

to be convincing to any medical practitioner, I determined to study some of these papers and statistics. I accordingly wrote to many eminent tectotalers, and in due course received pamphlets, reports, and lectures in sufficient numbers to make me expect that the required information was forthcoming. This turned out not to be the case. Those figures and statements, bearing on the point, were either unsupported by evidence, or were not available for purposes of comparison. I was as unfortunate in my attempts to get information of the annual amount of sickness and death among its members from some large non-temperance society. When I at last obtained returns available for my purpose, I found to my astonishment that comparisons on a large scale had either never been attempted, or were from various causes still almost impossible. To give an example of the difficulties with which I had to grapple it will be sufficient to mention that, after I had been favored by the principal officials of the Rechabite Friendly Society with returns, and had compared them with some of the statements in Dr. Parkes's classical work—*Practical Hygiene*—a friend pointed out that Dr. Parkes, usually so accurate and careful, had, probably without due enquiry, accepted figures that were incorrect. Dr. Parkes mentions that the annual amount of sickness among the members of friendly societies, between twenty and thirty years old, is 5.84 days a-piece, and among members under forty years old seven days per member. Under thirty years old sixteen per thousand, and under forty years of age 19.2 per thousand would constantly be ill. When I compared these statements, evidently intended to apply to all friendly societies, temperance and non-temperance, with those I had received from the Rechabites I found to my surprise that they were more favorable than the returns of the latter—a society which from its constitution cannot suffer from epidemics of sickness caused by intemperance. Hence it would appear as though the mortality among non-temperance societies is lower than in temperance ones, I was consequently not a little surprised when, subsequently, having obtained returns from a non-temperance society with over 500,000 members, and therefore large enough to be exempt from inaccuracies due to local epide-