

ALCOHOL.

Prof. Victor Horsley, F. R. S., F. R. C. S., in a recent speech referred to the past position of the medical profession, and said that medical science, unfortunately, from the very nature of her general knowledge, was necessarily still in the chains of empiricism. It was thus bound, in common humanity to receive the statements of any one based upon fair evidence, and to try and test the results which such a one might claim to have obtained from his own experience. It was in this way that the medical profession became enamored of alcohol as a drug, more especially in the treatment of acute diseases and fevers.

Things had greatly changed. Physiological science had advanced immensely. Physicians were now gradually freeing themselves from the slavery to which they were before subject, and knew that the position of alcohol, from the medical point of view, had to be considered in the two opposite conditions of a food and a drug. Researches of men like Parks, who headed the movement, had given the medical profession the true scientific value of alcohol, and the value they knew to be very nearly zero.

Regarding popular belief that, as the drinking of alcohol existed as a general custom, it was a good thing, Dr. Parks, twenty-five years ago, pointed out that because one thing was a custom it was no evidence of the truth. Cannibalism was a custom in some parts of the world, and was it therefore good?

There was one scientific point ascertained beyond all doubt with regard to alcohol in its first influence upon the human system and animal body, and that was that, in proportion to the dose, it checked the tissue changes of the body. Alcohol did, in greater or less degree, check the activity of these processes. This could be produced with even a small dose. Carried to a greater extreme, its effect was not that of a regulator, but it proved an extra blocker of the machinery. "It seems," said the speaker, "a kind of chronic suicide that they were always to put the brake on—to put the brake on the development of their natural energies. What they wished to do without infringing the laws of nature was to get the greatest amount of energy out of their bodies. Why hinder it?"

Prof. Horsley alluded to the series of experiments on the influence of alcohol upon plant life carried out by Dr. Ridge, of Enfield, who found that one-sixteenth per cent of a solution of alcohol checked the growth of water-cress, and that a tenth solution of alcohol killed its seeds. The position of the medical profession with regard to alcohol as a food was becoming more and more defined.

Prof. Horsley next drew attention to the researches of Dr. Hare, as to the use of alcohol as a medicine, and to the fact noticed by him—the large decrease in the use of alcohol at the London hospitals, and the largely increased use of milk and other forms of nutrition. At the London Temperance Hospital, since 1873, the experiment as to whether alcohol was useful had been tried to the uttermost, the evidence was perfectly wonderful, and the result so far gained was overwhelmingly contradictory to many previous notions.

In this hospital, which had admitted 4,153 persons as in-patients and 23,000 as out-patients, alcohol had only been administered as a drug in four cases. The cases of recovery had done remarkably well, and on the whole there was a mortality of rather less than one in ten. This mortality was smaller than the mortality in any other hospital in London at that period, and there had not been given to one of these a drop of alcohol either as diet or medicine, and yet a large number ought to have died, according to the old view of the treatment of the disease. Figures speak for themselves.—*British Medical Journal*.

There can be no doubt that the dramshop is an intolerable drainage of the National resources; the nursery of crime; the enemy of domestic happiness; the threshold of the poor-house the vestibule of the jail; the portal of hell. *** It must be accounted as among the most terrible of the destructive forces which affects the human race.—*Senator J. J. Ingall*.

Damnably Drink Again.

A Georgia paper says:—"Three children of Jim Pope, a colored man, living near Long View, were killed yesterday by Hubbard Harrell 10 years of age. The latter is a brother of Pope's wife and lives with his parents in that neighborhood. Yesterday a party of negroes employed in the turpentine business gave Hubbard a bottle of whiskey. The idea occurred to the drunken boy that he would go over to his sister's house and kill her children. Pope and his wife were some distance away from the house when he arrived, so he proceeded at once to carry out the design. He prepared a kettle of boiling water, and with a pan poured it upon the children, having first striped them of all their clothing. The largest child was soon scalded to death. The next resisted, but Hubbard succeeded in beating its brains out with an iron bar, and then threw its body in the boiling water. The youngest of the three children attempted to escape, but was caught, and when the parents, attracted by the children's cries, arrived, they found Hubbard holding the child by the ankle and thrashing it against the bedstead and upon the floor. The two scalded children were actually boiled, until the flesh dropped off when handled, and the other's head was almost a jelly from the beating it received.

Temperance Report.

The following recommendations were adopted in the report of the St. John Presbytery held on Tuesday last:

- (1) In the opinion of this presbytery it is the duty of the public authorities to enforce temperance as well as other laws and the effort to do so should not be left to private individuals.
- (2) Earnest effort should be made to enforce existing laws thereby preparing the way for more stringent ones.
- (3) The presbytery would express satisfaction at the result of the recent contest in Westmorland county.
- (4) This presbytery would urge upon sessions the duty of using all lawful and wise means to advance public temperance sentiment.

Belgian officials have an ingenious way of dealing with drunkenness. When an intoxicated man appears on the streets a garde champetre takes him politely home. Next morning he goes to the houses of all those whom he had found drunk the night before and presents to each a broom for sweeping streets. The drunkard is allowed to choose between working for the commune one day and being prosecuted for drunkenness. The village streets are, in consequence, marvelously clean, and the sweepers after swallowing more than their natural share of dust, pass many resolutions of sobriety and keep them.

The Tennessee Prohibition Convention met at Nashville on Feb. 22. Twenty-three delegates to the National Convention of the Prohibition party at Indianapolis were chosen and instructed to vote for Clinton B. Fisk for candidate for President, On May 16th a candidate for Governor will be selected in a State Convention. The platform affirms allegiance to the National Prohibition party declaring in favor of legislative Prohibition, aid to education and against pauper immigration.

Pointers.

Moderate drinking is the downhill road to intemperance.

All use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage is an abuse.

The issue of rum is to be discontinued in the British Army.

Beer aggravates many, if not all, skin diseases; particularly eczema.

So long as rum is free to whoever wants to buy, it matters comparatively little that it be free to whoever wants to sell.

Of over fifty inebriate asylums which have been established in this country, about thirty are in operation, the others having changed into insane asylums, water cures, etc.

John M. Atherton well says that it is the consumer that pays the whisky tax—it is not the traffic itself. This is also true of high license fees. It is not the saloon that foots the license bill, it is the consumers.—*Washington American*.

A saloon can no more be run without using up boys than a flouring mill without wheat, or a saw mill without logs. The only question is whose boys—yours or mine—our boys or our neighbors? Will you give your husbands and sons, or must other women give their husbands and sons, that the mill of ruin may grind on?

An item is going the rounds of the press to the effect that whiskey is now manufactured out of old rags. We see nothing remarkable about this, is the New York Observer's comment. Every one knows that nearly all the old rags now in the country are manufactured out of whiskey, and there is no apparent reason why the process of conversion may not work as well one way as another: from whiskey to rags and from rags to whiskey. What a beautiful business it is!

The attempt to strangle a Bengal tiger by a string around his tail would be holiday sport in comparison with the attempt to destroy the saloon by license.—*W. A. Watt*.

Around the World.

The Friends of Philadelphia have a Committee which protest against the liquor signs on city passenger cars, and another which protests against the renting of city property for saloon purposes.

A bill has been introduced in the New Jersey Legislature providing that on the petition of one-tenth of the voters in any county, the question of the sale of liquor shall be submitted to a popular vote in that county.

Mrs. Buell, Corresponding Secretary of the Woman's National Christian Temperance Union, at Nashville, reports a total membership in the Nation of 136,477 in 6,505 local unions. There were 102,521 enrolled in the Loyal Legion.

More than \$180,000,000 was spent in the United States last year for whiskey and beer by workmen. When one figures up how many \$800 cottages that sum would build, and realizes that every dollar of it was more than wasted, it makes him feel solemn.

The *Ithacan* says the Cornell University students have formed a total abstinence league, which already has more than 100 members.

A bill has been introduced in the Kentucky Legislature which among other things prohibits and makes void marriage with a drunkard.

Dr G. A. Shurnief, former Superintendent of the Stockton, Iowa, State Insane Asylum, says that intemperance produces more insanity on the Pacific coast than any other influence.

Neal Dow who was nominated for Mayor by the Prohibitionists of Portland, Me., came within 1,600 votes of being elected Monday 5th. This was partly because the Democrats made no nomination and split into two elements. The good element supported Dow and the slum element (which is always large in the Democratic party) supported the Republican candidate.

The Supreme Court of Michigan has decided two points of the new State Liquor law to be unconstitutional, weakening the force of the law very much. One was the section providing for police control by the Detroit authorities of townships adjoining Detroit, and the other a section making lawful the arrest without process of a saloonist discovered in the act of violating the liquor law. Prohibition straight is always constitutional, but when the people begin to tinker with it they get themselves into a fix.

The W. C. T. U. of Springfield, Ohio, has been holding Gospel temperance meetings. Three hundred and fifty signed the pledge and many party converts were made.

Hop Bitters have been decided an intoxicating beverage by an Ulster Co. (N. Y.) court.

There is hardly a single Chinaman among the Chinese denizens of New York city who has ever fallen into the liquor habit, and a policeman who patrols the Chinese quarter says he never yet saw a drunk Chinaman. There are more Americans of both sexes who have taken up the Chinese opium habit than Chinamen who have been seized with the alcoholic mania of the Americans.

The following "ad" of a grocery firm of Kirksville, Mo., is a very good temperance sermon: "Any man who drinks two drachms of whiskey per day for a year, and pays ten cents a drink for it, can have at our store thirty sacks of flour, 220 pounds of granulated sugar, and seventy-two pounds of good green coffee for the same money, and get \$250 premium for making the change in his expenditures."

Since the I. O. G. T. was started five million persons have joined, one-tenth of whom are now active members. 200,000 drunkards have been converted and have kept the pledge.

An active campaign is going on in Rhode Island. The election occurs April 4th, and George W. Gough, the Prohibition candidate for Governor, proposes to make it warm for the rummies and rum parties.

The New South Wales (Australia) Parliament has authorized a Drink Inquiry Commission, and the results of its investigation have made a profound impression against the liquor traffic.

No man who votes to legalize the saloon can with good grace object to his son's patronizing it.—*The Voice*.

The Prohibition party is growing in Tennessee, Texas, Michigan and Oregon faster than in the other States.

The biggest petition ever got up has just been presented to Queen Victoria. It is in favor of a sober Sabbath, and was signed by 1, 132, 608 women.

The Prohibitionists of Washington D.C. have been having a series of grand rallies recently. The object was to promote the District prohibition bill.

It is easy enough for politicians to introduce a prohibitory bill and kick up a dust to blind eyes that do not wish to see. Keep right on marking time gentlemen. There is a sturdy little army, daily growing, and very much in earnest, which is making the most important and determined forward movement of the age. Peace will come some time, and the little army will dictate the terms.

There isn't a liquor-dealer in the United States but would like to see the prohibition law of Maine, Kansas or Iowa changed to the highest kind of high license. Do you doubt it?

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Feb, 1888.

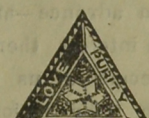
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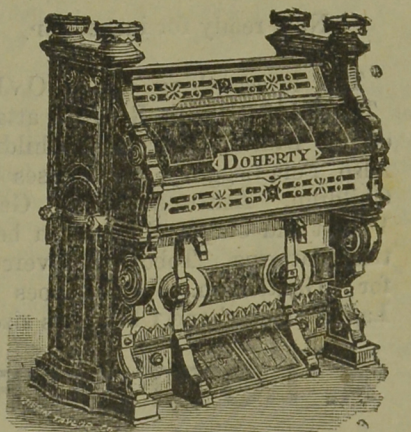
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