

neighbour's house, where a missionary was addressing from twelve to twenty females.—She wept much during the address, and promised that she would attend the meetings regularly. Having returned to her house a short time afterwards, I found her telling her husband where she had been, and what she had heard, while he was listening with the deepest attention. I conversed with them for a while on the value of their immortal souls, and on the number and aggravation of their sins, and on the freeness and fulness of salvation through Christ Jesus, when their feelings became too powerful to be resisted, and the big tears rolled thick and fast down the old soldier's cheeks, and his wife wept aloud." "One expression," observes the missionary, "which she used, when speaking of the miserable shifts she had had recourse to in order to obtain whiskey, convinced me how much the drunkard is a slave to his lust. 'I have seen me in that state, Sir, that I could have sacrificed my little boy for whiskey. O, the horrors of that state! I cannot tell you what they are!' I wish," continues the missionary in his journal,— "that the rulers of our land, and particularly the magistrates of Edinburgh, could have heard her when she complained about the public-houses which are every where open, tempting her, and other poor drunkards, to drink."

Beer Drinking.

From the London Standard.

It is a fact, well known to medical men of experience in the metropolis, that a confirmed beer drinker in London can scarcely scratch his finger without endangering his life. To whatever extent the publication of this truth may interfere with the interests of Mr. Fowell Buxton, and other pious dealers in beer, it is for the public safety to have it known that, whether from some peculiarity of the London climate, or of the London beer a copious London beer drinker is all one vital part. He wears his heart upon his sleeve, bare to a death wound, even from a rusty nail or the claw of a cat. We remember to have heard or read, we cannot positively say which, in a lecture of Sir Astley Cooper, that the worst patients brought into the metropolitan hospitals, are those apparently fine models of health, strength, and soundness—the London draymen. When one of these receives a serious injury, we think Sir Astley said, it is always necessary to amputate, if you would give the patient the most distant chance of life. The draymen, it is well known, have the unlimited privilege of the brewer's cellar, and, of course, exercise that privilege with boundless liberality. In the lecture to which we have referred, Sir Astley illustrated the effect of this indulgence upon the constitu-

tion by an incident that had a short time before occurred to him in his practice. He had been called to attend a drayman, a powerful, fresh coloured, healthy-looking man, who had suffered an injury in his finger from a splinter of a stave. Suppuration had taken place in the wound, which appeared but a trifling one, and Sir Astley, of course, opened the small abscess with his lancet. Upon retiring, the justly distinguished surgeon found that he had forgotten his lancet case, returned to recover it, and saw his patient in a dying state; and dead the patient was in a few minutes, or, at most, in a few hours, we cannot accurately remember which. But the impression was upon Sir Astley's mind, and that which he evidently intended to impress upon the minds of his pupils, was, that in London, at least, the most trifling surgical operation can scarcely be resorted to in the case of draymen and other beer drinkers without considerable hazard of losing the patient. Of course, where a surgical operation is dangerous, the injury calling for it must be more dangerous still; so that every medical man in London above all things dreads a beer drinker for his patient in a surgical case.

On the Report of Inquiry into Drunkenness.

From the London Medical and Surgical Journal, conducted by a Committee of Physicians and Surgeons, October, 1834.

This report is drawn up in a masterly style. A discussion on the subject would appear *prima facie*, more appropriate in the channels of political record than in a medical periodical; but we think otherwise. No body of men is assuredly so capable of considering the subject—none witness the baneful influences of drinking so much as a medical man; he sees it produce daily the most distressing maladies, mental as well as corporeal, the constitution shattered, the trembling limbs and faltering voice, the mental imbecility, the excited passions, and the perversion of every good and moral feeling. We witness in this "Report" alone a great portion of the human species in a state of moral degradation, deformed in body as well as in mind.

From the evidence of Mr. Gall, the Coroner for Westminster, it appears that out of twenty-five cases of sudden deaths on which inquests were held, twenty of them were in a previous state of intoxication.

Dr. Ellis, physician to the Harwell Asylum, examined:—"Out of twenty-eight cases admitted last year that were reported to us as having been recent cases, nineteen out of those twenty-eight were drunkards." "The health of these insane from drunkenness is worse than of those from other causes."

Dr. Gordon examined. He stated, "that

the proportion of diseases which was distinctly referable to ardent spirits was sixty-five per cent. upon some thousands." The Doctor believes that the liver is more or less disorganised; every medical man is aware of the potent agency of spirituous liquors on the human constitution. Our object in presenting these facts and opinions to the profession, is not to prove to them an admitted fact, that stimulants such as undiluted spirits derange the mucus membrane of the alimentary tube, and consequently the whole animal economy; but, it is to enforce their attention to one of the chief, may we might say, to the grand source of all human infirmities.

We would recommend every practitioner to please the report under notice. They will see facts accumulated on facts, evidence adduced, the most irrefragable, and no less perhaps astounding of the baneful effects of spirituous liquors on the human frame.

It makes us shudder in the perusal of this evidence, and the almost universality of the power that the practice exercises. Most able witnesses have by personal observation and by rigid inquiry arrived at the same conclusions, that the varied physical derangement of the body, the multiplied distresses of our nature, are in the majority of cases attributable to dram-drinking, to the insidiousness of its operation on the vital and mental functions.

Doctor Gordon states that in every spirit drinker the liver is more or less disorganised. Our own experience verifies the conclusion, "drams" are daily producing structural disease of the liver, or derangement of its function, and blue pill or black draught are employed as restoratives. Thus a poison is taken at night, and an antidote in the morning. The misanthropist may say, leave the system alone, it will correct itself. We affirm, never. Without some legislative enactment which shall prohibit the sale of spirits in toto, or in a great measure, the system will progress to such an extent that Englishmen will ere long be a species of dwarf or a nation of human deformities.—These are not wild influences or hyperbolic assertions, but the results of observation, inquiry and philosophical instruction. We wish to expose the fatal error of the public in regarding articles inimical to health and happiness as luxuries, and to prohibit which in their estimation, would be depriving them of their boasted liberty.

As philanthropists in our profession, we urge to cry aloud against the system, and denounce it in public and deny it in private. We wish the Temperance Societies were under the direction of the Legislature and extensively instituted; they have already done good in many parts of England, but in America their effect has been incalculable.