

a rubber tube, with a bottle on ice to serve as a condenser.

What is the alcoholic drink called which is distilled from beer?

Gin or schnapps.

Gin is said to get its name from juniper berries, formerly distilled with it to flavor it. It usually contains about 35 percent alcohol, but specimens vary. It is not always made from beer. A good authority says it consists of any spirit largely doctored, and it often contains turpentine, creosote, oil of vitriol, salts of tartar, and other poisons.

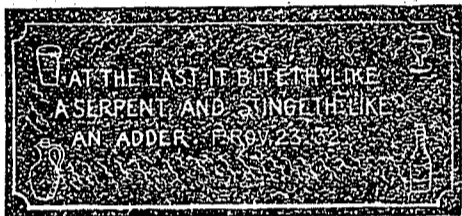
What important fact do we learn from this analysis?

That beer-drinkers get a very large proportion of poor water. (See illustration).

Pliny of old, in describing the beer of ancient Egypt, says: 'It is made from grain steeped in water,' and he adds, quaintly, 'means have actually been discovered for getting drunk upon water.'

Is the alcohol the same as in other drinks? Precisely the same.

Alcohol is a chemical substance with certain exact proportions of carbon, hydrogen and oxygen, and any change in the proportions of any one of these ingredients would produce another substance. For example, starch, sugar, fat and many other substances are all made of the same three ingredients in different proportions.



'Biteth Like A Serpent.'

Few things are so much dreaded as serpents. They are so stealthy, and, except the rattlesnake, so silent, and some of them at least, are so deadly. There is no cure known for the bite of some snakes; the only chance is to cut out the piece of flesh that has been bitten, or to burn it out with a red-hot iron, and even this will be of no use unless it is done directly after the bite is received. Now, this is very like what alcohol does to the drinker, who has only a very faint chance of getting rid of his thirst for drink when that thirst has once been formed in him. His only chance is to get the drink out, and to keep it out of his body. He cannot cut it out or burn it out; he has patiently to abstain from it until he has ceased to long for it. Sometimes it is many years before this can be done, and sometimes the thirst comes back time after time for the whole of a man's life, and keeps him in danger and anxiety. What good reason we have to avoid being bitten by this serpent of strong drink.

The mischief comes

'AT THE LAST,'

Like many other bad things, the drink comes to us with a smiling face; it is pretty to look at as it sparkles in the glass; we see some of our friends taking it; we know that many good people not only take it, but even praise it. If we were to take some, very likely at first it would seem to be doing us good, and we might think it a useful thing to take. But it would all be a mistake; every kind of strong drink is 'a mocker,' and soon after we had got into the habit of taking it we should find that we had more or less difficulty in leaving it off. The first prick of the serpent's tooth would be felt, and if we had wisdom enough left we would cast the habit away from us in fear and horror. If we did not the tooth would enter more deeply and the poison would flow through our veins; we should become the prey of the serpent. Wise men look well ahead, and so do wise boys and girls; they do not ask whether a thing is pleasant or unpleasant just now; they want to know how it will be in the end. They know better than to buy an ounce of present pleasure with a pound of future pain. It is because the worst of drink comes at the last instead of at the first that we so hate and fear it.

WORSE THAN A SERPENT'S BITE.

It must be terrible to feel the poison spreading through one's body after the bite of a snake. In some cases in about a quarter of an hour it is all over, and death has come. But it is worse still to live the living death of a drunkard, to feel one good thing

after another going out of you, that you love those about you less and have less of their love; that your good name is going, that you are in every way getting worse and worse, further and further from God and goodness and everything that is beautiful and pleasant, that you are surely dying, not only in your body, but in your soul as well. Better by far be killed by a serpent than endure such a fate as this. Yet if you neglect the warning of the motto, if you break your pledge, such a fate may be yours.—National Advocate.

Correspondence

Hamilton, Ont.

Dear Editor,—I live in Hamilton, and think it a very nice place. I went to Toronto during my summer holidays, to see the exhibition. I have two pets, Zip, a Scotch terrier, and a collie, called Rodger. At Christmas I made a scrap-book for the hospital.

PIRIE (aged 11).

Hamilton, Ont.

Dear Editor,—I have a pet cat named Tigor. We have a French pony which is a great favorite with all our family.

ELLEDA (aged 11).

Clanwilliam, Man.

Dear Editor,—My grandfather has been taking the 'Messenger' for about thirty years.

I like to read the correspondence the best. I have never seen any letters from this part yet. I go to school and I have about one mile to go. Our teacher's name is Mr. Taylor, from Portage la Prairie.

I have two pets, a dog and a colt, the dog's name is Bruce, and the colt's name is Nellie.

WILLIE (aged 12).

Kingston, Ont.

Dear Editor,—I have only one pet, which is a pony named Prince. I like to read the 'Messenger' very much. I wished that prohibition would win but I see in the 'Witness' that it didn't.

I will tell you about an illustrated prohibition sermon I saw on Prohibition Sunday.

The painting was all done by the preacher, as he is an artist. The pictures were on a revolving frame. The first was a hen's body with a man's head, sitting on some eggs, on which were written their names, some were rum and whiskey, and other intoxicating drinks. Another one was a lot of men with chains and iron balls around their legs, on which were their names rum and whiskey being mostly used. The next was a whiskey seller standing at the door of a saloon, he said, 'that he built all the prisons, jails, orphans' homes, cemeteries, lunatic asylums and penitentiaries.'

ARCHIE B. G. (aged 10).

Brant County.

Dear Editor,—I have two brothers and four sisters, I have a pet cat, and a dog. He is playful. I have a very nice school teacher, and a very nice Sunday-school teacher. We live on a farm.

BEATRICE R. (aged 8).

Hamilton.

Dear Editor,—We have two cats, one named Topsy the other Beauty. We have a few chickens, and a pet canary. I go to school, and like it. I go to Sunday-school. We have a very nice teacher, and we like her very much.

ETHEL (aged 12).

Maravilla.

Dear Editor,—I live on a farm. I have one pet, a pig. It is a dear little thing. I get the 'Messenger' at Sunday-school. I like reading the correspondence

EVA E. (aged 11).

Alameda, N.W.T.

Dear Editor,—School closed on Dec. 2, and will not open until March 1. I am in the fourth reader. We expect to have a large school this summer. My brother will be old enough to go to school with me. The winter has been nice so far, there has hardly been any sleighing till lately. We went to one of our uncle's for Christmas, and to another uncle's for New Year, and had a very nice time. We have a good time when the days are fine sleigh-riding. I am keeping a diary of the weather. There has been a new school-house, a dwelling house and two elevators built in Alameda this year. I like

reading the temperance, the boys' and girls', also the correspondence, pages. After we read the 'Messenger,' we pass it on to our neighbor. My brother and I help papa to do the chores. My papa has got four quarter-sections of land; but has not got much of the land broken yet. When we boys get bigger we shall soon break it up and grow wheat. We got two barrels of apples this winter, and get some every winter. The apples are shipped here from Ontario. My baby brother can run all over this winter; he is fifteen months old, and gets into all sorts of mischief.

HAROLD H. D. (aged 10).

Sutton.

Dear Editor,—I walk nearly a mile to school. I like my teacher very much. I have two brothers and no sisters. I have five dolls. I have a pair of bantams.

MYRTIE (aged 10).

Vernonville, Ont.

Dear Editor,—I have one dog and two cats, they play most of the time. My father takes the 'Witness' and 'Messenger,' we like them very much. I live on a farm about three-quarters of a mile from the school-house. I commenced school last Easter, and like my teacher very much.

MELZAR ORR (aged 8).

Desboro.

Dear Editor,—Mrs. Burnett, our minister's wife, organized a Mission Band, in the church, last May. I am a member of it, we made a quilt, dressed some dolls, and sent them to the Indians in the North-West.

I am eleven years old, and go to school every day I can, and am in the senior fourth class.

CARMAN.

Briggs' Corner, N.B.

Dear Editor,—We have a large dog named Captain, which will haul my brother and I all around on the hand-sled. We go to school.

JESSIE A.

Rapid City.

Dear Editor,—I would like to see another letter from 'Clara,' who wrote a letter in the last 'Messenger' about 'A Journey Across the Prairie.' When I have read the 'Messenger,' I save them till I have got a large number, then I send them to my aunt in Moline. I have a cat named Tabby, and a dog named Jeff. Tabby is a very comical cat, and is very fond of play. Jeff is the most playful dog I have ever seen. Our nearest town is eight miles away.

NELLIE S. G.

Wild Rose Farm, Ont.

Dear Editor,—The 'Northern Messenger' has been a fortnightly, and after the change, a weekly, visitor in our home long before my existence, and I look and watch for the mail that brings this friend as if it were a playmate of mine. In the letters that boys and girls have written to you, some have mentioned parts of the paper they like best. Well, I like the boys' and girls' column better than the rest of the paper. But I read all of the paper and the temperance page is next best in my thoughts. If only all would read and think over temperance reading it would do them good. The 'Messenger' may be in homes where no other Christian paper is, and I hope that it will let light into these homes.

I enjoy going to school better than I do my holidays, especially in winter, when there is plenty of ice to skate on. Our school is near a wood, and in this wood there is a large pond, which, when frozen before the snow falls, is excellent for skating. Then when the ice is rough, or covered with snow, we build forts of snow, and have snow battles, and so winter passes all too quickly for us boys. At Christmas we had a Christmas tree in our public school, and our teacher hung presents and candy on the tree for all of his pupils, so we returned the compliment by giving him celluloid satin-lined handkerchief, collar and cuff, and necktie cases, as he was leaving for the Normal at Ottawa. I wish there were two or three Christmases every year.

I am very fond of reading. We take ten papers, and I read the majority of them. Some of my favorite books are 'Robinson Crusoe,' 'Black Beauty,' 'Tom Brown's School Days,' and 'Saddle, Sled and Snowshoe,' this last one I've just finished, and think it is a splendid book.

WILFRID (aged 11).