

Temperance and Prohibition.

A GREAT MAN'S TESTIMONY.

The Medical Temperance Review published the following letter, dated April 9th, 1899, and written to Mr. E. T. Collings, of Bolton:

Prof. Huckle:

"I understand that you ask me what I think about 'alcohol as a stimulant to the brain in mental work?'"

"Speaking for myself (and perhaps I may add for persons of my temperament), I can say without hesitation that I would just as soon take a dose of arsenic as I would of alcohol, under such circumstances. Indeed, on the whole, I should think the arsenic safer, less likely to lead to physical and moral degradation. It would be better to die outright than to be alcoholized before death.

"If a man cannot do brain work without stimulants of any kind, he had better turn to hard work—it is an indication on Nature's part that she did not mean him to be a head worker.

"The circumstances of my life have led me to all sorts of conditions in regard to alcohol, from total abstinence to nearly the other end of the scale, and my clear conviction is the less the better, though I by no means feel called upon to forego the comforting and cheering effect of a little.

"But for no conceivable consideration would I use it to whip up a tired or sluggish brain; indeed, for me there is no working time so good as between breakfast time and lunch, when there is not a trace of alcohol in my composition.

The Review goes on to say:

"From the above we have the following clear conclusion arrived at by one of the cleverest and deepest thinkers of our day:

"That as a stimulant to the brain in mental work, it would be better to take a dose of arsenic than a dose of alcohol. After the widest experience of various quantities of alcohol, he thinks 'the less the better.'

"These opinions should be sufficient to induce anyone to adopt the practice of total abstinence; but, alas! for the frailty of human nature, even Huxley did not feel himself called upon to do so."

A DRUNKARD'S BODY AFTER DEATH.

A post-mortem examination of nearly seventy persons who had died from excessive use of ardent spirits, showed the following facts:

1. Congestion of the scalp and of the membrane of the brain, with much serious (watery) effusion. The substance of the brain white and firm, as if it had lain in alcohol for one or two hours.

2. The lungs not always but frequently congested or inflamed.

3. The heart flabby, enlarged, dilated, and loaded with fat outside; the blood in it of a cherry red color, and with no tendency to coagulate.

4. The stomach perfectly white and thickened in some cases; in others having patches of chronic inflammation. In the worst cases a large portion of the stomach covered with the species of inflammation which causes the blood to be poured from the minute veins.

5. The liver enlarged—in old drunkards weighing from six to twelve pounds.

6. The omentum—a sort of apron

which immediately covers the abdomen in front—loaded with a gray slushy fat.

7. The kidneys enlarged, flabby, and infiltrated in numerous spots with whitish matter.

8. The small intestines filled with bile and coated with a tenacious mucus.

9. The blood in a very fluid condition, having but little fibrin, but much albumen and fat.

10. The whole body, except the brain, decomposing very rapidly.

Is it any wonder that a drunkard needs medical treatment?—*The Temperance Cause.*

A BAD DEAL.

One evening a laboring man stepped into a meat market to purchase some meat for his family. He took out his money, and counting it, found that he had only seventeen cents. He purchased seven cents worth of meat for his large family, then he went into the next door and spent the remaining ten cents for whiskey.

It would have been better for the farmer if that man had spent the seventeen cents for meat. The farmer makes more money in raising corn to produce seventeen cents worth of meat than he makes in raising corn to produce seven cents' worth of whiskey.

It would have been better for the man's family, who were poorly clothed and fed, had he carried home seventeen cents' worth of meat, instead of seven cents' worth of meat and ten duce seven cents' worth of whiskey.

It would have been better for the man himself had he taken home seventeen cents' worth of meat and no whiskey. He would have gained more strength had he spent all of his money for meat. He would have been better mentally, morally, and socially. He would have been a better husband and father without the whiskey.

It seems strange that some men, who seem to have good business ability, consider the saloon essential to the business interests of the city. They are possessed with the idea that if the saloons were closed, the grass would grow in our streets.

If the saloons were closed the people would have more money to spend for food and clothing. They would be better able to build homes of their own. This would increase all lines of honorable business. It would not only give us greater prosperity, but it would lessen all kinds of crime, and increase the happiness in thousands of homes.—*American Issue.*

WHAT THE SALOON IS.

"Some reformers go out of their way to pay special compliments to the saloon as an American institution. They tell us the saloon is the poor man's club, his haven of rest after a day's laborious toil.

"Why not continue the eulogy, and recommend the saloon as the poor man's bank? Why not call it the toiler's refuge in sickness? Why not style the saloon-keeper the workingman's good samaritan in affliction, his supporter and friend in misfortune and poverty? I have no patience with people who go out of their way to excuse the existence of the lawless and poverty-breeding

saloon, and who are always seeking an opportunity to pat the saloon-keeper on the back for his many noble acts of charity and benevolence.

"We know what the saloon is, if we want to tell the truth. It is the highway robber of the poor and the helpless; it is the wrecker and destroyer of thousands of happy, comfortable homes; it is the debaucher of the young and innocent, through its wine rooms and other pest-breeding annexes; it is, in fine, the vicious and contaminating influence that produces most of our political rottenness.

"We have permitted this vile reptile to entwine itself about our municipal, state, and federal politics until it has crushed out all decency and honesty, and left us nothing but the shell of our boasted liberty."—*Rev. James I. Coffey.*

MORTALITY FROM DRINK.

An important inquiry has been made by Mr. Shaw Lefevre into the development of intemperance in England and Wales. The results are startling. As published in *The Spectator* and reprinted in *The Review of Reviews* they show an increase in convictions for drunkenness from 105,454 in 1887 to 146,754 in 1901. More appalling still are the figures given for the increase in deaths from chronic alcoholism and delirium tremens, which is shown by a table giving the yearly number at five-year intervals as follows:

Year.	Deaths from Alcoholism.	Delirium Tremens.	Total.
1881	847	366	1,213
1886	1,045	347	1,392
1891	1,052	553	2,055
1896	1,775	413	2,188
1900	3,053	585	3,638

The figures are official, and are taken from the Report of the Registrar-General for the year 1900. They, of course, do not by any means represent the number of deaths attributable to alcohol. This is made clear by the Registrar-General, who says:

In the course of the year not fewer than 3,638 deaths were referred either to alcoholism or delirium tremens. It is certain, however, that many other deaths were caused by intemperate habits, although they appear in the certificates as from "cirrhosis of the liver," "multiple neuritis," etc. The mortality from alcoholism last year was equal to a rate of 132 per million among males and 95 per million among females, both these rates being the highest on record."—*The Pioneer.*

A PROHIBITION TOWN.

The *Northwestern Mail* gives this interesting information about Wessington Springs, in the State of South Dakota: This town was founded in 1880 with a colony of 100 families, who took the pledge never to sell intoxicating beverages. The colony has prospered. It has made this a strong prohibition county. The sale of liquor is unknown here. The county is in the lead in prohibition, Sunday-school and educational work. A strong seminary is located here. Court expenses are almost nothing. At the last term of court the judge arrived at 10 a. m., and adjourned at noon because there was nothing to do. The sheriff is compelled to live in the jail because his fees are so small. The jail is used for no other purpose. The best lecturers in the country come to this place. The people are intelligent and happy. The tax rate is low. Rev. A. B.

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Smart, of Chicago, the founder of the town, is now at work planting a small colony in Oneida county, Wis.

TESTIMONY FOR CALIFORNIA.

Take the two cities of San Bernardino and Riverside, not more than 12 miles apart:

	License.	Prohibition.
San Bernardino.		Riverside.
Population in 1900,	6,150	7,973
Gain in ten years, ..	2,000	3,300
Savings Bank deposits, ..	1,695	439,20
Number of saloons, ..	16	0
Value ass'd property, \$2,066,970	\$5,499,885	
Savings Bank deposits, ..	1,695	439,205
Cost of paupers for same time, ..	27,228	13,324
Number city police, ..	5	4
Arrests in 1900, ..	528	113
Arrests for drunkenness, ..	400	52
Received from license, ..	\$9,000	0
Tax rate, ..	1.70	\$1.00

LIQUOR SELLERS TABOOED.

The Grand Lodge of Masons of Georgia recently took action which will result in every Masonic liquor-seller, except druggists, being expelled from the order unless they quit the business. This is in line with what is now the trend in all respectable secret societies. One after another, in every part of the country, is tabooing liquor-sellers. In commenting upon this action of the Grand Lodge of Georgia, an exchange very forcefully says:

"The growing stench of the saloon and liquor-manufacturing trade has grown too strong, and can be endured no longer. We suppose it will now be in