

Carpenter thinks that a combustive process takes place in the blood, at the expense of the oxygen it contains. While the experiments of E. Smith and others go to show that there is no increase of carbonic acid produced. And Anstie and Thudicum contend that it is consumed in some way in the economy, though how they do not say. It is urged by Beale and Bing that alcohol possesses the property of restraining the rapid growth of young cells, and like quinine, of checking the increase of the white corpuscles of the blood.

While alcohol is one of the means of keeping up animal heat through the increased action of the heart, it cannot be classed as fuel-food. Animal heat is maintained by the combination of the carbon and hydrogen contained in the blood, with the oxygen taken in by the lungs. Fats and sugars in the blood yield the carbon and hydrogen, and while alcohol furnishes the same elements for combustion, it is not certain that it plays the same part in the body. Alcohol does not contain any of the constituents necessary for the growth and the regeneration of the muscular system.

Our professional experience too often teaches us the baneful effects, morally and physically upon the individual who indulges in the use of alcoholic drinks to excess. While the justice is daily and hourly brought face to face with the "moral evil," the physician is as often called upon to combat the inroads upon the constitution produced by the ABUSE of them.

Laudable efforts have been made to stay the progress of intemperance. Societies have been formed, laws enacted, and persuasive and coercive measures adopted. Yet according to the investigations of the Harveian Society, it appears that in London one-seventh of all adult deaths (male and female) is directly or indirectly due to the consequences of alcoholic excess.

The statesman requires the aid of all enlightened minds to assist him in framing such laws as will meet the difficulty. And the people at large require to be taught that the ABUSE, and often-times the continued USE, of alcoholic drinks, leads to results dreadful to contemplate. They must be made to believe that they are swallowing a poison, which, if taken at improper times and in improper quantities, will sooner or later inevitably create disease of body and mind. And who can educate them so well on these points as the physician? And gentlemen let me add, is it not our duty as custodians of the public health and as well-wishers of