

TINCTURE OF CAPSICUM IN THE TREATMENT OF
"TIPLING."

A correspondent of *Land and Water* throws out some suggestions to alleviate, if not cure, "tippling in private life." He says. "Of course, as a rule, moral means, such as persuading or frightening the patient, are futile. Dr. Ringer, in an able article in the *British Medical Journal* in 1874, advocated the use of capsicum, "given in doses of the tincture (ten drops), or the powder, twenty grains, to be taken before meals, or whenever depression or craving for alcohol arises." It also induces sleep in the early stages of delirium tremens. It obviates the morning vomiting, removes the sinking at the pit of the stomach, the intense craving for stimulants, and promotes appetite and digestion. This treatment I have tried with great success in several cases, and in one in particular, that of a young man, whom no one, by any means in their power, could possibly keep from tippling. Shut up the spirits, he had a key made on the quiet, while his wife was away for a day—of course he sent her. Take away his money, he would "tipple" on credit. He came under my care for bronchitis. I soon heard of his propensity, and tried Dr. Ringer's treatment. I began by giving him five drops of the tincture in a little syrup of orange-peel, and some orange bitters, and increased the dose of capsicum to twelve drops. He rapidly improved, and at the end of a month was quite another man. He was no longer to be seen in a half muddled state, hanging about the low cabarets and taverns by himself, but every day walking out with his wife, and taking an interest in all that was going on. He left here for England about three months afterwards, and I have since heard that he still takes to his bottle (the capsicum bottle) whenever he feels inclined to indulge in the other sort of "tincture." Another case was that of a lady, over forty years of age, but not so successful as the one above cited. Of course, it is a great thing to wrap up the capsicum in a convenient vehicle, and the above, suggested to me by M. Dutertre, the well known *pharmacien* of our town, is, I think, as good a form as any.—*British Med. Journal.*