

Loss of control of impulse and perversion of the reasoning faculties are always among the more dominant features of alcoholic intoxication. Carried to an extreme degree, the unbridled frenzy of passion is set loose, reason is dethroned, and the man or woman is an irresponsible maniac.

EFFECTS ON THE SPINAL NERVES AND NERVES OF SPECIAL SENSE.

Alcoholic libations carried to the point of inebriation act with great energy on the nerves of special sense and the spinal.

Vision is dimmed, hearing is obtunded, anesthesia sets in, the reflexes are palsied and ataxia of the voluntary muscles is always present when full inebriation is reached. Finally when very large quantities of intoxicants are imbibed, ataxia or want of muscular control is succeeded by the unconscious state and paralysis.

From the foregoing very brief and incomplete account of the toxic and paralyzing action of alcohol on those central ganglia which preside over all the mental actions of man, and on the nerves which animate function and vitalize muscular action, it becomes at once evident that the category of accidents and of physical injuries, trivial, severe or mortal, sustained or inflicted under alcoholic passion, paresis or paralysis, must, indeed, be of diverse and colossal proportions.

Sundays and holidays provide the hospitals with a large crop of surgical cases, the primary etiology or cause of which is alcoholic imbibition.

Murderous wounds, as stab, gunshot and concussive, are inflicted under the frenzy of alcoholic excitement; fractured skulls, dislocated joints, broken bones, bruises or lacerations of the soft parts occur from the same cause, or from loss of or imperfect control of the muscles. Probably, if the full truth were known, the immoderate use of alcohol is responsible for the greater number of serious collisions of the trolley car, the bicycle or vehicle, especially on Sundays and holidays.

In my own experience, in an active surgical service in hospitals, I am satisfied that alcohol is responsible for the great preponderance of grave surgical cases on the non-working days of the year.