

If not given out to public institutions it could have been sold to the regular dealers, and the proceeds applied to the anti-tuberculosis fund, or any other worthy cause. We hope we will not hear of another such wasteful act.

BRITAIN'S DRINK BILL.

In the year 1909, the people of the British Isles spent £155,162,485 on alcoholic beverages; whereas, in 1910, the amount was £157,604,658, or an increase of £2,442,173. As the condition of the people during the year 1910 was a prosperous one, the increase was less than was expected. Some of this increase in outlay was made up by an increase in duties and excise levies.

Spirit drinking is showing a tendency to decline. In 1908 it amounted to £50,527,180, in 1909 it was reduced to £41,222,000, and in 1909 still further fell to £38,836,103. With this fall there was a corresponding ratio reduction in the number of deaths due to alcoholism and cirrhosis of the liver. During 1910 there were 536,997 more barrels of beer and 1,260,000 more gallons of wine consumed than during 1909.

During the year 1910, the cost per head was £3 9s. 3½d., or £17 6s. 5½d. per family. It is estimated that about 50 per cent. of the population drinks, and about 45 per cent. does not drink. On this basis, the expenditure per drinker would be £6 6s. England and Wales consume per head more wine and beer, and Scotland and Ireland more whiskey, than the other portions of the kingdom.

The mortality among those engaged in the liquor traffic is very high. This is especially true of diseases of the liver and alcoholism. Diseases of the liver are about 700 per cent. more frequent among those engaged in the liquor trade than throughout the general community. Among the 556,000 persons engaged in the licensed trade, at least 2,000 more persons die each year than in a similar number following ordinary employments.

The trade in Britain is dangerous in a two-fold sense, as it injures "him that gives and him that takes."

TEACH HYGIENE IN THE SCHOOLS.

Throughout our schools in all parts of the Dominion, the teaching of Hygiene should be made compulsory. There would, in this way, be spread broadcast throughout the land, a vast amount of knowledge regarding the laws of health and the prevention of disease.