

Proper ventilation will prevent danger by inhalation, suitable gloves will avoid poisoning by absorption, and careful education may do a good deal against the dangers of drinking this form of alcohol.

The New York Commission has gone into this subject with much care and thoroughness, and has issued the following recommendations:

To prohibit the presence of wood alcohol in any form of material intended for internal use.

To prohibit the presence of wood alcohol in preparations intended for external use on the human body.

To require ample ventilation in works in which wood alcohol is made or used in manufacturing products wherein wood alcohol remains as such; the same law should apply were the products containing wood alcohol are used up, as, for example, in varnishing vats in breweries.

To require containers in which wood alcohol is marketed to bear suitable display labels of warning.

These suggestions if embodied in the form of law would go a long way to obviate the dangers now too common. What may be done with regard to wood alcohol can also be done in the case of other dangerous trades, and the handling of dangerous chemicals.

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#### BIRTH RATE.

A short time ago, W. C. V. Drysdale read a paper at the Royal Colonial Institute on the birth rate in various parts of the Empire. He said there was no call for alarm so far as England, Scotland and Wales were concerned. From 1901 to 1911 the increase in the population in Britain was 9.1 per cent., and this had only been exceeded twice in the past six decades.

In speaking of New Zealand and Australia, the lecturer went on to show that in these two islands the death rate was so low that the birth rate in excess of it gave the largest percentage increase of the population of any place in the world.

Turning to the conditions in Canada it was pointed out that the population had made a gain of 34 per cent. during the past ten years. This was almost phenomenal. But it had been so much influenced by immigration that it was not possible to state how much of the increase was brought about by the birth rate in excess of the death rate. Nevertheless there was ample proofs that, apart from immigration, Canada was making substantial gains by the natural increase in her own people.

The birth rate of Ontario was only 22 or 23 per thousand in the eighties, and actually dropped to 19 in 1895, since then it has recovered (owing to an increased marriage rate) to about 25 per thousand. Its