

# Temperance

## Temperance Notes.

(British Congregationalist.)

In the recent Medical Temperance Conference held at Norwich two questions that were asked led to answers which cannot be too widely known. The one question was asked by an esteemed clergyman of the city, and it is a question I have often heard propounded both in public and in private. The question was as to the administration of alcohol in cases of fainting, and whether if it were disallowed there was anything to be given in its place?

To this Mr. A. Pearce Gould answered that alcohol was most certainly not a proper thing to give under such circumstances. It did not help the patient to recover. The treatment should be first to lay the patient out horizontally, then loosen the clothes about the neck, clear away from the patient the friendly officious bystanders, so as to admit free access of air, and then get the patient to sip, not to drink, some hot fluid, such as hot water, and a little later hot milk or tea.

Not long ago I heard a physician say that in some cases of apparent fainting alcohol was even a dangerous thing to administer, and would be certain death. There is a widespread opinion, and it even prevails among teetotalers, that it is necessary to have brandy at hand to administer in emergencies of this nature. This is but an ancient superstition, without any basis in fact, as are many of the prevailing notions in respect of alcohol. Science is relegating many of them to the limbo of false ideas.

At this conference the same clergyman asked whether there was not a negative value in alcohol. If alcohol was so destructive to minute organisms as mentioned by one of the speakers, would not it be also an excellent destroyer of deleterious microbes?

On my addressing this question in writing to Mr. Pearce Gould I find that his answer is most conclusive. It is this: 'It would be absolutely impossible to get sufficient alcohol into the blood to kill deleterious microbes. A solution strong enough to do that would be absolutely fatal to the individual, so that there is nothing whatever in the point thus raised. On the other hand, the effect of alcohol on the human tissues is to render them less able to resist the inroad of microbes or to destroy them by their own germicidal powers.'

I remember reading in the most interesting accounts which the late beloved physician, Dr. Ridge, has left us of some of his experiments, how that he had once thought that the alcohol which was so injurious to the cells of human protoplasm might also help to neu-

tralise the microbes which spread disease in the body. He found, however, that precisely the contrary was the case. In solutions of alcohol which proved fatal to protoplasm, the deleterious microbes became even more lively, multiplied at a prodigious rate, and appeared to be quite at home in their new liquid. Dr. Ridge found that the microbes of health were paralysed by alcohol, but those of disease were made more prolific and lively.

## 'The Curse': A True Incident.

(F. Willey Turner, in the 'Daily News'.)

Hearing that I was about to go up to town, an old friend called upon me and placed a sealed and directed packet in my hands. 'You will do me a very great favor,' he said, 'if you will seek out that address and give her that. You may also say that the door is on the latch to her and her boy; but,' he added, with cruel emphasis, 'not to him.'

By the aid of the Post Office Directory I lost myself in various directions, but helped by sundry 'bus conductors, I found the place at last. It turned out to be a squalid alley, hidden away in a network of dismal streets. To one with the hillside breezes still fresh upon his cheeks, the whole district was a revelation of wretchedness and misery. A courteous policeman stopped me as I ventured down. 'You'd better cover that up, sir,' he said, pointing to my watch chain; 'it's not a safe place down there.' A barefooted urchin strutted after me, in impertinent imitation of my gait, as I passed into the forbidding slum, which was turgid with unwashed children. At the door of the tenement I sought, a dishevelled creature with beery breath, steadying herself by the doorpost, directed me to an upper landing. I groped my way up a dislocated and wheezy staircase, and knocked lightly at the door indicated. In response, an emaciated woman, with large pained eyes, looked out at me. We had not met for years, but the recognition on her part was instant.

'You, Benedict, you!' she said in a surprised tone, giving me the nick-name of long ago; and then a sudden tremor passed through her. 'You—you have not brought me bad news; father is not—'

'Your father is well, Maggie,' I hastened to assure her; 'and I'm come at his request to give you this.'

She took the packet and kissed the superscription. 'Dear old dad,' she murmured; 'dear old dad. Now you have found me, Benedict, do come in and tell me all about the dear old place; I never cease to think of it, though it seems like a dream to me now.'

I entered the room she called home—so different, so very different from the quiet elm-sheltered villa she used to call by that name.

A rusty bedstead was the only semblance of furniture in it, while several boxes did duty as chairs. The window panes of shattered glass were held together by strips of newspaper pasted across the cracks. In the grate was a handful of sticks and coal, but it was not lit. The desired information given, I repeated her father's words.

(To be continued.)

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## Medical Sharks.

(By John T. Miller.)

I am convinced, after a careful investigation, that every possible effort should be made to warn young people against medical sharks. Those who have early in life been guilty of secret vice easily become the victims of these medical fakirs, who have no character and could not work their graft without the assistance of reputable newspapers which accept their advertisements. Such unfortunate young men, in most instances, would not ask the advice of a reputable physician in their own community; but place confidence in these disreputable pretenders. My labors during recent years have brought me in contact with honorable young men who have been unfortunate enough to become the victims of these medical sharks greatly to their injury and sorrow.

Parents and teachers have in the past neglected to give boys and girls the positive training in sexual purity that would guard them from the vices of youth; as a result, many have fallen into vices and when they see an advertisement in a paper, in which the impossible is promised, they easily become vic-

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