on every hand that even the smallest quantity of alcohol tends to lessen the activity of the brain. Wine when taken in moderate quantities in company generally produces a feeling of well being and good fellowship, along with increased confidence in the mental and physical powers of those drinking it ; but if taken without the exhilarating accompaniments of bright lights and exciting companionship, this stimulation seldom occurs. Those who advocate that the primary action is that of a stimulant point to the brilliancy of the after dinner speech, and to the feeling of increased confidence, as evidences of increased activity of the brain. But the confidence is unaccompanied by any increased physical strength; the brilliancy of speech is probably due in part to the speaker's having lost his habitual shyness and nervousness, and in part to the stimulation of the environment. The indications of excitement are absent when the associations are different, and the symptoms of depression become more distinctly manifested. On the other hand, evidences of the depressing action of alcohol upon the brain are numerous. Investigations prove that troops upon the march are able to do more work when deprived of alcohol than when supplied with it, and type-setters can do more work and make fewer errors when they abstain from its use.

Kræplin, quoted by Cushny, states that the receptive and intellectual powers were with careful measurements of the simpler cerebral processes distinctly weakened by small quantities of alcohol, while the motor functions seemed to be facilitated by small, and retarded by large quantities ; the sensation of pain is also found to be lessened by alcohol in even small amounts. Other investigators have corroborated these statements. While there is no absolutely convincing proof that no stimulation of the motor areas occurs, yet no other known drug stimulates the motor areas only without increasing the activity of the lower part of the system at some stage of its action. In the lower parts of the central nervous system evidences of primary depression are less open to question. Cushny considers, therefore, that evidence of the depressent action of alcohol on the nervous centres are numerous, while the apparent evidences of stimulation can be explained as really due to the depression of the controlling inhibitory functions. Cushny states also that there is no evidence forthcoming that alcohol increases the activity of the normal respiratory mechanism, save to a very small extent, due in all probability to a reflex action from the stomach and not to a direct action on the medullary centres. Cushny also questions whether alcohol stimulates the circulation, and says that the only real foundation for this view is the acceleration of the pulse during the excitement stage of alcoholic intoxication, an effect which may be due to increased muscular effort and not to any direct action on the heart.

Jacquet has shown that the pulse rate is unaltered by alcohol in normal