

At the present moment in the United States, a fierce social conflict is raging amongst the people on this subject, the women of America, to their honour be it spoken, having resolutely determined to put limits to the vice of drunkenness—they have succeeded to the extent of causing numbers of liquor stores to be closed, and the movement is, I believe, progressing. It is therefore probable that, as we have to thank the Americans for originating many great mechanical inventions tending to the advancement of human industry, and which have proved so beneficial to this country and to the world at large, we shall have to thank them for showing us the way to a great social reform in the limitation or reduction to a minimum of the odious traffic in spirituous liquors. That government can be expected to make a voluntary sacrifice of revenues, exceeding in Ireland, the sum of £4,000,000 annually, by prohibiting distillation, is out of the question; nor is it likely that the nation would submit to an enforced sobriety; but this branch of the subject should be treated separately.

As a cause of insanity, intemperance is, at least to a certain extent, preventable. But the question of the apparent increase from hereditary transmission, consequent on the preservation and prolongation of the lives of the insane, and the restoration to the ranks of society of so many of their numbers, is pregnant with difficulty; and constitutes a problem, the solution of which is calculated to tax the highest qualities of the philosopher and the statesman.

## VII.—*Proceedings of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland.*

### TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION.—FOURTH MEETING.

[Tuesday, 21st April, 1874.]

The Society met at the Leinster Lecture Hall, 35, Molesworth-street,

John Lentaigne, Esq., C.B., Vice-President, in the chair.

Mr. W. J. Corbet read a paper on "The Statistics of Insanity, past and present."

The ballot having been examined, the following gentlemen were elected as Members of the Society:—Messrs. Thomas Breen, Professor Kavanagh, Archibald J. Nicolls, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, and Daniel Thomas Tracey.

### FIFTH MEETING.

[Tuesday, 26th May, 1874.]

The Society met at the Leinster Hall, 35 Molesworth-street  
Jonathan Pim, Esq., Vice-President, in the chair.

One of the Secretaries read the Report of Committee of the Council:

(I.) On Mr. Jephson's Suggestions for securing greater attention to suggestions for Amendments in the Law contained in Reports and Papers read before the Society; and

(II.) On Mr. Jonathan Pim's Suggestions for obtaining information as respects the Differences which now exist between the Laws in force in England and those in force in Ireland.

Dr. Hancock read a paper with reference to Mr. Pim's Suggestions, as showing the progress that has already been made, in giving an account of the Differences in the Laws in force in England and those in force in Ireland, illustrating some of the most marked differences not already noticed, and suggesting the most convenient division of the subject.

The ballot having been examined, Thomas O'Donnell, Esq., City Accountant, was elected a Member.

#### SIXTH MEETING.

[Tuesday, 23rd June, 1874.]

The Society met at the Leinster Hall, 35 Molesworth-street, Alderman Campbell, J.P., Vice-President, in the chair.

Dr. Hancock read the "Report of the Committee appointed by the Council to consider the suggestions for diminishing the excessive summoning of Jurors in the City and County of Dublin."

Professor Moffett, LL.D., and Abraham Shackleton, Esq., having been appointed to scrutinize the ballot, they reported that the following gentlemen were duly elected as members of the Council for the ensuing year:—Professor O'Shaughnessy, William Findlater, William Graham Brooke, A.M.; E. D. Mapother, M.D., Professor Donnell, William John Hancock, H. Dix Hutton, J. R. Garstin, David Ross, Henry L. Jephson, James M'Donnell, and John Norwood.

#### TWENTY-EIGHT SESSION.--OPENING MEETING.

[Tuesday, 24th November, 1874.]

The Right Hon. Lord Emly, President, delivered his opening address.

The Report of the Council was read by Mr. Joseph Pim.

The ballot having been examined, Bernhard Samuelson, Esq., M.P.; Peter M'Lagan, Esq., M.P.; Sir George Campbell, K.C.S.I.; Richard Owen Armstrong, Esq., Chief Clerk in Chancery, and George W. Abraham, Esq., Registrar in Lunacy, were elected as Members.