with the Irish love for bringing about the happening of the unexpected.

(1) As we go to press we have news of a further development of this scheme which is referred to at page 203.—(2) In connection with this aspect of the matter it may be instructive to our readers to peruse the case reported in our medico-legal column from an institution near Dublin. We are, of course, precluded from further comment, as the case is still *sub judice*. See also results in Italy, page 150 of this volume.

Intemperance.

In one matter there was practical unanimity among the members of the Dublin Conference. Evidence was offered from every side as to the disastrous effects everywhere observed to follow upon drink. It may cause some searching of conscience to ask whether our profession as a whole, and particularly our specialty, have up to the present taken a sufficiently leading part in the holy war against alcohol. It is high time for our Irish colleagues to make themselves heard upon this subject, when in at least one asylum one third of the male admissions are attributed chiefly to this cause. Since a French speaker, dealing with the increase of alcoholism in Normandy, told his hearers that one half the population lived by the sale of drink and the other half died by it, we have not heard a more witty and pungent mode of putting facts than that adopted by Dr. Drapes when he pointed out that "there is one lunatic or idiot in Ireland to every 178 of the present population, and one public-house to every 176!" Dr. Drapes observed that to the neurotic and the person disposed to drink every one of these ubiquitous public-houses was an ever-recurring suggestion. One of the ecclesiastics present said, with eloquence and justice, "We pray 'lead us not into temptation;' when we are told by the doctors of 'suggestion,' is it not the same idea in other words?" The want of courage and public spirit, which are such painful features in Irish life, render it unlikely that any early improvement is to be expected with regard to the issuing of licences. It is often said, probably with approximate accuracy, that in many Irish villages every second house is a public-house, and a story is told on good authority of an application made for a licence (and supported by the police!) on the grounds that the applicant was the only person dwelling on one side of the street who had not a licence.

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That mental and physical degradation must follow from this state of things admits of no question. But every one in Ireland is afraid of the publican interest. It is like a penetrating fluid that gets everywhere, that is invulnerable to every attack, that crushes society by its diffused weight. The Bishop of Ross plainly charged the Government with playing into the hands of the publicans. He contrasted the apologetic attitude of the Irish licensed vintners at their meeting a year previously with their aggressive attitude at a similar meeting held a day or two before the Conference. He attributed the change to the action of the Prime Minister, who had promised to interfere with the power given to the licensing authorities by the laws of the realm. Mr. P. J. O'Neill, Chairman of the County of Dublin County Council, strongly denounced the Dublin Castle authorities for obstructing the endeavour to establish inebriate homes. Government in Ireland is doing its best to divest itself of every shred of authority, and (perhaps as a means to that end) of every atom of public respect; but of course it is not in that portion of the United Kingdom only that "the man in the street" recognises that Government is as much afraid of the publican as is the meanest borough councillor. In Ireland, however, the people have been more accustomed to look for light and leading to those who "govern," and are accordingly more astonished at the indifference of those "easy patrons of their kin" to the moral and physical ruin of the population. It behoves Irishmen to cease to lean upon a broken reed, and to work out their own salvation from the demons that beset them without depending on anyone. We only hope that our profession will aid the good cause in every possible way, and that if they can only "testify," they will testify as vigorously as Dr. Drapes has done. They will have, in spite of the publican interest, some measure of support, as is shown by the fact that at the Conference with which we are dealing there was an animated discussion as to whether the Government should not be petitioned to increase the Local Taxation Fund (out of which the "rate in aid" comes) for the benefit of asylums by increasing the charge for public-houses' licences. A resolution to that effect would have been carried by a very large majority but for the prevailing desire, already referred to, that every resolution should be adopted without division.

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