NOTES.

Mr. Chamberlain's meeting at Birmingham went off as well as might be expected; the malcontents were few, although the door was left free open one (according to Mr. Chamberlain, although admission was by ticket) and it was scarcely to be expected there would be no malcontents. As to Mr. Chamberlain himself he chiefly dwelt on the blocking the way by the Irish question, though he gave no sign of recuring to his semi-democratic Socialism of two years ago.

The truth is, all that is a mere pretence for carrying on a private and personal war, and it must be once more said of the Chamberlain section as of their allies, the Tories and Whigs, and of a great part of their enemies, the Gladstonians, for the matter of that, that the Irish Question is to them simply because it blocks the way to the consideration of English matters.

If English matters are at some future time to be dealt with, to judge by one part of Mr. Chamberlain's speech, he is anxious that they should be dealt with "sweetly as to manner" at least, however strongly as to matter. Since, perhaps somewhat stimulated by the frankness of the wording of the interjections, he expresses himself anxious for fresh and thorough gauging arrangements in the House itself.

He did not suggest any improvement in the office of Speaker in that august assembly, no doubt because he felt that from his point of view an improvement was scarcely possible. After all in this matter Mr. Chamberlain is logical; if coquetry is good for those who differ from Mr. Chamberlain in Ireland, it must also be good for those who differ from Mr. Chamberlain in the House of Commons. His weak point is that to insist on good manners in the House will hardly suit his Tory friends.

Michael Lane and his brother-in-law O'Grady, not forgetting his wife, are champions after the heart of the old Norse story-tellers, whose matchless talent in that line is much needed in the tale of these Irish matters; and the kind of fighting courage of the opened door and the charge on the police explains the story of many a desperately won victory. My suspicion is that if Irishmen were the main actors, but doubtless strong faith in the goodness of the cause must have been at the back of such courage, which could drive a man on to at least one blow at his oppressors, even when he knew that if he escaped alive from the mailling he was sure to get, the prison was to follow.

How very queer our English has come to be in the penny-a-liner's hand by the way; the newspaper of the affair told us that Lane beat the police mercilessly about the head. Spirit of Defoe, teach us some other word for the charge of two men on two hundred!

The Lord Mayor of Dublin and Mr. O'Brien are to be prosecuted for publishing reports of suppressed branches of the Land League in their respective papers, "United Ireland" and the "Nation." This is as it should be; this is to understand coercion as far as it goes. When shall we see a Lord Mayor of London in the dock for resistance to arbitrary authority?

In our debate on Socialism, Mr. Bradlaugh took exception to Bax's statement of the tendency of manufacturing capital to aggregation; and our friend Bax, when challenged to produce examples of this process, did not go much out of his way to do so; probably because he did not think it worth while to defend a statement which he might well think that nobody but the Pope (or Mr. Bradlaugh) would be bold enough to attempt to controvert. But since some persons are staggered by the use of a distinguished name, however reckless or foolish the bearer of the said name may be, I venture (once more) to summon a friend to stand in this matter, and quote again from Mr. David A. Wall's article in the Contemporary Review.

Says he: "The now well ascertained and accepted fact (not accepted by Mr. Bradlaugh in persons) that power is most economically applied when applied on the largest possible scale, is rapidly and inescapably leading to the concentration of manufacturing in the largest establishments and the gradual extinction of those which are small. A cotton mill which with a profit (formerly not unusual) of a half penny a yard could easily pay 10 per cent. per annum on a given capital, with a reduction of profit to a quarter of a cent. per yard would have to manufacture and sell four times as many yards of cloth as to produce the same gross profits; which even then would fall very far short of paying the former rate of percentage on the increased capital, machinery, buildings, etc., necessary to effect the increased production."

He goes on to show that this concentration is forced on the manufacturers, and takes sugar as an example, pointing out that the turn-over which some time ago would have made a decent business would not now enable it to live. "The successful refiner of sugar to-day in place of being, as formerly, a manufacturer exclusively, must now as a result of full competition of his own importers, be himself the owner of his own wharfs and warehouses, make his own barrels and boxes, prepare his own 'jone-block,' etc. . . . It is not therefore to be wondered at that under the advent of these new conditions the sugar-refineries are in operation in the sea-board cities of the United States in 1875 have since failed or discontinued operations."

He quotes the Statist: "It is a characteristic and noteworthy feature of banking in Germany, that the bulk of the business is gradually shifting from the small bankers, who used to do a thriving business, to the great banking companies, leaving quite a number of small customer almost without any chance to prosper in legitimate operations—concentration of capital and business in the hands of a limited number of powerful customers being the rule of the day."

Small ships, it tells, are no longer built, owing, amongst other things, to the economy in manning, brought about by the use of large oars. The "Directory of American Millers for 1886 shows a decrease in the number of flour mills in the United States for that year as compared with 1884 of 6,812 out of a total in the latter year of 25,079, but an increase at the same time in capacity for flour production. The legitimate inference from these statistics therefore is that the small flour mills are being crushed, or forced into consolidation with larger companies."

He says that it was hoped and thought that one result of the war that ended in 1865 would be the substitution of small yeoman farmers for big plantations in cotton cultivation; but that it has been found by experience that the small cultivator cannot live at all. I could go on multiplying these examples, but I do not think I need now prove that water does not naturally run up hill, even though it may be necessary for the theories of Mr. Bradlaugh that it should. Both these articles by Mr. David A. Wells are well worth studying by a Socialist.

W. M.

PHILANTHROPIC MANIA: ITS DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT.

\(\text{According to the system of Dr. Worldly Wise}^\text{man}.\)

In spite of the great progress recently made in the pathology of madness, there is one class of mania which has not received the attention it deserves at the hands of medical men, and that is the sugar of general public attention. The spirit of this philanthropic mania (for so, in the absence of any specific title, I will venture to designate it) is not only much more common than is usually supposed, but is largely on the increase in the present day; and its consequences both to the individuals affected and to the families and societies in which they reside, is obvious that a determined effort ought to be made to remedy and counteract it.

The symptoms of this deplorable and, as there is reason to fear, contagious malady, are fortunately not difficult to detect. The patient betrays a meddling restlessness, and discontent with the existing order of society; he is haunted by an insane idea that this or that person, or class of persons, is the victim of some old-established grievance which needs abatement or redress; and acting under this hallucination he placates the envy of all kinds of privalees and monopolies, completely exposing the cause of the masses against that of the classes, and calling for a system of strict and impartial justice without the slightest consideration for the higher interests and more delicate susceptibilities of those who are affected in the manner described, a careful watch should be kept by the relatives of the patient; and if the symptoms do not presently...