

a victim to the German beer that he praised so highly. He died of Bright's disease at fifty, when he was comparatively young, and should have lived, with his constitution, to a green old age. He did not want to die, either. He was full of ambition, and had much work that he was eager to do before he passed everywhere. *

Beer-drinkers are peculiarly liable to die of pneumonia. Their vital power, their power of resistance, their *vis medicatrix nature* is so lowered by their habits, that they are liable to drop off from any acute disease, such as fevers, pneumonia, etc. As a rule, when a confirmed beer-drinker takes pneumonia he dies. They make bad patients. Beer-drinking produces rheumatism by producing chronic congestion and ultimately degeneration of the liver, thus interfering with its functions, among others its metabolic function, by which the food is elaborated, and fitted for the sustenance of the body, and by which function the refuse materials resulting from the nutrition and action of the tissues of the body are oxidised and made soluble for elimination by the kidneys, thus forcing the retention in the body of excrementitious and dead matters. The presence of uric acid and other insoluble effete matters in the blood and tissues is one of the main causes of rheumatism, and I have shown how beer-drinking retains it in the system.

Dr. J. H. Curry, whose specialty is diseases of the eye and ear, and who is a successful practitioner of many years' standing, declined to discuss the general physiological effects of beer and other intoxicants. He said, "I can't say that I know any strictly beer-drinkers. No matter what they may have begun upon, all the drinkers that I know now drink whiskey about as regularly as they do beer, and also wine when they can afford it. They have all progressed pretty rapidly from beer to something stronger, which they alternate with beer. The habitual 'moderate' drinker saturates his system, injures his bodily fibre, and loads it up with noxious matters that are very injurious. The fact of a man being an habitual drinker is always regarded as a very bad factor by every physician and surgeon in making a prognosis of his case. Medical men dread having such for patients. Oculists have to contend with a disease that has been named 'amblyopia potatorum,' or 'drunkard's blindness,' which usually manifests itself as an atrophy of the optic nerve, a wasting away for want of nourishment. When this proceeds to a certain stage in the optic nerve, the result is total and incurable blindness. Scelberg Wells, one of the first authorities on eye diseases, says on Amblyopia Potatorum: 'This toxic effect may be especially produced by alcohol, tobacco, lead and quinine. The amblyopia met with in drunkards (*Amblyopia Potatorum*) generally commences with the appearance of a mist or cloud before the eyes, which more or less surrounds and shrouds the object, rendering it hazy and indistinct. In some cases the impairment of vision becomes very considerable, so that only the largest of print can be deciphered; but if progressive amblyopia sets in, the sight may be completely lost."

Dr. S. S. Lungren, one of the leading homœopathic physicians and surgeons in the country, has been practicing in Toledo for nearly a quarter of a century. He says, "It is difficult to find any part of a confirmed beer-drinker's machinery that is doing its work as it should. This is the reason why their lifecords snap off like glass rods when disease or accident gives them a little blow. Beer-drinking shortens life. That is not a mere opinion, however. It is a well-settled, recognized fact. Everywhere—heart, brain, stomach, lungs, liver, kidneys—it breaks down, weakens, enfeebles, invites attacks of disease, and makes recovery from any attack or injury precarious and difficult. "The brain and its membranes suffer severely, and after irritation and inflammation, come the well-known dullness and stupidity. There is no question in my mind that many brain diseases and many cases of insanity are produced by excessive beer-drinking. But it is everywhere the same, everywhere it is degeneration; and this ruinous work is not confined to the notorious drinkers, but every one must suffer just in proportion to the amount he or she drinks. No man who drinks much beer is the physical and mental equal of one who abstains. He diminishes his present powers, shortens his life, and wrecks himself by his indulgence in it."

Dr. J. T. Woods, three years in the United States service as surgeon in charge of important brigade and division hospitals, five years professor of physiology in the Cleveland Medical College, now chief surgeon of the Wabash system of railroads, has practiced in Toledo sixteen years. He says: "I have never had reason to think that any beneficial results came from the use of beer as a common drink, but on the contrary regard it as slowly, but positively detrimental to the system. Its indiscriminate use as a beverage produces the most damaging effects as other drugs would do. That confirmed beer-drinkers are especially unpromising patients on whom to perform surgical operations, I am sure all practical surgeons will agree. There can be no question about it."

Dr. C. A. Kirkloy, in constant practice in Toledo for fifteen years, says: "My experience is that sickness is always more complicated—more fatal—in beer-drinkers, and that serious accidents are usually fatal with them. * * * There is hardly a single cause that operates more powerfully in the production of insanity, and not only that, but it excites the action of other causes that may be present."

Dr. W. C. Chapman served during the war as a surgeon in the Army of the Potomac, and since then has practiced in Toledo. He is Professor of Materia Medica and Therapeutics in the Northwestern Ohio Medical College. He says: "Alcohol is a cerebral sedative, that is, an agent which, having first stimulated the brain and nervous system to an abnormal degree, causes sedation, an exactly opposite condition. It matters not in what form the alcohol is taken, whether as whiskey, brandy, wine, or beer, this physiological effect is always shown as the principal one. There are other results from its use, which, although perfectly well established and understood by the physiologist, remain unknown to the drinker, as the condensation of albumen, congestion of the stomach and liver, thus impairing digestion, and even causing structural changes in the various organs themselves; causing enlargements, followed by contractions of the liver, fatty degeneration of the blood, the blood-vessels, heart, and kidneys, and the brain itself may be similarly affected. Of course, small doses, not frequently repeated, do not bring about all these results; but sooner or

later, if drinking to moderation becomes a habit, many of these results will become apparent. I certainly consider beer as harmful as the ardent spirits, if not more so."

Citizens of Toronto, what do you think of organized advocacy of the use of the abominable drug that produces the effects described in the extracts just quoted. It is not strange that the movement has not been able to secure the co-operation of a single member of the medical profession, and that known men of science cannot be induced to take any part in such *scientific* discussion. It is not strange that every minister of the Gospel keeps aloof from the iniquity of such a nefarious enterprise. In its early history the N. L. T. A. did parade the names of prominent clergymen as being in sympathy with its objects, but none of these clergymen have even condescended to notice the insulting impertinence. We have no ministers in Toronto who will ever descend to the position of advertising agents for lager beer brewers and wine importers, and we trust that we shall soon have in this city a moral sentiment too strong to allow any such position to be considered compatible with decency and intelligence.

Do we speak strongly? Fathers and mothers, for years we have been working to make Toronto a safer place for your girls and boys. We have been developing a sentiment that has already driven the decanter from the sideboard of hospitality and made social life safer and your hearts lighter when your dear ones are at a festive gathering. We are going on to invoke the strong arm of the law to add its power to your influence to preserve the sanctity of your home. Just at this critical juncture, in the interests of appetite, of avarice, of shame and crime, comes a counteracting effort, laying claim to respectability and prostituting to its vile purpose the sacred names of Science and Religion. No words can express too strong an abhorrence of such an outrage. God helping us we shall protest against and assail it until it has shared the fate of every other paltry device with which the dying liquor traffic has attempted to prop the failing throne of its power to ruin and destroy.

COFEE HOUSES.

Temperance work must be practically carried out upon three distinct lines: We need the reforming and conserving influences of religious total abstinence societies, we need coffee houses, good entertainments and comfortable homes to counteract the seductive influences of drink dens and drink, and we need the strong preventative power of law to suppress as far as possible the common sale of the deadly drug that leads to so much ruin. Our cause cannot afford to ignore any of these important matters, and that cause will triumph when we give to all of them the attention that they ought to have.

We are a little afraid that the counter-acting branch of temperance work does not receive in this country the attention to which it is entitled. Every city and town ought to have coffee houses that are not merely feeding rooms to which men run for a hasty meal. Every coffee house ought to have attached a recreation or rest room, where men can sit, read the news, enjoy a chat with a friend, and generally, have supplied the sitting room accommodation that every tavern and saloon are particularly careful to furnish. In this matter our Toronto coffee houses are glaringly defective. They are doing a certain work, and doing it well, but they are not doing the whole of the work for which they were instituted, and which the public expects from them. We earnestly urge upon the managers of these institutions their duty in this matter, believing that by performing it, they would benefit themselves financially and benefit their patrons morally.

That well managed coffee-houses can be made to pay, and pay well, we have abundant evidence in a statement recently made in the