

16. (male) Run over by a cart-wheel; had been drinking late.

17. Beerseller; self-hanging; "Excessive drinking."

18. (male) Verdict, "Excessive drinking of rum."

19. Hung himself; drunkard 20 years, and begared his family.

20. (female) Self-hanging; son drunkard; husband killed drunk.

21. (male) Self-poisoning; drinking 3 days (Sabbath one.)

22. (male) Found dead in a cellar-hole, skull fractured; drunkard many years; when body lifted up, drink coozed out at mouth; possessed of property; verdict, "Excessive drinking."

23. Verdict, "Excessive drinking" many years.

Thus, it appeared, there were 23, or half of the grown-up persons on whom inquests had been held, whose deaths were directly attributable to, or connected with, the "use" or "abuse," as people might think fit to call it, of drink. This was his experience as coroner for one year. What, therefore, might they consider, had been the experience of all the coroners in England for the last twenty years? It must be shocking to think of the disease, suffering, cruelty, madness, murder, and suicides, that must have taken place from drink. We had been alarmed at the approach of cholera; and it was certainly well to look about us and try to make arrangements to meet it; but the pestilence of cholera was nothing compared to the pestilence of drinking.

The Magistrates retired, and after an absence of half an hour, returned into Court, and intimated that no new licenses would be granted.

BARRACK CANTEENS.

Some years ago, the Montreal Temperance Society having been made painfully aware of the disastrous effects to soldiers, as well as to the service, of the sale of intoxicating drinks at Canteens in Barracks, and having had occasion to notice the shocking death of a fine boy from liquor administered to him by some soldiers at one of these Canteens, not many miles from this city, took the liberty of memorialising Her Majesty, as the Head of the Forces, direct upon this painful subject. The petition set forth the well-known fact, that intoxicating drink was the cause of nearly all the breaches of discipline or other crimes for which soldiers were punished, and most respectfully pointed out the inconsistency of requiring good behaviour from soldiers under the heaviest penalties, and then placing in their very midst a dram shop to tempt them to transgression. Whether the petition ever reached its destination, or whether, if it did, it produced any effect, we know not; but the following announcement, which is going the rounds of the British papers, (and the same regulation has been introduced here) shows that the military authorities have come to the desired conclusion. This is truly an important step in the history of the Temperance Reform:—"The notice for re-letting the Barrack Canteens, contains a clause that the sale of spirituous liquors in those regimental shops will in future be strictly prohibited."—*Montreal Witness*.

(From the London Observer.)

The recent order of the War Office, practically interdicting the sale of spirituous liquors in barrack canteens, has excited a great deal of unnecessary and by no means uninterested indignation in the minds of certain persons, and the Government are blamed for every conceivable evil that can accrue to the soldier, for simply interposing to prevent the destruction of his health, at least within the walls of those institutions which the State has provided for him. But calmly and dispassionately considered, there is no reason whatever for this great outcry; on the contrary, every well-wisher of his species, and every true patriot, has cause to praise the course that has been adopted by the authorities in this instance.

The duty of the State to the soldier, is to supply him with all the necessaries for the support of life, and also to make his condition as comfortable as possible. Cut off from intercourse with civilians, or only admitted into communion with the worst class of individuals, the representatives of social life, the natural and inevitable tendency of the military mind is to brutality; the soldier who herds alone with his fellows, each in the same predicament as himself, can derive neither knowledge nor edification from such intercourse; and as he has, strictly speaking, no home—"for without hearts there is no home"—he almost necessarily adopts the vices of the degraded state in which he is placed, and of the reckless companions with whom he is compelled to associate. Of these vices, the most destructive of life, of health, and of discipline, is the indulgence in ardent spirits. This liquid poison is not necessary to the soldier's support—On the contrary, it totally unfits him for the performance of that duty which is the condition of his sustenance by the State; nor is it necessary to his comfort, for what comfort can accrue from the loss of health and strength, and self-respect, and, along with them, all the happiness of which his situation is susceptible? Therefore, in putting a bar to the sale of spirituous liquors in Barrack Canteens, the War Office has not alone fulfilled its duty to the soldier as well as to the public, but it has discharged, for so much, a debt due by the State to humanity at large, in respect to the normal condition of its military servants.

Another step, however, remains to be taken in the matter; another instalment remains unpaid, as regards the soldier. It is a tradition long since disproved, that strong drinks are at all requisite for the maintenance of life and the promotion of happiness; while, on the contrary, it has been clearly shown by the experience of ages, that moral and intellectual culture is the only thing that conduces to both. Why, therefore, should a Government permit strong drinks of any kind to be vended within the precincts of the barracks of a kingdom? on the contrary, why not rather convert the several canteens into coffee-houses and regimental reading-rooms? The advocates of the system of strong liquors may urge that the soldier who is so disposed will procure his *pabulum* without the barracks, if he cannot procure it within it; and, doubtless, their assertion is to that extent true. But suppose he should do so, is that a reason why the State should furnish him with any facilities whatever for destroying his health and unfitting him for the due