

HABITUAL DRUNKARDS' BILL.

The question of making legal provision for restraining habitual and insane drunkards, which had been temporarily shelved by the death of Dr. Dalrymple, was taken up this Session of Parliament by Dr. Cameron, M.P. for Glasgow, who brought in a Bill on the subject. As first sketched this Bill would have given large powers both of restraint of individual liberty and of assessment for the erection of retreats at the public expense. It became at once clear that the British public would not tolerate such a measure, so Dr. Cameron wisely left the erection of the retreats to voluntary effort, and made the legal restraint of the drunkard to depend on his voluntarily signing away his liberty for any period under twelve months. We earnestly hope this measure will be carried next year as a beginning.

"A WOLF CHILD."

The following extract is from the report of the Delhi Asylum for the year 1877 (see page 84):—

The so-called "wolf child," mentioned in my last report, and who had apparently then fallen into a more abject state than ever from repeated epileptic fits, soon afterwards began to improve. She was temporarily at least cured of her epilepsy, and with returning health she became lively and playful. She came to understand some things that were said to her, but never attempted to speak. She was transferred to the Secundra Orphanage, Agra, in June last, the Principal of that institution having kindly offered to take charge of her. In reply to recent inquiries regarding her, I was informed that she has had no return of the epileptic fits, that she enjoys a game of ball with the lady in charge, but does not take to the other children in the institution.

The pleasure she takes in play is stated to be the only gleam of intelligence she has given.—*Indian Med. Gazette.*

RECOVERY FROM INSANITY OF TEN YEARS DURATION.

The following singularly interesting case is extracted from Dr. A. Crombie's report of the Dacca Lunatic Asylum for the year 1877:—

"I cannot pass over in silence the case of a lunatic, Nundo Patin, discharged cured, under this last heading (chronic mania). He had been an inmate of this asylum for ten years, and was probably, without any exception, the best known and popular man in Dacca. He was perfectly harmless, and always in the best of temper and magnificent spirits, and delighted to wear, at the same time, at least three European hats, ornamented with flowers, brightly coloured rags and feathers; his person decked with wreaths of marigold and coxcombs and other gaudy flowers. Arrayed in this conspicuous manner he would move about gaily on various behests, breaking forth into merriment and song, and indulging in not ungraceful antics. I remember him well when I was in Dacca five years ago, and he was the first person I enquired for on taking over charge of the asylum. I found him in hospital unconscious, with symptoms of effusion on the brain, with a blister on his head and a seton in the back of his neck. Under treatment he gradually recovered consciousness, and with it his right senses, and after a stay of only seven weeks in hospital was perfectly well in both respects. He was detained in the asylum under observation for six months, during the whole of which time he behaved in the most quiet and sober manner, conversed rationally on all subjects, worked hard in the garden and gained weight, and had only a confused recollection of the