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USE OF ALCOHOL IN CERTAIN
FORMS OF FEVER.

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Within the wide range of the entire *Materia Medica* there is not another remedy the use of which has so many opponents, and at the same time there is none which, in the hands of the careful physician is so powerful an agent for doing good as alcohol and its numerous preparations. The healthy human body does not require alcohol; its moderate use in health has no detrimental influence upon the general system: its habitual abuse is certain to be followed by serious structural changes in many important parts of the organism, and dangerous functional derangement of the entire nervous system. In certain forms of disease it is a remedy, if properly administered, which is not only instrumental in prolonging life, but frequently it is the most important factor in preserving it.

The teachings of prohibition are disseminated all over the land, and without entering into any discussion of its merits or demerits, the question of administering alcoholic stimulants in disease is one which should be positively settled by a representative medical body as this is. Who has not had the experience of patients refusing to take the prescribed amount of whiskey, brandy or wine on account of conscientious scruples? There are members of this learned and supposed liberal profession who permit their adherence to prohibition principle and doc-

trines to blind their otherwise good judgment. Those who have done so heretofore should remember that the healing art, while it pays due consideration to the moral questions, should not allow them to stand in the way of performing the cardinal duty of the true physician, to relieve sufferings, cure disease, and prolong life. No intelligent physician would allow the fact that human life is thereby destroyed to interfere with his performing craniotomy if the mother's life is in actual peril and can be saved in that manner. Would anybody hesitate to induce an abortion if circumstances indicate the strong advisability as a therapeutic measure for doing so? No doubt some prescribe stimulants too freely, and sometimes when they are not indicated; in fact, circumstances may arise when it is not an easy matter to decide whether or not to resort to the use of alcohol. It is the object of this paper to state what febrile conditions make the administration of alcohol a necessity, and to lay down some positive rules regarding its administration.

In papers touching upon this subject it will be generally found that alcohol is classified as standing midway between food and medicine, and I think a great wrong is thereby done to this valuable and powerful remedy. Standing midway between food and medicine, alcohol would be neither, or a little of each, while in reality it possesses the qualifications of either in a marked degree. Considering the therapeutical value of alcohol, its influence upon the circulatory system is preeminently important; it increases the power of the heart's action, it diminishes the frequency of its beat, and augments the force of its contractions. The question of the value of alcohol as a food has been investigated by many careful observers, and, while their opinions differ widely, especially as to its mode of action, it seems that Prof. Austin Flint, in his excellent paper on "Fever," read before the Ninth International Medical Congress, Sept. 6th, 1887, expresses the views held by the majority of philologists. He says: "Inanition is also a constant element in a fever long continued. In health, the formation of water in considerable quantity,