

"The general opinion that alcoholism and mental deficiency go hand in hand, that the drunkard is defective and that the simpleton eventually fills a drunkard's grave, that both combine together to bring about the poverty and misery of the indigent classes finds little support from these examinations of the army. The two conditions operate separately for the most part, and no two conditions of the human mind are further apart in their clinical and social characteristics."

The foregoing may be quite true of the actual cases coming under observation of the drinker not becoming a mental defective, or the mental defective becoming a drinker. But the question cuts much deeper than this. It has now been worked out as the result of much study on the human subject and from comparative study on animals that the abusive use of alcohol has a most disastrous effect on the offspring, both physically and mentally. The use of alcohol is unfavorable to the development of a normal foetus. Here we find an explanation for many of the instances of persons who are mental defectives, moral perverts, criminals, or of poor growth and vigor. This starts into the world a bad stock from which to breed.

When Dr. Bailey regards chronic alcoholism as playing a small part in the problem of general mental deficiency we must break a lance with him and differ. It does play an important part. It is within the experience of every physician that many who use alcohol too freely go down mentally. This is very especially true of the habit of indulgence is commenced early in life. In such instances the consensus of the medical profession is that the alcoholic habit plays a great part in lowering mentality. Then we must remember the influence on the pregnant mother. We think we are on solid ground when we state that chronic alcoholism is productive of mental degeneration.

ACTION AGAINST DR. ARCHER DISMISSED.

"Upon the evidence, it is clear that the defendant was possessed of more than average surgical skill and performed the operation in an expeditious and skillful manner," remarked Justice Sutherland in dismissing the action brought by Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Waldon, of Port Perry, to recover from Dr. Robert Archer, of the same place, \$20,000 damages for alleged malpractice. The plaintiffs must pay the costs of the action.

The action arose from the leaving of a sponge or "wipe" in a wound after an operation upon Mrs. Waldon. The doctor had been called on Sept. 12th, and the next day, after a thorough examination, advised an operation, as the condition might become serious. Mrs. Waldon refused