

reasonable to urge the discontinuance of a custom which is certainly pleasant and probably useful; and very unreasonable to require temperate persons who are an immense majority of the population, to cease to do that which is lawful, useful and agreeable, in order that the intemperate minority may be induced to cease to do that which is unlawful and mischievous. It would not be less unreasonable to urge that honest people should cease to gain money because there are some misers, thieves and swindlers." So much for Paget.

With regard to the remedy for intemperance, apart from religious influences, which must always occupy the first place, I believe that the encouragement of the use of the lighter alcoholic beverages, beer and pure unfortified and unadulterated wine will do more for the cause of true temperance than any thing else, certainly much more than all the prohibitory laws that ever disgraced the statute books. Dr. Rush, the father of the temperance movement in America, commended the habits of the Dutch inhabitants of Pennsylvania, saying, "Very few of them used distilled spirits in their families, the drinks being wine, beer and cider." The consumption of whiskey in the United States is only one-third as much per head to-day as in Rush's time—from A.D. 1805-25, and drunkenness has greatly diminished, though enormously more beer is drunk. We can learn a lesson from the continental temperance societies, whose whole efforts are directed towards repressing the sale of ardent spirits, and encouraging the substitution of pure wine and beer. At the International Temperance Congress, held at Antwerp in Sept. 1885, this was very strongly brought out. The European delegates did not favour a system which makes virtue, not the triumph of self-mastery over vicious desires and inclinations, but the effect of moral tyranny. It was deemed the policy of the penitentiary, whose inmates are negatively virtuous, because the opportunity for vice are removed. In one instance, the Dutch temperance societies set the good example of brewing beer themselves, their chief aim being the production of good malt liquors so as to popularize them. At the Colonial Exposition of Amsterdam, the beer halls conducted by the temperance societies did the most thriving business. Superintendents of lunatic and inebriate asylums testified that they scarcely ever saw a case of insanity or alcoholism due to the drinking of wine or beer. The victims whose ailment was traceable to alcoholic excess were almost invariably drinkers of ardent spirits.

Dr. Lancereaux of Paris, said, The remedy for intemperance lies in the use of the fermented beverages. "Beer," said he, "is the best of all—an excellent drink."

As my paper has already taken up too much time, I shall not trespass on you any longer. I thank you for the patient hearing you have given me.