

Miscellaneous.

Alcohol.

BY DR. WILLARD PARKER.

ALCOHOL is neither food nor clothing. Sometimes it is said to be "lodging" when you get enough down. There is no food in alcohol, and in no way can it be regarded as nutritious.

I will state here, as many say it is valuable, that as some use pepper and others mustard, it is true in some cases a glass of good old fermented material may be used with food as a condiment. I grant that, and I am ready to grant all the good that it has. Let us look at those people who are our drunkards who are scattered through our city and country. Let us see what this blessed article does for them. It has been demonstrated by our life insurance companies at home and abroad, that every individual who is a drunkard—I mean an alcoholic drunkard, or one who is on the way to drunkenness when he is twenty, who drinks half a dozen times a day—you call him a drunkard, and of course he resents such an accusation—now, the average life of such a person is only thirty-five years and six months, while the average life of a non-user, starting at twenty, is sixty-four years and two months.

If alcohol, then, is such a glorious thing, why do these poor creatures die? The non-users live sixty-four years instead of thirty-five and a half years, so there is a loss of twenty-nine years. Now, you take a thousand persons and put them together—a thousand persons who drink in this way we speak of here; we lose, compared with the other thousand who are abstainers, 29,000 years—that is the difference; 29,000 years the country is robbed of in the way of production, in the way of aggregation of wealth. It does not simply stop with the individual who uses it. Fifty per cent. of our idiots come from drunkards; fifty per cent of the insane come directly or indirectly from the drunkards, and from seventy-five to ninety

per cent. of our crimes grow out of the use of this article. The pauperism, the idiocy—fifty per cent. as I have stated, grow out of this article. These are established facts.

Now, the next point. It does not stop with the individual, but goes to the progeny, and no drunkard can have healthy children. They are either insane or idiots, or become the subjects of state prison. In one word, they are all defective. It is impossible that "sweet waters should come forth from a bitter fountain."

Another point settled is that a drinking family dies out in three or four generations. Take one of your best families and let them commence when twenty, and go on with this drinking; in the third or fourth generation the family becomes extinct.

There is another question beyond the great injury done to the public. It has been stated in France, where they have much less drunkenness than here—England beats us—that sixty per cent. of the taxes grow out of the use of ardent spirits or these alcoholic drinks. Sixty per cent. Suppose we should reduce our taxes fifty per cent.; it would be a blessed thing, and I think it could be done if we would abandon the use of this poison of which we are talking. And the only way we can accomplish it is to give the public light and knowledge.

Look at New York City and see what has transpired. We had, a year ago, as reported at one of our meetings, between 10,000 and 11,000 of these drinking places—not eating places, though they now try to call themselves "hotels." A little sign is stuck out in front with the word "hotel" on it. It is only to dodge legislation. A very large proportion of our taxes now come upon us to take care of our crime, our pauperism, our idiocy, and all these outgrowths from alcohol. The average life in New York City from 1810 to 1820 was 26.15; from 1820 to 1830 the average dropped to 22 or 23. In 1843 it dropped down to 19 and

a fraction, and from 1843 down to 1860 it dropped down to 15.

—Canon Farrar says, he alone, by whom the hairs of our head are all numbered, can count the widows who are widows because of it; the gray heads that it has made gray; the sad hearts that it has crushed with sadness; the ruined families that it has ruined; the brilliant minds which it has quenched, the unfolding promise which it has cankered; the bright and happy boys and girls whom it has blasted into shame and misery; the young and the gifted which it has hurried along into dishonoured and nameless graves.

Directory.

Grand Division of Ontario, Officers for 1880.

G.W.P., G. M. Rose, Toronto.
G.W.A., A. R. Hopkins, Gloucester.
G. Scribe, Thos. Webster, Brantford.
G. Treasurer, David Millar, Toronto.
G. Chap., John Jewell, Plainville.
G. Conductor, James Brooks, Wexford
G. Sentinel, G. P. Bliss, New Edinburgh.
P.G.W.P., Thos. Caswell, Toronto.

Grand Division, Sons of Temperance of Ontario, holds its next Annual Session in Oshawa, first Tuesday in December, 1880.

[Each Division, contributing the sum of one dollar annually is entitled to have its card inserted in this Directory.]

Alberta Division, No. 185, meets first and third Thursday each month, in basement of stone church, Paris Plains.

Almonte, No. 114, meets in Temperance Hall, Almonte, Co. of Lanark, every Tuesday evening.

Ashworth, No. 84, meets in Temperance Hall, Ashworth, Co. of Ontario, every Friday evening.

Arran Division, No. 315, meets in their Hall, Arran, Co. of Bruce, every Wednesday evening.

Bethesda Division, No. 372, meets in their Hall, Binbrook, Co. of Wentworth, every Saturday evening.

Box Grove Division, No. 273, meets in their Division Room, Box Grove, County of York, every Saturday evening.

Cedardale, No. 55, meets in their Hall, Cedardale, Co. of Ontario, every Thursday evening.

Chaudiere Division, No. 333, meets in their Division Room, Cor. of O'Connor and Sparks Streets, Ottawa, every Friday evening.

Cobourg Division, No. 9, meets in their Division Room, Cobourg, every Wednesday evening.

Crown Division, No. 356, meets in their Hall, Granton, Co. of Middlesex, every Friday evening.