

admitted to the various asylums of England and Wales an average of 10681 men and 11224 women yearly. Of these large numbers alcohol was attributed to be a causal factor in 21.9 per cent of the men and 8.9 per cent of the women. Then it is generally agreed amongst neurologists that alcoholism in a parent is responsible for many nervous disorders in the offspring. Thus the statistics of the Craig Colony for Epileptics, at Sonyea, N. Y. show that 22 per cent of 950 patients had alcoholic parents. When one considers these things, he finds a new meaning in these words of Robert Burns:—

“Inspiring bold John Barleycorn,  
What dangers thou canst make us scorn!”

Surely the principal danger scorned is the ultimate effect of too free indulgence.

Dr. Frederick Petersen considers that 25 per cent of the 30,000 patients now under care in the New York state institutions for the insane owe their insanity to alcoholism. Estimating that these represent a loss to the state of only \$400.00 per individual per year, it would appear that New York State loses \$3,000,000.00 yearly through alcohol in the matter of insanity alone.

That medical men are awakening to the danger of over indulgence in alcohol is becoming more and more apparent, and I think it is a reasonable claim that no body is doing more effective temperance work than the medical profession. And this I think can be urged in spite of the argument that example is better than precept. It is the custom of some physicians to have printed on their prescription blanks a brief statement of the medical case against alcohol, and a similar practice applies, I am informed, to the labels on the medicine bottles of Paris hospitals. I suppose that I could hardly expect the support of all temperance enthusiasts if I were to advocate that the medical profession be given the control of the liquor traffic, but I verily believe that if a federal public health bureau were given power to deal with this as with other causes of disease, it would be able to do most effective work in the suppression of the drink evil.