

the average-minded citizens on this subject, I imagined I was in some such predicament as the lunatic who, while confined in one of our asylums, was asked by a visitor why he was there, and replied that it was only for a difference of opinion; that "he thought all the rest of the world was mad, and that all the rest of the world thought he was mad, and that the world had it by a 'large majority.'"

But why not build a fence around the grog-shop, to keep the drunkard and the man that is fast becoming one from entering its vile and polluted precincts? It is much easier to do so than to fence every pool and gutter into which the poor inebriate is likely to fall. Throw around the drinking resort the prohibition of law and the ban of society; let the omnipotent voice of the people cry aloud against the evil; let public opinion speak by petition to the Legislature, in the name of justice and in behalf of poor, fallen humanity, that would do better if it could; let the people demand the protection of prohibitory laws, and the overwhelming curse of intemperance will be eradicated from our midst. "*Vox populi vox Dei.*"—*Lever.*

THE EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL.

The following is an extract from "The effect of Alcohol on Man," by N. T. Davis, M. D.:—Alcohol being one of the purest of the carbonaceous class, and especially rich in carbon and hydrogen, was at once assigned a place at the head of respiratory foods and of supports of animal heat. When taken into the living system, it was supposed to unite rapidly with the oxygen received through the lungs, evolving heat, and leaving as resultants carbonic acids and gas water; in this way its supposed heating and stimulating effects were explained. The simplicity of the explanation, coupled with the high authority of Liebig, caused it to be almost universally accepted, although resting on a purely theoretical basis, without a single experimental fact for its support. It was not long, however, before Dr. Prout of London, ascertained by direct experiment that the presence of alcohol in the human system directly diminished the amount of carbonic acid exhaled from the lungs, and consequently there could be no combustion or oxidation of the alcohol by which it was converted into carbonic acid and water. Dr. Percy and others, by examination, found that alcohol taken in a diluted form into the stomach, was taken up without change of composition, and carried with the blood into all the organs and structures of the body; and that its presence could be easily detected by the proper chemical tests. The chemico-physiologists, however, still assuming that alcohol, being a hydrocarbon, must necessarily be used for maintaining temperature and respiration, suggested that the union of its elements with oxygen might be such as to result in forming acetic acid or aldehyde instead of carbonic acid gas. Hence, they still sustained the popular belief, that alcoholic drinks were capable of increasing both the temperature and strength of the human body. In the meantime the process of experimentation went on. Dr. Boker, of Germany, by a well devised and carefully executed series of experiments, proved that the presence of alcohol in the living system actually diminished the sum total of eliminations of effete matter daily; and, consequently, that its presence must retard those molecular changes by which nutrition, secretion, and elimination are effected. In 1850, the writer of this paper prosecuted an extensive series of experiments to determine the effects of different articles of food and drink on the temperature of the body, and on the amount of carbonic acid excreted from the lungs. These experiments proved conclusively that, during the active period of digestion after taking an ordinary food, whether nitrogenous or carbonaceous, the temperature of the body is always increased; but after taking alcohol in the form of either fermented or distilled drinks, the temperature begins to fall within half an hour, and continues to decrease for some two or three hours. The extent and duration of the reduction of the temperature was in direct proportion to the amount of alcohol taken. The results of this series of experiments were embodied in a paper read to the American Medical Association in May, 1851. A few years later, the experimental researches of Lallemand, Perrin, and Duroy proved conclusively that alcohol, when taken into the stomach, was not only absorbed and carried with the blood into all the organs and tissues of the body, but also that it was eliminated as alcohol, unchanged chemically, from the lungs, skin and kidneys.

The experiments of Prout were repeated, and its results confirmed by Sandras and Bourcharde, of France, W. A. Hammond, myself, and others,

of this country. Those of Boker were carefully repeated and varied by Anstie, of England, and Hammond of this country. My own, in reference to the effect of alcohol on animal heat, have been repeated, and the results confirmed by a large number of observers, among whom are Drs. Richardson, Anstie, and Hammond. Those of Lallemand, in reference to the elimination of alcohol, have been equally confirmed, except the claim that the amount eliminated is not equal to the whole quantity taken. Hence the following propositions may be stated as fully established scientific facts:

First.—That alcohol, when taken diluted in the form of fermented or distilled spirits, is rapidly absorbed without change, carried into the blood, and with that fluid brought in contact with every structure and part of the human body.

Second.—That, while circulating in the blood, its presence retards those molecular or atomic changes by which nutrition, disintegration, and secretion are maintained, and the phenomena of life continued.

Third.—That its presence retards the elimination of waste matter, impairs nerve sensibility, lessens muscular excitability, and lowers the temperature of the body.

Fourth.—That a part, at least, of the amount taken is finally eliminated or thrown out of the system with the excretions, without having undergone any appreciable chemical change.

These facts are as well established as any in the domain of physiology, or in the whole field of natural science, and they point with all the clearness and force of a mathematical demonstration to the conclusions that alcohol is in no sense a food, neither furnishing material for the tissues nor fuel for combustion, nor generating either nervous or muscular force.—

Family Herald.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

That well-known substitute for butter, oleomargarine, is not half so dangerous a compound as the ordinary old rye, and kindred beverages, which people drink. Nevertheless, the State of New York has prohibited its manufacture and sale. We have not heard any very deep growl of indignation over this assault on the "liberty of the subject," and the vested rights of manufacturers and dealers in this compound, which after all may have been the best kind of butter the poor man could get. It will be readily urged that the poor man will be much better off without oleomargarine on his table, and that it is necessary to save him from the direful consequences of eating it. We dearsay the Trades Benevolent Association will deem this very proper legislation, and see in it no cause for giving the manufacturer and seller of the greasy imitation compensation for his vested rights and lost capital. Will any one who objects to the prohibition of death dealing, soul destroying whisky, rum and gin, beer, & ., tell us wherein the difference consists.—*Chatham Tribune.*

Scott Act News.

PERTH.—Over one hundred delegates from the various townships and municipalities of Perth county, besides fully a hundred citizens of Stratford, assembled in the Temperance Hall, in Stratford, on Tuesday, to take the initiatory steps towards passing the Scott Act in Perth county. The meeting opened at 10 a. m., Mr. J. H. Flagg, of Mitchell, taking the chair and briefly stating the object of the meeting. He said that the prospects of the temperance cause in Canada were brighter than ever before, and the object of this meeting was to discuss the advisability of submitting the Scott Act in this country. Very little was known as to what the Scott Act really is, and if the meeting decided to submit the Act he thought it advisable to enlighten the public as to the real character of the Act. Rev. Mr. Henderson, of Attwood, was elected Secretary, and the Chairman requested some one to lead in prayer. If there was an anti-Scott man present he wanted him to pray. He would like to see what kind of prayer an anti-Scott man could offer. (Laughter.) Mr. McPherson, of Stratford, the oldest clergyman present, prayed. The Chairman read a synopsis of the various provisions of the Scott Act, and called upon Mr. Spence, of Toronto, Secretary of the Dominion Alliance, for fuller information. Mr. Spence reviewed the history of the Dunkin Act, and showed the superiority of the Scott Act. The Privy Council of Great Britain had decided the Scott Act to be perfectly constitutional, and it