the subject. First, the history of the movement for shorter hours in England is summarised briefly, the definite focussing of the eight-hour day among the working classes being rightly attributed to Mr. Tom Mann. To the action of the South Metropolitan Gas Company in depriving their men of the eight hours won by agitation and substituting twelve, is attributed the conversion of many to the parliamentary rather than the "strike" method of obtaining the eight-hour day.

Next comes a brief survey of the eight-hour day in Australia, the object being to show that *morale*, intelligence and health have been beneficially affected by shorter hours there. The great fact in Australia is that "a reduction of working hours has been compensated by an increase of efficiency in the workman." The main reason which the authors think underlies the advocacy of the eight-hour day here is that it would find work for the unemployed. This reason the authors are inclined to think fallacious; as, "unless counteracting influences of a powerful nature were brought to bear, the rate of production would be very speedily checked, and wages would fall to a considerable extent." The direct economic effects would be—(1) A probable different distribution of the wealth produced by Labour; (2) a possible temporary decrease in production, leading, however, to a "sufficient stimulus of invention to meet the difficulty"; (3) an impetus to the Continental movement for shorter hours. A difficulty, on the other hand, would be the sudden importation of unskilled labour into skilled trades, thus perhaps diminishing the "net disposable amount of wealth to be shared by the workers." Some economic objections urged by Mr. J. A. Hobson, who is quite erroneously spoken of as "an economist of the old school, who firmly believes in the almighty power of capital, interest, and profits," are considered, but not in our judgment quite adequately. Mr. Hobson is by no means opposed, as we understand his article, to the eight-hour day, but he thinks that, as things stand, we cannot afford it, mainly because the foreign competition from India, *e.g.*, or Belgium, would induce our capitalists to transfer their plant to cheaper working countries.

All through this little book the authors take the line that cheap labour is the dearest, and back up this assertion by numerous quotations. We confess to doubting this as a universal rule. That Indian mills have injured the coarser productions of Lancashire is a fact which scarcely admits of argument; and while this in itself does not dispose of the case for the eight-hour day, it does give Mr. Hobson a certain ground for his economic objection. On the other hand, we are heartily with the writers in believing that the great value of home requirements is far too much minimised. "If, without injury to the workers, a diminution of trade to a steady even though not so large a turnover were effected, which would temporarily, it is to be hoped, lead to the breaking up of some of the rottenness existing in financial circles and on the Stock Exchange, this country would not be so much worse off." And, finally, the writers present in an appendix the results of interesting experiments in establishments where the shorter working day exists, the most important of which is that of the Scotia Engine Works at Sunderland, the proprietor of which, Mr. Allan, is from his experience, not only in favour of an eight-hour day but by legislative means, with trade option reservations.

This little book is not a substitute for that by Messrs. Cox and Webb on the "Eight-hour Day," but a useful supplement. Here and there we notice slight errors; as, *e.g.*, Main (the State) for Maine; and Mr. "Troyn," of the Cleveland miners, for Mr. Toyne.

HOMERTON COLLEGE.

THE EDITOR OF THE DAILY CHRONICLE.

SIR,—Your note respecting Homerton College is altogether premature. Some negotiations have taken place, but no decision has been arrived at by the Board or the trustees of our present property.

Further, the numbers given are all wrong, as we have at present eighty students (forty-six women and thirty-four men), and I believe Cavendish College would give accommodation for more than 100 students.—Yours faithfully,

G. D. JENNINGS.

The College, Homerton, N.E., Jan. 10.

VALUABLE DISCOVERY FOR THE HAIR.—If your hair is turning grey or white, or falling off, use the "Mexican Hair Renewer," for it will positively restore in every case grey or white hair to its original colour, without leaving the disagreeable smell of most "Restorers." Everywhere at 3s. 6d. per bottle.—[ADVT.]

WRITERS AND READERS.

When Lord Houghton, the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, first published his "Stray Verses," he was a comparatively unknown man, but it is different with him now. Genuine literary interest attaches to the second edition of the verses, which Mr. John Murray is to issue this week. Lord Houghton has written a little poem to "the memory of Alfred, Lord Tennyson, to whom these verses were first dedicated." It opens thus:—

> He loved the light—the sun that faded down
> In watery gleams on distant fen and wold,
> Or touched his Surrey brakes with autumn gold,
> Or laughed from lapping wave to island town.

Lord Houghton goes on to speak of Tennyson's love of the "torch of knightly high renown, flaring through misty legend years of old," and his love of the "homelier glow of firelight cast" on the pathos and tragedy of every-day life. For the Laureate now—

> the light of lights at last
> Has dawned and orbs into the perfect day.

Here is a pretty, light touch in the poem entitled "A London Wedding":—

> Far down the years, when eyes are growing dim,
> Loveliness waning,
> What from to-day shall then for her, for him,
> Yet be remaining?
> Sullen reproach and querulous regret,
> Sorrowing and scorning?
> Rather leal hearts, feet resolutely set
> Straight for the morning.
> Close we the book and bravely thrust aside
> Life's hidden pages;
> Thus may they stand, the Bridegroom and the Bride,
> One through the ages.

Altogether there are close upon fifty pieces in the little volume, though none absolutely new except the dedication to Tennyson.

The concluding poem is a daring jingling triolet called "A Question?":—

> Ought the Man to be cut
> Just as much as the Lady—
> When they've met Justice Butt,
> Ought the Man to be cut?
> When they've stuck in a rut
> Down a lane that is shady—
> Ought the Man to be cut
> Just as much as the Lady?

It might be interesting to have Archbishop Walsh's reply to Lord Houghton's poetic inquiry.

Mr. Gladstone has written another letter on "Under Pressure," a volume by an Italian author, the Marchesa Theodoli, which Messrs. Macmillan recently published. In the course of his letter the G.O.M. says:—

> My favourable anticipations of the contents of your book were fully confirmed by perusing it throughout.
>
> I imagine it to give a true portrait of the Roman nobility—the only true portrait, so far as I know; for I must not refer to About's biting satire, which, however, had so far affected me that I read all your account with an agreeable surprise.
>
> The Roman nobility are a fact in history, and it is well that in the interests of truth and knowledge they should be described with fidelity as well as with the true faculty of an artist. I think you have brought both these qualifications to the execution of your task.

During his holiday at Biarritz Mr. Gladstone found time to go over the current catalogue of Mr. E. Menken, the well-known second-hand bookseller of Bury-street, and make out a large order. Catholicity invariably distinguishes Mr. Gladstone's selection of books, and this his latest purchase very well shows. He starts off with McKenney and Hall's "History of the Indian Tribes of North America," passes on to Frederick A. Ober's "Travels in Mexico, and Life among the Mexicans," and then falls on a "Catalogue of 500 Authors of Great Britain now Living." Then comes Sir Benjamin Brodie's "Psychological Inquiries," and old John Sadler's work, entitled "Rights of the Kingdom, or Customs of our Ancestors."

"Co-operation Up to Date" is the subject of the G.O.M.'s next volume, and then he gets to Dibdin's "Reminiscences of a Literary Life" and to a German volume on the transformations of the English Parliament. What special attraction has the county of Essex for the Prime Minister? He picks out a couple of books dealing with it, sandwiching between them "a faithful relation of a wonderful and extraordinary abstinence" of an old-time fasting woman, Ann Moore, of Tutbury, Staffordshire. "Oxford and Oxford Life" and Russell Lowell's "Democracy" naturally appeal to Mr. Gladstone, but why "Dictionary of Islam"? Eastern, too, is a "History of the Parsis," including their manners, customs, religion, and present position, but "Mormonism: its Leaders and Designs" is Western. No doubt Mr. Gladstone will read with a special interest just at present a "Discourse" on the Union of England and Scotland. "Essays, Philological, Philosophical, Ethnological, and Archæological," by Archdeacon Williams, is another selection of the Premier's, and he closes the list with a number of works on London, which we hope is significant of his intention not to forget her next Session.

Mr. Phil May is, as everybody is aware, a brilliant and notable artist. But the City admits no distinction of persons. When he went to the Children's Ball at the Mansion House a lady dropped half-a-crown into his hand, and suggested that he should take a sketch of her children. At the last year's ball, which he also sketched for an illustrated paper, half-a-sovereign was pressed on him, and on another occasion he had a gift of vases of the most approved City pattern, which he promptly consigned to his kitchen.

Mr. Ernest Coleridge has long been the custodian of a valuable collection of the letters of his grandfather, Samuel Taylor Coleridge. These letters it was hoped would long ago have been made the basis of a new and final "Life of Coleridge." A selection from them will, however, be published in the *Illustrated London News* from week to week during March and April. Lord Coleridge has lent several portraits and relics illustrative of the family history of the poet to accompany the letterpress.

The death of Hawley Smart comes as a surprise when one reads the age of the writer. Mr. Smart's books had always a certain air of health, youth, and good spirits, and it is a little of a shock to be reminded that the author, like so many novelists of the robust *plein air* school, was an elderly and sickly man. Mr. Smart hardly had the genuine literary touch in which his predecessor of the same school, Whyte Melville, excelled, but his work, with its catchy titles and swiftly running plots, was always readable enough. He usually wrote round a horse, and his work, we should say, had an excellent market to the day of his death.

Mr. R. L. Stevenson has had the misfortune to lose the end of a recently written novel through the burning of the mail—on its way across the plains—containing his manuscript. However, he writes cheerily enough about his loss, and he does not reveal the smallest intention of coming back to Europe.

We have been kept waiting a long time for Mr. Cosmo Monkhouse's biography of Leigh Hunt, which has been eagerly anticipated by Hunt enthusiasts for the past two years. The book, however, will be well worth waiting for should it be, as no doubt it will, a satisfying *apologia* for one of the most loveable and persistently maligned of English men of letters. When we say *apologia* we mean *apologia*, not the English "apology." The latter Hunt does not need. What he does need, or rather what his admirers and lovers need for him, is the truth, which may be great and prevailing, but which in Hunt's case has not prevailed yet.

Specially needful is it that the truth should be told about the Italian visit and Hunt's relations with Lord Byron, the story of which has up to this time only been told by Byron's biographers, who, in the interests of their client, have found it necessary to resort to wholesale libelling of the man who may without exaggeration be described as his victim. Some outlines of the true story of this episode in Leigh Hunt's life were given in the *London Quarterly Review* about six years ago, and ample references were made to both edited and inedited documents which utterly demolish the current theory of Hunt's "sponging" and "ingratitude." But what are wanted are not outlines, but details; and these a full biography, like that of Mr. Cosmo Monkhouse, may be trusted to supply. The writer of the *London Quarterly* article suggested that Mr. Alexander Ireland, one of Hunt's very few surviving friends, should undertake the task of "memorising" him, and the suggestion was a good one. But it is believed that Mr. Monkhouse, like many another literary worker, has had the advantage of Mr. Ireland's aid.

A young man, eager for literary fame, once published—of course at his own expense—a very harmless volume, and at the end of twelve months found that the scanty sales had ceased, and that a large "remainder" was thrown upon his hands. A humorous friend suggested to him that this remainder should be put upon the market and advertised as "a new edition, with all the objectionable passages restored." Some adumbration of this brilliant idea seems to have rested on the fertile brain of Dr. Robertson Nicoll, who tempts to this month's *Bookman* by an appetising item in the table of contents, "The Suppressed Works of Rudyard Kipling." As readers of the *Bookman* may imagine, the works in question are not in the least objectionable. Indeed, there is no reason why they should either have been suppressed.

An unpublished letter from Dr. Livingstone will appear in "The Young Man" for February. It was addressed to his intimate friend, Dr. James Hamilton, and was brought to England by Stanley. For the same number the Archdeacon of London will write on "The Ideal Theatre." Dr. Sinclair is by no means opposed to the stage, and considers that "something like an ideal level has been reached by the Lyceum in the hands of my friend Mr. Irving."

Messrs. Archibald Constable and Co. have introduced a most admirable new feature into their publications. Each volume contains a printed slip bearing a couple of catalogue slips describing itself, and so perforated as to be torn off in a moment. The buyer may then enter his purchase neatly and accurately in a moment in his catalogue, or he may take an instantaneous record of the book if he finds it in anybody else's library. The cost of these slips is trifling, the advertisement valuable to the publisher, and the convenience to the owner very great. The little addition ought to be found in every work of permanent interest, and one only wonders why no publisher thought of it before.

M. Albert Delpit's death will cause a great deal of regret in French literary society, where he was universally liked and esteemed. He was born some forty-three years ago at New Orleans, but was educated in Paris, where among his class-mates was Paul Deroulède, with whom he remained always very intimate. Although he fought in the Franco-Prussian War, and spoke English very imperfectly, he was an American citizen in law till a few months ago, when he took out letters of French naturalisation. He was no mean poet; and, indeed, some verses of his on the war gained him the Montyon Academy prize in 1872. But his great hit was made with a novel entitled "Le Fils de Coralie," a story almost as well known abroad as "La Dame aux Camélias." It was very successful on the stage. Dealing with much the same problem as Dumas' famous novel, "Le Fils de Coralie" gives a curious though remarkably true picture of French provincial life, with its prejudices and intense respectability, as opposed to Parisian *laisser aller*. Besides this story, M. Delpit wrote a great number of novels, and was a constant contributor to all the leading French reviews and newspapers.

A self-drawn outline of Zola's character may be gained from perusing the page of a confession-book in which he has been persuaded to answer a number of leading questions as to his likes and dislikes. Thus we learn that the author of "La Débâcle's" favourite quality in a man is kindliness, and in a woman tenderness, and this notwithstanding that many of his heroines are distinguished by strange ferocity. His favourite colour is red; his best-loved flower the rose. He thinks that his greatest misfortune would be to doubt, and he would wish to be always in a condition of good health. He has a horror of anything obscure, and likes to hear and understand everything quite clearly. His favourite hero is the *piou-piou* (Tommy Atkins) who lets himself be killed in battle without quite knowing why. He would like to die suddenly, and his motto is *Nulla dies sine lineâ*. M. Zola writes a firm round hand, not unlike George Meredith's and Victor Hugo's.

The Gilchrist Trustees have just published a very interesting report written by Miss Elizabeth Healey (the daughter of a distinguished official in the Science and Art Department), who, as the Gilchrist travelling scholar, spent three months in Sweden, Norway, and Denmark inquiring into their systems of education, especially with reference to the instruction of girls and adults. Miss Healey confines herself to reporting on what she saw in the schools she visited, and she gives some very interesting facts.

FICTION.—There has been some curiosity as to the authorship of a short anonymous novel called "An Exquisite Fool," which appeared in the autumn. To gratify this curiosity, it may be stated that Miss E. Frances Poynter, who has already written several novels, is the author. Miss Poynter is well known for her novels "Among the Hills," "Madame de Presnel," and "The Wooing of Catherine."—Messrs. Osgood and McIlvaine, who rarely publish three-volume novels, are shortly to issue one by Edmondo de Amicis, the Italian writer. The title is "The Romance of a Schoolmaster," and the translation has been made by Mary E. Craig. This is Amicis' first novel, and in the Italian it has been exceedingly successful.—"Tess of the D'Urbervilles" has now been in active demand at the booksellers and the libraries for fully fourteen months. No novel of recent years has had a run at all approaching this.

FRAGMENTS.—Mr. Rudyard Kipling's next volume will in a way be sister to "Plain Tales from the Hills." All the stories included in the volume will not, however, be laid in India.—The Duke of Argyll's scientific work, "The Unseen Foundations of Society," is expected to be ready within a week. The Duke defines his book as an "examination of the fallacies and failures of economic science due to neglected elements."—A new edition of Moltke's "Franco-German War" is soon to be issued by Messrs. Osgood and McIlvaine. The edition has been thoroughly revised by Mr. Archibald Forbes, who, of course, if only for the part he played in it as "special," is an authority on the war.—"Prometheus Bound," in Lord Carnarvon's translation, has just been published by Mr. John Murray. Lord Carnarvon, it will be remembered, has already translated the "Agamemnon."

LONDON STREET MUSIC.—Yesterday, at the meeting of the St. Giles-in-the-Fields District Board of Works, at their offices, 197, High Holborn, Mr. Henry Cooper in the chair, Mr. T. H. Devereux Berridge moved, and Mr. J. Neale seconded, that the board earnestly co-operate with the Vestry of St. Mary Abbots, Kensington, by memorial to the London County Council and legislative action in Parliament in obtaining a more efficient control over itinerant street musicians and street criers, a nuisance and annoyance which of late had rendered life in nearly every part of the metropolis almost intolerable. Mr. C. Fitzroy Doll proposed an amendment that no action be taken in the matter, for he did not think these poor but industrious vendors of flowers, fruit, newspapers, and whatever other small articles of ware they hawked and cried, should be interfered with, on the ground they were honestly working for a living. Mr. P. Valentine seconded the amendment, which was cordially supported by Mr. J. Forbes-Robertson, who looked upon London street music as having a strong educative influence on the poorer classes. The amendment was carried.

MR. GLADSTONE'S RETURN.

ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION.

Mr. Gladstone's arrival at Folkestone yesterday afternoon was witnessed by several hundred spectators, who lined the quays and approaches to the Harbour Railway Station. In spite of a bitterly-cold easterly wind which swept along the quays, there were quite as many ladies as gentlemen present, the greater part of whom had stood disputing their positions, and defying the weather for an hour or more before the Albert Victor arrived. The steamer, in charge of Captain Hill, left Boulogne harbour at half-past two, Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone retiring at once to their cabin. The sea was very little disturbed for a mile or two after leaving Boulogne, but after clearing the shelter of Cape Grisnez the full force of the fierce easterly wind which had increased towards a gale during the day was felt. It was bitterly cold, and there was a nasty sea. It was not until about twenty minutes to four when the boat should have reached Folkestone that she was sighted, and she entered the habour at quarter-past four. As soon as she entered the mouth of the harbour into which she was cautiously steered a cheer went up from the pier-head and again when she reached the landing-stage opposite the Custom House.

As soon as the vessel put alongside Mr. Gladstone's party were espied on the main deck, a few seconds later Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone, preceded by Mr. Armitstead, made their appearance on the upper deck, and immediately crossed the gangway. Mr. Gladstone, who was looking extremely well considering his rough voyage, was closely wrapped in a muffler and fur travelling coat. As soon as he came on deck cheer after cheer was raised and continued till he reached the station. In acknowledgment of the respectful demonstration shown him Mr. Gladstone persisted in walking hat in hand from the boat to the station, although several ejaculations of "Put your hat on" were raised. There was no formal reception, at Mr. Gladstone's special request, but a number of the hon. gentleman's local admirers were allowed on the platform, while the other side of the station was crowded. The Rev. Russell Wakefield, vicar of Sandgate, placed a bouquet of flowers in the carriage, and some light refreshment in the form of tea was also handed in. Upon reaching the saloon placed at their disposal, Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone took their seats, and remained seated until the train started about five minutes later. Sir James Carmichael, who happened to be present, being the only person with whom Mr. Gladstone exchanged a few words. As the train moved out of the station there was a great deal of cheering.

The special train which conveyed Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone, Miss Helen Gladstone, and Mr. Armitstead, arrived at Charing-cross at twenty-four minutes past six o'clock last evening. The Premier, who seemed to be in full possession of health and vigour, was met on the arrival platform by Mr. Arnold Morley, M.P., Mr. Herbert Gladstone, M.P., Mr. Bryce, M.P., Sir Algernon West, Dr. Ginsburg, and Mr. Alfred Willis, solicitor to the South-Eastern Railway Company, who represented Sir Edward Watkin, M.P. Mr. Gladstone shook hands cordially with his friends, and Mrs. Gladstone, who carried a handsome bouquet, was assisted out of the train by Sir Algernon West. Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone having entered a brougham that was in waiting for them, were driven away to Downing-street amid the cheers of the crowd that had assembled outside the barrier at the end of the platform.

Mr. Gladstone was much fatigued last evening after his continuous journey from Biarritz, especially during the rough passage from Boulogne to Folkestone, when he had to lie down. He dined privately in Downing-street, and retired early to his private room. He will rest till a late hour to-day, the Council having been fixed for three o'clock in order to afford him time for rest. All the members of the Cabinet will be present at to-day's Council.

NO CRINOLINES.

THE EDITOR OF THE DAILY CHRONICLE.

SIR,—There is very little doubt that the unsightly and dangerous crinoline is rapidly coming into fashion, in spite of the horror with which women of all classes in the United Kingdom regard it. It is hard enough that women should not have the making of fashions, and the power to say what they will wear; but it is a well-known fact that these things are ordered by a small clique of men. It is, however, within the power of all women to determine what they will not wear, and for the furtherance of that object I am forming a league, which will, if it is made sufficiently public, entirely put down the adoption of the crinoline. Without a single exception every woman to whom I have spoken on the subject is strongly in favour of the movement I suggest.

May I ask you to give space in your columns for this letter, by which means I feel sure that thousands of sensible women will be led to join "The No-Crinoline League." Membership will involve no expense or trouble, beyond that of sending me a letter or post-card—the latter preferred—bearing the writer's name and address and the following promise:—"I hereby pledge myself to do all in my power to prevent the wearing of crinolines." The cards or letters should be addressed to "John Strange Winter," Spring House, Merton, S.W. I propose to publish a list of the names and addresses.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN STRANGE WINTER.

Jan. 10.

RECEIVED TO-DAY.

THE LIFE OF JESUS. By David Friedrich Strauss. Translated from the Fourth German Edition by George Eliot. Second Edition. (Swan Sonnenschein and Co.)

CHRIST IN THE CENTURIES, AND OTHER SERMONS. By Dr. A. M. Fairbairn, M.A. (Preachers of the Age. Sampson Low, Marston and Co., Limited. 3s. 6d.)

FRENCH ART. By W. C. Brownell. (David Nutt, Strand.)

LIFE AND TIMES OF SIR GEORGE GREY. By W. L. Rees and L. Rees. Third and cheaper Edition, in one volume. (Hutchinson and Co., Paternoster-square.)

A ROMANCE OF MODERN LONDON. By Curtis Yorke. Second Edition. (Jarrold and Sons, Paternoster-buildings. 3s. 6d.)

STORIES ON THE COLLECTS FOR EVERY SUNDAY AND HOLY DAY THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. With Questions and Answers. By C. A. Jones and the Rev. S. G. Lines. In two volumes. New Edition. (J. S. Virtue and Co. 3s. 6d. per vol.)

A PRIMER OF CHURCH FELLOWSHIP. For use in the Congregational Churches, Baptist and Independent. By W. Pierce and C. S. Horne, M.A. (Holder and Stoughton.)

DOROTHY PENROSE. A Novel in three volumes. By Mrs. J. Milton Pollitt. (Eden, Remington and Co. 31s. 6d.)

THE MAN WITH SEVEN HEARTS, AND OTHER STORIES. By Arthur Burrell. (Elliot Stock.)

THE TEACHER'S SYNOPTICAL SYLLABUS. With Reference Tables, Maps, Plans, Diagrams, &c., for Blackboard Purposes. By the Rev. Charles Neil, M.A. With an Introduction by the Ven. W. M. Sinclair, D.D. (James Nisbet. 15s.)

THE CLERGY LIST, 1893. (Kelly and Co., Great Queen-street, Lincoln's-inn-fields.)

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY. Mineral Resources of the United States. (Washington: Government Printing Office.)

THE SHOP HOURS ACT, 1892, WITH NOTES AND A FORM. By J. B. V. Marchant. (Effingham Wilson and Co. 1s.)

ARMAND DE L'ISLE. By A. M. Rose. (Eden, Remington and Co. 3s. 6d.)

[*Publishers are requested to state the prices of books sent for review.*]

THE EMPLOYMENT OF EPILEPTICS.—The scheme for providing epileptics of both sexes with proper employment has now so far advanced that a public meeting will be held at the Mansion House on Jan. 25, at three o'clock, when Sir Andrew Clark, Sir James Crichton Browne, the Lord Chancellor, Professor Ferrier, and others will address the meeting. Out of the £10,000 required the sum of £2,000 has already been subscribed without any public appeal, and it is confidently expected the remainder will be forthcoming.

TO OVERCOME WEAKNESS AND DEPRESSION.—Pepper's Quinine and Iron Tonic gives new life, appetite, strength, energy. Cures neuralgia, indigestion, nerve debility. Pepper's Quinine essential to health. 2s. 6d. Bottles, everywhere.—[ADVT.]

SPEECH BY A CENTENARIAN.

Marlborough Rooms were crowded to excess yesterday afternoon, when, on the invitation of the President and Council of the Society for the Study of Inebriety, a large number of ladies and gentlemen interested in the temperance movement met to celebrate the hundredth birthday of one of the vice-presidents, Dr. Severin Wielobycki.

Dr. NORMAN KERR, who presided, stated that Dr. Wielobycki, who was the son of a Polish judge, was born in the province of Volhynia on Jan. 8, 1793. His college career began at the University of Vilna. He fought for the independence of his Fatherland in thirty-six battles as a captain in the Volhynian Volunteer Cavalry Regiment. When the unavailing struggle was over he fled to Galicia, and afterwards took refuge in Cracow, but on the issue of an order for all Polish refugees to leave the country he came to Edinburgh, where he graduated in 1841 at the university—then being forty-eight. The doctor spoke five languages—Polish, Russian, French, German, and English. He was a naturalised British subject. After graduating, he practised first in Nova Scotia for ten years, and then retired to London, twenty-seven years ago. Till two years ago he was on the top of Primrose-hill every morning by five o'clock. Since then he had had two attacks of influenza, the last of which left rheumatic sequelæ. Though now bent and feeble, he still went out a little almost daily, and rose by six o'clock every morning. His sight was excellent, but he was very deaf, an infirmity which originated in exposure to the severity of the weather during his military life. At ninety he had given a lengthy address on abstinence. He had never used tobacco, and had been an abstainer from all intoxicants for over sixty years, and a vegetarian for seventeen years. The doctor had taken an active part in public affairs, having among other offices been a member of the Vestry of St. Marylebone from 1872 to 1875. There were present, said Dr. Kerr, two other medical abstainers, all three under his care, whose united ages were 276 years. The president concluded by presenting an illuminated address in a carved frame to Dr. Wielobycki.

Canon DUCKWORTH, in a few well-chosen words, presented an address from the Homes for Inebriates Association.

Miss WILLARD, the president of the World's Women's Christian Temperance Union, said that she would not attempt to pronounce the doctor's name, but she would call him St. Severin—their cold water saint. She believed they were all quite attached to Poland, because it was a romantic, poetical and beautiful country. It would be free some day, and she had a notion that the doctor would look down and see it, and think how he had fought its thirty-six battles.

Mr. BOWEN ROWLANDS, M.P., speaking of temperance legislation, ventured to assure his audience that the efforts of reformers in Parliament would not only assume a more definite form in the near future, but would probably be crowned with a greater measure of success than had befallen them in the past.

Lady HENRY SOMERSET briefly expressed her congratulations to Dr. Wielobycki, and presented him in the absence of his wife with a bouquet of flowers and a portrait of himself in a handsome frame.

Dr. DAWSON BURNS presented an address from the Committee and Council of the London Auxiliary of the United Kingdom Alliance.

Mr. Sutherland, representing the Independent Order of Good Templars of the London District, Sir W. Charley, Mr. T. Hudson, of the National Temperance League, Mr. Shirley, of the United Kingdom Band of Hope Union, Mr. Oldfield, and Mr. J. E. Woolley, also tendered their congratulations to the venerable doctor.

Dr. WIELOBYCKI, in reply, said:—President, ladies, and gentlemen,—In order to live a hundred years and more, it requires to know very much how to live carefully. The first thing is not to take intoxicants, because, if even small doses are taken every day, they bring disease and death afterwards. They affect the brain and nervous system, congests the liver and kidneys, and causes apoplexy. The second thing is not to use tobacco—(cheers)—which is a very poisonous thing. It injures the eyes and causes blindness. In nine out of ten cases it brings on cancer in the lips, it stops the growth of young men, blunts the nerves in middle age, and causes paralysis in an old man. The third thing is not to take much animal flesh—it causes many diseases. Flesh may contain parasites; it may be diseased and cause consumption and other disorders. Mr. President, I am very much obliged to you and the council for the exertions that you have made, and to this intelligent assembly which has come to congratulate me on my centenary. It is my prayer that you may all live a hundred years and more, that you may be blessed with a continuance of happy and useful years of this life and glory through Jesus Christ hereafter. (Cheers.)

Dr. Norman Kerr afterwards delivered a short lecture on "Inebriety and Jurisprudence." Musical selections were given during the afternoon, to which Madame Dumay D'Arc, the Misses Ladoiska and Edith Kerr, Miss Susie Greatorex, and Miss May Thorp contributed. Some of the choir boys of Emmanuel Church, Maida-hill were also present and sung several songs under the direction of the Rev. A. A. Ost, accompanied by Mr. J. Parry Cole.

CITY CHILDREN AT THE GUILDHALL.

The ancient Guildhall of the City of London has seldom been the scene of a more animated or successful gathering than that which took place last evening, under the auspices of Mr. Alderman Treloar and a committee of gentlemen interested in the ward of Farringdon Without, who had invited the children from every school in the ward to take part in an entertainment which had been specially arranged in their behalf. Something like 2,500 boys and girls responded to the invitation of Mr. Treloar and his friends, and the juvenile visitors, who were as punctual as children generally are when pleasure is the order of the day, literally swarmed over the sacred precincts of the civic headquarters, the use of which had been granted for the purpose by a vote of the Corporation. They were greeted on their arrival by a selection of music given by the band of the City Police, and it was interesting to witness the speed with which they made for those lower regions in which a plentiful tea had been provided. This important item in the program having been successfully carried through, attention was turned to the list of amusements which had been arranged; and whilst a large number of the youngsters, with not a few children of larger growth, looked on in pleased amusement what time the stirring drama of Punch and Judy was played at both ends of the large hall, others patronised the side-shows which had been arranged in various parts of the building. The council chamber, sacred to memories of many a long-sustained debate, and in which the London County Council did most of its initial work, was given up to minstrelsy and "niggers." Elsewhere there were performing clowns, "Les Fleurs de Lys" with songs, "A Fickle Pair" by Mr. Penton, and "The Huguenot" by Signor Meliba. And then, just after the Guildhall clock had chimed the hour of five, there came the pièce de résistance of the afternoon. This was described as "a rollicking, screaming, Shadow Pantomime," bearing the style and title of "Harlequin Hi Tiddly Hi Ti; or, Knocked 'em in the Old Kent-road," and as it was arranged and produced under the direction of Mr. Geoffrey Thorn, the author of one is afraid to say how many pantomimes of a far more pretentious character, there was little doubt as to its success. Mr. W. H. Williamson, one of the executive committee, mounted a rostrum in the centre of the hall, and by dint of much exertion, with the assistance of an auctioneer's hammer, reduced his audience to comparative silence by the time the overture was completed. Then ensued half an hour of uproarious fun, which was mightily enjoyed. The *dramatis personæ* were as follow:—Clown, Mr. Harry Randall; Pantaloon, Mr. Tom Costelloe; Harlequin, Mr. Cecil Barnard; Columbine, Miss Nellie Navette; Policeman, Mr. F. H. Cheesewright; with tinkers, tailors, soldiers, and roughs by Messrs. Welton Dale, Reginald Groome, Charles Conyers, Brickworth, J. Proctor, C. Cheesewright, W. St. Leger, W. Hedgecock, and W. Dear; the properties, dresses, &c., being kindly lent by Sir Augustus Harris.

The signal was then given for the elder guests to assemble in the Library for the purpose of welcoming the Lord Mayor and other civic dignitaries. These arrived in good time, accompanied by their officers in full state. The Lord Mayor was accompanied by the Lady Mayoress, the Sheriffs and their ladies, Mr. Treloar (Alderman of the Ward of Farringdon Without), Mrs. Treloar, Mr. H. J. Thurgood (hon. secretary to the committee), and Mrs. Thurgood, Messrs. Pannell, Bedford, Manners, Williamson, Turner, Pontifex, Beckford, Gaze, Slater, Herbert, Bates, Young, Sandy, Lobb, Lill, and others interested in the gathering; and as soon as they had taken their seats a procession of the children, headed by the Police band, passed in review order before the civic chief. The boys were headed by the banner of St. Sepulchre, followed by St. Dunstan's in the West, Greystoke-place, St. Bartholomew the Great, St. Andrew's, Holborn, and St. Etheldreda; whilst the order of the girls showed St. Etheldreda in the van, followed by St. Sepulchre, Greystoke-place, St. Andrew's, St. Bartholomew's, and St. Bride's. Each received a kindly salute from the Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs, the City Marshal, in his gay uniform and cocked hat, coming in for a large share of the deference which was no doubt intended for the Lord Mayor himself. After the reception the Lord Mayor and party proceeded to the gallery of the large hall, from which Mr. Alderman Knill delivered a kindly and cheery address to the children, in which he contrived to compound the story of Jack and the Beanstalk with certain traditions relating to Ludgate-hill. His lordship was listened to with great attention, and at the conclusion of this part of the program the children sang "God Save the Queen" and were dismissed, if not exactly with a blessing, at least with a present, as a momento of their pleasant gathering in the Guildhall of London's City.

CONSTITUTIONAL WEAKNESS.—Mr. Harness' combined Electropathic Belt and Suspender effectually controls all functions. W. H. Elliott, Esq., 17, Abingdon-villas, Kensington, W., writes as follows:—"A little over three years ago I was suffering from constitutional weakness. It was such a bad case that I had no pleasure in life or in living. I was always complaining of being unwell. I at last made up my mind to try one of your appliances, and now I feel as strong as any man. All the old symptoms have disappeared entirely. All health-seekers should remember that consultations are free, either personally or by letter, at the Electropathic Institute, 52, Oxford-st., London, W. Call if possible, or write for pamphlet.—[ADVT.]

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

RESULT OF WEST DERBY POLLING.

The polling for the election of a representative of the West Derby Division of Liverpool, the vacancy having been caused by the death of the Hon. W. H. Cross (C), took place yesterday. The registered voters in the constituency number 9,971, and at the general election in July last Mr. Cross won the seat by a majority of 1,182, the figures being:—Cross (C), 4,107; Smith (L), 2,925. The candidates on the present occasion were Mr. Walter H. Long, parliamentary secretary to the Local Government Board in the last administration, who had been the unanimous choice of the Conservative and Unionist party, and Mr. D. Shilton Collin, Liberal and Home Ruler and advanced temperance reformer. He is in favour of Sunday closing, a full measure of local option, and no compensation for extinction of licenses. A good many personalities were indulged in in the course of the contest, but the polling yesterday was carried on quickly and steadily throughout the day, and there was little, if any, excitement round the polling places. The most animated scene was witnessed in the evening, between the hours of six and eight o'clock, when a large number of working men, released from their daily labour, recorded their votes. At the close of the poll, the ballot-boxes were taken to the municipal offices, where the counting of the votes took place. The result, which was declared about ten o'clock, was as follows:—

Mr. Walter H. Long (C.)	3,632
Mr. D. Shilton Collin (L.) ...	2,275
Majority	1,357

Mr. Walter Hume Long, of Rood Ashton, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, and Wraxhall, Bath, is the eldest son of the late Mr. Richard Penruddocke Long, by his marriage with Charlotte Ann, only daughter of the late Right Hon. William Wentworth Fitzwilliam Hume-Dick, of Hume Wood, Baltinglass, county Wicklow, and was born July 13, 1854. He married in 1878 Lady Dorothy Blanche Boyle, fourth daughter of the ninth Earl of Cork and Orrery. From August 1886 to the late change of Government he was Parliamentary Secretary to the Local Government Board. Mr. Long represented North Wiltshire from April 9, 1880, to November 1885, and the Eastern, or Devizes division of the county from that date to July last, when he was defeated by Mr. Hobhouse.

BURNLEY.—Mr. Alderman G. Whiteley (U.), who at the General Election unsuccessfully contested Northwich, will stand against the Hon. P. Stanhope (L.).

HUDDERSFIELD.—The Conservative and Liberal Unionist Associations of Huddersfield held meetings last night. At the Conservative gathering a motion was submitted in favour of Sir Joseph Crosland, and carried. A deputation from the Unionists afterwards arrived, and announced that their association had decided that, in the event of Sir Joseph Crosland being chosen, they would support his candidature. Sir Joseph then consented to stand, and spoke at length. At a meeting of the Liberal Two Hundred a committee of twenty-four was appointed to select a candidate.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE (SOUTH).—At a meeting held at Towcester yesterday afternoon, the Hon. E. Douglas Pennant, son of Lord Penrhyn, was unanimously elected the Conservative candidate for South Northamptonshire. Mr. Pennant is one of the masters of the Grafton hounds.

ROCHESTER.—It is rumoured that Lord Cranborne (C.) will be asked to stand for this constituency. The name of Sir Forrest Fulton, Q.C., has also been mentioned.

WALSALL.—The executive committees of the Walsall Conservative Association and the Liberal Unionist Association have unanimously confirmed the arrangements made with Mr. C. T. Ritchie to contest the seat in the Unionist interest, and the right hon. gentleman has accepted an invitation to attend a meeting of the joint committees to-morrow evening and to deliver an address. On the same night Sir A. D. Hayter will attend a meeting of the executive of the Liberal Association.

PROPOSED WIDENING OF CHEAPSIDE.

A meeting of the City Commission of Sewers was held at Guildhall yesterday, Mr. Alderman Treloar presiding. An influentially-signed memorial from owners, ratepayers, and traders in Cheapside, Newgate-street, St. Paul's-churchyard, and the neighbourhood was presented in support of an improvement at the western end of Cheapside. They referred to the great increase of traffic near the General Post Office and the Peel Statue, and to the almost permanent block of vehicles, and the great danger to pedestrians. They considered that the widening of the thoroughfare there by the removal of the few houses between the eastern end of Newgate-street and St. Paul's Churchyard would effect a vast public boon, and could never be provided more cheaply or reasonably than at present.—Mr. Rawlinson (Pearsall and Co.), who spoke on behalf of the memorialists, said the increase and congestion of traffic had been especially marked since the extension of the Post Office, and the establishment of the Parcel Post. The number of accidents to life and limb at that spot was appalling, and the injuries to horses had been very numerous.—The memorial was referred to a committee.—Mr. H. H. Bridgman moved that as the constantly-increasing traffic of Cheapside rendered an improvement at its western end between Newgate-street and St. Paul's-churchyard an urgent public necessity, it be referred to the Finance and Improvement Committee to consider and report as to the best plan to be adopted, and the probable cost of effecting it. He pointed out that the improvement had been recommended as far back as twenty-seven years since by Colonel Haywood the engineer, but had been delayed owing to the cost, and to the more pressing urgency of other works. Now that Ludgate-hill was finished no spot in the City needed improvement so much. It was computed that as many as 30,000 vehicles and 100,000 pedestrians passed there daily. He was aware that the cost would be at least £100,000, but he thought they might reasonably apply to the London County Council for a contribution, and they also had a claim on the Government, inasmuch as the great block in the traffic was occasioned by the exigencies of the Post Office business.—Mr. A. A. Wood seconded the motion.—Mr. W. H. Williamson said they could scarcely rely on any contribution from the Government or the County Council, neither of whom had any sympathy with the City, and the citizens would hardly care to bear the entire cost of what was a great metropolitan work.—Mr. George Shaw said the unfairness of the County Council towards the City might be evidenced by their refusal to pay one farthing towards the widening of Ludgate-hill.—Mr. Bridgman's motion was put and carried with two dissentients.—The Commission then adjourned.

CRUEL HARDSHIP.

THE EDITOR OF THE DAILY CHRONICLE.

SIR,—As many look up to *The Daily Chronicle* to protect them from arbitrary officials, I should like to point out that great care and consideration should be given to the case of the poor who may be judged wrongly to be suffering under infectious disease.

It is reported that at the Fulham Vestry on the 7th ult., during the discussion of a mistake made in sending a poor woman to the Smallpox Hospital whose complaint was not smallpox, Dr. Cooney, the medical officer of health, stated that "it was a common thing to make these mistakes. In London last year there were 462 mistakes in the diagnosis of infectious diseases, from seven to ten per cent. of the total number of infectious cases, and of these 102 died."

Officials are apt to assume that they have the power to compel immediate removal. That is not so. Both under the Public Health Act, 1875, and the London Act of 1891, compulsion can only be exerted by an order of a magistrate. As the above mistakes were evidently the result of either incompetency or precipitation, it is not too much to say that deplorable cruelty and suffering may have been the result. One shudders to think how many deaths of the 102 fatal cases may have been the result of such mismanagement.

Perhaps medical officers will bear in mind that, if death in any way result from their carelessness or incompetency, they are liable to a charge of manslaughter by the exasperated and bereaved relatives of any one afflicted with a rash sent to the Smallpox Hospital. It will be poor consolation to the unhappy subject of the law to be described, as in the case before the Fulham Board, as "a deserving victim of civilisation." No one supposes that the wealthy will be affected by such laws. You will, I know, contend that the greatest consideration and tenderness should attend the application of them to the poor. You will inform these last that they are not altogether at the mercy of parish officials, but need only obey the order of a justice of the peace. By him, let us hope, the consideration we desire will be enforced.—Truly yours,

Jan. 10. PERSONAL RIGHTS.

A SHIPWRECKED CREW.—Yesterday the Royal Mail steamship Odin arrived in the Tyne from Christiania, having on board nine of the crew of the Sunderland steamer Fernside, which was wrecked near the entrance to Christiania Fjord, while on a voyage from Odessa to Christiania. When the crew abandoned the vessel the weather was very stormy, a snowstorm prevailing. They suffered severely from the cold before being picked up.

KIMBERLEY EXHIBITION.—Our readers will be pleased to hear that a gold, a silver, and a bronze medal have been awarded the well-known Montserrat Lime Fruit Juice, Cordials, and Sauce—the highest awards possible.—[ADVT.]

RESULT OF THE MISSING WORD COMPETITIONS.—Headache, indigestion, mental disorders, &c. Avoid these and all the ill effects arising from errors of diet, &c., by taking Bragg's pure Charcoal Biscuits, Powder, and Lozenges. Sold by all chemists.—[ADVT.]

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