

Alcohol, fortunately is forbidden to most races in India, but where this is not the case and they substitute it for opium, the results are lamentable. Three years ago an attempt was made by a party in England to make it illegal for opium to be sold in India except for medicinal purposes. The Government Commission which sat in the country on the subject almost unanimously concluded that it was wiser to let things be. With this decision I agree, and hold that the harm and hardship caused by such legislation would far exceed any benefit which might accrue. If the natives of India must have a stimulant to assist them in their social functions, to help them through their daily work (in their opinion), and to protect them against disease, then by all means let it be the comparatively harmless opium, rather than the deadly ganja, or the still deadlier alcohol.