

CAUSES OF INTEMPERANCE IN THE USE OF ALCOHOLIC SPIRITS.

If those who work so earnestly, and for the most part, doubtless, sincerely, in the cause of temperance, who appear to think the sole cause of the intemperance they seek to suppress lies in the beverages which consist largely of alcohol, and who therefore advocate "prohibition," would look further for other causes of the excessive use of such beverages, and endeavour to strike a blow at them, they would unquestionably accomplish more in the direction they aim at, the suppression of intemperance. We do not believe it possible that prohibition ever can be carried out at all successfully. There are, and always will be, many who believe there is great good in alcohol if used in great moderation, notwithstanding all that can be said to the contrary. There are, too, and will be so long as the present domestic habits of the lower classes prevail, many whose desire for such a stimulant is altogether too strong for them to resist, who will make it in secret, in defiance of all laws, if they cannot get it in any other way, or who will resort to other and worse stimulants. These, we maintain, will make successful prohibition an impossibility. Let temperance workers commence to strike death blows at two other important, fruitful causes of this intemperance: these, tobacco and unhealthy, depressing homes.

All, it appears, who have given the subject much attention, are convinced that smoking, especially amongst the young, creates a desire for stimulants, and that many have become addicted to the use of alcoholic drinks through the depressing effects of tobacco. There are a few, and the writer is convinced, after twenty years of mature observation, that there are only a few—those of vigorous constitutions—who find a real solace in tobacco, who do not *seem* to receive any injury from it, who live on to old age in spite of its use. The

majority who use it know at least that it injures them, yet they persist in using it almost from sheer habit, as children persist in chewing gum or in sucking their thumb. Though tobacco involves strong interests—of growth, manufacture, trade, they are not so strong as those associated with the manufacture and sale of alcoholic liquors. Little can be truly said in favor of tobacco as being of any use whatever to man. It is a rank, vile poison, most repulsive to the human constitution, as the early experience of almost every one who has used it can verify. Prohibition might be carried in regard to it. And if its use were entirely dispensed with, we believe intemperance in the use of alcoholic drinks would soon be largely reduced through this alone.

Unhealthy homes—those associated with foul unventilated rooms and bad cookery—drive thousands to the bar-room. A good deal has already appeared in this JOURNAL on this subject. Temperance-men and others might do much—very much, to promote the cause of temperance by assisting in enlightening the poorer classes in the ways of making their homes healthy and attractive,—by teaching wives and mothers how to help in this, and how to cook plain foods well. What is more saddening than to think of the many of our fellow creatures, honest industrious ones withal, who live out their life breathing over and over again the same foul air in small, close, unventilated rooms and shops, eating only most improperly prepared food, and finding solace chiefly in tobacco and alcoholic stimulants? Who is to enlighten them and help them? A few of the more intelligent ones of the class understand something about these things, but only a few.

In conclusion, we may refer to a letter written some time ago, by a "workingman," to the London *Christian Register*, as evidence of the truth of the above: In a leather factory in which he had worked