

The recent Conference will bear comparison with any which have preceded it connected with the British Association. There was a hearty recognition among the officers and delegates on the morning of July 16th, when they assembled in the Guildhall, Huddersfield. Since some of their first met on the temperance question, many changes had taken place, and many fellow-labourers had passed to their reward. It was refreshing for those to meet who had stood by the cause in its infancy, when contumely and sneers were meted out to them in abundance. How could such as these avoid comparing the past with the present, and indulging in grateful congratulations?

The proceedings of the Conference occupied from ten o'clock on Wednesday morning to half-past four on the Thursday afternoon. As a deliberative assembly composed of men accustomed to think and speak for themselves, it was, in its general tone, all that could be expected, as it was in its decisions all but unanimous. The resolutions are eminently of a practical character; such as we believe will receive earnest attention from a large body of teetotalers. Those referring to legislative interference and the formation of Bands of Hope were thoroughly discussed, as well as others relating to drunkenness at elections, clubs at public houses, and the influence of drinking customs on our Sunday Scholars. A letter was received from our old fellow-labourer, Mr. Henry Mudge, of Bodmin, Cornwall, suggesting the condemnation of the dietetic use of alcohol, which led to the formation of a resolution on the subject, and recommending the constant reiteration of the grand fundamental principle of the temperance reformation, that it is both useless and mischievous as an article of diet.

In connection with the Conference, public meetings were held in the large Philosophical Hall, for the advocacy of temperance principles. On Tuesday evening, the 15th, there was an interesting gathering of the Band of Hope. Mr. W. Watkinson, the president, occupied the chair, and appropriate addresses were delivered by the Rev. D. Skinner, Mr. T. B. Thomson, and Mr. Benjamin Wright. The singing of the children was in the best taste and spirit, under the efficient leadership of Mr. Enoch Sykes. We wish other towns would copy the example of Huddersfield in this respect; much more may be accomplished in the promulgation of temperance truth by the aid of rightly conducted singing than many may be willing to concede.

On the Wednesday afternoon a tea party was held in the Philosophical Hall, which was numerously and respectably attended. The meeting afterwards was of a most enthusiastic character, and was presided over with admirable tact and ability by Joseph Thorp, Esq., the President of the Association. The speeches of the evening were delivered by Messrs. Thomas Monkhouse of York, John Andrew, Jun. of Leeds, Samuel Pope of Manchester, James Raper of Bolton, and the Rev. F. Howorth of Bury.

The concluding meeting was held on Thursday evening, when the chair was occupied by the Secretary of the Association. Mr. George Flindell of Hull, Mr. W. A. Pallister of Leeds, Mr. Joseph Bormond, agent, and Dr. Lees, were the speakers. The large space occupied by the Annual Report, and the proceedings of the Conference, prevent us from giving any of the speeches at length. Dr. Lees spoke with great force and originality, and it would have been to us a source of gratification could we have found room for his excellent address.

Thus terminated the Seventeenth Annual Conference; and with hearts gladdened, and their moral and mental energies braced for a renewal of the conflict with strong drink, the officers and delegates returned to their respective spheres of labor.—*British Temperance Advocate.*

Diseases of Intemperance.

STATISTICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

At a meeting on the 16th of June, the Right Hon. Lord Overstone, President, in the chair, a paper was read by Mr. F. G. P. Neison, actuary, on the "Rate of Mortality among Persons of Intemperate Habits."

Mr. Neison commenced his paper by explaining that the primary reason for collecting the data then brought forward, was to apply the results to life assurance operations, and he had consequently only included well marked cases of intemperance, and not brought into his observations mere occasional drinkers, or what is termed generous or "free livers."

Throughout the whole of the tables the morality shown was

frightfully high. In the 61115 years of life, to which the observation extended, 357 deaths had taken place, but if these lives had been subject to the same rate of mortality as the general population of England and Wales, the number of deaths would have been 110 only, or less than one-third. At the term of life 21—30, the mortality was upwards of five times that of the general community, and in the succeeding twenty years it was above four times greater, the difference becoming gradually less and less. One intemperate person of age 20 has an equal chance of living 15.6 years, one of 30 years of age, 13.8; and one of 40 years 11.6 years; while a person of the general population of the country would have an equal chance of living 44.2, 36.5, and 28.8 years respectively.

Some curious results were shown in the influence of the different kinds of drink on the duration of life, beer drinkers averaging 21.7 years, spirit drinkers 16.7, and those who drank both spirits and beer indiscriminately 16.1 years. These results, however, were not more curious than those connected with the different classes of persons. The average duration of life after the commencement of intemperate habits among mechanics, working and laboring men, was 18 years, traders, dealers, and merchants, 17; professional men and gentlemen, 15; and females 14 years only. But perhaps the most curious circumstance disclosed was the remarkable similarity between the proportion of crime in the sexes to the proportion of deaths from assigned causes of intemperance. It was shown that the tendency to crime in the male sex is nearly five times greater than that of the female, or more strictly in the relation of 336 to 1581, while the ratio of deaths to the population from assigned intemperate causes at age 20 and upwards are in the relation of 8,011 to 36,769—a most remarkable agreement, the difference being under 2½ per cent.

The principal cause of death among intemperate lives was shown to be from head diseases (nervous system),—the number of deaths having been 97, of which 57 are recorded under the head of "delirium tremens," from diseases of the respiratory organs 82, and nearly the same number from liver disease and dropsy.

Mr. Neison concluded by giving an estimate of the number of drunkards in England and Wales,* from which it appeared that the number of males was 53,583, and females 11,223, making a total of 64,806, which gives one drunkard to every 74 of the male population, one to every 434 of the female, and one in 145 of both sexes. The following abstracts shows the proportion as shown at different ages:—

Agcs.	Males, one in	Females, one in
21—30	176	755
31—40	80	545
41—50	57	297
51—60	52	226
61—70	64	298
70—80	253	1812

Among persons addicted to decidedly intoxicating habits, 3,182 males and 671 females die yearly in England and Wales, or 3,853 of both sexes.

* We have seen many calculations as to the number of drunkards in England and Wales, and have regarded all of them with more or less suspicion; but this is the most doubtful of all. If sometimes the number has been exaggerated by teetotalers, the number as stated by Mr. Neison is certainly far below the mark. The observation of any man of ordinary capacity must establish this fact beyond all doubt. There are one hundred and twenty three thousand drinking houses in England and Wales, and giving to each house only four drunkards, we have an aggregate of nearly five hundred thousand. There may be some difference of opinion as to what constitutes a drunkard; whether a man's getting drunk once in the year, once in the month, once in the week, or once every day entitles him to that appellation. If a man be once caught in the act of stealing, he is a long time before he loses the character of a thief; but with the lax rules of morality which some people apply to drinking intoxicating liquors, a person may get drunk scores of times before they would pronounce him a drunkard. We regard any thing like correct statistics as to the number of drunkards an impossibility.—Ed.—*British Temperance Advocate.*