

barrel of pure wine or beer there are the *remains* of about two cents' worth of vitiated, poisoned, and fetid nutriment.

ALCOHOL IN THE SYSTEM.

6. Natural food is digested or decomposed in the stomach by the action of the *gastric juice*; but the gastric juice cannot digest, decompose, or affect alcohol; on the contrary, alcohol affects the gastric juice, decomposes it, vitiates it, and renders it incapable of the proper performance of its functions. *Indigestible itself, alcohol prevents and retards the digestion of food.*

From the digested natural food the blood is in due course furnished with supplies of nourishing material to expend throughout the system in repairing the constant waste of the human structure. But alcohol flies unbidden into the blood, scorning the ordinary routine and channels of conveyance, and is floated along in and with the blood throughout the whole system---not digested and assimilated, and a portion of the blood, as the essences of food become, but in its purity as an acrid, irritant poison, and an invading foreign foe, as foreign and unnatural an intruder as leaden shot, iron nails, glass beads, or globules of mercury would be. Its effect upon the blood is to vitiate, inflame, and render it incapable of properly performing its work of supplying nourishment where needed, and of carrying away and disposing of the used-up waste material of the system. It wars with and disorders every function of the various organs, even when only taken daily or occasionally in small diluted doses. It inflames and ulcerates the inner membrane or lining of the stomach, exerts a most damaging influence on the delicate structure of the brain, attacking and deranging the whole nervous system, and menacing all who continue the use of these noxious and unnatural drinks with a future of permanent bodily disease and mental imbecility. In no instance do alcohol drinks fulfil the conditions of food or have the same tendency as wholesome food; they cannot nourish, support, or sustain the body or impart warmth or strength or health to it, although they may seem to for a few minutes after being imbibed. In whatever guise it may be presented, alcohol is a constant, never-resting destroyer of health and life, a per-