

laid down, as all these forms have their usefulness in properly selected cases. Pure alcohol has undoubted values as an external application, and many persons regard it as a sort panacea for aches and pains. But in giving orders for alcohol the doctor lays himself open to the suspicion that he is aiding those who really wish it for drinking purposes.

Fraud and deceit on the part of patients is another of the troubles the doctor has to contend with. Some one who has been a patient for years comes to the doctor, saying, "I am not sleeping well", or "I am troubled with indigestion." The doctor must depend upon his patient's statement. The patient makes the request for an order for a quart of whiskey. There is no good will come of the doctor arguing with the patient upon the merits or demerits of whiskey in such a case. The man wants it, and if his doctor does not comply with the request, the party will go to some other doctor, and cease to be a patient of the first doctor, who has always attended him.

Very properly the law says that a doctor must not use ergot for criminal purposes, or morphine to supply a dope fiend, but the law does not and should not challenge a doctor's right to use these drugs legitimately, or lay down any directions as to how often he should use them, nor for what classes of cases. There is one thing that is perfectly clear that the medical profession must resist the attempt on the part of any outside body laying down any rule as to how often in a month a doctor shall order any particular drug, and we mean alcohol in any form to be a drug. It is so treated in the Ontario Temperance Act, and is to be sold only for medicinal purposes. The doctors must claim freedom of action in the matter of this drug, as in the case of any other drug.

This leads to another problem. Alcohol in Ontario is now treated by law as a drug, and is to be sold only for sick people; and yet the law makes no provision whereby most of the people can secure this drug. Those who live in Toronto, Hamilton, London, Kingston, Ottawa, Windsor, and one or two other points may have no great difficulty. This is not so in the case of those who are 100 miles away from a vendor. The vendors should be discontinued, and druggists compelled to carry some liquor; or more vendors should be appointed. The present plan does not suit either doctors or people. We are firmly of the opinion alcohol in all its forms should go to the drug store, and be kept of best quality. If it is to be regarded as a drug then it should be handled by druggists only.

We have on a former occasion protested against the requirement that calls for the nature of the disease being entered in the order.