

age of five and six years are so "seasoned" to alcohol from infancy by the administration of small quantities in milk that these youthful scholars can take a liberal dram without showing any symptoms of intoxication.

**THE TRUE NATURE OF TYPHLITIS.**—The recent discussion at the Medical Society upon Dr. Bull's paper, as well as that which followed the paper of Mr. Treves read before the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society last session, go to confirm the opinion as to the rarity of a true typhlitis apart from inflammation of the appendix cæci. In the clinical lecture contributed to these columns a few weeks ago, Sir Dyce Duckworth affirmed that "without doubt the most common cause of typhlitis is ulceration of the appendix," although he does not wholly discard the time-honored explanation of typhlitis stercoralis. As pointed out at the Medical Society by Dr. Weir, the evidence of the post-mortem room gives no countenance to the old doctrine, for in every recorded fatal case the appendix was found to be the starting-point of the mischief. The same view was forcibly expressed by Mr. Treves, and although the opinion may be said to be founded only on cases which have required surgical intervention, or which have proved fatal from perforation of the appendix either directly or indirectly, yet it would be difficult to establish a clinical distinction between such cases and the more common class of case in which the symptoms resolve and recovery takes place. For our own part, we frankly admit that in the majority, perhaps in all, the cases of typhlitis it is the appendix which is inflamed, perhaps ulcerated, with a localised peritonitis (i.e. peri-typhlitis) as the consequence. That this should be frequently associated with fecal accumulation in the cæcum itself is not surprising; but that the cæcum is generally inflamed apart from the rest of the bowel, except in the unusual circumstance of long-standing impaction of its contents, as in cases of stricture of the colon or rectum, is most questionable. Granting then, that the symptoms ascribed to typhlitis are due really to inflammation

of the appendix (we strenuously object to the barbarism "appendicitis") and perityphlitis, there is nothing surprising in the frequency of the occurrence, or in its common termination in recovery, or in its liability to relapse; although as to relapse we lack definite statistical evidence upon its frequency. It is rather surprising to hear of so many cases passing on to suppuration, as in Dr. Bull's experience; and his recommendation to use the exploring needle to detect the presence of pus is one to be followed with caution. In these days of abdominal surgery it would not be surprising to find advocates for surgical interference in every case of perityphlitis. At present the discovery of suppuration is held to justify such intervention; but the physician may reasonably urge that even the existence of pus in a localized peritoneal exudation does not of necessity exclude spontaneous recovery. The appendix cæci will, we foresee, prove the battle-ground of a struggle between the advocates of a medical or surgical line of treatment in typhlitis.—*London Lancet.*

**CHOLERA FROM MILK.**—Dr. Simpson, the health officer of Calcutta, has made a searching investigation into a recent outbreak of cholera in the Alipur gaol, and, after careful examination into every conceivable source of contamination, he has arrived at the conclusion that the milk supply of the gaol, adulterated with contaminated water, was mainly responsible for the outbreak. The details of the report show that of 144 prisoners who had their food from the hospital kitchen, 39 were on milk diet and 105 on other diets. Eight milk-diet prisoners were attacked with cholera, and seven died, while 3 non-milk-diet prisoners were effected, and only 1 died. In the course of his investigation, Dr. Simpson discovered that the wife of one of the warders of the gaol, who lived on the banks of the Tolly's Nullah, opposite the gaol, was attacked with cholera, and died on March 15th, that is, three days before the first outbreak. Six warders of the gaol carried her body to the burning ghat, but none of them were attacked with cholera. It may be a question whether they brought any contagion