

or a life insurance company. I passed as unusually good risks five Germaus—young business men—who seemed to be in the best of health, and to have superb constitutions. In a few years I was amazed to see the whole five drop off, one after another, with what ought to have been mild and easily curable attacks of disease. On comparing my experience with that of other physicians I found that they were all having similar luck with confirmed beer-drinkers, and the incidents of my practice since then have heaped up confirmation on confirmation. The first organ to be attacked is the kidneys; the liver soon sympathizes with them, and then comes, most frequently, dropsy or Bright's disease, both of which are certain to end fatally."

Dr. S. S. Thorn, said :

"Adulterants are not the important thing in my estimation—it is the beer itself. It stupefies and retards his intellect, because it is a narcotic, and cumulative in its effects. For instance, mercurials are cumulative. They gather in the system. A dose of 1-16th or 1-32d of a grain would have no appreciable effect upon the system; but a number of these small doses administered consecutively would soon produce salivation and other destructive results. So beer accumulates and gathers certain pernicious agencies in the system, until they become very destructive. Every man who drinks beer in any quantity soon begins to load himself with soft, unhealthy fat. This is bad, because it is the result of interference with the natural elimination of deleterious substances. No man, no matter what his constitution, can go on long with his system full of the morbid and dead matter which the kidneys and liver are intended to work off."

Dr. M. H. Parmelee testifies :

"The majority of saloon-keepers die from dropsy, arising from liver and kidney diseases, which are induced by their beer-drinking. My experience has been that saloon-keepers and the men working about breweries are very liable to these diseases. When one of these apparently stalwart, beery fellows is attacked by a disorder that would not be regarded as at all dangerous in a person of ordinary constitution, or even a delicate, weakly child or woman, he is liable to drop off like an over-ripe apple from a tree. You are never sure of him for a minute. He may not be dangerously sick to-day, and to-morrow be in his shroud. All physicians think about alike on this subject, as their observations all lead them to similar conclusions. It is a matter so plain that there is hardly room for any other opinion. The most of them are like myself in another thing: I have come to dread being called upon to take charge of a case of sickness in a man who is an habitual beer-drinker. Experience has taught me that in such persons it is impossible to predict the outcome. The form of Bright's disease known as the swollen or large white kidney, is much more frequent among beer-drinkers than any other class of people, and also that its prevalence seems to have kept pretty fair pace with the rapid increase in the consumption of beer in this country."

Dr. S. S. Lungren, says:

"It is difficult to find any part of a confirmed beer-drinker's machinery that is doing its work as it should. This is the reason why their life-cords snap off like glass rods when disease or accident gives them a little blow. Beer-drinking shortens life. That is not a mere opinion, however. It is a well-settled, recognized fact. Physicians and insurance companies accept this as unquestioningly as they do any other undisputed fact of science."

Dr. J. T. Woods, says:

"I have never had reason to think that any beneficial results came from the use of beer as a common drink, but on the contrary regard it as slowly but positively detrimental to the system. Its indiscriminate use as a beverage produces the most damaging effects as other drugs would do. That confirmed beer-drinkers are especially unpromising patients on whom to perform surgical operations, I am sure all practical surgeons will agree. There can be no question about it."

Dr. C. A. Kirkley, says:

"As is well known, there is no more fruitful source of Bright's disease. The heart and blood-vessels are excited at first, then their tone is impaired, and then digestion and nutrition become impaired. The nervous system is especially liable to disorder. Every physician is familiar with cases in which nervous wear and tear in an active life has been kept up by stimulants without apparent loss of power for years, bodily and mental vigor, however, suddenly fail, mental exertion produces fatigue, there is depression, loss of appetite, enfeebled digestion, and all the symptoms consequent upon this condition."

Dr. G. A. Collamore, says:

"Every physician or surgeon will testify that, other things being equal, the beer-soaker has a much smaller chance of recovery, if overtaken by serious illness, accident, or the necessity of surgical interference, than the one who abstains. In this one particular effect beer is, in my judgment, more injurious than more concentrated forms of alcohol, which tend rather to local disorders."

Another melancholy fact is that brought out by Henry Morselli, M.D., in his work on "Suicide," where he shows that the lowest averages of self-destruction are in localities the most distant from the German centre, and that those provinces give the highest which are entirely Germanized. The following table illustrates the accuracy of his statement:

		Annual average.
1874-8	Ireland.....	94 or 17 per million.
1871-5	Scotland.....	115 or 34 "
1874-8	Italy.....	1,052 or 38 "
1873-7	England and Wales.....	1,685 or 69 "
1873-7	Austria.....	2,781 or 130 "
1874-8	Prussia.....	2,921 or 152 "
1874-8	France.....	3,850 or 162 "
1873-6	Wurtemberg.....	303 or 169 "
1874-8	Baden.....	269 or 177 "
1874-8	Thuringia.....	209 or 305 "
1873-8	Saxony.....	939 or 338 "

What contrasts! Whiskey-cursed Ireland shows 17 suicides annually to the million of inhabitants, and beer-cursed Saxony 338 suicides to the million. Surely beer is a depressent psychologically as well as physically.

IV. Equally untenable is the position taken by those who favor the exemption of fermented drinks from the operation of prohibitory legislation, on the ground that their use diminishes the use of distilled liquors.

"In an article on "The moral condition of Germany, with some refer-

ence to that of other countries," published in the *Bibliotheca Sacra*, for Germany, 1885, the following facts are stated:—"Between 1871 and 1879 there was a very slight decrease in the whole amount of beer and brandy drunk in the nation (Germany), from 90.1 litres of beer per head to 89.8 a falling off of about half a pint; and from 9.7 litres of brandy to 9.3. But according to late reports, a decided increase has again set in, and 1883 is credited with six per cent. more liquor consumed than in 1882."

"In France the use of beer has grown from 8.45 litres per head in 1830 to 21 litres in 1875; and brandy from 1.09 in 1830 to 3 in 1878. Thus Germany drinks more than four times as much beer, and three times as much brandy as France."

"Britain and America have the sad pre-eminence of leading the world in drunkenness, though showing many signs of improvement. British imported wine fell off nearly eight per cent. in 1882, and nine per cent. in 1880, and all imported spirits decreased one and a half per cent. in 1882, and domestic one per cent. But while Britain as a whole seems improving, those that do drink seem to be getting worse. Drunken crimes increased between 1867 and 1878 from 121,709 to 194,549."

"Scotland drank 1.847 gallons of spirits per head in 1866, and 2.336 in 1876. England during the same time went from 846 to 1,113, and Ireland from 857 to 1,376."

"The same tendency is just as marked in Germany. Instead of the "simple beer" drunk by the people a generation ago, lager beer is used, and the stronger beer of Bavaria. And while beer is increasing, brandy is increasing still more, with the ever recurring result that those who are drunken are becoming more drunken still. For example, between 1872 and 1875 the use of brandy rose from 5.9 litres per head in Westphalia to 7.7; in Rhineland, from 2.8 to 3.7; in Silesia, from 14.6 to 18.9, in West Prussia, from 16.4 to 20.9; in Posen, from 23.9 to 31.9."

"Beer-drinking in Bavaria has grown from 134 litres per head in 1840 to 278 in 1878, or more than doubled in one generation."

"Saloons have increased in number out of all proportion to other places of business. During the ten years from 1868 to 1877 they grew by fifty-one per cent."

"In Wurtemberg, the wine stores had risen in 1877 to more than 16,000, or one for every 117 of the population. The proportion in 1858 was one for every 181. In Baden there is a wine store for every 143; in Hesse, for every 166; and in Alsace-Lorraine, for every 120 of the inhabitants."

"Adding beer-saloons to wine-stores, there are, all told, 20,496 in Wurtemberg, or one for every 97 of the population. The annual consumption amounts to 35 gallons per head, of beer, six gallons of wine, one gallon of cider, and one gallon of brandy. It is supposed that in Baden the yearly cost of liquors is ninety times the taxes paid on real estate. Between 1868 and 1877 the saloons rose from 5,910 to 8,935, or over 3,000. While in 1868 there was an ale house for every 243 of the population, in 1877 there was one for every 169. In some of the smaller towns the proportion ran up to one for every 95, 93, 91, 88, 73, 65, 59. The number of butcher shops remained stationary, while the brewers increased by 150, and the distillers by 2,500."

"Recent financial legislation has in some cases contributed to the growth of this evil. Liberalism and free trade notions carried to an extreme gave free competition to beer and brandy sellers. Encouraged by a law passed in 1873, the number of saloons in Alsace Lorraine has increased since then by fifty per cent. Before 1870 six to seven gallons of wine were sold for one gallon of brandy. In 1876 the sale of wine stood to that of brandy as 4 : 1; in 1877, as 3 : 1; in 1878, as 2 : 1; in 1879, at 1½ : 1."

"These startling facts are calling the attention of all Christians, patriots and moralists to this threatening calamity. The attention of Parliament has been turned towards it. The clergy are agitating for reform. And in March, 1883, representative men of all classes met, and formed the "German Association against the abuse of alcoholic beverages."

The experience on this continent is not unlike that in the Old World. In the United States the annual consumption of beer has increased from 23,000,000 gallons in 1840, to 551,000,000 in 1883; that of distilled liquors from 43,000,000 gallons in 1840, to 78,000,000 in 1883; that of wines from 5,000,000 gallons to 25,000,000. The number of gallons per capita has increased from a little over four in 1840, to a little over twelve in 1883, so that while beer-drinking has increased 60.2 per cent., whiskey-drinking has increased 44.5 per cent."

Take the figures of a still smaller number of years. In 1876 the consumption of distilled liquors was 59,000,000 gallons, in 1883, 78,000,000; beer in 1876, 308,000,000 gallons, in 1883, 551,000,000; wines in 1876, 20,000,000 gallons, in 1883, 25,000,000. Increase of distilled liquors 27½ per cent., beer, 51½ per cent., wine, 12½ per cent."

Take the figures for the year ending June 30th, 1884, as given by the United States Commissioner of Internal Revenue. Gallons of distilled spirits consumed in year ending June 30th, 1883, 72,980,248; June 30th, 1884, 76,179,204. Increase for the year 3,198,956 gallons. Gallons of beer consumed in year ending June 30th, 1883, 552,257,185; June 30th, 1884, 591,035,928. Increase in the consumption of beer, 38,778,743 gallons. Per cent. increase of distilled liquors, 4.4; of beer, 7.