

will not restrain an injurious appetite degrades himself to the level of the brute creation. The sensations of languor, debility and exhaustion consequent upon insanitary surroundings often drive men to the dram-shop. Improve his condition in that respect and you remove a large source of temptation.

The Gothenberg system, a form of local-option, commends itself to the rate-payers, inasmuch as the profits accruing from the public-sale of liquors is appropriated towards the payment of the debts of the municipality. It directs that the whole public-house traffic be transferred to a limited liability company, who shall undertake by their charter to conduct the business solely in the interests of temperance and morality and to pay to the town treasury the whole profit beyond the ordinary rate of interest on the paid-up capital. The capital required was £7,500 and the annual profits yielded £40,000. The population of Gothenburg in 1876 was about 65,000. The number of licenses issued by the new company was reduced from 119 to 56. Of these 13 were transferred to wine merchants for sale and use off the premises of wines and spirits of the higher order 10 were transferred to hotels, clubs, restaurants and cafés, 26 to public-houses and 7 to shops for sale and use on the premises. Bar business was prohibited from 6 p.m. on Saturday to 8 a.m. on Monday. This experiment appears to have worked well, for almost every town in Sweden has adopted it.

Regarding prohibition I have little to say, except that it was tried in the Garden of Eden and failed there. Prohibitory laws have repeatedly been placed on the statute books against the use of alcoholics and in no one instance have they produced the desired effect. Indeed, no law will or can be enforced so long as there is a large minority who disapprove of it and who do not feel that they are degrading themselves by evading it. Such a law would induce smuggling and illicit distillation. A trade in bad small still whiskey would spring up from our woods, and other stimulants and narcotics would be found to take their place.

Now what is to be done with the confirmed inebriate is the question. Argument is useless, the tears and entreaties of fond friends will not influence him; the finer qualities of his nature are destroyed; punishment has no terrors for him. Restraint is the only remedy. He is not in the strict sense of the term a lunatic, but practically he is one. The church looks upon him as a sinner, the State as a criminal, while the observing physician knows that he has lost his power of self-control, that he is ruining his health, shortening his life, squandering his