

against its use. All use of ardent spirits (i. e. as a drink) is an abuse. They are mischievous under all circumstances."—Dr. Cheyne, of London, states, that they are most like opium in their nature, and most like arsenic in their deleterious effects.—And Dr. Frank declares, that their tendency, even when used moderately, is, to induce disease, premature old age, and death;—Dr. Trotter, that of all the evils of human life, no cause of disease has so wide a range, or so large a share as the use of spirituous liquors; and that more than half of all the sudden deaths are occasioned by them. Dr. Harris states, that the moderate use of spirituous liquors has destroyed many who were never drunk;—Dr. Kirk gives it as his opinion, that such men as were never considered intemperate, by daily regular drinking, have often shortened life more than twenty years; and that the respectable use of this poison kills more men than even drunkenness itself.—Dr. Wilson gives it as his opinion, that the use of spirit in large cities causes more diseases than confined air, unwholesome exhalations, and the combined influence of all other evils.

And says that celebrated physician, Dr Cheyne, Dublin, Ireland, after thirty years' extensive practice and observation, "Let ten young men begin at twenty-one years of age to use but one glass of two ounces a day, and never increase the quantity, nine out of ten of those young men will shorten life more than ten years." Medical writers throughout the world testify that ardent spirit is a *poison*, which cannot be used without injury; which causes disease; and which shortens human life.

A large proportion of deaths even of those, only, which come under the notice of medical men, are stated on their authority to be occasioned by intoxicating liquors. Of 77 persons found dead in different places, 67 according to the Coroner's inquest, were occasioned by strong drink.

Their use impairs, and in many cases destroys reason. Of 781 maniacs in different insane hospitals, 392 according to the testimony of their own friends, were rendered maniacs by strong drink; and the physicians gave it as their opinion, that this was also the case with many others. The love of strong drink and the proneness to mania, says Dr. Pearson, are, with regard to each other interchangeable causes; and why should not this be the case? Ardent spirits, says Dr. Kirk, contains a narcotic stimulant, with similar properties of opium; with this addition, that it is more immediately irritating to the tissues of the body, it is absorbed into the blood, circulates through the lungs, and is exhaled through the numerous vessels containing the circulating blood of these organs, and not only so but the vessels of the brain, are loaded with it. I dissected a man, who died of intoxication—the operation was performed a few hours after death. In the two cavities of the brain, the lateral ventricles, was found the usual quantity of limpid fluid—when we smelled it, the odor of the whiskey was distinctly visible, and when we applied the candle to a portion in a spoon, it actually burned blue—the lambent blue flame characteristic of the poison, playing on the surface of the spoon for some