

beating. What a bright future opened before them if her statement were true! Rex would obtain his rights, Gladys' hopes and wishes would be realised, and Aunt Letty's cares were all at an end.

The next day an exploration of the old well, which was dry, put the truth of Rachael's sad story beyond all question. In it were found the remains of a human skeleton, together with the watch and signet-ring of the unhappy Baronet, thus dispelling the mystery which had so long enshrouded his fate. The remains of the long-lost Sir Reginald were laid to rest with his ancestors in the old churchyard, and his young kinsmen entered upon his inheritance.

A month later there was great rejoicing at Mervyn Court at the wedding of young Master Rex, as the people still fondly called him, with Gladys Luttrell.

'Just think, Rex,' said Lady Mervyn, 'that we have to thank the old chest for all our good luck. I always believed that it contained a charm, and you see I was right.'

## A PLEA FOR RELIGION IN THE SCHOOL.

TIME and patience and 'pegging away' will probably in due course solve the education difficulty. In the meantime the disastrous results attending the atheistic or godless system in Christian lands will awaken the public mind to its inherent and inseparable dangers. The greatest minds are gradually coming around to a frank recognition of the stand taken by Catholics in these colonies. One of the latest of these was Lord Cross, who was Secretary of State under the Derby Administration. Speaking at the opening of new Church of England schools at Penzance, he referred to the absolute necessity of maintaining the Voluntary schools of the country. He was afraid, he said, that the object of many persons of late was to destroy the Voluntary schools for the purpose of creating universal Board schools and School Boards, and he heartily hoped and believed they would fail in their attempt. He had read with very great pain some statements recently made by the president of the National Teachers' Union, who wished to dissociate secular and religious teaching. The president, however, forget to draw a distinction between instruction and education. Not only must a child be taught the way he should go, but religious truths, which ought to be at the bottom of all lives, must also be put into his mind for the benefit of the child and the State. Between 1870—when the School Boards were established—and 1896 the Voluntary school accommodation had exactly doubled itself—a fact which showed that there was in the minds of the people of this country, and not simply confined to Church-people, a determination that their children should be given education grounded on religion, and that they should be taught religious truths. If Voluntary schools were to be continued, they must insist that the secular education given therein should equal that of the Board schools. Referring to the question of secondary education, Lord Cross said he was extremely anxious that this country should organise a system of secondary education without delay, and he was happy to say that the Duke of Devonshire was determined that they should have such a system at the earliest possible day. He was convinced that if the nation failed to provide this, the nation would be the first to suffer.

## MODERN MIRACLES.

THE DAYS OF MIRACLES ARE NOT YET PAST.

SCEPTICS MAY DOUBT.

SEVEN SPECIAL SURGEONS ARE CONVINCED.

DR. WILLIAMS, OF PINK PILLS FAME, IS FORCING THIS FACT HOME IN ALL CIVILISED COUNTRIES EVERY DAY.

DR. WILLIAMS, of Pink Pills fame, is forcing this fact home in all civilised countries every day. A case in point, illustrating, comes from Melbourne. So says the *Advocate* :—

'The greatest and most extraordinary miracle which has ever occurred in Victoria is undoubtedly the recovery of Dave Kirk, the popular and dashing ex-champion cyclist, who over a year ago, when training on the track at the Scotch College, Melbourne, was hurled from his machine and thrown with incredible rapidity and violence on the hard ground. The tire of his leader burst, and thus the fateful accident was occasioned. Kirk was picked up from where he lay in a senseless heap, and was carried quite unconscious to the Melbourne Hospital. All the many resources of that institution were brought into play for the relief of the patient, but the grave looks of the surgeons in attendance plainly indicated that they entertained but slight hopes of the young man's ultimate recovery. An eminent member of the profession expressed it as his opinion that Kirk would never again rise from his sick-bed. For seven trying months of pain and suffering poor Dave lay 'twixt life and death—unable to stir hand or foot, unable even to move, a victim of spinal disease, pleurisy, dysentery, complete paralysis of the body, and last, but by no means least, locomotor ataxia, a terrible complaint which utterly prostrates the human frame and destroys the power of the will; so much so that the common functions of nature are performed by a power extraneous to the will. An idea of the dreadful injuries sustained by the patient may be gathered from the following details gleaned from Kirk by our representative. His left heel had to be removed, and 32 stitches were inserted in that part of his foot, 18 being placed in his right leg. The kneecap was smashed, and had to be lifted. Altogether, seven surgeons had to do with the sufferer, who was reduced to a very weak and

comatose state after nine operations had been performed on him. Mortification set in in parts of the lower limbs, and artificial means had to be employed to draw off the urine. The system was washed internally four times every day with water and carbolic acid, the stomach being cleaned out by means of a tube. Injections were also largely employed. This was a most singular case, and one which must have afforded ample play for the physicians' skill and experiment, yet it remained for Dr. Williams' Pink Pills to effect a radical and complete cure.'

References to the accident appeared in the *Melbourne Herald*, *Argus*, and other papers.

The *Herald*, of October 9, '96, said :—'Dave Kirk, residing at the Coffee Palace, Victoria-street, North Melbourne, sustained severe injuries this afternoon through falling from his bicycle while training on the track at the Scotch College ground. The tire of his bicycle burst, and Kirk was thrown violently to the ground. He was removed in a cab to the Melbourne Hospital.'

The *Argus*, about a month later, said :—'Everyone has heard of Kirk, the crack racer. About a month ago he met with an accident whilst training, and has been in the Melbourne Hospital ever since. The medical authorities say that he will never ride again, as his spine has been so badly hurt that he will likely be paralysed for life.'

Our statements are consequently borne out by Press-reports. But to continue our story :—

After seven months of bedridden existence in the Melbourne Hospital, Dave Kirk, left that institution with faint hopes of ever being able to get about without the aid of crutches, and with all hopes vanished as to his being again able to enter the cycle arena, where, prior to his accident, he had been a prominent form. In May last Kirk's friends, being impressed by the numerous and authentic cures effected by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills under all conditions, induced him to give them a trial as a last resource. We will give it in his own words his account of the change resulting from their use. He says :—'Gradually the sense of numbness began to disappear, and the extremities acquired by degrees their wonted healthy glow and warmth. While under treatment in the hospital the sense of feeling entirely disappeared, so much so that when the surgeons would put a needle into any part of my body I was absolutely insensible to the fact. To be sure of the absence of the sense of touch, the doctors would conceal my vision, and then question me as to the part they were piercing; but my answers clearly proved to them that I was absolutely bereft of all sensibility! As a final test as to my sense of feeling, I received a shock from a powerful galvanic battery—a shock so strong that the operator declared it to be half a volt more than had been given to anyone in the institution for 40 years—but I was unable to feel its effect. After a month's trial of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills I was able to throw aside my crutches. But one of the most powerful effects of the pills was the restoration of functional health. Bowel troubles had been a terrible trial to me ever since the day I met with the accident. Regularity in this direction was perfectly set up, and I am now, after four months' taking of these pills, in the enjoyment of perfect health.' It wanted no assurance of this, as those who had seen the subject of this narrative are not slow to express their surprise at the picture of health and almost completely resuscitated power of body and mind presented in the person of Dave Kirk.

A short time ago Dave gave a practical illustration of his restored vitality by pluckily capturing a young fellow (who had stolen one of his bicycles) of heavier build than himself, and after vanquishing him in a willing encounter lodged him in the lock-up. An account of the capture appeared in the *Age* of 23rd September. He (Kirk) is able to trench his large garden, and walks daily two miles to and from his business place.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People are not a patent medicine, but are a thoroughly scientific preparation, the result of years of careful study on the part of an eminent Edinburgh University physician, and they were successfully used by him in his everyday practice for years before being offered for general sale. They positively cure rheumatism, sciatica, lumbago, neuralgia, and influenza's evil after effects, and are a specific for all diseases of women, such as anaemia, poor and watery blood, female irregularities, nervous headache, and hysteria. They are not a purgative medicine, but brace up and permanently strengthen the whole system.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are obtainable from all leading chemists, or from the Dr. Williams' Medicine Company, Wellington, New Zealand, who will forward (post paid) on receipt of stamps or post order, one box for 3s. or half-a-dozen for 16s. 6d.

A French scientific journal publishes some particulars as to the consumption of tobacco, which is decreasing in that country, being at the present time about 2lb per head of the population annually, whereas in Holland it is 7lb, in the United States 5lb, in Belgium and Germany 3lb, in Austria-Hungary 2½lb, and in Canada about 2½lb. The consumption in Sweden and Russia is about the same as in France (2lb), while in Great Britain it is not quite 1½lb. The same statistician is also responsible for the calculation that the consumption of matches in Europe is 2,000,000,000 in the course of 24 hours, being on the average 12 per head of the population in Germany, 9 in Belgium, 8 in England, and only 6 in France, where they are of such bad quality that one would have supposed the consumption must be proportionately greater than in any other country.

Mr. P. LONDON, Phoenix Chambers, Wanganui, is still busy putting people on the soil. He has also hotels in town and country For Sale and To Let. Write to him.—\*.\*

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