

## Temperance Column.

### A Doctor's Views on 'Temperance.'

By William Odell, F.R.C.S.

England.

CONCLUDED

The Chairman said that the principal organ to suffer was the liver. It is in one sense, but not in another; for very often the brain suffers most, because, of the blood in the body which absorbs the alcohol, the brain receives one-fifth. Therefore, the stimulant has a greater effect upon the brain, because it receives a larger quantity than any other organ. It is a well-known fact that if you want to make a man intoxicated you will do so much more quickly if you give him whisky and water with a piece of toast, or if he gradually sip it with a spoon, than if he drinks it right off. In the first instance, the fumes of the liquor go through the nose straight to the brain; and, in the second place, the alcohol gets more quickly taken into the blood and absorbed by the system. There is a disease, as you know, which teetotalers never have had, and never will have, and that is delirium tremens. I saw in *The Western Morning News* some time ago a description of a clergyman, or minister, in the United States, who gave what was called an object lesson in delirium tremens, by pretending to imitate a man suffering from that disease; and if anyone has ever seen a person suffering from the complaint, it must certainly have been a warning to him as to the danger of taking stimulants.

I will tell you of one instance that came under my own observation when I was going across the Atlantic. We started on a Wednesday from Liverpool and on Thursday, when at Queenstown, I noticed a man in the steerage, and said to a gentleman beside me, "You see that fellow; he's in for D.T." He said, "How do you know?" I said, "Because of this, and that, and that," pointing out the symptoms indicative of the complaint.

A short time afterwards I said to the ship's doctor, "You have a fellow on board in for D.T." On the following (Friday) morning the doctor said to me, "That fellow has got it." On Friday afternoon he said, "That fellow has got it badly." On Saturday morning he said, "That poor fellow is dead." He was a young man only 22. He had had money given him to go to New York by first-class passage, but had spent a great deal of it in drink at Liverpool, and the rest of it he meant to spend when he arrived at New York; but he did not get more than three days on his voyage.

That is one instance of the awful effect of liquor—an effect which might have happened to anyone who drank to excess. No one who takes stimulants can say positively that he won't be the one to meet with a similar fate. Nobody ever starts drinking with the hope or idea of becoming a drunkard. It is always his neighbour or somebody else to whom this will happen; he is always the one who will be able to stand it. On that same vessel there was a young fellow

who had been out in Texas and who had returned to England, but had lost his wife and was going back again to America. There was also on board a gentleman who was a relative of one whose name appears in the London daily papers in connection with very high matters in this country. His real name was not on the ship's list, as he had taken passage under an assumed name. He was going into a large cattle ranch in Texas. I went a trip round Canada and the United States, which took me about two months, and on my return voyage, a gentleman who had been on board the vessel on which we went out, said, "Do you know what became of those two young men?" mentioning the two to whom I have referred. I said "No." He said, "The last I saw of them they were both in a low public house in Brooklyn. One of them had two black eyes, and they had both spent every penny they possessed." Yet when they started they had both enough money to go right away and buy a farm, but the whole of it had gone in two months.

Although that is not the medical aspect of the question, it shows the effect of liquor.

### IS DRUNKENNESS CURABLE?—AN OPEN QUESTION.

Perverted nutrition due to alcohol itself is not easily remedied; the yearning demands of the poison being difficult to destroy by medicines. Various antidotes have, however, been suggested, and some are thought highly of in this connection. Nearly five centuries ago the old alchemist, Roger Bacon, asserted that he had discovered in *aurum potable*, or tincture of gold, the veritable elixir of life, to drink of which would restore age and decrepitude to youth and beauty. The properties of this wonderful tincture, however, have dissolved away and disappeared, till now the only medical value claimed for any combination of gold is that of the chloride, which is regarded as a specific for the effects of drunkenness, one physician claiming to have made permanent cures of 95 per cent. of his cases. It is difficult to see how he can claim permanency of cure for so large a percentage unless the patients are all dead. The writer's experience in many cases where he has administered the chloride of gold has not convinced him of its efficacy. Other drugs, extract of gentian, the sulphate and also nitrate of strychnia, bromo-potash, bromidia, etc., have been urged similarly as specifics for drunkenness. As it is doubtful whether the physical action of any drug taken for a brief period will influence the individual to a temperate, sober course of life for a series of years thereafter, unless the state of his mind and other conditions are all favourable, we must still regard the inquiry as an open

question—Is drunkenness curable? *Dr. Elon Carpenter, in North American Review.*

### Thoughts on the Transfiguration of Our Lord.

1. The Son of Man in His transcendent brightness and beauty reveals to us the character of the spiritual bodies into which these natural Lod-es of His saints shall be changed. For we shall be like Him.

2. The one subject for all to enjoy is Jesus Christ and Him crucified. He spake to them of His death upon the cross, to all alike, Moses and Elijah and the Apostles.

3. They knew each other; men of different ages and circumstances seem to have been revealed to each other as to their identity through Christ, their Head. His light flashed upon them their recognition.

4. The living and the departed but one communion make; Moses dead and buried 1,500 years before, as we count time, and Elijah carried up to Heaven 1,000 years before, and the apostles still in the flesh, are with the Lord of glory.

5. Who can forecast the blessedness of our future life in its relation to the disappointments and heartaches of this? Moses was denied the sovereign desire of his soul, to go over Jordan, to enter the promised land. As a punishment for his sin God refused to allow him to set foot upon the sacred soil; the utmost granted him was to view it from afar, as a dim, distant prospect, and then in loneliness and secrecy he died. Centuries pass and Palestine is tributary to the Romans, and the hope of Israel seems to have perished, when lo! Moses is brought back to earth, and descends upon the promised land, and stands upon it in the presence of his Lord and Master, and the prince of the prophets, and the chief of the apostles. —[Bishop Seymour.

### MAN—NOT APE.

Since the Darwinian theory of the origin of man made its first victorious mark, twenty years ago, we have sought [says Professor Virchow] for the intermediate stages which were supposed to connect man with the apes; the *proto* man, the *pro anthropos* is not yet discovered. For anthropological science the *pro anthropos* is even a subject of discussion. At that time in Innsbruck the prospect was, apparently, that the course of descent from ape to man would be reconstructed all at once; but now we cannot even prove the descent of the separate races from one another. At this moment we are able to say that among the peoples of antiquity no single one was nearer to the apes than we are. At this moment I can affirm that

there is not upon earth any absolutely unknown race of men. The least known of all are the people of the central mountainous district of the Malay Peninsula, but otherwise we know the people of Tierra del Fuego quite as well as the Esquimaux, Bashkirt, Polynesians, and Lapps. Nay, we know more of many of these than we do of certain European tribes; I need only mention the Albanians. Every living race is still human; no single one has yet been found that we can designate as Simian or quasi-Simian. Even when in certain ones phenomena appear which are characteristic of the apes, e.g., the peculiar, ape-like projections of the skull in certain races, still, we cannot say that these men are ape-like.—*Selected.*

Rest not content in thy darkness, a clod;  
Work for some good, be it ever so slowly;  
Cherish some flower, be it ever so lowly;  
Labor!—all labor is noble and holy;  
Let thy great deeds be thy prayer to thy God.

—Frances S. Osgood.



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