

any alcohol, but when subjected to the process of fermentation, which is a process of putrefaction and decomposition, its form and nature are entirely changed, and it is converted into alcohol through a mysterious chemical agency. It is evident that nature never intended to produce alcohol, and, unassisted, never would have done so; for this fermentation must be carefully watched and carried on under certain conditions of temperature, and it must be arrested, too, at a certain stage, otherwise, if permitted to continue, the alcohol is converted into vinegar, another liquid entirely different from both alcohol and sugar, and possessing useful properties.

3. The sugar contained in the juice of the cane, the beet, the grape, and other fruits and vegetables, in the sap of the palm and the maple, and in animal *milk*, though differing somewhat in their qualities, are readily convertible into alcohol by fermentation.

4. The gluten, or starch, which is the nourishing property or food contained in barley, wheat, rye, potatoes, and in other grains and vegetables, is transformed by the chemistry of the maltster and brewer into sugar, and that sugar is fermented and degraded into alcohol. It is probably owing to its high price that among Anglo-Saxon peoples milk has not as yet been tortured into an agency of drunkenness, but the Tartars make themselves *happy* and hilarious on a fascinating alcoholic beverage called *koumiss*, which is fermented mare's milk.

5. No one can doubt for a moment that the grain, the grape, the vegetable, and the milk were designed by the Creator to be used as wholesome, nourishing, delicious food, to render the human race physically and mentally healthy and vigorous, happy, and capable of the highest physical and intellectual development and enjoyment. Used properly and rationally in their natural condition of sweetness and purity and wholesome soundness, they are perfectly adapted to this end. But the gluten and sugar contained in these foods are their nutritious elements; robbed of these, they are rendered utterly useless for the evident purposes of their creation: in their conversion into alcoholic drinks all the nutritious properties are destroyed, save that in a