

The report goes on to show that if the countries now engaged in war were to abolish the use of alcohol the loss of life due to the war would be made good in ten years by the improved health of the people.

SOME LINGERING FOLLIES.

Some years ago Col. Ingersoll delivered a lecture on "Our Crimes Against Criminals." He emphasized the fact that our methods of dealing with criminals did not tend to make them better, but in the main worse; and that if we treated normal persons as we do our criminals we would make criminals of them.

One can hardly think of anything more stupid than the custom of prohibiting current reading matter being allowed access to prisoners. After a lengthy period of confinement he emerges without knowledge of the world. The same is true of preventing the receipt of letters.

Then, again, one thinks with a shudder of contempt of the practice of making prisoners break stones simply as an act of hard labor, without this labor having any training object in view, or enabling the prisoners in any way to better their own condition when they leave their cells; or that of their families during the terms of imprisonment. It would be so much better to give them useful and profitable labor, deducting their cost of maintenance from what they earn, and accumulating the balance against the day of their discharge; or to be sent to those they ought to be supporting.

If the prisoners of the country could organize for political purposes, members of Parliament would vie with each other to remedy the injustices now done this class. We do not advocate any weak sentimentality in the matter; but we do contend that the main object of the law should be reclamation, and the idea of punishment should be quite secondary. We hope to see better conditions prevail ere long. In this matter Ontario is certainly taking a first place.

FLY POISONOUS PAPERS.

A good deal of attention has been given to the dangers of these papers. They contain poisonous agents and are placed in shallow dishes containing water. Owing to the sweetening material used in the making of these papers they are specially dangerous to children who may eat the papers or drink the liquid from the vessel in which they are placed.

In South Africa these poisonous papers have been interdicted, and