

Temperance Column.

Mr. Tader Trevor, secretary of the C.E.T.S. in the Diocese of Ripon, in a paper read at the quarterly meeting of the Society for the Study and Cure of Inebriety, in the rooms of the Medical Society in London, on January 4th, Dr. Norman Kerr, F.L.S. (President), in the chair, thus summarised the extent of the curse of inebriety:—

1. Inebriety (or drunkenness) causes pauperism by the waste of time and money; and it is computed that it is owing at least to 70 per cent. of the large army of paupers, who are maintained by this country at an expense of £10,000,000.

2. Inebriety is the chief cause of crime, for the assertions made by Mr. Justice Hawkins has been over and over again corroborated by judges, magistrate and prison officials of every kind, that nine-tenths of the inmates of our various gaols are made criminals by strong drink.

3. Inebriety is a very large factor in the production of both Insanity and Idiocy: nearly half of the victims of each of these terrible maladies may be said, without exaggeration, to lie at the door of Intemperance.

4. Inebriety feeds our reformatories and industrial schools, and by it the number of orphans is largely increased, and so it spreads its baneful influence to following generations.

5. Inebriety shortens, if it does not altogether destroy, at least 120,000 lives per annum. Here, again, I am most opportunely supplied in the *Alliance News* of 18th December last with some recent and most useful statistics. In the supplement to the 45th Annual Report of the Registrar General, the medical advisor, Dr. Ogle, states that "the mortality of men who are directly concerned in the liquor traffic is appalling." The following are the incontestable figures which he gives, as the results of his laborious investigation for the three years 1880-1-2. In the first place, he found that 1,000 deaths occurred annually in every 64,641 males living between 25 and 65 years of age. And in the next place he discovered the following great variations in the annual death-rates of persons engaged in different trades and occupations:—

Clergyman and ministers 556; farmers and graziers 631; labourers in Agricultural countries 701; males in selected healthy districts 804; carpenters and joiners 820; coal miners 891; masons and bricklayers 969; plumbers, painters, and glaziers 1,202; brewers 1,361; innkeepers, publicans, and beer-dealers 1,521; public house and hotel servants 2,205.

6. By and through Inebriety, our men are demoralised, our women degraded, our children distressed, our country disgraced, and our God dishonoured.

7. Finally, Inebriety by the destruction of that God placed inward monitor in man, the conscience, seduces tens of thousands of ransomed souls, and shuts them out

eternally from their inheritance in the kingdom of heaven.

As to the Etiology, or cause of Inebriety, I venture unhesitatingly to declare, even in the presence of this learned assembly, that primarily and radically it is strong drink. There are doubtless various circumstances of life which tend to develop or confirm the habit of inebriety; but surely, in the first instance, the appetite for intoxicating drinks is an acquired, and not a natural one. And, therefore, I contend, with all submission, that the Teetotaler's maxim, "that strong drink is the cause of drunkenness," is in accordance with the stern logic of fact, if it does not quite satisfy the polished reasonings of the pedagogue!

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