

cured? George T. Angell's "Bands of Mercy," "Dumb Animals," and his other methods for teaching humane education is also "excelsior." The National Temperance Publication Association's temperance tracts and other publications are far-reaching, and mainly in the right direction. I want to call especial attention to this last. A little tract, just a leaflet, can contain condensed information, productive of concentrated thought and conviction, where a paper or a book on the same subject, if read, would be so diluted that little or none of it would be definitely remembered. Most everybody would read just a leaflet tract, if only one was handed them with that request. If it was a new idea to them, and the reasoning was sound, it would stick, and they would have to believe and be influenced by it, whether they would or not. Can not the Freethought press publish leaflets as cheap as any, so that Freethinkers can afford to broadcast their guiding facts and reasons? The National Temperance Publication Association publish many leaflets at 10 for 1 cent. If every W. C. T. U. and prohibitionist would each distribute 5 cents worth (50) of one kind only, every month, a different tract each month, instead of their occasional whole-distributions, public sentiment against liquor would receive a vast impetus to what it now does, and a consequent mighty check on its use and sale, and a proportionate diminution of all vice, crime, poverty, and misery. The results from intoxicants are the opposite of evolution. No other curse in this world is responsible for so much of evil, or so needs the best united efforts of all philanthropists to secure its overthrow. But this work is hampered by those who mainly have it in charge, the W. C. T. U. and Prohibitionists insisting on prayer and orthodoxy as the way, instead of forwarding the scientific truths, proving that health, morality, prosperity and happiness require abstinence from intoxicants and from whatever leads to the use of stimulants and narcotics.

But my aim now is not to preach on temperance work, for something else must come first. Before the use and sale of intoxicants can be abated scientific religion must take the place of the christian religion, or at least must secure a strong following. How can this be done? I ask you to consider the following plan, and if you can propose a better, let us have it.

Secure the organization of all moral Freethinkers, into a union for the evolution and propagation of scientific religion to promote the "general welfare" and individual morality, happiness, industry, prosperity, and wisdom. Each member of this union shall pay one dollar a year, and for this shall receive and distribute 50 copies every

month of a leaflet printed for the express purpose of propagating such teaching as shall found and foster a school of scientific religion in every community. A different leaflet must be furnished each month, by the publishing house that undertakes this work. To secure the best leaflets for this purpose, I think a subject could be announced in their paper, and a prize offered for the best articles thereon, not to exceed 500 words. Perhaps a dozen of the best received might be printed in their paper, and the vote of the subscribers could decide which should receive the prize and be printed in leaflet form for broadcast distributions. Or perhaps a committee of the editors and the ablest writers, or the editor alone, could do it with more wisdom and less trouble. Employ whatever way will bring about the desired result quickest and most thoroughly. Of course the tract committee or editor will decide what tracts are most needed, but my thoughts thereon may not be worthless to help set the ball rolling.

One of the first tracts should make the people see that the bible's morality and the character of its god are far behind the ideal morality of the present day, and our measure of justice, mercy, and square dealing for all men.

I should choose "Ingersoll's Teachings" as the subject of one tract. Of course, whoever attempts to write that, must first read several of his best lectures, then select his main ideas and concentrate each into a brief, strong, clear sentence. The best sentence of such a tract should name his best printed lectures, price, and where obtained, so if the reader wants more of him, they can get it.

"Thomas Paine's Teachings" would furnish another tract. Darwin's theory and most convincing proofs, another.

One tract should show that thought, memory, knowledge, soul, are dependent on living active brain; they grow and decay with the brain, hence there can be "no future life." This (or another tract) should show that body, mind, and soul, are built up from nutritious foods, healthy surroundings, and right incentives, and destroyed by intoxicants, hurtful foods, medicines and dearth of incentives.

Other subjects may be "comparison of bibles and gods," and most glaring "contradictions of the bible." "Prayer."

One of the first and most important tracts, I think, should be on "Scientific Morality." I mean the best scientific reasons for honesty, industry, self-control of temper and passions and hurtful appetites, and for the promotion of other virtues, and eradication of vices, or how each virtue benefits the man, and each vice harms him. Similar

to this would be "A Scientist's List of Sins and their Punishments." Perhaps one tract should emphasize in what respects a scientific religion will surpass or be more beneficial than the christian religion.

One tract should teach why there can be "No God Creator." In accordance with the creation theory, if a god created everything, he must have made not only heaven and earth and all that is good therein, but he must also have created the devil and hell, and created most beings too weak or ignorant to resist temptations, and then submitted them to all manner of evils, sufferings, diseases, wars, famines, and vermin here, and endless torment hereafter. For what? How can any man love or respect such a God, or have any responsibility, hope, happiness, trust, or incentives to a noble life! This creating idea induces belief in miracles and the bible, needless fears and useless self denials. Isn't it as easy to believe that nature always was, as to believe that God created nature but God always was? How much more sensible to believe that nature's forces are forever slowly evolving changes, her laws are discoverable, her stories useable, and man is capable of continuous improvement, with capabilities, responsibilities, hopes, and enjoyments, and sufficient desirable recompense for labor to incite there to. Why are people so desirous of living forever, when everlasting sameness would soon become so tiresome they would wish for endless sleep.

One tract should be on "False Claims of Christianity," showing up "No harm shall come nigh thy dwelling;" piety does not bring wisdom nor protection from natural elements, accidents, and diseases, nor any larger returns for labor than unbelievers receive; and are not ministers' sons and the children of praying mothers often tempted astray, bent on folly and wickedness, intemperance, and ruin. Christians fear death. Accepting salvation and the indwelling of Christ does not impart strength enough to save from being tempted "beyond their ability to withstand," and backsliding. Civilization is due to what? Christianity has bred church-dissentions and wars, instead of "Peace upon earth." Are prayers answered? Praying for Ingersoll doesn't change him; praying for Lincoln and Garfield did not save them; praying for the overthrow of the liquor traffic does not stop that; but the bible says, "Ask and ye shall receive."

I think a dozen or twenty carefully prepared tracts with the above objects in view, if distributed everywhere, one at a time, would start the ball rolling. Then Sunday scientific meetings, with the help of press and a lecture bureau, could carry it on.

Whenever there are enough Freethinkers in any locality to start scientific Sunday meetings, they should be induced to start such and helped to make them successful by finding in every issue of the Freethought papers a simple programme, a new scientific lesson, such as those used in the Oregon Secular Sunday schools; subjects appropriate for discussion with a few leading points to start from; also a list of printed lectures appropriate for such meetings, and where obtained. Each society should select its best reader or elocutionist, and have one lecture read or delivered at each meeting. Suggest what music and singing would be best at these meetings, old favorites, ballads, and new songs calculated to promote patriotism, love of home, nature, virtue, noble deeds, etc. Something in the hygienic line should come in every Sunday, for on better knowledge of physiology and hygienic and living in accordance therewith depends the evolution of health, a superior physical development, the eradication of disease and abolishment of liquor-drinking and selection of best foods; and therefrom is manufactured the fullest supply of pure nutritious blood to feed and develop brain and all its forces which the moral and scientific lessons direct into proper channels, so that strength of reasoning powers, character, industry, prosperity, happiness and wisdom result, or the evolution of a nobler class of citizens than this world has ever known. The masses must be taught that hygienic feeding is necessary for strong bodies, before high thinking can be had.

Out of the variety of helps furnished by the press, each society would select to fit its abilities and needs. The helps would stimulate them to try meetings; but without the helps, in very many cases, no start would be made.

My idea of a lecture bureau is not to furnish lecturers, but printed lectures, carefully prepared by the most capable scientists in each branch of science, the wisest philosophers, philanthropists, and statesmen, in the whole country or the whole world; and to treat not only on scientific subjects, but also on each of the great questions of the age which especially affect the "general welfare" and individual well-being. I'd have the bureau select 52 such men and women and ask each to prepare one lecture within the next year, and agree to pay from \$100 to \$1000 apiece for them, according to their value, which will depend on the ability and reputation of the writer.

If in the meantime the tract distribution and starting Sunday scientific meetings, has been well done, there ought to be more than a thousand cities and