

temptations of "nipping" compared with that of those not liable to be so tempted. The following is extracted from his table of Prussian statistics, and I arrange them for the sake of easy comparison in two parallel columns, showing the probable duration of life calculated at different ages:

Age.	PROBABLE DURATION OF THE LIFE OF MEN	
	In the liquor trade.	Not in the liquor trade.
25.....	26.23	32.03
35.....	20.01	25.02
45.....	13.19	19.62
55.....	11.16	14.45
65.....	9.94	0.72

This, as is seen, is an equally instructive table.

To return for a moment to the part played by the so called moderate use of alcoholic stimulants in the production of fatal forms of liver disease. As it is, I think, impossible that we, as medical men, can know too much regarding the probable deleterious effects of mere "nipping." I hear subjoin an extract from the Registrar-General's tables of the comparative mortality from liver diseases in different industries, between the ages of twenty-five and sixty-five, in the years 1880-1-2, which exhibits the matter in a stronger light than any words of mine can possibly do:—

Bookbinders.....	3	Butchers.....	21
Booksellers.....	4	Fishermen.....	22
Hatters.....	9	Brewers.....	42
Tobaccoists.....	10	Innkeepers, publicans,	
Druggists and printers..	18	vintners, waiters and	
Gardeners and miners... 19		barmen.....	197

The result here shown is so startling that the Registrar-General not inappropriately designates it as "appalling," seeing that the proportion of deaths from liver diseases is in reality six times greater among men exposed to the temptations of "nipping" than in that of all the other industries combined. The actual figures being: for brewers, 1361; for vintners and other salesmen of wines, spirits and beers, 1521; and for waiters and barmen (those most exposed to temptation), no less than 2205. Whereas, for maltsters, who are only concerned with the materials from which intoxicants are manufactured, and not with the intoxicating liquids themselves, the death-rate is only 830. Nothing could be more conclusive of the deleterious effects of so-called moderate drink-

Notwithstanding the familiarity of medical men with the fact that many cases of hepatitis, chronically enlarged liver, and cirrhosis are directly traceable to inebriety, few, I fancy, can have been prepared, without some special acquaintance with the subject, for the information furnished by the foregoing mortality tables of the potent action of alcohol on the liver when only taken in small quantities at a time. And although it may at first sight appear strange that the liver of all the organs of the body should be most potently affected by moderate drinking, I think one can scarcely be surprised at this if he is acquainted with the peculiar action of alcohol introduced into the liver by the portal vein. For it requires, I think, but a small amount of reflection on the part of those acquainted with the mechanism of digestion to understand how alcohol, when taken into the stomach even in small quantities at a time, is a powerful agent in the production of hepatic diseases. Seeing that most of the liquid products of our food are carried directly from the intestines to the liver by the portal vein, it consequently follows that almost every drop of the alcohol, be it small or be it great, taken into the stomach must be directly conveyed by the portal vein to the liver, and compelled to filter through its tissues before it can possibly get into the general circulation and reach any of the other organs of the body. The knowledge of the fact that all the imbibed alcohol is directly conveyed to the liver by the portal circulation not only gives a clue to why alcoholic stimulants are so prone to induce hepatitis, as well as to increase the formation of sugar and aggravate diabetes, but to bring about an attack of the gout. Seeing that the liver is regarded as the main source of both sugar and uric acid—the supposed gout-forming material. In addition to which, the direct conveyance of alcohol to the liver affords us a reasonable explanation of why alcohol taken along with the food is so much less detrimental to the constitution than when it is taken on an empty stomach. Moreover, it is now a well-known fact that the continuous excitement of the liver kept up by habitual "nipping" is far more injurious to its