

The Albemarle Observer

Only Newspaper Published in Chowan County.

"LOOK FORWARD, AND NOT BACK."

Vol. 5, No 33

EDENTON, NORTH CAROLINA, FRIDAY, AUG. 14, 1914

Subscription: \$1.00 a Year

My Visit to the Confederate Re-Union at Jacksonville, Fla.

It was a great pleasure to meet so many of our dear old veterans and exchange war jokes and other pleasantries, and have a good time.

Jacksonville was the most beautifully and elaborately decorated city that it has ever been my pleasure to see. The citizens were jolly, nice, and seemed to be enjoying everything as much as the visitors. The camp was beautifully located and the dining tent was very nice, neat and clean. The food was good and served very nicely. I ate four meals there and enjoyed them very much. The waiters were very polite and attentive. I wrote to Mr. Poulson sometime before the re-union, asking about accommodations. I intended carrying one of my grandsons and another young boy with me and desired to have a room for the three of us to be together. He referred my letter to one Mr. Walter Hawkins, chairman of "Committee on Rooms," who wrote to me stating that he had assigned us to a Mrs. Brown on 23d Street at three dollars a night for lodging only, for the three of us in one room. At the Virginia re-union last September at Roanoke, we were furnished very nice room two to a room, two beds in the room, in a very nice private residence, with a splendid family, and when we asked our bill for each of the three nights lodging were surprised that we only owed seventy-five cents. The residence had all modern conveniences and we had kind and nice attention. Having to pay at first class hotel in Norfolk, where I often stop, two dollars and a quarter for room for three, and thinking Mrs. Brown's price rather high, I concluded to await future developments. Several of our comrades went on the S. A. L., but wishing to see some parties in North Carolina, I travelled on the A. C. L. My train reached Jacksonville sooner than theirs, and I went to our headquarters and waited until they arrived. I said that I had not secured a room, one of our party said we have a room and there is one vacant one adjoining ours, and took me down to the man's place of business, from whom he had got a room for three; and I, taking for granted we would have nice quarters, as he, the man, asked me two dollars and a half a night for the room for my two boys and myself, seven dollars and fifty cents for the three nights, in advance; of course I was sure of being well cared for, but as Uncle Remus would have said "there is where I broke my molasses jug." I do wish that all the officials of the reunion could have seen those rooms and pulled off their shoes and socks and walked across the floor, and after inspecting the bottom of their feet if they did not think a good bath necessary to put them in proper shape, then I'll surrender. The outside door to my friends' room was nailed up, and their only way of escape was through my room. We had the one key, which necessitated its being left in the door, our bag-

gage at the mercy of the public. For six of us we had NEARLY one whole chair, one sheet and one rough blanket to each bed, no light of any kind (cheap as oil is), not even a piece of one of the man's old broken mirrors that we might see whether we even existed, four whole towels for six to use for three days and nights. I inadvertently left a piece of jewelry in my room, when I returned it was gone. I asked the negro who was attending to keeping that one sheet spread smooth, so that it covered almost all of the mattress, if he saw anything of it. Of course he said no, just what I knew he would say. I went down to the proprietor's store and told him of my loss. He said "if that man got it he will surely give it up to me." I never knew whether he succeeded in getting him to say he saw it. I did not know that I was dealing with the very Mr. Walter Hawkins till I happened to look on the back of the card—receipt for payment of rooms and saw his name. After reaching home, I mailed those very valuable cards to the Mayor of the city of Jacksonville, that he might know that I paid well for my room. Besides all of the inconveniences about the room, there were no screens in the windows and the mosquitoes almost devoured us, he must have ordered an extra supply for our special benefit. Fearing we might get a few moments rest and that the mosquitoes would not do their duty, the wonderful Mr. Hawkins came in our room at a late hour of the night and in a most gruff and uncouth manner, called us awake and asked, "Who have you got in here," as if we were cheating him by taking in other lodgers. When I said to him at his store, "That I did not know that you were the Mr. Hawkins to whom I had written," though I gave him my name when I paid for my room, he never let me know who he was and never mentioned Mrs. Brown. Now was he not extremely courteous and polite? My friends intending to leave Saturday morning, and my boys and myself wishing to take in St. Augustine and the other places of note I began to look for other quarters for the next two nights. I saw a sign "Rooms" I asked in a store and was shown very nice rooms, nicely furnished, with bath and toilet on same floor, electric lights, screens in windows, two beds and plenty of clean towels both days and nights, and paid one dollar and fifty cents a night for the three of us. I will say that Mr. E. T. Allen from whom I received the room and his clerk, were very nice, courteous and polite, treated us as if they knew gentlemen when they met them. The clerk was very nice to us, had our room nicely attended too gave us nice drinking water (which we had to get off the street at the old house of the Seaboard Air Line) and did not come in our room and call us awake to learn whether we had smuggled others in, and we had a good lock and key to the door. I am sure Mr. Hawkins knew of those rooms, but probably he made more profit out of the Seaboard than he could make out of Mr. Allen; all of the rooms had been vacant all the week, and

not very far from Mr. Hawkins' place of business in Bay street. Being sure that he was some kind of a foreigner, I inquired, not knowing but he might be a Mexican, who had not been there long, and to my surprise was told by citizens that they thought he was a native. I did not think that there was a person in the whole South who could have had the heart (perhaps his is not in the right place) to treat an old Confederate veteran with so little courtesy. He was not polite, or courteous, nor did he treat us with common civility. There are not so many of us now, and I am sure that politeness is not very expensive. He even wanted to put four more in our rooms, two to the bed, not caring for our comfort. Don't you think such treatment "took the cake?" One of my friends curses sometimes when anything offends him, he cursed at Mr. Hawkins so severely that he did condescend to put A LITTLE NICKLE (5c) MIRROR in HIS room. Many of us are taking good care of ourselves, trying to stay to attend the next reunion at Jacksonville, but sincerely hope that the Association will not appoint the same chairman of "Committee on Rooms" and that the Seaboard Air Line will put their building in decent repair, if they intend to rent rooms to the old Vets. Everybody was so nice to us. I met so many nice ladies from everywhere, and one very charming young lady, Miss Margaret Gamble, I met at the Sponsors' Headquarters, was just "IT." One of the clerks, a Mr. Quinn, was specially attentive to her. If I could call back fifty-five years, I would make him hustle. He surely would have to "get a move on him." Even the boys and girls were nice and polite to us and liked to be in our company. I have travelled much, and stopped at the best hotels, but never have I had pay demanded of me in advance, nor ever met the equal of the chairman on houses. I regretted very much that I did not think to have one of my spells of insanity (which saved my neck during the Civil War) at the time we were called awake at night. It would have been amusing to see the gentleman Hawkins "going some."

A CONFEDERATE VETERAN

How to Treat Your Town

Praise it.
Improve it.
Talk about it.
Trade about it.
Be public spirited.
Take a home pride in it.
Tell of its business men.
Remember it is your home.
Tell of its natural advantages.
Trade and induce others to trade here.
When strangers come to town use them well.
Don't call your best citizens imposters and frauds.
Support your local institutions that benefit your town.
Look ahead of self when all the town is to be considered.
Help the public officers do the most good for the most people.
Ex-

WING'S DYSPEPSIA TABLETS

Should Alcoholic Liquor Be Sold On Prescription?

The Position of The North Carolina Medical Society.

By R. L. DAVIS, Raleigh, N. C.

At the North Carolina Medical Society, June 16, 1914, Dr. J. M. Parrott, President of the organization, sounded the tocsin of war against the sale of liquor on prescription. In his annual message under the head of "intoxicants," he said:

Intoxicants.

Closely allied in many respects to drug using is that arch-enemy of the human race—alcohol. It is not my purpose to discuss the harmfulness of liquor. There is not a doctor in the world who does not know that there is more harm than good in it. Every intelligent man knows that it is ten thousand times more destructive than war, that it has no food value, that it causes more crime than all other agencies combined, that it defies nature, and curses God; that it lowers vitality, invites disease; that its deadly breath blows out the mental flame from one out of every four that sit in mental darkness; that not satisfied with cursing homes, stabbing hearts, blighting hopes, and lightning of its blasting curse, it lights beyond life as it lives, into the future and takes its awful toll of progeny even in the fourth and fifth generation. It is more to be dreaded than a maddog. On every occasion it should be boot-ed and the boot thrown away.

"As a medicine, in the opinion of many of our greatest doctors, it has practically no value. The great weight of scientific evidence leads to the conclusion that alcohol is an unmitigated evil. It is about, if not already, to be eliminated from the pharmacopoeia. The figures gathered by the State Board of Health show that only three-fourths of a tablespoonful per year per patient is prescribed by our best and highest class physicians. That it is not efficient as a medicine, is easily shown by the fact that many of our best doctors never prescribe it at all. There are a number of cities in North Carolina in which it is not kept at the drug stores, and where no prescriptions have been written for it since statewide prohibition went into effect.

"When the Legislature permitted doctors to prescribe intoxicants for bona-fide patients, it gave them unusual power and confided in them a fiduciary trust. This confidence must be kept inviolate. As long as this trust is reposed in us, we must not prove recreant to it. He who breaks it is worse than an Achan.

"In view of our present knowledge, why should intoxicants be sold even as a drug? In all reason I can see none. Its last refuge in this good time is behind the cloak of the doctor. Knowing the high regard in which our profession is held, in this last hour of its extremity it shields itself behind the medical profession and cries 'intoxicants are good medicine and the doctors prescribe them.' It is not a good medicine, and I for one want to see its

mask stripped off. Let it stand forth in its true form, ugly and hideous, without a single vestige of virtue. The hour has arrived for us to put our stamp of disapproval upon liquor, and thus drive it from its last lines of defense. I earnestly urge that this society go on record opposing the sale of liquor even on prescriptions. If we are to have prohibition, then in the name of truth, men, let it prohibit.

This address, which was filled with facts and recommendations, made a marked impression on the society, and immediately Dr. A. A. Kent, of Lenoir, made a motion that a committee be appointed by the chair to take under advisement the address of the President, with its recommendations, and report back to the society. This motion was seconded by Dr. L. B. McBrayer, Superintendent of the Hospital for Tuberculosis, and was unanimously carried. A committee consisting of Drs. A. A. Kent, of Lenoir; L. J. Nicholson, Richlands; J. T. J. Battle, State Medical Examiner, Southern Life and Accident Company, Greensboro; and Dr. W. S. Rankin, Secretary, State Board of Health, Raleigh, was appointed.

On the next day, the seventeenth, Dr. J. T. J. Battle introduced the following paper, which was unanimously passed:

"It will not be the purpose of this brief paper to discuss the above subject from the moral point of view, or to indulge in any sentimental opinions.

"As chairman of the section on State Medicine, it is my opinion that alcohol occupies a position which very greatly affects the health of the citizens of this State, and directly and indirectly their financial condition.

High Class Drinkers.

"I purpose to offer some figures, derived from the higher class drinkers. There figures are the result of the Medico-Actuarial investigation, which occupied five years to complete. They comprise the experience of forty-three of the largest insurance companies in America.

"In explanation of the expression, 'higher class of drinkers,' I will say that by this is meant that these statistics do not give accurately the immense amount of injury alcohol is doing the human race, as insurance companies have always realized that whiskey increases their mortality, and for that reason they declined to insure the spree-er; the common drinker, and the immoderate user, so it is only the moderate user, who was insured, on which these figures are based.

Light Drinking Harmful.

"In analyzing the report of the Medico-Actuarial Association's investigation it is found that, taking 100 as the normal expectancy for all ages, those who indulge in occasional excesses show a mortality of 151 per cent, or 51 per cent over the normal. The steady user shows a mortality of

86 per cent above the normal. In these cases carcinoma of the liver was five times the normal, while diabetes, tuberculosis, pneumonia and suicide were twice the normal. Those who have reformed from intemperance without treatment showed a mortality of 32 per cent above the expectancy, while those who reformed with treatment showed an excess of 35 per cent. In both of the two latter classes the users were total abstainers from the time of their reformation.

"There have been a few companies who have put into separate classes the abstainers and the non-abstainers; but moderate users and the actuarial investigation proves that the abstainers show a marked superiority to the non-abstainers, throughout the entire working years of life, on every class of policy, and for both sexes, however tested.

Accuracy Tested.

"These excess-death-rate figures, which are derived from business corporations, for business purposes, are acted upon by these companies, admit of no doubt as to their accuracy. They are worked out for financial reasons only. I purpose to say nothing of the many paupers, inmates of county homes and insane asylums, the epileptics and degenerates, which are caused by the use of whiskey.

"Knowing the amount of whiskey that is shipped into North Carolina annually, and realizing the excess death-rate caused directly and indirectly by it, it does seem that it is the duty of the medical profession, whose determination in this day seems to be 'really as much' to prevent as to cure disease, to use their efforts to put a stop to this drink evil, which is exacting such heavy toll; Therefore be it

"Resolved, That the Medical Society of the State of North Carolina will use its best efforts to discourage the use of alcohol in any form as a beverage;

"Resolved, second, That it is the sense of the society that any member of the profession who does not promiscuously or unnecessarily prescribe of whiskey, either to patients or non-patients, is violating one of the principles of our profession, and is deserving of censure.

"Resolved, third, That alcohol as a drug can be eliminated from the pharmacopoeia, without in any degree crippling the efficiency of the doctors' armamentarium."

At a later session the committee, appointed to report on the President's address, reported as follows touching his recommendation to prohibit the sale on prescription:

"We approve his advanced position on prescription writing for alcoholic stimulants, and advise that our legislative committee be instructed to ask the next

(Continued on last page)

"INSURANCE"
Does not the above word suggest Barlow Harrell and the Union Central Life?