

Let the habit be continued, and the dose increased, and the results are chronic disease or premature death.

In a word, "alcohol kills in larger doses, and half kills in smaller ones. It produces insanity, delirium, fits. It poisons the blood, and wastes the man. The brain suffers great injury, both in structure and function; but there is no vital organ in the body in which there is not induced, sooner or later, more or less, disorder and disease."—(*Prof. Miller.*)

(2.) *Its effects on the Mental Powers.*—Of all organs in the human frame the brain is the most important. It is the imperial seat of the intellect, the affections and the will. For the brain alcohol has a peculiar affinity. Once admit it within the walls of the city and almost with the rapidity of thought it is in the citadel. And it enters the citadel not as a *servant*, but as a *master*. It dethrones reason, brutalizes the passions, and perverts each god-like power.

The first effect of alcohol on the mental powers is *an unnatural quickening of the imagination*. This is the secret of the effect produced by wine at convivial gatherings. At first conversation lags, but as the fumes of alcohol reach the brain the powers are stimulated, conversation becomes lively, the imagination is lit up with an almost supernatural glow, and the reeling, sparkling brain showers the meteors of fancy on the flashing path. *Then* men sing the praises of wine, and tell how, like the nectar of the gods its has power to inspire. But wait a little. After this unnatural excitement comes reaction. The power that was stimulated to such unusual effort sinks into a corresponding depression, and following the evening of wit and mirth comes the morning of lassitude, weariness and pain.

But this is not the only effect of alcohol. While it quickens the imagination, it produces *weakness and confusion of the reasoning powers*. Let any one attempt when the brain is more or less under the influence of alcohol to solve some problem in mathematics, or follow out some abstruse train of thought; let him, in a word, attempt any mental task requiring a clear and vigorous intellect, and he will find that both clearness and vigor are gone, and that the task must be deferred till the artificial stimulant is removed, and the brain has recovered an even balance and a more healthy tone.