

DEATHS FROM STRONG DRINK.

While for many years we were firmly convinced that the liquor habit was an evil, and more than an evil, and that continually; and while we believed that the moderate use of alcohol in health or disease was fraught with great danger, and while we believed and still believe that the absolute safety against the formation of this liquor habit with its inseparable evils, is total abstinence from their use, yet we were skeptical some what in regard to the alleged annual mortality from the use of alcohol in its various forms. When the statements were made that sixty (60) thousand people perish annually in the United States alone from inebriety and disease induced by the use of alcoholic liquors, we believed the figures large, if not greatly exaggerated.

Rev. Dr. Buckley, editor of the Christian Advocate, a very careful and reliable paper, in the last issue of that paper, says:

Dr. Norman Kerr, an eminent physician of England, believing the statement of temperance people to be extravagant, that 60,000 people die annually from the effects of strong drink, began as early as 1870 a personal inquiry, in connection with several medical men and experts, expecting to quickly disapprove the same. According to their deductions the latest estimate of deaths of adults annually caused through intemperance is: In Great Britain, 120,000; in France, 142,000; in the United States, 80,000; or nearly half a million each year in three countries aggregating a population of 120,000,000.

If such are the facts it is not time that every health board in the land, while using commendable vigilance against such foreign foes as Cholera and Yellow Fever, the deaths from which are a trifle compared with those from alcohol, should arouse themselves against this foe to life, and health, and happiness already within our midst and slaying the rich and poor—the well favored and the ill fed as well? Despite the most well directed efforts, Cholera and Yellow Fever, Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever may not be prevented immeasurably; but we have a sure, safe and cheap preventive against this greatest of all agents of death—alcohol, and that is not to touch, taste nor handle the death-dealing stuff. We write this not from a fanatical temperance standpoint, but as a sanitarian, and simply in the interests of health and life. The moral, financial and social interests, though as great, are not alluded to. At the risk of being charged as being too radical we declare that we wish that every child in the State was taught that there is danger of disease and death in taking even the least quantity of spirituous or malt liquor; and that there is absolute safety alone in the non-use of these drinks.—Health Bulletin.

WORTH CONSIDERING.

Why should a few persons claim the right to over-ride the laws made for all? In this fair and free land we boast of all men's equality before the law. There are over sixty millions of us who according to this, stand on the same legal level. No one can legally have any advantage over another in the administration of civil government. This is the theory of our government, and it is indeed a beautiful one. It is the *ne plus ultra* of equity. Justice herself could not frame a more perfect ideal. But how is it in practice? Are all in fact treated alike by the administrators of law? There is a very manifest and unreasonable exception made in favor of a few thousand liquor dealers. These men claim, and the claim is allowed, to exercise peculiar and special privileges granted to no other class, occupation or trade in our free land. In what particular? That of poisoning others. This privilege is denied to all other classes. The butcher who sells unwholesome meat is arrested the moment the fact is made known. The grocer that sells poisonous canned goods knowingly is shut up at once when the cruel practice becomes public. The ragman is not even permitted to sell old rotten rags infested with disease. But the liquor seller deals in nothing but poisonous wares, and claims that he shall have license from the government to murder his fellow man. Under this legal sanction he commends his poisons to deluded custo-

mers, and sweetens and prepares them so as to make them pleasant and palatable that he may induce them to drink deep and destroy themselves. He does not warn his victim of the danger by telling him there is poison and death in the cup, but the very reverse. And yet his right to do this is guaranteed to him by law, under the protecting provisions of the high license and good character code. He is duly licensed, and so obtains an indulgence granted to no other class of men. He has a kind of monopoly in the death dealing business, by which so many hundreds of thousands of strong, hearty and brilliant men are brought to a premature grave. We believe, from the above and other considerations, that the license system, as applied to the liquor traffic, is unconstitutional, because it establishes a privileged class, to whom are granted special immunity and favors. Legislation which does this is un-American, and in direct opposition to that section of the Fourteenth amendment to the constitution, which says that a state "shall not deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the law.—*Ex.*

THE USES OF BARLEY.

The *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, speaking of barley in its article on agriculture, says:

"It is, however, in the production of malt liquors and in the fattening of live stock, that our barley crops are chiefly consumed. We have no doubt that it would be better for the community if this grain were more largely used in the form of butcher meat; and greatly less in that of beer or whisky.

It has been customary for farmers to look upon distillation as beneficial to them, from the ready market which it affords for barley, and more especially for the lighter qualities of this and other grain crops. But this is a very short-sighted view of the matter, for careful calculation shows that when the laboring man spends a shilling in the dram-shop, not more than a penny of it goes for the agricultural product (barley) from which the gin or whisky is made; whereas, when he spends the same sum with the butcher or a baker, nearly the whole amount goes for raw material, and only a fraction for tradesman's profits. And not only so, but the man who spends a part of his wages upon strong drink diminishes, both directly and indirectly, his ability to buy wholesome food and good clothing; so that apart from the moral and social bearings of this question it can abundantly be shown that whisky or beer is the very worst form for the farmer in which his grain can be consumed. Were the \$250,000,000 at present annually spent in Great Britain upon ardent spirits (not to speak of beer) employed in purchasing bread, meat, dairy produce, vegetables, woolen and linen clothing, farmers would on the one hand be relieved from oppressive rates and, on the other, have such an increased demand for their staple products as would far more than compensate for the closing of what is at present the chief outlet for their barley."

Smuggling.

A despatch from Ottawa says Revenue Inspector J. A. Gravelle has returned to that city after an absence of nearly two months. He was on a successful tour through eastern Quebec in search of illicit whisky stills and contraband tobacco. He reports that an enormous amount of smuggling is going on and thinks it can never be completely suppressed unless the government locates an agent at French Islands this side of Newfoundland. The smuggling is principally carried on by captains of coasting vessels with collusion of the Quebec tobacco manufacturers. The latter escape payment of inland revenue duty by declaring the tobacco may reach the islands, but the bulk is sold at Gaspé. An official at French Island, by examining invoices, could soon detect the smugglers. The inspector visited all ports as far as Saguenay and came back via River du Loup. He reports that there is also considerable smuggling of liquors carried on. His seizures included whisky stills as well as illicit and smuggled tobacco. James Tremblay, of old Lorette, had three whisky stills in full blast when the inspector called. One still was de-

stroyed while the other two were removed. The owners have made a deposit with the department of inland revenue pending an investigation. The various tobacco seizures will be investigated in court at Quebec, Murray Bay, St. Thomas and Chicoutimi, next month. Some of the illicit whisky is of splendid quality. Samples were 11 degrees above proof.

A CALM ONLOOKER.

Public Sentiment and Enforcement of Prohibitory Liquor Laws.

An excuse often given for not enforcing the liquor laws is that public sentiment does not sustain the officers in their efforts to enforce it. Will any one please to point to a single instance in the history of prohibition in Maine where the officers have thoroughly enforced the liquor laws and public sentiment has disapproved of it? Public sentiment in any city or town in Maine will sustain the officers in enforcing the laws; even if it didn't it would be no valid excuse for the officers.

If officials who are chosen to enforce the laws and paid for doing it, expect the people to hunt up the cases of violation of the law, make complaint, and come to the officers to have them proceed against the offenders, it seems to me that they expect the people to do most of the duties which officials are paid for doing.

It is reported that some of the County sheriffs have instructed the deputies to cease making seizures of liquor until after election. Is that due to deference to public opinion or is it a bid for rum votes?

Isn't a majority of over forty thousand votes in favor of constitutional prohibition sufficient evidence that public sentiment is in favor of the prohibition of the liquor traffic? —*Maine Exchange.*

Dr. Parker says he "could make a Garden of Eden in the East End of London in three months, though his way would be a rough one at first." He "would burn down all the breweries and shut up all the public houses." Those barred doors and those heaps of ashes would help some, no doubt; but England will not allow this reformer to have his way; nor will it inaugurate any milder plan to reach the end he aims at, so long as one-third of all the taxes of the United Kingdom is obtained from the liquor traffic. What Doctor Parker calls the "damnable drink-shop" will not be an object of universal execration so long as it bears one-third the burden of the government. In this respect England is very much like the United States. One hundred millions of dollars is an enormous bribe to which public opinion is not insensible.—*Western Christian Advocate.*

The Mother of Crime.

M. Marabet in a recent communication to the Paris academy of medicine states that after examining 3,000 convicted criminals he found that of the vagabonds and the mediacants 70 per cent. were drunkards; of the assassins and incendiaries 50 and 57; of robbers, 71; of those convicted of crimes against the person 88 per cent., and of those guilty of attacks on property 77 per cent. were alcoholics. Of 100 criminal youths under 20, 64 were already drunkards. Drunkenness has greatly increased in France since the consumption of spirits has supplemented that of wine.

TEMPERANCE NOTES.

The Scott Act election campaign opens at Manotick, Russel County, on September 5. Mr. F. S. Spence, of Toronto, secretary of the Dominion Alliance, and the Rev. W. W. Carson, of Ottawa, will be present. Prominent Conservatives have been secured as speakers.

One of the strongest scientific temperance instruction bills ever enacted has lately received the signature of the governor of Louisiana. Thirty-six states and territories, embracing over three-fourths of the entire school population of the United States, now have temperance education laws.

The liquor bill of the people of the United Kingdom in 1887 was nearly \$625,000,000, an increase over 1886 of upward of \$10,000,000. The average cost to each family of five persons was about \$85 a year. What an enormous waste! Is it any wonder that so many bread-winners are over-burdened?

THE SCOTT ACT IN FRONTENAC.—The county is being canvassed for signatures to a petition asking for the repeal of the Scott Act. The idea is to have the voting over and the issue decided before the commencement of another license year. In Lennox County a number of Scott Act offenders have fled the country to escape the penalty following their conviction.

The character of the rum sold in Africa may be judged from the following incident: A gorilla died, and to preserve the body in order to send it to Liverpool it was placed in this liquor. On its arrival it seemed as if it had been dipped in vitrol; the hair and skin burned off and the rest was too horrible to be described.

The Northern Presbyterian Assembly last week passed a resolution recommending the session of Presbyterian churches to refuse to admit into these churches persons who are engaged in the liquor business. There were but few dissenting votes. This is a step in the temperance cause in the right direction. Rum-selling and church-membership ought not to be combined in the same persons.

GENERAL TEMPERANCE NEWS.

A distilling company at Rich Hill, Mo., announces that its distillery will be closed because of the local option law.

Patrick Reilly, a boy of fifteen died recently in Newburg, N. Y., from alcoholism. He had been on a spree for two days.

Mrs. Nind, of Minnesota, and Mrs. Hannah Whitall Smith presented the work of the World's W. C. T. U. to the International Missionary Conference in Loudon.

A saloon can no more be run without using up boys than a saw-mill without logs. The only question is, whose boys—your boys or our neighbors?

The International W. C. T. U. has brought a petition before the English Parliament, which asks that there shall be a law enacted to prevent liquor being sold to children under sixteen years of age.

Mrs. Mary Lowe Dickinson, who was for several years National W. C. T. U. Superintendent for the department of Higher Education, has been elected to the Woman's chair of the University of Denver.

Just before the adjournment of the late General Assembly of Louisiana, the Governor presented to Mrs. Mary H. Hunt, the eminent temperance advocate of Boston, the pen with which he signed the strong temperance educational law of that State.

Princes Viroque, of the Mohawk tribe, Six Nations, made an interesting and instructive temperance address at a recent meeting of St. Patrick's Total Abstinence Society, Washington, D. C. The Princess wore a rich satin dress, the skirt of which was handpainted with flowers in a fine style of art.

It is reported that the liquor-saloons in North Carolina, where workmen wasted their money, are being converted into factories, where they can make money. The largest saloon in Raleigh is now a shoe manufactory, employing as many men as all the saloons in the city did; another has been turned into a furniture factory.

Dying Out.

A Prohibition exchange writing about the old parties in the States says: The old parties are dying. The closing scenes are being enacted. How much is the nation burying? The wrecks of a million homes, the destruction of seventy thousand souls per annum has been lowered into the grave, and as a people we hear the voice "earth to earth, dust to dust." We turn from the tomb with rejoicing as over a triumph won, thankful that that curse of all curses has been put in its grave forever, while from the grave comes a glorious resurrection. A nation delivered—a people free from that damnable curse Alcohol. Let gladness shine down into the hearts of the wives and the mothers of the poor wretches whose will was not strong enough to resist the temptation, for the temptation has been buried, the old ship, Prohibition, with love and mercy as its pilot, will safely ride over the breakers and waves of all opposition from the whisky parties.

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