

mics, the sickness in five years, among members from twenty-six to thirty-one years of age, averaged 8.173 days annually, and the yearly average, for five years, among the members from thirty-six to forty-one years old, was 10.809 days of sickness a-piece. I determined to begin at the beginning, to go over all the calculations myself; and to use for the purpose the returns, which the courtesy of Mr. Thomas Cunliffe, of Bolton, the distinguished Deputy Chief Ruler, and Mr. Robert Hunter, of Manchester, the principal secretary of the Rechabites, had placed at my disposal. Unfortunately, even these figures are in some respects incomplete; but for this ample allowance has been made in the following remarks and summaries. All foreign sub-divisions of the order, as well as those home districts, the information from which is not sufficiently complete to answer my purpose, are excluded. The returns from the Rechabites I have compared with those of the Oddfellows, a large non-temperance benefit society.

The Rechabites, as some of my readers are probably aware, are a friendly society numbering 30,000 members, all pledged abstainers from intoxicating drinks. One of their most singular features is that they issue a monthly magazine of respectable literary pretensions. Few sick societies are as successfully and economically managed, and, unless I have been grossly misinformed, not one shows a better balance sheet. On these points, however, from want of knowledge of the management of sick clubs, I am incompetent to speak on my own authority; my information comes from friends, in whom I have implicit confidence. For all practical purposes the one essential respect in which the Rechabites differ from the members of other friendly societies is that the former are without exception teetotalers, while many of the latter are not. The Rechabites are not exposed to epidemics of sickness nor to accidental deaths from drunkenness, while general or non-temperance friendly societies undoubtedly are. Rechabites who cease to be abstainers cut themselves off, *ipso facto*, from the benefits of the society.

My object is this—to lay before my readers the grand totals of this society, and those of them who are medical practitioners and have a practical knowledge of sick clubs, which I am not