

The supplying of this long-felt need will go far to advance the scientific work of the Association.

In many libraries, a bibliography of subjects is being gradually accumulated, and one branch of the library work should certainly consist in this. If the medical officers of each asylum would undertake to compile a complete bibliography of a certain number of subjects, the value of the library would be greatly increased, and the work of the library committee in future acquisitions greatly facilitated.

The extension of the library should now attract the fullest attention of the Association. Efforts should especially be made to obtain gifts and bequests of works, and the appeal of the committee for liberal grants of money to purchase new books should be met in an intelligent and liberal spirit.

The editors are endeavouring to arrange that many of the most important exchange journals shall find their way to the library, and probably the appeal of the library committee will result in the arrival at the same destination of many of the books submitted for review.

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*The Latest Prophet.*

Dr. Dowie, a contemporary informs us, now prefers claims to be a veritable prophet, bearing an Old Testament name, but unlike other prophets he does not seem to meet with much honour even out of his own country. The modern publicans, as represented by hotel managers, have cast him out, and from the ordinary street sinners he has to be protected by "Zion Guards."

Dr. Dowie appears to be strongly convinced that the prophet business cannot be carried on without money, and has estimated in millions of dollars the shekels received by the apostles. This suggests an interesting calculation, *viz.*: If twelve apostles get so many million dollars, how many should an Old Testament prophet get? Dr. Dowie would probably answer "As much as he can."

These prophet phenomena are certainly very astonishing in this twentieth century, and the ordinary man asks how much longer can humanity be deluded by such anachronistic absurdities. It is to be feared that they connote a very grievous

defect in the mental and moral development of a very large element of our civilized communities, and, however ludicrous the spectacle may be, they demonstrate the need of much educational effort before their recurrence, in one form or other, becomes an impossibility.

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*Laboratory for the Study of Abnormal Classes.*

The effort to establish a laboratory for the study of abnormal classes at Washington has failed, owing to the opposition of the Commissioner of Education.

The proposition was in reality only an extension of work that has been carried on for the last ten years in the Bureau of Education at Washington, resulting in six publications on crime and related subjects of very considerable interest and importance. It would certainly appear to be a matter for regret that the work should not have been extended, especially as the proposition has received very important scientific support throughout the States.

With the usual personal directness which is characteristic of the discussion of such matters in the States, it is urged by the supporters of the laboratory scheme that the present Commissioner of Education has had practically no scientific training, being devoted solely to metaphysics and education; if this is really the case, there need be little astonishment at his exercise of authority, but considerable surprise may be felt that the decision of so important a question should rest so absolutely on the dictum of one man. This is surely another example of autocratic democracy.

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*The Youghal Auxiliary Asylum.*

The progress of the Youghal Asylum is so instructive that we regret we cannot present our readers with a continuous history of its development. Things are recorded, perhaps, in the local newspapers, but it is only now and again, when they attract attention in the outer world, that we have an opportunity of watching from afar a singular piece of annexation as clever