

SLOWER REACTION TIME.

"It is the proven fact that alcohol lengthens the simple reaction time and still more does it lengthen the reaction time when factors of discrimination or judgment are involved. The classical experiments are those of the world-famous Professor Kraepelin. Towards the end of the nineteenth century he studied the matter. He was, like the overwhelming majority of doctors at that date, a believer in alcohol as a 'stimulant' and 'tonic,' and so forth. He found the facts 'very otherwise.' Always the speed and accuracy of response are impaired by alcohol. But the most remarkable fact of all is that the subject of the experiment imagines himself to be doing better than usual. The cold clock, the judgment of which is uninfluenced by the 'mockery,' knows and shows the truth. Similarly the batsmen, after lunch, even with a very little alcohol in his brain, reacts more slowly, mistakes a yorker for a half-volley, or thinks he can carry the boundary and hits the ball into the hands of the outfield.

"Cricket is the king of games, but only a game; and if you spoil your play by this means or that you drop out of the side, sooner or later. Driving a motor-car on a public road is not a game, though many think it no more. The good driver is he who has a quick reaction time, with keen discrimination and good judgment—not least of the speed of moving objects, as when one is playing cricket or tennis. It is absolutely certain, beyond all question, that alcohol impairs these qualities. In what doses? It begins to do so at once and in some degree even in doses so small that no one would trouble to drink them except for experimental purposes. Lives and limbs are thus lost, all over the world, in large and rapidly increasing numbers, every day in the year. Is the driver, in these cases, drunk? Often he is drunk according to the criteria applied at present, and likely to be accepted or proposed by the new Committee. Often he is not drunk according to any criteria which are likely to be proposed or accepted by public opinion—that 'chaos of prejudices,' as Huxley called it long ago in another connection. But it was the alcohol in his brain that cost the

few hundredths of a second in putting on the brake, or turning the steering wheel; or that made him think he could get through a gap when he could not; or that permitted the fatal speed of travel which his sober judgment would have rightly feared. Was he drunk? Evidently the question, as it stands, is meaningless and impossible. Was he intoxicated? Yes, as surely as, and far more disastrously than, if he had been dead drunk in the tonneau and being conveyed home by a sober driver.—From the "London Spectator."

SCOTTISH CHURCHES AND TEMPERANCE.

In submitting his report to the Church of Scotland General Assembly, Dr. Swan, of Leith, spoke of alcohol as "that substance which has got out of place in the world, and which, like a lion escaped from a menagerie, must be brought back to its true place again." Dr. MacGilchrist, seconding the Assembly's motion, said, "One of the aims and effects of the periodical local option polls is that they educate the people. It is not wasteful to spend some money if the end will be a healthier, happier, soberer Scotland." Dr. McCallum, the Moderator, said that intemperance had not only claimed thousands of victims from those without the Church, it had struck down her fairest sons, and converted the sweetest and best homes into places of unhappiness and want: it had even swept her ministrants from the holy table.

In moving the adoption of the Temperance Committee's report in the United Free Church Assembly, the Rev. James Muir said it was a scandal that the Church had the power to eliminate the drink traffic and did not do it. Dr. Maclean Watt said no Church could be a soul-saving Church that was not a sober Church. The biggest work they had to do in Scotland to-day was to see that whatever else the public house was, it was not to have added attractions so that the women and children would be drawn in. No decent woman wanted Lord Salvason's improved public house. No decent woman wanted her child to grow accustomed to it.—"Exchange."

PROGRESS IN OTHER LANDS.

In Burmah, a petition in favour of Local Option secured 5,000 signatures.

At a Buddhist Congress in Tokio (Japan) a resolution was passed calling upon all Buddhists to work for the abolition of drinking and opium smoking. More than 1,000 Buddhists were present at this Congress from China, Korea, Formosa, and Japan.

The W.C.T.U. in Japan has just gained 1,000 new members as a result of the membership campaign. It now numbers 7,000 members. It has launched a Temperance Education Campaign, which will reach every school child in Japan, and it has also created a strong sentiment against the licensing of new Vice Districts. 1,000! new members! Wake up, New Zealand! Don't let our sisters in the sunrise land outnumber us.

In South Africa, the Cape Province has increased its membership by 281, the Transvaal reports 4 new Unions and 345 increase in members; Natal has 2 new Unions, a membership of 407, and 516 Little White Ribboners. The total membership in South Africa is 4,303.

THE FEET OF THE CHILDREN.

(A. T. Williams.)

When I am old, too old to run,
And stand where vauntingly I trod;
When children point at me in fun,
Since to be old is to be odd;
When I no more can glory in
The precious thrill and glow of life;
When all her music seems mere din,
And echoes of unworthy strife;
When I am old, too old to live,
Lord, who hast lightened all my load,
One blessing more, I pray Thee, give—
Oh, grant me as I tread Thy road,
To smooth away some shard or stone,
That else might bruise these children's feet;
Lord, let me stumble on alone,
So they, erect, may walk the street.

Young Bragger: "My Grandfather built the Rocky Mountains."
Unsympathetic Listener: "Aw, that's nothing. Do you know the Dead Sea? Well, my grandfather killed it."—"Yale Record."