

Rowntree says that in the city of York, 10% of the population exist below the poverty line, being unable to earn enough to place them above penury, while 17% more are in the same position through waste and extravagance; that is more than one fourth of the population are living in poverty. The statement has been made that *one* in every *eight* of the population of the United States is either a pauper or is on the verge of pauperism, and that *one* in *ten* of those who die in New York is buried at public expense. Using the average of the United States we would have about 5,000 living in poverty in this city, but if that for the city of York is used, we should have more than double that number.

From these wasteful, extravagant homes there comes a constant stream of irresponsibles who produce their kind, recruits for the great army of the unfit. I found a specimen of the kind in a miserable shanty. Seated before a cooking-stove in an untidy room was a young woman scarcely out of her teens. On her knee was an infant, two weeks old, a puny, miserable little mite, looking too feeble for a cry. There she sat in unwomanly rags, with unwashed face and unkempt hair, a picture of utter helplessness and hopelessness. Should this infant live, what are the chances of its becoming a useful citizen, seeing that the father of the young woman is mentally defective besides bearing stigmata of degeneration of a very pronounced character?

Among the many contributing causes that help to swell the ranks of the residuum, none plays a greater part than *intemperance*. While the effects of other evils on society may be obscure, this giant monster performs its task so openly and so completely, no man challenges its effectiveness. All students of society agree that intemperance is the most prominent economic and moral problem that confronts the Anglo-Saxon world to-day. However much we may disagree on the means to be used for its extirpation, we are all of one mind on the magnitude of this great evil.

*Poverty*, with its concomitants, insufficient and ill-cooked food, unsanitary and untidy dwellings, goes hand in hand with intemperance. Which of these two is cause and which is effect is a matter of dispute among workers in this field. Some tell us that intemperance in an individual may be the first open manifestation of a weakened, nervous organization inherited from the past. On the other hand we are told that intemperance is of itself the chief cause of nearly all the misery, vice and crime we see around us.