

distribution of wealth, never once saying a word about what ought to be, and yet it is in order to discover what ought to be that the earnest student, desiring the real improvement of society, has undertaken the study. Thus the limitation of the ethical enquiry to the convictions and conduct of the individual as a separate individual, and the exclusion of the moral element from what Aristotle termed politics, has left a large and most important field of enquiry almost entirely neglected, and scarcely ever receiving due recognition—that is, the ethical consideration of social relations.

Moral convictions, intentions, and purposes in the individual are, indeed, fundamental and essential ; but we need also to enquire how can good intentions find such expression in social conduct that will tend most to the moral advancement and highest welfare of our fellow-beings.

Just at this point, popular thought is most confused and uncertain, and, when we turn to the leaders of thought, their guidance seems to stop and leave us groping in the dark. Examples can easily be given of debated problems that concern the organization and united action of society, and yet are so distinctly and fundamentally ethical questions that the moral element is almost universally recognized as being, in some way, present. The subject of temperance will serve for illustration. Owing to the frequent and thorough discussion of this question for so many years, we may expect a great deal of information and insight. It will be very instructive to note that circumstance or relation of this much-debated question which still remains most uncertain, and about which we find the greatest disagreement among those who are honestly and conscientiously considering it. If we take the physiological standpoint, and ask about the influence of intoxicating liquors upon the human system, we have a great deal of scientific information forthcoming, and the moral element is perfectly clear, and fully recognized, viz., that the individual has a duty to endeavor to preserve his health, and not to sacrifice it to mere pleasurable feeling.

If we next consider the financial aspect, we get a great deal of scientific information about the commercial effects of the habit of using intoxicants. Here, however, the moral element seems rather to be obscured by the economic consideration. The emphasis upon the financial aspect leads careless thinkers to