

Dr. Druitt, also, and his remarks are even more applicable to our dry and bilious climate than to the more moist one of England, in his valuable little work entitled "Report on cheap wines," published in 1861, consequent upon the treaty with France, which admitted wine into England almost duty free, (a work which, both for social and medical reasons, should be read by every one) writes as follows :

"But it is not only in a medical point of view, but as a friend of sobriety and morals, that I venture to advocate the large use of wine—*i. e.*, pure wine—as a beverage. There are large numbers of townspeople, and especially of women, engaged in sedentary occupations, who cannot digest the beer which is so well suited to our out-door labouring population. The very tea which is so grateful to their languid, pasty, flabby tongues, from its astringent and sub-acid properties, and which also comforts their miserable nerves, has this intense drawback that, when taken in excessive draughts, and without a due allowance of substantial food, it begets dyspepsia, and that worst form of it which impels the sufferer to seek a refuge in the gin bottle. Cheap wine would call off the temptation to gin and with an equal bulk of water, would be found in many cases a happy substitute for tea. I know a great deal of the better class of needle-women and milliners' assistants, and speak from experience."

"For purposes of social exhilaration amongst classes who are not out-door labourers, beer is too coarse. Man, as a social animal, requires something which he can sip as he sits and talks, and which pleases his palate, while it gives some aliment to the stomach, and stimulates the flow of genial thoughts in the brain. No one who has ever made the experiment will fail to give the preference to wine over spirits, or can refuse to give a helping hand to any 'movement' that will banish spirits to their proper place, as medicines for the sick and aged, and not as beverages for the healthy. Civilized man must drink, will drink, and ought to drink ; but, it should be wine."

The late unhappy war in France, and subsequent disturbances, have affected our importations less than might have been anticipated, owing to the remoteness of the great wine districts of the south from the seat of hostilities. In some cases, the disorganization of the lines of railway have prevented or delayed the transport of wines from the interior, and more especially from Burgundy and Champagne, but on the other hand, the scarcity of money and the depression of business have enabled us to make some extensive purchases much below the usual rates, and to give our customers corresponding advantages.

As a considerable portion of the demand for our Wines has arisen from the adoption of them by medical men in their professional practice, and their consequently extended use by invalids and delicate persons, it has been suggested to us that a careful analysis of those most used, and especially the cheaper ones, would be useful to show the various proportions of the main constituent parts of each description, so that, in every case, the wine most suited to the requirements of the consumer might be selected.