THE DISORDER OF THE DAY.

Indigestion and how to overcome it by the Tonic Treatment.

"Many a meal I have missed rather than put up with torture afterwards from Indigestion." This simple remark conveys a vivid impression of the misery affecting victims of Dyspepsia, who are to be reckoned by tens of thousands.

All sufferers from Indigestion should remember that the old-fashioned way of tinkering with purgatives is being discarded as useless, for such violent measures more often aggravate the malady. The modern method of dispelling Indigestion and stomach disorders is to tone up the stomach to perform naturally and without distress its functions of digesting food and nourishing the body.

The effective TONIC-TREATMENT is provided by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, which, by their direct action on the blood and organs of digestion, supply the tonic help needed to make the appetite keen and the stomach naturally strong and efficient. Right to the point speaks Mr. W. Corfield, of 3, Canthorn Passage, Frankwell, Shrewsbury. "When I was a victim of severe Indigestion," he states, "Dr. Williams' Pink Pills made me well.

"I was punished cruelly after every bite of food, and missed many a meal rather than put up with the torture afterwards.

"I was for ever trying different diets and medicines, but never got any real relief. Almost all the prepared foods made me bilious; I had dreadful nausea with headache after taking any of these.

"Also I suffered from nervousness and dizziness; and had had pains across my loins, chest, and shoulders. My stomach only got weaker from all the aperients I was given. Flatulence, heartburn, and nausea troubled me all the time. Then a friend told me that the only medicine worth taking for Indigestion was Dr. Williams' Pink Pills; so I tried these Pills.

"After steadily taking about one box of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills I could eat better, and as I persevered with the Pills I gained weight and colour. Soon the heartburn and palpitation left me; then Dr. Williams' Pink Pills took away every trace of Indigestion and Nervousness. They are a splendid tonic for the nerves and stomach weaknesses."

Mr. Wm. Corfield.

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Dr. Williams' Pink Pills have cured innumerable cases like the above; also Anæmia, Rheumatism, and Nervous Ills. Post free, 2s. 9d. one box, or 13s. 9d. for six from Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., 46, Holborn Viaduct, London, E.C., also of dealers; but at shops insist on having only Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People.

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To GENUINE must bear signature Brent Good

Health and Home.

[BY DR. ROBERT WATSON.]

THE ETERNAL QUESTION.

An elderly correspondent, a pharmaceutical chemist, writing from the South of England, criticises my recent article on some simple substitutes for the first-aid use of alcohol. He touches me up more in sorrow than in anger, for he sympathises with my zeal, but he is convinced that my "experience of pharmacy is that of the surgery. A pharmacist has, as a rule, no use for liquor ammon. aromat. (the cheap, safe stimulant I suggested); it is only in use as a matter of economy by surgeons who dispense their own physic; at present," he continues, "I know one exception to this—the only one I have met—a worthy doctor, who avoids the use of alcohol, even in tinctures, where possible; but he is the only one I have ever known. Is it not better to advise well-known medicines, as 'Sal Volatile'? For even the liquor ammon. aromat. may contain some alcohol, and it certainly will not be bought at a penny per ounce, as you suggest. It could not be retailed under 2d. or 3d. per ounce. Then as to the dose, you say a large teaspoonful in a little water. This is rather slipshod. A large teaspoon holds 2 drachms (120 minims), and my notion is that this should be mixed in at least a wineglassful of water. Also you recommend Concentrated Peppermint Water. Good pharmacists have no use for such items. Why not say Essence of Peppermint, which everybody understands, and is really in principle the same thing, as concentrated aromatic waters are simply alcoholic solutions of essential oils?"

So this brisk old gentleman rates me. And in common fairness to the public, which may use his suggestions, I take my chastisement here. But I am not one little bit penitent. I can even talk back—can say, for instance, that the biggest teaspoon available to me at present only holds 80 minims—that the lay person whom I advised to add a little water would probably construe that as a wineglass—that, while I did not say "a penny per ounce," but "a few pence" for 4oz. (and that might mean 6d. or 8d.), I can without bargaining buy the liquor for 11d. per pound. And I myself gave the alternative, Sal Volatile, in my article.

ONE BIG OBJECTION.

But these are trivial points. The crux of the whole question is to escape from the critic who can point the finger of scorn and say, "A fine substitute truly—why, it contains quite a high percentage of alcohol!" That has been done. It is a legitimate thrust, though mean enough, for the alcohol in a dose of sal volatile or essence or tincture is trivial, and the alcohol (as the critic knows) is not there to do the work. But the great object is to break the public off its superstitious trust in alcohol, and prove that other things act better than it—a difficult task where the faith of many folks is only a shade less than that of the old Scots roadman, who held, "if whisky winna cure a man, he's no worth curin', an' may weel be latten slip."

Thus I stick to liquor ammon. aromat. and even to concentrated peppermint water. Both of these are obtainable from most chemists in many parts of the kingdom, and ought to (and in time shall) be obtainable from all our chemists. And, with all respect to the superior experience of my correspondent, I maintain that the concentrated aromatic waters supplied by wholesale chemists are, in more ways than one, more suitable for the use of the general public than essences which are known to be alcoholic, and of which a dose means more alcohol as a rule.

All over the kingdom, but more, of course, in some districts than others, there are to be found doctors who are discarding spirituous tinctures and other preparations of drugs manufactured with or containing alcohol, not because such a course is economical, but because they obtain as good or better effects so, and prefer to administer alcohol only when they perceive some condition where its peculiar (and limited) virtues may prove useful. In time the public will relegate alcohol to its proper place, and folks, where they feel they must, will indulge in it without any hypocritical profession of benefits expected.

ITS PLEASANT EFFECTS.

Sir Thomas Clouston, the great authority on the brain and nervous system, recently delivered a lecture on certain aspects of alcohol, and his conclusions, as epitomised by a leading medical paper, were that: "Anything approaching excess in the use of alcohol was always deteriorating to body and mind. The chief action of alcohol was always on the higher and more regulative of the mental faculties; it affected the finer muscular co-ordination even in moderate doses; its pleasant personal and social effects could only be safely obtained in fully developed healthy men with a reasonably good nervous heredity, and taken in strict moderation; to the female sex it was especially dangerous; the period of adolescence was also a danger-time, and it should not be taken then at all; a nervous constitution of brain and a bad nervous heredity implied a special susceptibility to its evil effects, and persons, therefore, with this constitution should practise total abstinence; and mental disease and defect would diminish if alcohol excess did not exist.

Now, since Kraepelin and Aschaffenburg and other scientists have demonstrated beyond all question that even the moderate use of alcohol means a clear loss of mental and muscular efficiency with a simultaneous conviction that both brain and body are excelling themselves, it follows that the "pleasant personal and social effects" are in the truest sense a delusion and a snare. Is it really worth while for a fully-developed, healthy man, with a reasonably good nervous heredity, to subject himself to such an illusion?

STOMACH-COUGH.

By many folks the stomach-cough is regarded as a pleasant fiction. They look upon the expression as old-fashioned and out of date. Others will argue that, if a bad cough occurs in a person with indigestion, and no evidence of bronchial or lung trouble, it is provoked solely by irritation about the back of the throat, a condition commonly found in the victims of chronic dyspepsia. But one cannot dismiss the business quite so easily as that.

Often, where there is no obvious pharyngitis, the treatment of the digestive weakness will cure the cough along with the other symptoms. Then it sometimes happens that to vomit will in such cases give the cough a long rest. In children the presence of worms in the alimentary canal, or even of fruit-seeds which resist digestion, is often accompanied by what is truly a stomach-cough; but in patients of tender years a commoner cause of the same bark is the annoyance of the stomach by irregular feeding, which hinders digestion and absorption and impairs nutrition. Often a youngster whose constitution appears down, who steadily loses weight and colour, and who has developed a cough which the neighbours charitably diagnose as due to consumption, will at once mend and lose every bad symptom (the cough included) if he is resolutely denied "pieces" between meals and made to eat only at set hours.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"J.W." (Scarborough).—Shall tackle the point you mention some time, if possible at all; has been often in my mind.

"Poppy."—Brush well into your scalp once a day a little of the following restorer: Blistering fluid and oil of rosemary, of each 2dr.; Glycerine of borax and Tincture of jaborandi, of each 1oz.; Almond oil and Spirits of camphor, of each 2oz.; and Otto of roses, 8 drops. In addition, with the hair going grey, you should take an iron tonic, say one Compound citrate of iron tabloid thrice daily after food with a little water.

"Old Chips" (Rochdale).—Certainly continue the cascara, slightly increasing the dose if need be.

"A.E.H." (Nelson).—Take one pepsin, bismuth, and charcoal tabloid after each meal.

"Dot."—May be wax in ears. Put in warm oil, and have ears syringed.

"Nerves" (Herne Bay).—Probably due to poverty of blood. Take one Blaud and arsenic tabloid thrice daily after food.

ACCRINGTON DISTRICT.

FIVE AND THIRTY YEARS AGO.

[BY "OLD HAND."]

Mrs. Edward Sharp, of Dean Cottage, Simonstone, was the recipient of a gold watch and chain for services rendered in the choir at Altham Church for ten years. Mr. J. J. Rippon and friends promoted the presentation.

A train had a narrow escape of being hurled over the Blackburn-road viaduct, Accrington, 35 years ago, and much alarm was caused. Since then there have been several accidents at the same place, one recently. The Manchester train was pulled up on the Blackburn-road viaduct, and when the train, in which there was a number of passengers, was being backed down into the station, a third-class carriage left the metals at the first crossing points, and came into violent collision with the stone parapet. Large coping stones were hurled below, but fortunately they fell into the stable yard of the Crown Hotel, where no one was about. Some of the stones struck the gable end of a building, chipped off portions, and broke the water pipes. The coping was demolished for about a dozen yards. Fortunately the train had not got much speed on or the carriage might have been hurled through the wall or over it. The carriage was smashed but the passengers escaped with a severe shaking. The occupants were terrified, and the residents in the locality were greatly alarmed, thinking at first that the train had fallen over the arches. The stablemen at the Crown Hotel had just before the accident entered the stables, and thus they narrowly escaped the falling stones. The horses were frightened, and reared and kicked in the stalls. About eleven months previously a similar accident occurred near the same place, when the coping stones were hurled into Blackburn-road, and Mr. John Henry, fishmonger, was injured, and obtained compensation from the Railway Company.

Messrs. W. Blythe and Co., of the Holland Bank Chemical Works, gave their annual dinner to 240 workpeople, etc., at the Commercial Hotel, Church. Mr. W. Richards, the manager, presided, and Mr. James Walsh was the vice-chairman. Mr. Adam Bentley, proposing "Success to the firm," said he had worked for them 33 years, and he did not think there were better masters in the country. Mr. John Eastwood submitted the health of Mr. Blythe and family, and Mr. James Walsh "Town and trade," Mr. Jonathan Pearson responding. The entertainment consisted of songs and dancing.

Church had a good football team 35 years ago, and they played many exciting games with Accrington Old Reds. In a Christmas encounter with Accrington Reds, on the Church ground, near Pickup's Arms Hotel, Church were defeated by two goals to one. Among the Accrington players were Bradley, Clayton, W. J. Whittaker, Lightfoot, Lonsdale, R. Horne, J. T. Clayton, D. Talbot, Higham and James Yates. The Church team were: D. Hesketh, Calvert Yates, Johnson Haworth, Thomas Hall, Samuel Jackson, R. Calverley, R. Horrocks, Eglin, West, Broderick and Kenyon.

Thirty-five years ago Accrington Gas and Water Co. reduced the price of gas from 4s. 6d. per 1,000 feet to 4s., with 3d. discount, making the price 3s. 9d.

Messrs. Milton Haworth, John Boothman, and Robert Ingham, of the local Secular Society, waited upon the Town Hall Committee and asked them to let the Town Hall on Sundays for lectures to be given by Mr. Charles Bradlaugh, "Iconoclast," or Mr. J. Symes. It was decided not to let the Town Hall on Sundays to anybody.

Mr. Hargreaves Dixon, a well known Accrington contractor, died 35 years ago, aged 50. Mr. Dixon had been a member of the Local Board, a Guardian, and Overseer, and he superintended the construction of the Market Hall.

Messrs. Nicholas Bentley, brewer, nad Mr. Thomas Sharples, then landlord of the Blockade Hotel, defeated Mr. Hugh Lonsdale, Richmond Hotel, and Mr. Chadwick, butcher, at a pigeon shooting match at Accrington 35 years ago.

The following Masonic officers of Bank Terrace Lodge, Accrington, were installed in 1879: Bros. John Hindle, W.M.; T. Shutt, S.W.; E. Knowles, J.W.; J. W. Horne, S.D.; E. Sudren, J.D.; G. Bingham, treasurer; and Ellis, secretary. Bro. John H. Bury was appointed W.M. of Equality Lodge, and the officers were Bros. B. T. Gossling, S.D., Richard Rushton, J.D., John Halstead, treasurer, and D. Ormerod, secretary.

On account of the depression and the disastrous strike in the cotton trade (which I have previously described), 1878 was a very bad year for Accrington and district, resulting in the failure of one or two local manufacturers and several builders and contractors. On the other hand, it was remarkable as the year in which Accrington was incorporated and Mr. J. E. Lightfoot, J.P., elected first Mayor of the borough. The year was notable for war, and disasters by sea and land. Although the year 1879 came in with a legacy of depressed trade, there was a prospect that it would be better than its predecessor. The bells of St. James' rung in the new year with merry peals, and there were the usual school parties, including the annual tea party to old and poor folk at St. James' school, then in Church-street, where fine shops now stand. I recall Ben Brierley's sketch "The Lancashire Weaver Lad" being performed at St. James' entertainment by Messrs. Charles F. Critchley, Walkden, and H. Duxbury and Miss M. Birtwell, and Mr. C. Woodcock conducting the Sunday school singing class, which rendered glees. Genial Canon Rogers was in the chair.

The late Mr. J. E. Gill submitted the school report at St. John's, and Messrs. Horsfield, John Livesey and John Turner gave satisfactory accounts of the Church of England Temperance Society and Sick Club in connection with the school. Songs were given by Messrs. R. T. Holgate, Whittaker, and Master C. Booth, Messrs. Horsfield and McIntyre reciting. At Willow-street Band of Hope gathering the late Alderman W. Entwisle presided. The vocalists were Misses Baron, M. A. Haworth, and the instrumentalists Messrs. Thalberg Brown (piano), B. T. Westwell, J. Clarke, R. Hudson, W. C. Pollard, Miss A. A. Haworth and Master Fred Jackson. The Rev. Charles Williams presided at the Huncoat Baptist school, Mr. Joseph Pilkington read the report, and the speakers were Messrs. John Smith (superintendent), J. Redman, J. Metcalf, James and John Haworth, and William Haworth.

At Whalley-road Congregational gathering, Rev. W. J. Houlgate presiding, melodies were rendered by a children's choir, conducted by the late Mr. J. T. Dean, auctioneer. Mr. Richard Whittaker submitted the report, and Mr. Thomas Gordon, now a magistrate and living at Blackpool, and Mr. J. Holroyd gave addresses. Mr. J. E. Kenyon presided at the New Jerusalem school, Mr. R. W. Kenyon accompanying on the piano the children's singing. The vocalists at the Church of the Sacred Heart gathering were Messrs. F. Greenwood and J. Bentley. The domestic drama "Simon Lee" and the farce "That Rascal Pat" were performed.

It is worth noting that Councillor Eli Higham, father of Alderman T. E. Higham, the able chairman of the Accrington Electricity Committee, took a great interest in electric lighting when in its infancy 35 years ago. At a meeting of the Town Council about seven months after it was formed, Mr. Eli Higham moved that a special committee should watch the progress of the electric light and obtain information to help the Council to decide as to the course to be taken in the interests of the town. Mr. Higham said he did not think the time had come for taking active steps for aplying the electric light for public purposes, or even for making application to Parliament for powers to introduce the light, but it was high time inquiries were made. He believed the electric light would be the light of the future. Mr. Higham's motion having been seconded by Councillor Thomas Holgate, it was carried.

Mr. Higham little dreamt at that period that his son would in course of time be mainly instrumental in building up a corporation electricity undertaking which, for the size of Accrington, is one of the most extensive and successful in the country, and supplying electric power and light at a very reasonable cost. The Alderman runs a mill by electricity. Is this an instance of the influence of heredity?

SAFE ROBBERY.

Accrington Shop Broken Into.

Man Sent to the Sessions.

Following closely upon the shopbreaking offence committed in Piccadilly, Accrington, last week, William Cain, a local man, who had latterly been in lodgings in King-street, Haslingden, was charged at Accrington Police Court on Tuesday with breaking and entering the lock-up shop of Fred T. A. Riley, ironmonger, of Piccadilly, Accrington, and stealing £22 5s. in money from the safe, £2 15s. from the till, and 24 sevenpenny health insurance stamps, and other articles valued at £1 1s. 9d.

The Chief Constable outlined the case against prisoner, who had been remanded from the previous day, and said that he dared say something like £20 would be recovered.

Prosecutor, who lives in Sandy-lane, stated that he locked-up the premises at about 10-30 p.m. on Tuesday, the 30th December. At that time the £22 5s. in gold and silver was in the safe, which was closed but not locked. The £2 15s. was in the till, and the stamps in a locked drawer in the till. About 5-15 the following morning P.C. Paintin came to his house, and in consequence of what he said witness went to the shop. The back door leading to the premises was open, and a window had been broken to permit of the entrance of a man. He went round the premises, and on examination found the safe door open and the drawer forced open. The whole of the money was gone. Near by was a chisel which had been taken from another part of the shop. Various other articles were missing, including a penknife, taken from a showcase on the counter, a shaving brush, a screwdriver, two electric bulbs, twelve cigars, and two steel tips. Prisoner was known to witness as having worked for him for a period of about nine months up to about twelve months ago.

P.C. Harold Paintin said that about 4-30 on the Wednesday morning, when coming up behind the Market Hall, he heard a young man coming up Dutton-street, but could not see him. On getting into Blackburn-road he saw him and followed him into St. James's-street, but missed him. Witness returned, examined the premises, and found the door leading to the backyard of Riley's premises was open. He went inside and noticed the window was broken and the back door open. On going inside and into the office he found the safe doors were open and a quantity of tools lying about. He then examined the premises further, but found no one inside. He went outside after the person he had seen in Dutton-street just previously, but could see nothing of him.

Patrick Rowan, weaver, of 31, King-street, Haslingden, said the prisoner had lodged with him since about March last year. He left witness's house on the 20th December and returned about 6-30 p.m. on Saturday, the 3rd January, wearing a new suit and carrying a brown paper parcel. When he came into the house he called out, "You thought I was going to slope you. How much do I owe you?" He then said he had had a loan of £10, and that he was going to pay. He gave witness's wife £3 in gold for the lodgings, and asked witness if he would go down to Accrington to a certain woman. He said that if witness would do so he would pay him 5s. Witness consented, and prisoner handed him £4 in gold. Witness came to Accrington and settled the matter for £3 15s. Witness afterwards handed the £3 and the 5s. to Detective Greenwood.

Detective Greenwood stated that at about 11-45 a.m., on Sunday, the 4th January, he met the prisoner in Bury-road, Haslingden, and told him he was about to arrest him for the shopbreaking and larceny. He replied, "I have not stolen anything." Witness took him to the Haslingden Police Station and searched him. In prisoner's possession was £11 9s. 9d. and a steel tip. Later in the day witness brought him to the Accrington Police Station. The next day he charged him, and prisoner replied, "I plead guilty." On Sunday witness received the brown paper parcel from Rowan, found the shaving brush, pocket knife, and the two electric bulbs on a shelf in the kitchen at his lodgings. Other moneys had been received, and altogether about £10 had been recovered.

Prisoner, who asked that the magistrates should be as lenient as possible, was committed for trial at the Preston Sessions.

AT THE SESSIONS.

The prisoner Cain was brought up at Preston Sessions on Wednesday.

Mr. Moxon, who prosecuted, said the place was entered, and the safe door forced open, a chisel being found near by. The police got on prisoner's track, and some of the missing articles were found at his lodgings. He appeared to have paid his debts and bought clothes with some of the money.

Chief Constable Sinclair said prisoner had not been previously convicted, and he had hitherto born a good character. Altogether about £19 had been recovered, and all the stolen articles.

Replying to the Bench, Mr. Sinclair said prisoner had been out of work, and he had evidently taken this course owing to being short of money and getting into arrears with his landlord. He had known prisoner from childhood and he had worked for Messrs. Riley for a considerable time and thereby obtained a knowledge of the premises which stood him in good stead when he broke in. Previous to entering prisoner had cut the telephone wires and the robbery was undoubtedly one of deliberation.

The Chairman said they could not do less than commit prisoner to prison for four months with hard labour.

HASLINGDEN'S NTW VICAR.

BLACKBURN CLERGYMAN APPOINTED.

The vicariate of Haslingden, vacant by the resignation last July of the Rev. Lewis Robbs has been offered to and has been accepted by the Rev. G. W. Clarke, vicar of Christ Church, Blackburn. The gift of the living vested in the Hulme trustees, but failing an appointment by them within six months fell into the hands of the Bishop of Manchester. With the lapse of time the formal offer was made with promptitude by the Bishop and was accepted by Mr. Clarke. The living is given as of the net value of £420 per year, though deduction has, of course, to be made from the amount paid to the late vicar on his retirement, and the living at Christ Church is worth about £330 a year. Mr. Clarke has been at Christ Church for about four and a half years, coming to Blackburn from the Bradford Parish Church, where he was the senior curate. Mr. Clarke's acceptance of the Haslingden vicariate will leave his present parish in the midst of change, for the curate, the Rev. B. S. Ainley, leaves shortly for Manchester, which Mr. Longley, the lay reader, has received a call to All Saints' Parish.

"A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY" is the well chosen title of HORNIMAN'S ALMANAC for 1914. It has been reproduced in colour from a famous original and is a decided work of art. Has it occurred to you that NOW is a "GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY" for you to test the quality and value of HORNIMAN'S PURE TEA? This tea is the pick of the most celebrated gardens in India, China, and Ceylon, imported direct by W. H. and F. J. Horniman and Co., Ltd. Ask your grocer for a packet of HORNIMAN'S PURE TEA, and an almanac. You will be leased with both; BUT you must INSIST upon having Horniman's, and refuse substitutes. A packet or tin of Horniman's Tea and an Almanac make a very acceptable 'Xmas or New Year's gift. Note:—Horniman's Tea is "FULL WEIGHT WITHOUT THE WRAPPER," "FULL VALUE FOR MONEY," and "Always Good Alike."—Advt.

Mr. Birrell has written to his constituents in North Bristol saying that he is prolonging his stay in Switzerland as his wife's health is benefiting considerably.

A Peer's Body STOLEN FOR RANSOM.

Mystery of Thirty Years Ago.

Memories of one of the great crime mysteries of the last century, a story that is almost forgotten by the present generation, are recalled by the death this week at Aberdeen of Charles Souter, who was sentenced in 1882 to five years' penal servitude for complicity in the theft of the body of the twenty-fifth Earl of Crawford from the family vault at Dunecht. The secret of the desecration of the vault has never been solved (states the "Express"). Souter always maintained his innocence; he was not arrested until many months after the discovery of the theft, and although it was obvious that several men must have been concerned in the outrage, no one else was ever found who could be charged in connection with the affair.

The Balcarres family tomb at Dunecht House, near Aberdeen, was underneath a mortuary chapel, built of massive granite blocks, and it adjoined the house. The earl died in Florence in December, 1880, and the body was embalmed and taken to Scotland, where the funeral ceremony took place at the beginning of 1881. The body was enclosed in three coffins—a leaden shell, an inner case of wood, and an outer one of polished oak, elaborately carved and mounted with chased silver.

Some time after the funeral a visitor to the chapel thought one of the slabs on the entrance leading to the vault had been moved. No minute examination was made, since the movement was set down to the effects of the weather. In the following May the commissioner for the then Earl of Crawford and Balcarres received an anonymous letter stating that the vault had been entered and the body removed, but it was looked on as a hoax, and no notice was taken.

One morning in December, 1881, however, part of the railing surrounding the tomb was found down and a slab lifted away and propped up against the wall, probably with the aid of some builder's implements that were handy owing to alterations that were proceeding at the house. The earl's commissioner and the police were summoned by the frightened servants, and the vault was entered. The coffin had been moved from its place on the shelf, and the outer case had been carefully unscrewed. The inner one had been prised open with a chisel. The end of the lead shell had been cut away, and the body pulled out by the feet. No attempt had been made to remove the valuable silver mounts on the outer shell, and it was at once deduced that the object of the outrage was to obtain a ransom for the body from the family.

Any hopes that the despoilers may have cherished were at once demolished. The countess dowager publicly announced that she was resolved to come to no terms whatever with the robbers. Many clues that led nowhere were seized on eagerly; London detectives were employed, and for six months fruitless investigations were pursued. A party of spiritualists from London went down to endeavour by psychic means to solve the mystery. They reported that they had seen the body carried out of the vault to a house on the estate, and "afterwards removed to a field that slopes towards a wood."

It was four months later that the first tangible evidence was received. Souter in his cups expressed to some friends his willingness to show them the spot where the body was hidden. When sober he appeared to be alarmed, and demanded protection against the men who, he alleged, had committed the crime. His story was that while poaching at night on the estate he came upon a party of men engaged in burying some object. They seized him, and only spared his life after they had sworn him to secrecy. He was taken into custody, and at length indicated the spot where the body was buried. It was found there, 500 yards from the house, wrapped in a blanket, and lying about a foot beneath the surface. Throughout his trial Souter adhered stubbornly to his poaching story, and denied all knowledge of the names of the men, and he has gone to his grave with the secret—if he ever possessed it—locked in his own breast.

LIBERAL LAND POLICY AND THE SHOPKEEPER.

[FROM A LIBERAL CORRESPONDENT].

It is to the interest of all that the shopkeeper should be given fair conditions in the tenure of his premises, and enjoy ample scope for developing and improving his business. To-day he suffers from many injustices which the Liberal party propose to sweep away.

SOME EXISTING INJUSTICES.

No shopkeeper, whether renting his shop on a long or a short tenancy, can count on security of tenure. They often have to leave their premises because they will not agree to conditions which are unfair to them as business men.

Thus the shopkeeper invests his capital in the purchase of stock and fittings, in advertising, and in other ways pushing his business and building up a reputation. In other words, he builds up a "goodwill." Such is the law, that often his landlord is able to snatch from him the value of the goodwill, either by raising the rent or by refusing a renewal of the tenancy on reasonable terms.

Often the tenant makes considerable improvements to his shop—a new front, for instance. Yet at present he can be turned out without a penny for compensation for these improvements. Even if he be allowed to remain, the landlord may exact—and often does exact—a higher rent, based on the tenant's own improvements. When that is done, it is clearly legalised robbery. Not only so; but the tradesman is often bound down by restrictive covenants in his agreement. He has to get the landlord's consent for improvements. Often this is refused unless he is prepared to pay a fine or a premium, or increased rent. Thus the landlord puts a penalty on the shopkeeper's enterprise.

THE PROPOSALS FOR REFORM.

What are the Liberal proposals with regard to these matters? In order to remedy the injustices and to ensure the business is not hampered, it is proposed to give the trader some sense of security in the conduct and development of his business. A shopkeeper or tradesman will be able to appeal to the Commissioners if he cannot obtain a renewal of his tenancy at all, or if he is asked to pay a rent he thinks unfair, or is bound by unreasonable covenants, or is asked to pay unjust fines.

The powers of the Commissioners may be summarised thus:—

1. When the landlord has refused a renewal to an enterprising shopkeeper, the Land Commissioners will either grant a renewal on fair terms, or award adequate compensation to the tenant for loss of goodwill, for depreciation in trade fixtures through his enforced removal, and for the unexhausted value of all improvements effected by him after the new legislation takes effect.

2. They will prevent the landlord at the termination of a tenancy demanding an increase in rent based on the goodwill built up by the tenant, or on the improvements he may make after the new legislation takes effect. They will fix a rent which is fair to the landlord and shopkeeper alike.

3. They will free a tenant from the operation of covenants in his agreement which are unduly restrictive; and will prevent the landlord from exacting fines and premiums when a tenant improves his premises.

4. They will over-ride the landlord's unreasonable refusal of consent to an assignment of the tenancy.

Under the new conditions there will be fair play all round. The landlord will receive all to which he is justly entitled, but he will no longer be able to reap where he has not sown. The shopkeeper will receive the fruits of all the labour and capital he may expend, and will be able to develop his business without let or hindrance. In short the Liberal Policy for business is, "Fair play for the shopkeeper."

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(Signed) (Nurse) A. CLAVERING.

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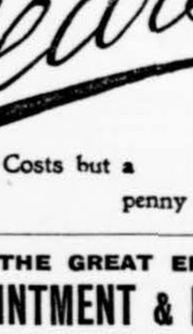

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