

tinued and unseasonable use of it, that while in moderate quantity it produces an exhilarating effect upon the mind, this exhilaration is certainly followed by a corresponding depression, that while it imparts a temporary strength to the muscular power, that power cannot be sustained under its continued use, that the primary effect of it upon the circulation is to produce a glow of warmth upon the skin, which is of short duration and leaves the body colder, that it does not support the system under the enervating influence of extreme heat, that he who will indulge in the use of it should *never* do so in health upon an empty stomach, and that every organ of the body suffers more or less from the excessive use of it.

It may be asked what is the effect of alcohol, the base of all intoxicating liquors, upon the tissues of the stomach? We may answer that, in a concentrated form, a chemical action takes place. That in consequence of its strong affinity for water, it seizes that fluid contained in the tissue, producing a coagulation and rendering it hard and dense, and destroying for a time the absorbing power of that organ, which will only be renewed when the alcohol becomes sufficiently diluted with the water in the tissue. It may be observed that pure brandy, which usually contains equal parts of alcohol and water, is sufficiently strong to produce this coagulation, therefore it must combine with some of the water of the tissue before it can be carried into the circulation. That when *diluted*, it is absorbed into the circulation with marvelous rapidity, as proved by the experiments of Dr. Percy, who found that when death took place in two minutes after it was injected into the stomach of the animal, that organ was found almost void of it, while it was found in the blood and in considerable quantity, in the substance of the brain. It appears to seek out and fasten itself upon the nervous matter, affecting in the first stage of intoxication, the intellectual faculties through the *cerebrum*. In the second stage, a disturbed function of the *sensory ganglia*, as indicated by a want of that control over those muscular movements which are guided by sensation. And in the third stage, when the functions of the *cerebrum* and *sensory ganglia* are suspended, those of the