

Temperance.

I promised The Star in my last article that I would discuss the physiological effect of alcohol. It may look to my friend like undue presumption in me to reveal the position of a doctor of unquarrelsome amity. I shall not presume to write an original dissertation; but shall fire at the Dr. a head the opinions of the men by whom he and the profession swear.

In the outset, for the benefit of that unfortunate class of your readers whose eyes have not beheld the Dr.'s pamphlet, I had best state his theory—and I trust we may be allowed to admire and applaud his courage.

He says: "And I have no less a way to run against than that of the entire medical profession." Further he admits that the whole profession calls alcohol poison; but he proposes to prove it as "innocuous as the breath of a new born babe." In moderation he says in effect, it is necessary to health; but in excess, it is changed into aldehyde, which does all the devilment. It occurs to us to ask: "Upon what meat hath this our Caesar fed?" Now before marshalling the evidence, let us suppose this theory true. It still removes no necessity for prohibition. No man among the complexity of temperaments and organisms can fix a quantity when it is used as a beverage, and self-prescribed. No sane man will deny that it is possible to form the appetite for drink. So thousands of men as learned as my friend might even know when they had crossed the boundary of the promises of alcohol into those of his bastard brother aldehyde; would they could they stop? If the Dr.'s wonderful theory should be adopted, it would only tend to allure men into the madstrom. Now for the evidence of Medical Science. M. J. Bigelow, M. D., Prof. Materia Medica and Therapeutics, Albany Med. College: "Twenty-five per cent. of all diseases of liver, thirty-five per cent. of all kidney diseases, thirty per cent. of those of brain fifteen or twenty per cent. of lung diseases are due to strong drink."

L. S. Philips, M. D., Sec'y Mass. Surg. Soc: "In three fourths or more of fatal cases, death might have been averted, had not the patient contracted habits of drink."

N. S. Davis, M. D., LL. D., Prof. Principles and Practice Medicine, Chicago Med. College: "Injuries to all the functions of body and mind." Willard Parker, M. D., LL. D., Prof. Clin. Surg. N. Y. College of Physicians and Surgeons: "Alcohol has no place in the healthy system, but is an irritant poison." Dr. Norman Herr, lecturer in Exeter Hall, G. B.: "Sixty per cent. erysipelas due to alcohol." Henry Victor Regnaud, Prof. Chemistry, Paris: "Alcohol is a poison on the animal economy." London *Lancet* (1885): "Medical Science has demonstrated the connection of the gravest diseases with the use of alcohol." Prof. Youmans, N. Y.: "An active and powerful cause of disease." C. R. Agnew, M. D., N. Y.: "It's evils are wide-spread and countless." Dr. German Morty, Paris: "A more murderous plague than the great epidemics." Bullion: "Ruins more people than all other plagues together." Dr. Kara Bach, Prof. Leigsis: "Whiskey infuriates but eventually unmans." Six hundred Physicians of Holland, (1871): "Works most perniciously in all diseases." Benj. W. Richardson, M. A., M. D., F. R. S.: "Alcohol is neither a food nor a drink suitable for man's natural demands." British Med. Journal (1871): "The inevitable misery and disaster, waste, degradation, suffering and crime constantly wrought by drink."

Scientific American: "The most dangerous class of ruffians in our large cities, are beer-drinkers." Dr. Finkelsburg, Health Commissioner of Russia: "Cause over two fifths of all insanity, and four eighths of criminality." Dr. Laucereau, Paris: "The immorality, depravity and a sinful inheritance is bequeathed to the drinker's children." In 1874, the Medical Association U. S. met in Detroit. They left on record the following verdict: "Alcohol is productive of a large amount of physical and mental disease." In 1874, the International Convention of Physicians met in Philadelphia. Their opinion ought to be unappealable. They declared that: "Alcohol is an irritant poison, and ought never to be used except by medical advice, and in extreme cases." But I could go on multiplying opinions *ad infinitum*. In Minneapolis, I was sitting one day in the office of the mayor of city, Dr. Ames. He is an ex-surgeon of U. S. Army, and the most learned physician in the city. A man came in whose life was imperiled by an out let. I expressed surprise at the gangrenous appearance of the fellows arm, from so slight a cause. The doctor said: "If the man don't quit whiskey, the wound will kill him. If one of these brewers even cuts his finger, I find it hard to effect a cure." I have heard the ablest physicians assert that the brain and even blood of and old toper is inflammable. The brain, and entire nervous structure, is composed principally of albumen and water. Alcohol with a strong attraction for water, coagulates this "gray matter" of the brain, just as it does the "white of an egg." I know that insurance companies will "the chances" on an abstainer quicker than on a drinker. I know that in plague-stricken districts the sober men bury the drunkards. I know enough to let it alone, and advise others to do the same. Many of my friends in Burke sometimes indulge in a glass. Some day, by the awful retribution of heredity, your son or grandson may be arraigned for murder committed under that fiery passion which your habits will transmit to him. Let it alone.

W. E. ABERNETHY.

Prohibition Progress.

Plainfield, New Jersey, has adopted an ordinance fixing the license fee for saloons of all kinds at \$500.00.—Four distinct measures have been introduced in Congress providing for Prohibition in the District of Columbia.—The bill prohibiting the sale of liquor on fair grounds has been introduced again at Albany.—Fifty counties and cities in Missouri have adopted Prohibition under the Local Option Law.—Governor Davis, of Rhode Island, finds an argument against the prohibitory law in that State in the fact that the revenues of the State have fallen off over \$100,000 in consequence of the law. He omits to state how many drunkards, paupers and criminals have "fallen off" in consequence of the same law.—The New York Court of Appeals has decided favorably in the case of the hotel keeper in New York who was arrested for selling liquor to his guests on Sunday, and who appealed from the decision of the Supreme Court. The point passed upon, however, does not touch the real merits of the Sunday liquor question.—The Senate Excise Committee will report favorably on Mr. Crosby's High License bill.—The Massachusetts Senate has resolved, by a vote of twenty-three to eight, to submit a prohibitory amendment to the people of the United States, and the Supreme Court of Maine has decided that a United States license to sell liquor is *prima facie* evidence of such sales. Truly the ball is moving or being moved by the popular sentiment of a liquor cursed country.

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Address: Wm. B. Greene, Washington, D. C.

Administrator's Notice.

Having obtained letters of administration on the estate of John B. Lanier, deceased, notice is hereby given to all persons indebted to said estate to make payment of same to me in Salisbury, and all persons having claims against said estate are notified to present them for payment within the time prescribed by law, or this notice will be held in bar of their recovery. JAMES B. LANIER, Administrator. January 24th, 1887—No 1. St.



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