

produced on consumers. Purulent milk coming from an inflamed gland, may give children aphtons and stomatite diseases. Animals suffering from epizootic oezema may by their milk transmit a great number of diseases whose remote causes are not always known, and which must have their source in the use of such milk. In the last Medical Cyclopædia, I find that in England milk had been the vehicle of germs of typhoid fever, of scarlet fever, and other contagious diseases. The milk had been adulterated with water contaminated by typhoid dejections; the milk had also been contaminated by persons who were recovering from scarlatina and who were employed in the dairy during the period of disquamation. Cheese belongs to this class and is used in great quantity. Occasionally cheese has been found which was mixed with fecula and bread crum to develop mouldiness in it. Cheese of that stamp is so eagerly sought after. Sometimes it is washed in arsenical water or in a solution of sulphate of copper, in order to save it from the attack of worms, but all of these guilty practices are easily found out, for iodine water will easily point out these two first alterations, and the methods employed to discover copper and arsenic are such that the presence of these two bodies is easily detected. Besides, the yellow covered cloths which are used to wrap up cheese, contain a poisonous substance; they are chromates with basis of lead or potassa. Such is, however, one of the means employed to preserve substances which are daily coming into the domain of consumption. This is particularly common as regards hams. With reference to these two articles, milk especially, I do not know that there is in the country any means of investigation employed to detect adulteration, so as to severely punish these great frauds committed to the detriment of the health of our children especially. From time to time a correspondence accompanied with painful statistical facts awakens the attention on this question, but little by little every one goes back to the beaten path which is sunk deeper and deeper, to be filled up with the corpses of the little ones we love so dearly, of whom we had such great care and whom a slow and murdering poison has snatched away from our tenderness. The verdict is always the same—dentition, children's cholera, anemy, the rickets, when it would be so easy to write down, poisoning or starvation. Why should not the chemist of the Government, without previous notice, take here and there, from time to time, samples of milk sold, and analyze the same, so as to find out their purity by means of densimeters, lacto-butrymeters and chemical re-agents? The cancellation of the license, heavy fines, imprisonment for grave offences, the uncertainty of the moment when such tests are to be made, would be the means of diminishing the evil in a great measure, and of aiding private initiative, which, by itself, can do nothing, and is not competent to make such analysis. It is a serious danger which I have not at all overrated, and which calls upon our immediate attention. I hope the hon. Minister of the Revenue of the Interior will give it all his attention, and will find means to remedy the evil. Now, I will say a few words about alcohol, comprising under this generic name all fermented liquors. This is a matter which has been dealt with very lengthily in this House, but from a standpoint different from that which I take. I do not propose to make a speech on temperance, nor do I intend to advocate prohibition. Besides, those who have spoken on that question have made such exhaustive speeches that I would stand in fear of not throwing any more light on the subject. Confining myself to a more limited field, I simply wish to prevent my friends from using spirits. I know, Mr. Speaker, that doctors are strongly blamed for the immoderate use of alcohol in their treatment of diseases. Without wishing to exonerate us, I say that we are the only judges—it may be that there is on my part a little sympathy for my colleagues of the profession, but at any rate while employing it as a remedy, I hold that attention should at

Mr. LESAGE.

least be called to it on grounds of public health. In fact it is easy enough to judge of the real damage caused by alcohol on the constitution, which damage is more or less active according to the temperament. But, Mr. Speaker, how is it that our ancestors, who took alcohol the same as we do, have been able to withstand this usage which, though not immoderate, still was such that at certain times in the year, spirits were imbibed in considerable quantities. All the difference between that time and to-day is that in times of yore people drank their glasses brimful of alcohol, and now we drink our glasses brimful of poison. There is all the difference, and what I should wish would be to see the old usage revived, if not to drink alcohol by the glassful, at least so that we should not absorb poison by the glassful. Speaking of alcohol, we stand face to face with a substance very universally used, and whose constant and repeated use always produces baleful effects, the consequences of which are the more striking as the adulterations are more noxious, more dangerous to health, and less ascertained than in ordinary alimenation, especially when the nervous centres have lost that equilibrium, which is necessary to the exercise and perception of the senses, and to the working and intelligent exercise of the judgment. It is a precious element in many cases, especially in cases of sickness; although there are abuses on that score. But to what extent is not this counterbalanced by its injurious effects, by the disasters of all kinds, and by the numerous cases of death that it causes everywhere, in all classes of society. For the benefit of my hon. friend (Mr. Foster) who has proposed the temperance Resolutions the other day, I will quote the remarks of the celebrated Leibig:

"He who drinks them draws a bill, so to speak, on his health. This bill must always be renewed, because he cannot, for want of means, take it up. He consumes his capital instead of his interests, and the result is bankruptcy of his body."

This sums up all that I might say on the subject of the effects of alcohol, but as it is an evil which can not be eradicated, we must endeavour to diminish its bad effects, by following on his own ground the falsifier who, by the addition of substances which are often venomous, always scalding, and corrosive poison in many cases, can make more alcohol by adding water to it. Out of many of the samples examined in Canada by Professor Croit, of Toronto, it is found that 7 have given from 31 to 36 per cent. of alcohol, and from 0.2 to 1.7 of solid matter, comprising tannin, sulphuric acid, grape sugar; 10 samples have given from 25 to 49 per cent. of alcohol and 0.4 to 3 per cent. of solid matter, comprising sulphuric acid, tannin, salt, sugar, and all the remainder was water. Eight samples of gin have given from 23 to 42 per cent. of alcohol, and from 1 to 7 per cent. of solid matter; the remainder was water. Four samples of wine gave from 14 to 18 per cent. of alcohol and from 7.5 to 12 per cent. of solid matter, comprising tannin, iron, grape sugar and acids; the remainder was water. These quotations are sufficient to show the enormous adulterations that are made in alcoholic liquors. Brandy and gin are manufactured outright in grocers' cellars and at some hotels, the basis being inferior alcohol, with addition of fragrant matters to modify its effects. These are essential oils, such as in kirsh. It is these oils which are particularly poisonous. Wines especially are apt to be sophisticated in that way. There is the dilution, or the mixing together of wines of different grades. It is obvious that such a mixture, however great the skill of those who make it, never make good wine, except when it is a mixture of pure wines, but they are frauds when they are imitations of natural wine, such as Bordeaux and Burgundies. The second process is vinegar or the addition of a certain quantity of alcohol to wine, not in the tank, but long after it has been drawn. Then there is the debasing of wine in order to give it a vivid color. This practice is denounced and I even think that in France all natural wine containing over four gram-