

Mortality Among Liquor Sellers.

This last meeting of the Actuarial Society of Edinburgh for the present session was held on April 7, Mr. Sorley in the chair, when an interesting paper was read by Mr. Wallace, F.F.A., actuary of the North British and Mercantile Insurance Company. "On the Rate of Mortality among Liquor Sellers." Mr. Wallace said that of all the hazardous occupations that of the liquor seller - a term which he used to denote any person engaged in the retailing of any intoxicating drink - is one of the most fatal. The reports of the registrar general conclusively showed that the mortality of persons of this class is upwards of 50 per cent. higher than that of the general population, and the experience of those insurance companies which have been published, the Scottish Amicable, Standard, and Law Life, confirmed this. Through the courtesy and kindness of the directors and officials of the North British and Mercantile, he was in a position to submit the result of observations recently made upon the mortality among liquor sellers assured with that company. The observations extend over a period of 60 years, the number assured being 674, of whom 184 or 27.3 per cent. died; 220 or 33.6 per cent. withdrew during the observations; and 264 or 29.3 per cent. were alive at the close. These persons passed through 6,398 years of life, their average age at entry being 39.82 years, and the average duration of each policy 9.49 years. A table was then given showing the quinquennial groups of ages, the number of entrants exposed to risk, actual deaths, and the expected deaths by the Hs Table and English Life Table No. 3 Males, the actual deaths exceeding by 50 per cent. and 31 per cent. respectively those expected by the two last mentioned tables. After comparing as far as practicable the combined experience of assurance companies among liquor sellers with that of the liquor sellers of England, as given by Dr. Farr, and showing a diagram in which the results were plotted down, Mr. Wallace stated that his preconceived ideas as to the effects of selection on the mortality of liquor sellers were completely shaken, and he was led to the conclusion that the beneficial effects of selection which are so apparent in assured lives generally are counteracted by other influences to which this class of persons is exposed. With a view of ascertaining the rate of mortality in different sections he divided the experience into three classes, of which licensed grocers, hotel-keepers and publicans may be taken as the types, and following table may be taken as the types, and following table shows the rate of mortality per 1,000 in each section for decennial ages.

Table with 4 columns: Age Group, Licensed Grocers, Hotel-keepers, Publicans. Rows for ages 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64.

The mortality of the licensed grocers was less than that of the hotel-keepers by 29.2 per cent., and less than that of the publicans by 43.20 per cent. The average extra premium required for assurance was 6s. 3d. per cent. for licensed grocers, 17s. 1d. per cent. for hotel-keepers, and 21s. 4d. per cent. for publicans. In judging as to the risk, it is of importance to ascertain for what period the applicant has been engaged in the liquor traffic. The whole subject is of great importance to insurance companies, and it is desirable that the leading insurance companies should furnish detailed materials for which a careful and thorough investigation, based on their combined experience, could be made. An interesting discussion followed the reading of the paper, and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Wallace. Past Magazine, London.

The World on Fire!

Fire! fire! fire! Shout it wild and loud. Startle the hot, lurid atmosphere about us, wako the very graves with the echo; rattle the hose cart over the street; ring the bells, and let their brazen tongues swell the chorus of alarm.

The whole land is on fire! Rum is burning the nation's hope to ashes. The conflagration is spreading, and the billows of its wrath beat remorselessly against what is fairest and dearest to our civilization.

Wake up the people! Some are already awake. Wives who weep and groan at the altar of despair, and half-starved babes, crying in agony which their infant lips fail to explain.

Homes, furniture, carpets, garments, baby toys, Bible, jewelry, and keepsakes, the orange blossoms of the wedding day, all have perished; love withered and turned in the awful heat, the flowers of affection turned to mocking skeletons, as the fire of desolation laughed its hot breath in the face of wretchedness and woe.

Oh, the awful wreck of this night of Rum! Michigan woods on fire; Chicago baptized in billows of flame, whose forked tongues hiss their way through the palace of luxury and the temple of art—all that could not compare with this. Women and children go in shivering, pitiful, wailing pilgrimage to the almshouse, while fathers, husbands, brothers, and sons prostrate themselves upon the funeral pile, and devote body and soul to the infernal god of drink. Drivelling hot-house politicians, talking of the affairs of State! The homes, the fortunes, commercial enterprises, business, hopes, and amenities, crusaded by an army of saloonists, larger than the armies which waded through blood to save and redeem it. Communism of Paris turned loose upon the world! Hell holding high carnival! The echoing crack, crack, crack,

of the drunken assassin's pistol, startling the midnight air; the smothered thud, and rip, and gurgle of the bowie-knife and dagger doing their nocturnal mission by the glare of this hell-born flame! Ring the bells! Let them clang! America is stone-blind drunk! A man who works in a distillery has no need of drink. He inhales sufficient to give stupefaction to all his senses. We have inhaled this atmosphere until we are all dazed. The pulpit is inane, and the pews of our noblest hymens are full of the odor of the deadly opiate. The paralysis of alcohol is upon religion, morals, and trade, and God only knows whether we are going shall we, can we, put out the fire! The brakes and the pumps are worked a little. One old party on one side, the other opposite; both drunk!

The crusade worked well, but we gave up. The Murphy movement was a force, but it was abandoned. We have tried to stop a train whose company, engineer, conductor, brakeman, all, were running in the interest of the rum power. They have pulled the throttle and let her go, like a tornado, until now the train with the crash and moan of death goes whirling toward the bottom of the gulf. It seems to me that judgment must begin at the Church of God. We can not satisfy the eternal and infinite God by heaping the hurt of the daughter of His people a little there must be thorough work. A complete unhampering of God's people and Christian citizens from all selfish considerations.

There walked a dandy on the glad, green earth, By the side of the reaper's death. He gazes alike by the glare of mirth, Or quenches the light of the household hearth. With his foot and withering breath, He neaves the fern with ruthless rate. With the goblet he leads the foam, He lurks in the halls of the rich and great. In the beggar's hovel at the palace gate, And hides in the pauper's home.

The enormity, the immensity, vastness, fatality, power of this curse is appalling. It makes one's brain reel. It sickens us through and through. Words are impotent rhetoric is weak, imagination is exhausted, figures exhausted, and the heart smothered before it. But one thing, to me, is more wonderful, far more wonderful, namely, the apathy, deadness, spiritual indifference of the Church of God as regards its ravages. How has the fine gold become dim? What aileth thee, O house of Israel! How time-serving, cautious, careful thou hast become! Whither, with a slumbering church, a debauched public sentiment, a whisky-bound legislature, and the times so unmercifully out of joint, are we tending? Taxes are growing so enormously as to bankrupt our cities and to drain the wealth of the country America, that as yet has evolved no philosophy, written no world-wide poem, founded no university like those of Europe, giving promise of potency, of grandeur, of wealth, and freedom; nor, trying to swallow herself Her throat a gulf stream. Drink, drink, drink, for her politicians and her people from morn till night, 'tis simply infinitely overwhelming, terrible. What will you do about it?

Readers, To put out this fire, what can we do! We can still arouse and alarm the people. What else? Teach God's word, that "wine is a mocker and strong drink is raging." What else? Pray, and keep voting as you pray. What else? Lecture, talk, write, and push this sentiment into overbearing recognition. Weep, toil, battle, suffer, and grow strong. Arouse public sentiment, open blind eyes, use the press, sow the land knee deep with literature, use love, use argument, facts, sentiment, and influence of every legitimate sort, until the day dawns and the shadows flee away. Swamps, pools of stygian darkness, mire and death-breeding foulness have been cleansed, tilled up, and highways of commerce and travel reared. The city of Chicago was once a swamp. Morally, by Divine help and everlasting death less energy hatched to this car of a people's salvation, we can go forward to triumph. The impracticable with God becomes the practical.

"For truth is truth, and right is right. And God the day must win; To doubt would be disastrous, And to falter would be sin."

Rev. H. A. Delano.

Kansas' Marvelous Growth Under Prohibition.

ACCORDING to the testimony of the Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney-General, Auditor of State, Adjutant-General, the Chief Justice and Associate Judges of the Supreme Court:

The contest successfully waged in this State against the saloon has increased our population, it has enlarged our wealth, and it has powerfully advanced the material, educational and moral interests of our people. The State of Kansas is far more prosperous to-day than it has been at any period of its history.

In the language of the Attorney-General of Iowa, "The history of the world does not furnish a parallel to the prosperity of Kansas under prohibition rule."

In this connection I give a despatch received from the Attorney-General of Kansas that is simply conclusive on the subject

TOPEKA, KANSAS, NOVEMBER 17, '87.— Benjamin H. Hill, Atlanta, Ga. - Prohibition effectually prohibits in Kansas. No State in the Union has so marvelously prospered, financially and morally, as Kansas, since the enforcement of the prohibition law. Crime has decreased twenty-five per cent., insanity thirty-five per cent. and pauperism more than fifty per cent. The open saloon in Kansas is a thing of the past. The law is now stronger with the people than when adopted.

Signed, S. B. BRADFORD, Attorney-General. -Atlanta Constitution.

The Canada Temperance Act.

RESULTS OF THE VOTING SO FAR:

Table with columns: PLACE, VOTES POLLED (For, Against), MAJORITY, DATE OF ELECTION. Lists various Canadian locations and their voting results.

N.B. - In the preceding table a place that has voted more than once has the different votes indicated by the figures (1), (2), (3) after the name of place. Figures printed in italics are for first or second votes in places in which a later vote has been taken than that so printed. Names in heavy faced type are of cities, others of counties.

SUMMARY.

Nova Scotia has eighteen counties and one city, of which thirteen counties have adopted the Act. New Brunswick has fourteen counties and two cities, of which ten counties and two cities have adopted the Act. Manitoba has five counties and one city, of which two counties have adopted the Act. Prince Edward Island has three counties and one city, all of which have adopted the Act. Ontario has thirty-eight counties and union of counties and eleven cities, of which twenty-five counties and two cities have adopted the Act. Quebec has fifty-six counties and four cities, five counties of which have adopted the Act. British Columbia has five parliamentary constituencies, none of which have adopted the Act. In all, up to the present time, 81 cities and counties have voted upon the Scott Act, and 63 have adopted it. Nine counties and cities voted twice and 2 three times, making an aggregate of 92 contests, out of which we have been victorious in 71.

The aggregate votes cast in all the contests have been - For the Scott Act..... 181719 Against " "..... 111764

Net Scott Act majority..... 49955 If we omit all voting but the last, in those places which have voted more than once we get the following as the latest vote. - For the Scott Act..... 147372 Against " "..... 102539

44833

It is more than eight years since the Scott Act was first voted upon and adopted in different localities, and NO COUNTY OR CITY HAS YET REPEALED IT, although many votings have taken place on the question of repeal.

PREPARE YOUR PAPER. YOU WILL NEED THIS TABLE FOR REFERENCE.

Spirituuous Liquors Not Needed in Medicine or the Arts.

BY JAMES B. NICHOLS, M.D., A.M., SENIOR EDITOR POPULAR SCIENCE NEWS.

If it can be conclusively shown that alcohol in no one of its forms is a solely essential in the alleviation or removal of diseases, and that no useful industry is dependent upon it, that science and the arts would suffer no detriment in its absence, the most formidable bar to its utter banishment would be at once removed.

From the time when thinking, observing men became alarmed at the dreadful work which alcohol was accomplishing in the world, the cry has been that it is an indispensable agent in its applications in agriculture and the arts. There was more truth in this assumption fifty or even thirty years ago than at present, as science had not at those periods made sufficient advancement to supply substitutes for the alcoholic liquids. Vast changes have occurred in medicine, pharmacy, chemistry, and in all art processes, since the days of the early temperance reformers, and it is well to look about and ascertain our true position as regards the present necessity for the use of alcohol.

NOT A NECESSITY.

We have in this journal repeatedly spoken of the true relations of alcohol to medicine and the arts, and in every instance have declared that the need of it no longer existed, that if the natural vinous fermentative process should cease, and the art of distillation become a "LOST ART," not a life would be sacrificed in consequence, not a case of disease would be retarded in the process of cure, not a justly would be aggravated, and not one of the art processes suffer detriment.

This view is based upon a familiar acquaintance with the uses to which alcohol is applied in the directions indicated, - in pharmacy, chemistry, medicine, and in the various industries so essential to the welfare of the race. For a period of nearly half a century we have been brought into intimate association and participation in the scientific and art discoveries which have so signally distinguished our epoch, and therefore we venture to express views upon so important a topic. The question before us is not whether alcohol may not be sometimes convenient or perhaps useful, but whether it is indispensable or necessary, in medicine and the arts.

ITS DOMESTIC USE.

The scope of the Notes is inadequate to discuss the matter in detail, and therefore at present we can give only a brief summary of the reasons which lead us to conclude that alcohol subserves no indispensable uses in the world. Its domestic or household applications are considerable in number, and regarded by some as important. In this direction, however, they are very much less so than formerly, before science shod upon families a clearer light. Since it becomes known that alcoholic solutions of camphor, paregoric, cordials, tincture of peppermint, etc., - articles once found in every household - are remedial agents of doubtful efficacy, or positively hurtful under indiscriminate use, they have been to a large extent banished from dwellings. Camphor is a drug not needed in any family, save as an insecticide. The old camphor bottle, containing rum and the drug which evaporated and deluded men flourished in the face of Dr. Lyman Beecher when he commenced his temperance crusade fifty years ago, is a thing of the past. Rum or alcohol as an embrocation was formerly regarded as of the highest efficacy; but it is now known that hot or cold water is a much better application to inflamed surfaces. The external use of alcohol upon the human body is practically useless. It may serve to cool inflamed parts by rapid evaporation; but warm water meets the same end, and more effectively. Alcohol in the form of gin, brandy, whisky, or wines, may be banished from families as domestic remedies, without risk to the welfare of a single member, of any age, sex, or condition.

It is well to remember that favorite aromatics, like peppermint, ginger, etc., are now associated with sugar in elegant forms, and are easily accessible to every one when needed.

THE PHARMACIST CAN DO WITHOUT IT.

The facetious Dr. Holmes has said that if the contents of our drug stores were taken out upon the ocean and thrown overboard, it would be better for the human race, but worse for the fishes. This statement may be a little sweeping, but it is true that quite all the showy bottles in drug stores which contain alcoholic decoctions and tinctures might be submerged in the ocean, and invalids would suffer no