

ignored. The made drunkard may be, but rarely is, saved, nor in approaching him chiefly on the emotional side of his nature are we using the most likely means to deal with his almost hopeless case.

All present temperance schemes are pronounced futile for the reasons given, and we presume that prohibitory measures are deemed more inefficient still. It is not to be disputed that fanaticism is a poor weapon with which to enter the field of reform—that it injures many and converts but few. Perhaps, if we unceasingly continue moral suasion, good example and such appliances as may be at once harmless yet resultful, being zealously watchful, duly prayerful and letting our judgment rather than our prejudice and our passions have sway, we can restrict the terrible evil to the narrowest possible proportions. If this is the most that we can do in the desired direction, let us not hazard losing some portion of the ground already held by trying to gain that which is utterly untenable.

THE BUSY BEE.

A swarm of vagrant bees made a present of themselves to a family in this city a short time ago, and in the effort to make the present available some members of the family were stung. This is a very painful sensation and is supposed to be dangerous when often repeated within a short time, but being regarded as the best, only means of protection, has been entirely submitted to. But now comes the *Horticultural Times* of London with a statement by a correspondent that the use of the sting as a means of offense and defense is not its only function. He says he has long been convinced that the bees put the finishing touches on their artistic cell work by the dexterous use of their stings, and during this final finishing stage of the process of honey-making the bees inject a minute portion of formic acid into the honey. It will also be refreshing information to some honey eaters to know that this is in reality the poison of the sting. This formic acid gives to honey its peculiar flavor and also imparts to it its keeping qualities. The sting is really an exquisitely contrived little trowel, with which the bee finishes off and caps the cells when they are filled brimful with honey. While doing this the formic acid passes from the poison bag, exudes drop by drop from the point of the sting, and the beautiful work is finished.

It is as marvelous as anything in ordinary life and, like many another thing we do not fully understand, is looked upon lightly because of our familiarity with it. What is the intelligence, where the guiding hand by which those perfect little cells which no man can duplicate are brought into being and made serviceable to the more lordly animal who can see nothing in a bee but a busy and dangerous insect!

IT WAS Cadet Kutz who graduated at the head of his class in West Point this year. With such a name he would seem to be better fitted for the cavalry than the engineer service.

GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES.

The San Francisco *Chronicle* contains an article by Dr. Frederick Dernburg, editor of the Berlin *Tageblatt*, which sheds much light upon the intricate subject of German politics. Mr. Dernburg says among other things that practically there are but two great parties in the German reichstag, though each is subdivided in several branches representing so many shades of opinions on the questions at issue. The military question is emphasized at present, but that is chiefly a contest between the emperor and the parliament. The issues on which the parliamentary groups divide are the great social and economic questions of the age, and on these the groups are either more or less conservative or liberal.

Of the political parties whose names are best known in this country the following explanations are of great interest.

The Poles desire to retain their nationality as much as possible. They demand separate schools, the preservation of their language and religion, and representation in the ministry and all departments of the government. As the strained feeling between Russia and Germany is intensified their friendliness to the latter country increases. They support the military policy of the emperor, hoping that a war with the northern neighbor will some time break out and result in their favor. In social matters they are agrarians and in church questions clericals.

The Guelphs hope some day to re-establish the Hanoverian monarchy and place it in the federation on the same footing as Bavaria and Saxony. They vote with the conservatives on economic and social questions and with the clericals on political issues.

The Alsatians, from Alsace and Lorraine, were formerly opposed to the annexation of those two provinces, but now demand political autonomy like Bavaria, Saxony and Wurtemberg. They have sometimes voted with the national liberals and sometimes with the conservatives and clericals.

The social democrats who have gained so much lately are said to have done so at the cost of their unity. They are now divided into two factions, one being almost conservative, thereby rendering united action difficult in the future. They chiefly consist of malcontents of all parties. Their main desire is to secure an eight-hour law and free trade and they oppose mobilized capital.

The anti-Semites consist mostly of landed proprietors who want high protection for agricultural products and cheap money. With the social democrats they agree in hating mobilized capital and they oppose the Jews in particular on this ground.

The conservatives are the main supporters of the government, being agrarians, protectionists, and aristocrats.

The free conservatives are only a little more moderate in their views than the former.

The Catholic or center party are agrarians and vote with the conservatives on economic questions. On all church matters they stand solidly together and labor in the interest of

Rome, being reinforced by Guelphs, Poles and Alsatians. They support the military bill.

The radical unionists and the radicals differ from each other only on the army bill. They are free traders, monarchists and anti-agricarians. The radical unionists support the army bill which the radicals bitterly oppose. The latter in the recent elections were almost wiped out, the following going to the social democrats.

The national liberals are the party that conceived and executed the idea of a united Germany. In their ranks were once the most illustrious statesmen of the country, but they fell into insignificance when they failed to agree with Bismarck. They have no special program beyond the unity of Germany.

From this it is plain that the various German political parties are easily divided into two groups. One believes in protection, bimetallicism and agrarianism, which means special protection to landed interests. These are the conservatives. The liberals stand up for free trade, a gold standard, and social reforms generally.

In the last reichstag the military bill was supported by conservatives, free conservatives, national liberals, radical unionists, Poles, anti-Semites and some clericals. The numerical strength of the parties has been changed by the last elections, but so far the government has not made much progress towards gaining a majority for the measure, because the radicals were swallowed up mainly by the social democrats, the majority of whom are as much opposed to it as Richter's radical followers were. The second ballot, however, may change the condition.

LONG-DISTANCE AND SWIFT RIDING.

A great deal of sentimentality and rubbish is being indulged in by press and pulpit concerning the long-distance race now in progress from Chadron, Nebraska, to Chicago, the distance being fourteen hundred miles. There have been threats of interference by humane societies in various sections along the route, and the governor of Illinois has gone so far as to issue a proclamation on the subject. Still, the race is on, and it will in all probability be completed without other delay or hindrance than comes from the fatigue of horses or riders. Up to the present time the records made seem to be in no degree startling. When it is considered that each competitor has two horses, one which he leads and the other which he rides, there would appear to be no reason why the distance should not be covered in from fifteen to seventeen days—an altogether improbable result judging from the progress thus far made. Carefully ridden and well-cared for, a good horse ought to be able to make from sixty to seventy-five miles a day; and surely where two animals are used ninety or one hundred miles ought to be possible; this too without killing either animal or man. The race as we understand it is not to the swift exactly, but rather to those who themselves and whose horses show up at the end in best condition.