

ocation. The smallest sip of the weakest form of fermented or distilled liquor has power to set in a blaze the hidden unhallowed fire. Persons ignorant of the inexorable law of heredity in alcohol, indiscriminately rebuke and denounce the vicious drunkard and the diseased dipsomaniac. But to medical experts it is as clear as is their own existence that there are multitudes of person of both sexes and in all positions in life, who, though they may never have yielded to the enticements around them, are yet branded with the red-hot iron of alcoholic heredity. There is no nobler sight on earth than the triumph of such weighted ones over their lurking and implacable foe—a foe the more terrible that it lies concealed within their own bosom. The only safety for all such lies in entire and unconditional abstinence from all alcoholic drinks. Such must shun all the alcohols. Every fermented and distilled liquor is their enemy. The weakest and most delicate fermented wine is strong enough to awaken the dormant appetite and provoke a thirst, too often, alas! quenched only in death. Whatever their station or their accomplishments, the subjects of the inherited drink-crave can abstain or can drink to excess, but drink moderately they cannot. If, in a state of consciousness they taste an alcoholic beverage at all, whether on the plea of sickness at the prescription of a physician, or on the plea of religion at the exhortation of a priest, they are in imminent danger. Their whole system is, as it were, set on fire. Unless happily enabled to master the giant appetite in the very first moment of its re-awakened life, they are truly taken possession of by a physical demon—; demon easily raised, but once raised, almost beyond the power of even a Hercules to slay."

Testimony of eminent Physicians as to the Heredity of Alcohol.

Dr. Launier, of Paris, at the Brussels Congress: "Hereditary alcoholism is an undeniable fact."

M. Lancelaux: "Cases of hysteria observed in men are cases of absinthism transmitted by heredity."

Dr. Brown, a well-known English writer on insanity, says: "The drunkard not only enfeebles and weakens his own nervous system, but entails mental disease upon his family."

Mr. Darwin says: "It is remarkable that all the diseases arising from drinking spirituous or fermented liquors are liable to become hereditary, even to the third generation, increasing, if the cause be continued, till the family becomes extinct."

Dr. Launier, of the French Medico-Psychological Society.—"Alcoholism strikes man not only in his own person, but also in his descendants. The children of the alcoholic parent are stamped, as it were, with a fatal sign that seals their doom and death in an early age."

Erasmus Darwin, M. D., F. R. S.—"Diseases

arising from drinking spirituous or fermented liquors are liable to become hereditary."

Dr. Elam, a London physician, in a recent work upon Physical Degeneracy, writes of the effects of alcohol as follows: "All this, fearful as it is, would be of trifling importance did the punishment descend only on the individual concerned and terminate there. Unfortunately this is not so, for there is no phase of humanity in which hereditary influence is so marked and characteristic as in this. The children unquestionably do suffer for or from the sins of the parent, even unto untold generations. And thus the evil spreads from the individual to the family, from the family to the community, and to the population at large, which is endangered in its highest interests by the presence and contact of a 'morbid variety' in its midst."

M. Rousel.—"One sees alcohol follow the individual in his offspring."

M. Taquet.—"Of many manifestations of alcoholic heredity, epilepsy is the most common."

Dr. Turner, in his "Second Annual Report of the New York State Inebriate Asylum," the largest institution in the world, states that "out of 1,406 cases of delirium tremens which had come under his observation, 980 had an inebriate parent or grandparent, or both." He believes that if the history of each patient's ancestors were known, it would be found that eight out of ten of them were free users of alcoholic poison.

The Outlook for Prohibition.

Watchman, what of the night?—Isa. xxi: 11.

It must be obvious to the most casual observer of current public discussion and sentiment, that the cause of Legal Prohibition of the traffic in intoxicating drinks is rapidly coming to the front. Hitherto the subject has been local, for the most part: the Prohibition party, as such, scarcely had a foothold in the nation as a whole; its organizations and nominations of national candidates were little more than nominal. But now, for the first time, Prohibition as a national question has fairly entered into our national politics and is one of the great issues distinctly and squarely presented to the people of this great nation.

This has been brought about by various causes, chief among which are the following: 1. A better understanding of the question, both in its theoretical and practical aspects. 2. The success of the party in several States of the Union. 3. The favorable results secured by the principle where it has been fairly tested, particularly in