

of death are mainly due to alcohol, such as cirrhosis of the liver, granular kidney, and delirium tremens. Taking our last census it may be safely said that at least 1,500 deaths yearly are caused by the use of alcohol as a beverage. But many more are influenced indirectly by the cause. For example, many cases of pneumonia are indirectly caused by intemperance and the fatal issue almost solely due to it. Accidental deaths are in not a few instances dependent upon the abuse of alcoholic beverages. This is true also of many instances of homicide and suicidal deaths.

But a careful study of the children of drunken parents has proven that a very large percentage of them are either dull, or vicious, or both.

Enough has been said to show that the medical profession should use its influence against the consumption of alcohol as a beverage. Such eminent names as Treves, Horsley, Marcy, Woodhead and others can be quoted as holding this view.

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#### PREVENTABLE DEATHS AND SICKNESS' IN CANADA.

There are in Canada 260,000 persons always seriously ill. Of this number about 45,000 are consumptives. At least one-half of all this illness is preventable. If we put the deaths and lost time from the preventable causes into dollars it would amount to \$125,000,000. In the face of this are we doing our duty towards preventing disease?

One of the things in vital statistics that at once strikes us is that life is lengthening in many countries. The death rate is gradually being reduced, and, consequently, the duration of life is being lengthened. In the United States the death rate is 16.5 per 1,000, in France about 20, in India 42. In some cities it is still very high. In Dublin it is 40, in Moscow 37, while in Frankfort and the Hague it is only 16. In London the death rate is now about 15, whereas in the 16th and 17th centuries it was high and varied from 40 to 80, according to the presence of epidemics.

Turning for a moment to certain diseases we meet some marked changes. The death rate from tuberculosis in England is now only one-third of what it was 70 years ago. The death rate from pneumonia now almost equals that of tuberculosis. The typhoid fever rate for sickness and deaths is falling very much in many places. Better water and purer milk has cut down the death rate from such figures as these: 291 to 10 per 100,000, or 105 to 22. In the United States cities watered from polluted rivers have a typhoid fever death rate of 62 per 100,000, while cities receiving water from conserved rivers have a death rate from