



Temperance Department.

INCREASED DRINKING IN GREAT BRITAIN.

There is no way in which the suggestion of reform in our national intemperance is so frequently pushed aside as that of the utterly false remark that "matters in that respect have immensely improved of late years." It is, therefore, of no small moment that we find a statement of facts in one of our most widely-circulated journals on this subject. The *Scotsman*, as most of our readers know, is anything but favorable to the temperance movement in any form, but it is a journal singularly faithful in its statements of matters of fact bearing on the general course of trade, and also on the social condition of the nation. Some who would scorn to be influenced by anything uttered by the *Alliance Weekly News* will at least bow in silence to an article in the *Scotsman*. There is no test of increasing intemperance that can be more decisive than that of the largely-increased consumption of intoxicating liquor. A man, if so inclined, may explain away statistics, however trustworthy, as to crime and other fruits of alcohol, and he may even manage to make it appear that the people are more prosperous because they are given to drink in an increased measure, but it will go very hard with him to show that they are more sober while drinking intoxicating liquor in very much greater measure. The article in the *Scotsman* on which we are now remarking brushes off at once all popular notions as to "increase of population," and sets the individual before us as he was ten years ago, and as he is now. He says:—

"We are drinking more wine, much more spirits, and a great deal more beer than we did, say, ten years ago. At that time the average annual allowance to each individual in the United Kingdom was 2½ bottles of wine, nearly 6 bottles of spirits, and 350 pints of beer. Now it is three bottles and a glass of wine, nearly 8 bottles of spirits, and 420 pints of beer. To be a little more particular in regard to the two latter articles, we have risen in regard to spirits in England from 5 to 6½ bottles, in Scotland from 11 to 14 bottles, and in Ireland from 5 to 8 bottles; while in regard to beer, we have gone in England from 448 to 516 pints, in Scotland from 160 to 148 pints, and in Ireland from 94 to 170 pints. While England and Ireland have thus outstripped us in beer, we still manage to keep a long way ahead of them in spirits. The pipe appears also to have kept pace with the bottle. People are smoking a quarter more than they did ten years ago, having advanced from 16 to 20 ounces per head."

So far then the *Scotsman*. In the face of such a statement, what should we think of him who rejoices that things have "vastly improved?" There are some lessons of great importance to which it will be well to direct attention here. The first of these comes in answer to the question as to what has become of all the fruits of temperance effort. Does the above statement show that such effort has been all in vain? The answer to such questions must be very different according as we understand the questions themselves. If we mean to ask whether any good has come to individuals and to individual families by our temperance effort during these ten years, there need be no manner of doubt that there has been such good to thousands. But if the questions are understood to bear on the United Kingdom as a whole, and you mean to ask whether the temperance effort to save the nation as such is proving its efficiency, the answer is not what one could wish it to be. It is beyond all possible doubt that the nation as a whole is getting rapidly worse, and effort which issues in that only cannot be set down as a success. There is one thing to be carefully noted here—in those parts of the kingdom in which the liquor traffic has been suppressed success is perfect. There must be a good way above two thousand parishes in which alcoholic intemperance and its terrible concomitants are unknown. If the liquor traffic were submitted to the vote of the people the number of these parishes would, we know, be largely increased, and the same perfect success would show itself in these new places which now shows itself elsewhere. This points out to us with unerring index the real plan of successful temperance effort if the nation is to be delivered. Because here another lesson comes in. In so far as individuals have been induced to abstain entirely from liquor, the number of drinkers in the nation has been lessened, and the liquor consumed among those who continue drinking is the greater in measure. In so far as license has been withdrawn in whole parishes the

amount of liquor consumed where license remains is shown to be of necessity greater in quantity. It is not as if the liquor were spread over a large number, so as to leave the individual more sober. The entire success of temperance effort is deducted from the field of alcoholic indulgence, and the individual is actually consuming more and not less. There is beyond all doubt an immense delusion as to temperance success in the way of getting individuals to promise to abstain from liquor, and also in training the young to abstinence. The failures in such cases are simply incredible in number. There is no such delusion possible where the licenses have been withdrawn. We know personally many of the districts where prohibition has been established, and the liquor to be found in them might please the homoeopathist himself. We cannot say the same thing of even the most pronounced of abstinence bonds. Yet, when we estimate the success of abstinence in the presence of the traffic, and add to that the vastly greater success of prohibition where it has been gained, we are only proving how much blacker the case is for the nation as a whole in which drunkenness is so rapidly increasing. What must be the character of his eyesight who lives in the very worst of localities in which the concentration of degrading influences is at work, who yet vauntingly assures you that "education has done wonders in the way of improvement among the people?" Now, there are two terrible things that come under notice here. The first is the effect of increased drinking and smoking on the efficiency of our productive classes. Take any man whom you require to employ, and let him come to you with the hint from his former employer that he increasingly uses the glass, would you feel that his claim on your attention was improved by such a hint? You are in search of some likely lads to train for special work; would it be from among drinkers that you would select them, if you could help yourself in the matter? Certainly it would not. Educate as you will, in every possible shape and form, but only let liquor become more and more an article of use among those whom you educate, and you will sooner reverse the best-established laws of nature than you will actually improve the persons and masses whom you educate. All the bluster about the assured superiority of British workmen is going down like tow before the fire that consumes it in the face of increasing intemperance. It is worse than useless to dream of revived trade as we are situated now, and the situation gets worse and worse. It is not that we have not thousands of noble workmen, but these are overwhelmed by the drawback of comrades who swell the liquor bills of the nation, and reduce its available efficiency for work in the great struggle of trade in the world.

There is another terrible thing that meets us here. The money passing out of the hands of the millions into the hands of the few through the liquor and tobacco trades is rapidly increasing. It has accumulated till it is now impossible to lend it even for a half per cent. The vast revenue of Government goes on increasing; so does that of the liquor-men. The masses become poorer and poorer as a whole. They can buy liquor and tobacco at an enormous price, but they cannot buy articles of honest trade.

It is this which explains what does not so readily explain itself. We allude to the fact that the Permissive Bill of Sir Wilfrid Lawson refuses to die either in infancy, youth, or manhood. How should it be possible to bring up so many scores of measures to Parliament only for once, or twice at most, and Sir Wilfrid to bring up his with a constantly increasing solidity of claim? Simply because year after year is making it increasingly evident that nothing but the prohibition of the liquor traffic will save the nation, and that the people, and not their rulers, will put this traffic down.—*Alliance News*.

OPIUM IN CHINA.

BY REV. ISAAC PIERSON.

Flower-beds have their fashions, as well as dresses. Forty years ago the poppy was a pretty garden flower in America. Its rich green leaves, and its stately height of from two to two and a half feet, marked it as a proud plant; while the beautiful white or purple petals of the full blown flower, as well as the crowned shaped top of the drying seed-vessel, kept up its pretence to regal honor. But its day is gone, and comparatively few of our children have ever seen it. Would that the children of China had never seen it! But thousands of acres, in every province of that country, are devoted to its culture. In mountain regions, where ancient rivers once spread out, and long since left the rich foot-lands, the traveller most frequently finds patches of an acre or two; and in regions whence it is difficult to transport the bulkier products, it abounds.

The lotus is the pride of China, and many a time have I drawn rein on the leeward side of a pond covered with its innocent blossoms to

feast upon their loveliness and fragrance. But a field of blooming poppies, what different thoughts they kindle! Beautiful plants, graceful and stately, but alas, deadly too. "The poison of asps is under their lips."

In July, when the plants are in bloom, and ere the petals fall, the farmer goes among them, and with a sharp shell, or other implement, cuts a ring around the seed-vessel, which is as large as an English walnut. The next day he brings a little tin cup, like a spice box, and wiping off the exuded juice with his finger, he scrapes it over the sharp edge of the cup. This he does daily till having added one or two more rings, the juice is all gone, and his harvest is gathered. The juice, already thickened, is then exposed to the air till, by evaporation, it is reduced to a putty-like consistency, when it is rolled up into balls as large as a cocoon, and covered with many thickensses of the fallen petals of the poppy flowers. Then it is ready for market, and forty of these balls make a chest of opium, the weight of which is from one hundred and ten to one hundred and twelve pounds.

To say that one hundredth part of the opium of China is used for medicinal purposes, would be a large estimate. The opium of ninety-nine at least out of every one hundred chests is consumed in smoking. The smoker, or more commonly a retail merchant, buys a ball of opium, and by mixing it with water, seething and straining, remixing and straining again, and evaporating, he reduces it to a soft mixture, like jelly or tar. This is put into little boxes of tin, ivory, or horn, large enough to contain each three or four thimbles full, and so it goes to the smoker. He, with his fingers and a slender stiletto, somehow makes of it a little pellet, as large as a pea, and puts this upon a pipe, rather than into it; and, having pricked a hole through it, draws the flame from a lamp through it and into a long pipe. Thus the fumes go into his lungs, and he is—happy! Happy for an hour or two in a beastly sense, but how is it in the end? The Bible says, "Sin when it is finished, bringeth forth death," and this is sadly true of the sin of opium-smoking.

At a public inn in Pao-ting-fu, I met, daily, a little man, about thirty-five years of age, who had smoked opium for twenty years. He was slender and frail, and when he laid off his coat, as the Chinese are wont to do in their homes, his ribs could all be traced from end to end, and his arms were scarcely twice as large as the bones alone would have been. The opium had fairly tanned him. You could see it in his face, or wherever his body was exposed. He looked like a mummy, and could hardly have weighed seventy pounds.

When once the thirst for opium has taken possession of a person, he will spend his money for that rather than food, and many a man has confessed to me that his daily portion of opium cost him more money than would the entire support of another man, or of one or two children. Led on by this thirst, many sell, by degrees, their lands, their houses, and even their clothes; and then, falling into the beggar class, they go from house to house begging for food, such as we feed to swine, sleep in the streets where chance may give them a shelter, and soon sicken and die.

Sometimes the prevalent use of opium casts a blight upon a whole village. Travelling through the province of Shantung last January, I came one day at noon to such a place. It was upon a great travelled road, and was a regular station, where almost every traveller stopped for lodging or food, and it should have been a thrifty village; but everything was as though famine or pestilence had consumed the life of the people. The men, women and children were among the worst I have ever seen; fit subjects for Dante's pen. When we drove away, even my rude driver shrugged his shoulders and said he was glad to escape. Such cases are not uncommon.

The beggars in China are fearful sufferers; they are said to live only three years, on an average, after they have once fallen into that class; and among the causes which lead to beggary opium holds the first place. Its poor victims, having squandered everything, are still beset by the accursed craving, and are forced to satisfy it by eating the ashes from the opium pipes of others.

We have a few in this country—a very few, I am glad to believe—who, in one form or another, use opium; and we sometimes hear of their pitiable attempts to free themselves from their bondage. The struggle is all but futile. Not one in a score of those who have once contracted the habit ever rid themselves of it, even here, in the midst of a moral people, where public sentiment is strong against it, and where good people are ever ready to help the unfortunate to regain their manhood. But in that darkened land there is no healthy public sentiment to restrain the tempted, no helping hand to reclaim the fallen. Waking too late to a sense of his condition, his doom seems certain. Sometimes, often, such persons come to the missionary and beg for some medicine which shall cure them of their cravings, some panacea to save them from their doom. But no such

panacea has yet been found, and we are helpless. We know only of the cure found by trusting in Him who said, "I will, be thou clean."

Poor, deluded, heathen China! Yet it was a Christian nation that taught her this vice. The darkest page in England's history is that which tells of her compelling China to admit the traffic in opium, and of the silver which has been weighed out for the lives and the souls of millions of deluded sufferers!

The Christian Church is spending about \$600,000 yearly for the salvation of China; but merchants from Christian nations are taking from her not less than \$60,000,000 a year, and giving her in its place, every twelve months, 6,000 tons of opium! She has learned to raise it too, and for every pound she buys she produces another.

Words cannot describe the curse entailed on China by opium, yet the use of it is increasing year by year. "When I was a boy," said a noble young preacher in our mission, "there was not a man in my village who took opium! but now there are hundreds who smoke it, and many saloons."

Oh that some one might take incense, and coals from off the altar of the Lord, and run in quickly between the dead and the living, that the plague might be stayed. Why should not the Church of Christ make haste to double and quadruple her labors and her zeal for a dying nation?—*Missionary Herald*.

MEDICAL USE OF ALCOHOL.

Dr. Charles Jewett addressed the ladies of the Temperance Union of Christian Women in the Brooklyn Y. M. C. A. building recently on the medical use of alcoholic and other stimulants and narcotics.

A large part of the misery caused by such use arose from not considering the fact that narcotics are governed by laws entirely different from those which govern nutriment. Natural laws could be obstructed by God, as in the case of the miracles, but ordinarily when man came in contact with natural laws he must give way, for they would not. The law governing stimulant was the law of increase. In cases of suffering from pain, twenty drops of laudanum would ease the sufferer at first, but it soon became necessary to increase the dose, and after long continuance in the use of it, it would require an ounce to produce the same results, and so with all narcotics. Their effect was to cut off communication between the disease and the brain, by numbing the nerves. Every physician who was fit to practice knew that every time he gave a narcotic he injured the nervous system, and the only question was whether that or the suffering would be the greater injury. It was sometimes urged that a person had inherited an imperfect constitution, and were therefore obliged to use alcoholic liquors, but an imperfect constitution was only the more reason why a person should never touch narcotics of any kind.

Having enlarged upon these principles, the lecturer proceeded in a conversational way to consider some of the special troubles for which alcoholic liquor is frequently prescribed. The following is a summary of his remarks on these points: Ale is frequently prescribed for dyspepsia, and it will relieve you, but present relief is purchased at the cost of increased trouble. There are various causes for dyspepsia—over eating, under eating, too much care, too little care, or very frequently too little sleep. God made the night for sleep, and we have no right to reverse that order. Dyspepsia should be treated by reversing the cause which produces it. I never gave a spoonful of liquor in my life for that cause. The business of a physician is not to cover up disease. Ale is frequently ordered for mothers with nursing children, and the physician who will order it ought to be ashamed of himself. First, it is almost sure to give the child an appetite for alcohol. I have frequently seen children who were drunk every day from this cause. I have seen children, too, pining and dying from the fumes of tobacco with which the father filled the room.

Liquor is often given in cases of pneumonia, but I never gave a drop, and in ten years' practice I lost but two by that disease, and they were men over seventy years old, and died of typhoid pneumonia. In nineteen cases out of twenty, typhoid fever is better without the use of liquor. Good ventilation, clean clothing, profound quiet and nourishment are all that are required. Narcotics should only be used in cases of extreme suffering, to prevent convulsions, or some other nervous peril, or in organic diseases for which there is no possible cure, to ease pain and allow a more easy death.

Whenever your physician orders alcoholic liquor, make him tell you precisely what he expects to accomplish by it. In the case of any other medicine he can tell you exactly, but in this you will catch him nearly every time. I have known instances in which patients have refused to take liquor when their physicians told them positively they would die if they did not take it, but I never knew the prediction fulfilled.—*N. Y. Witness*.