

of creed or race. When the physician places himself by the side of the sufferer and proffers the aid of medicine, he does not ask whether his client is rich or poor, whether he believes or disbelieves such and such opinions. It is enough that suffering can be relieved and sorrow lightened, and in the spirit of Him whose sweet compassion was extended to all mankind, and whose assistance was gladly given to all who claimed it, he knows that he most faithfully copies his great Exemplar when, asking no questions, he unobtrusively and mercifully relieves the sufferer. It is not even considered that he is allowed to distress his client by introducing topics of enquiry that may arouse agitation or depression of spirits; his duty is to cure the sick, to prolong life; others must alarm the conscience, and warn of evil ways and wasted opportunities.

In that spirit, knowing no distinctions of kin, party, or creed, I lay before my readers some figures that, with long delay and considerable trouble, I have been enabled to obtain. These returns deal, I regret to say, with an unpopular subject, one that, from causes scarcely worthy of mention, has been removed from the field of medical discussion, and relegated to the teetotal platform. But, relying on the proved generosity of scientific and medical investigators, I ask them to banish from their minds considerations of a party nature, and carefully to weigh the following figures. The medical profession has repeatedly objected to the strong statements of temperance advocates, and has refused to listen to appeals and assertions tinctured, it was thought, by prejudice, and to statistics unfairly put together. This article has nothing to do with the expediency of teetotalism or the greater wisdom of the moderate use of alcohol; it only attempts to give facts and figures above question, and to leave to the reader the easy task of drawing conclusions from them.

The circumstances that led me to attempt these calculations are easily explained. Having, on many occasions, heard temperance speakers accuse the medical profession of persistently and unwarrantably refusing to accept as proved the expediency of total abstinence, and having heard it assumed by them that carefully compiled statistics had often been published that ought