

Lord's supper, so that no reformed man, or one with an hereditary tendency to alcoholic excess, may be excluded therefrom. The fact that the 'tendency to alcoholic excess' exists in a large majority of the human race should exclude the habitual moderate use of alcohol either as a beverage or medicinally. In the latter case there are as equally good if not more efficient remedies. Modern medical science is gradually eliminating alcohol from its list of remedies as a most 'unsafe' and 'dangerous' as well as 'useless' drug. The consensus of the highest medical opinion of today is this, 'There is no such thing as a healthy beverage containing alcohol.'

The family bottle or private emergency flask kept by the laity has been more productive of harm than good. The belief that the whiskey bottle is absolutely essential in every household as a medicinal necessity is very prevalent, whereas the best modern authorities maintain that this is an error, and that the best results can be obtained by safer and more efficient means.

The use of wine or brandy in flavoring is where the strictly temperate may overstep the line. Let us not tolerate a poison in our homes as a remedy, or in our kitchens for culinary purposes, or flavoring our food.

Cases of extraordinary longevity, in which alcohol has been used habitually, in reasonable or moderate quantities without seeming detriment to the user, as far as he himself is concerned, do not disprove its evil and degenerate effect on his immediate posterity, or his evil example on others. Besides, the exception does not prove the rule. There is a 'moral side' to this question. The greater the character, respectability and influence of the moderate drinker, the more 'powerful his example for evil,' for he is practically advancing and advocating the fallacious theory that the use of alcoholic beverages in moderation is safe, healthful, and respectable, and thus leading the young and inexperienced into fatal error. 'No one liveth to himself.' The conscientious, moderate drinker should be moved to this consideration, 'How many, by my silent example and influence, have become immoderate drinkers or drunkards?'

The drink habit may be 'innocently acquired' through the habit of using patent or proprietary medicines containing a greater or less percentage of alcohol, not to speak of other forms of narcotics. No one ought to use any of the so-called nervines or tonics with which the market is flooded, and their name is legion, without being aware, whether they contain alcohol or other deleterious drugs. Fortunately, the 'Pure Food Act,' under the successful management of Dr. Wiley, at the head of the Bureau at Washington, and the public exposure of many of these nostrums and frauds, as well as the more intelligent conception of this public evil, and the action of the United States Government compelling a 'proper labeling' of all such preparations, will do much to protect the public in this particular, but the best rule is not to take any so-called medicine without the advice of a physician or accurate knowledge as to whether the so-called remedy 'contains alcohol in any form,' and thus avoid the danger of innocently and 'unconsciously acquiring' the habitual use of alcohol in this manner.

From any side from which we may view this question, the only conclusion in the whole matter and the only absolutely safe rule is to practise Total Abstinence.

Seizing a Strange Opportunity.

The story is told of John Wesley that he was once stopped by a highwayman who demanded his money. After he had quietly submitted to the inevitable, and had given up all he had about him, and the robber had turned to go on his way, Wesley called to him, and when the man was again by his side he said kindly, 'A time may come when you will regret the course of life in which you are engaged. Remember this, "The blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth from all sin."' He said no more, and they parted. Many years after, Mr. Wesley was leaving a church where he had been preaching, when a man accosted him at the door, asking him if he remembered having been waylaid at a certain time and place, to which Mr. Wesley replied that he recollected the circumstance. 'I was the man, sir,' said the stranger, 'and that single verse on that occasion was the means of a total change in my life and habits. I have

long since been attending the house of God, and I hope I am a Christian.' What a beautiful reward of faithful constancy to one's mission!

Work in Labrador.

DR. GRENFELL ON PROSPECTS AND PLANS.

(Concluded.)

The reports from the Reindeer superintendent are most inspiring; our own herd of 250, landed in a weak and impoverished condition after a long sea voyage on the ice of the bay, just a year ago, is now 405 fine strong beasts, and there is little doubt they will be more than doubled in the first two years. The experiment is now proved to be a success—the deer propagate freely, prosper splendidly, and work valuably. The milk is rich, and the meat both fat and tender in the fall. An experiment was made last month by taking in a stag on a long shooting expedition as a pack animal. He had to be taken by schooner and return fifty miles. He stood the expedition famously and there can be no question that for packing in summer as well as hauling over the snows in winter, he is a very valuable beast. His light weight and his splay hoofs keep him up on quite a light snow crust, and now that he has been well fed, he has both strength and endurance. An odd experience at the end of the year was the unannounced arrival in the harbor of a schooner carrying 36 famished reindeer; they proved to be a section of the herd of 50, purchased by Lord Northcliffe, for his lumber camp work last winter. The heat of summer, the flat marshes, and the inveterate flies, had told badly on the herd, and they had lost quite a number. We have arranged to herd these for them and supply from them such stags as they may need for service each winter. The large corral, made this summer to enclose the herd while milking was in progress, is to be used next summer, so we hope, for confining fawns captured from the herds of wild caribou that are quite numerous in the northern section of Newfoundland. This caribou is of the Woodland variety. But we are hoping it may prove possible to interbreed these with our reindeer—or at least to so tame them by association with ours that we shall be able to count on their contingent not leaping the herd. Two wild caribou of their own will join the Harmsworth herd in the south this year, but after remaining a few days with them went on their way again. Whereas two of the reindeer that wandered away presumably with their wild brethren returned again after an absence of no less than three weeks—I presume they discovered the company of their wild cousins too strenuous.

With regard to the hospital work, the unexpected has, as usual, happened, and successive mail boats have brought so many patients that their proper accommodation in the old buildings have become impossible. The St. Anthony Clinic under the care of Dr. Mason Little, of Boston and Harvard University, attract patients regularly from as far as even the chief town, St. Johns, where exists the only other hospital on the Island. The result has been that this hospital needs immediate enlargement, as was the case at Battle Hospital last year, where Dr. Grieve, of Edinburgh, presides. It has been shown also that our steady cold and bright sunshine redoubled by reflection from a universal snow surface enables us in winter to deal very effectively with our tuberculosis troubles, and this has created a demand even through our long winters for more accommodation, than at present we are able to give. The installation of electricity by a volunteer from the famous Pratt Institute, of New York, has also enabled the hospital to do more accurate and effective work, with the inevitable result of more calls made upon it.

Personally, Mr. Editor, I shall warmly welcome a tariff revision that will open American markets to our fish. There are millions of people who would benefit by having access to a good supply of fresh fish of so acknowledged a nutritive value as cod and halibut, and at so cheap a price as it can be obtained at. One would suppose that the arrival of regular large quantities of so desirable a foodstuff would lead to transit development that would not keep fish at its present price, but by expanding the demand give a surer and more even return to the catcher. The entire barring out of a valuable cheap food

by tariff arrangements seems on the face of it to be not conformable with the modern spirit—if hides and steel need protection no longer, surely the same may be said for codfish—for this is, or should be, a life necessity of the poor.

Lastly, Mr. Editor, it may be as well to answer here a question asked awhile ago to your columns: Why do we not endeavor to transport the people to the middle latitudes. The reason is we do not think that a desirable policy—and this is our opinion after many year's work on the coast. Exactly why we have come to that conclusion is best appreciated by those who come down to visit us. We believe that the country is capable of great development. Capable of maintaining under proper conditions a very desirable population—capable of contributing regularly to the human race a factor that we, with the Viking strain in our blood can, better than most men, appreciate. The life develops hardness, resourcefulness, simplicity of life. There is no overcrowding in sweating shops, no monotony of factory existence, no nervous bankruptcy from the over complexity of other conditions. If stress were laid on the numbers of charities needed in all our centres of civilization, and on the lives of the countless numbers submerged by the temptations to the weak, and by competition with the more clever, some at least of the reasons for our optimistic views regarding the possibilities and desirabilities of our northern life would be immediately apparent. There is some compensatory provision in every case, and Labrador is a better country than many now endeavoring to share the carrying of the human race.

WILFRED GRENFELL.

Acknowledgments.

LABRADOR FUND.

Received for the launch:—Mrs. C. W. Shoup, Walsingham Centre, Ont., \$1.00; A Friend, 50cts; E. Ritson, Oshawa, Ont., \$1.00; 'In memory of a little baby, Theoda Rush W—, who died some years ago, \$5.00; A Friend, Penticton, B.C., \$2.00; Helen and M. W. Dods, Bristol, Que., \$2.00; Peter Road Pres. Sunday School, per John Johnston, \$4.00; A Friend, Lachine, \$25.00; A Friend, \$1.00; A Friend to the cause, Fingal, Ont., \$5.00; Total, \$ 46.50

Received for the cots:—Lower Queensbury Mission Band, per A. M. Ferguson, \$4.00; W. L. I., S. Durham, Que., \$2.00; Mrs. T. P. Eckardt, Unionville, Ont., \$1.00; Total, \$ 7.00

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Address all subscriptions for Dr. Grenfell's work to 'Witness' Labrador Fund, John Dougall and Son, 'Witness' Office, Montreal, stating with the gift whether it is for launch, komatik, or cots.

GOOD TRAINING FOR YOUR BOY.

Parents who are alive to the early business training of their sons will be interested in the following frank letter from one of our 'Pictorial' boys, and will 'see the point' and give their boys a similar chance. Whether your boy be seven or seventeen, he can depend on fair, generous treatment.

Here is the letter:—

A., Ont., Feb. 22, 1909.

John Dougall & Son, Montreal.

Dear Sirs:—I remit herewith for the February 'Pictorials' which I have sold. I am very sorry but I will have to stop selling the 'Pictorials,' as I have on-coming work which prevents me, but my brother John, 10 years old, is going to continue the work, as he wants to sell the 'Pictorials' and earn a few premiums. Please send me my watch, as I think, if I have figured up right, I have it now. These February numbers sold at first sight, they were very attractive.

I must say at this point that I have got a pretty good business head since I started selling the 'Pictorials' about a year ago, and as I must close now, I wish every good success to the other 'Pictorial' boys. Yours truly, Lancelot B. Morrison.

P.S.—I may in the future start selling the 'Pictorials' again, for it is splendid work.—L. B. M.