

New Police, gave his opinion, that out of 1000 persons apprehended, much the greater number would be for drunkenness, or drunkenness and disorder combined.—*Id.* page 36.

John Poynder, Esq., Under Sheriff of Middlesex and London, states, page 79, "Melancholy are the recitals I have heard from the old and young of both sexes, the illiterate housebreaker and the educated forger, the offender when first convicted, and the criminal who has grown old in vice, all proving the sense entertained by them alike of the consequences of drinking;" and page 80, "he says that from his experience, he apprehends that excessive drinking is the proximate cause of the majority of crimes perpetrated in the metropolis."

Professor Edgar, of Belfast, in his evidence, being questioned as to the connection between drinking and crime in Ireland, says, page 89. "I find that persons in situations in Ireland, who have had the best opportunities of judging, have expressed remarkably strong opinions on the subject. The chairman of Kilmarnock, for example, the lord mayor and high sheriffs of Dublin, have signed a document, stating that "an entire disuse of ardent spirits would materially tend to the moral improvement of the community, and that an indulgence in them is a most fruitful cause of crime in the city of Dublin." Mr. Shaw, the recorder, states, that in 40 out of 50 cases that come before him weekly in Dublin, the crimes he believes are traceable to intemperance as their proximate cause; and the keeper of a large house of correction in Ireland stated to me his conviction, founded upon long experience both in the army and the police, that four-fifths of the persons confined for crimes in gaol have been led forward and hardened in crime by the use of spirituous liquors. A barrister, who some time ago tried 1700 civil bill cases in a fortnight, states it as his opinion, that the whole of them, either directly or indirectly, are attributable to the use of spirituous liquors."

Wm. Collins, Esq., of Glasgow, mentions, "In 1830, the judge who presided (there,) stated, in his address to the sheriff and magistrates, that upwards of 80 criminals had stood before his tribunal, and received sentence of punishment, more or less, and that with scarcely a solitary exception, every one of the crimes had been committed while under the influence of intemperance; and in concluding his address he stated, it was a disgrace to such a large and respectable community that so many public houses, and so much spirit drinking should be permitted by the public authorities, and that from the evidence

that had appeared before him as a judge, it seemed that every thing in Glasgow began and ended with whiskey. The same year the judge who presided at Perth stated to the sheriff and justices of the peace, that of 33 criminals who had stood before his tribunal, 27 of them distinctly appeared to have committed their crimes while under the influence of intemperance. In 1832, at the conclusion of the Perth assizes, the Lord Justice Clerk addressed the sheriff: he regretted to say, that he could not compliment him on the decrease of crime in the district, and he could not help adverting to the numerous instances of assault, and as these evidently originated in the excitement arising from the immoderate use of spirituous liquors, he was naturally led to condemn the facilities which are too amply afforded to the thoughtless, the profligate or the quarrelsome, for the obtaining of ardent spirits; he would therefore most earnestly counsel the magistrates, and others, with whom it lay to grant licenses, nor to allow any notion of public economy, however specious, for increasing the revenue of the country, to tend to the deterioration of the public morals."

The Hon. Judge Pyke, of Montreal, told a deputation of the Young Men's Temperance Society, that nine tenths of the crimes tried before him, were attributable to the use of spirituous liquors.

II.—Madness and other Diseases.

Dr Ellis, resident physician of the Middlesex County Lunatic Asylum, gives as his opinion, "That the use of fermented liquors, particularly of spirits, is very conducive indeed to bring on the disease, (of lunacy); it first of all acts on the stomach, then on the nervous system; it brings on diseased action, disorganization of the brain is the consequence, and all the dreadful results of insanity follow."—*Parl. Ev.* page 59.

In page 145, is inserted the following testimony of medical practitioners:—

"We, the undersigned, do hereby declare, that in our opinion, ardent spirits cannot be regarded as a necessary, suitable, or nourishing article of diet; that they have not the property of preventing the accession of any complaints, but may be considered as the principal source of numerous and formidable diseases, and the principal cause of the poverty, crime and misery which abound in this country; and that the entire disuse of them, except under medical direction, would materially tend to improve the health, amend the morals and augment the comforts of the community." (Signed by 363 physicians and surgeons from the following places:—Brighton, Chel-

tenham, Derby, Dublin, Edinburgh, Gloucester, Kilmarnock, Leeds, Lincoln, Manchester, Nottingham, Worcester & York.)

III.—Poverty and wretchedness.

Mr. Broughton, formerly alluded to, relates, page 30, the following shocking circumstance:—

"I will mention a case to show the baneful and dreadful effects of drinking upon that class to which allusion is made, (the higher classes of mechanics.) It was the case of a discovery being made of a family in a state, that if it had not been seen, it could not have been believed. I think there were four children; there was no bed—a few old rags in the corner, into which they huddled. Upon information being given, they were all taken and brought before me; and I felt a good deal of interest, from the nature of the case, and went very minutely into the history of it from its origin, and I found that the woman, two years before, had borne a most respectable character; he was a mechanic, and could earn, certainly, two guineas a week. His brother came before me, for I committed both the husband and the wife to prison for neglecting their family, and adjourned the case for further inquiry, and sent the children to the workhouse; and the brother came, with tears in his eyes, and was quite ashamed to appear, and said, that this man had had a little property, and that he might have lived with great comfort; that from the property derived to himself and his wife from a common parent, he might have been in possession of an income of about £200 a year. I went further into the inquiry, by examining the boy, who was a very intelligent boy, of ten years of age, and I found that the woman regularly rose from the rags on which she slept—the father, the wife and the baby, slept together on one batch of rags, the others huddled up in a corner without any rags at all—and the father and mother went immediately into the gin-shop, and the same gin-shop I had the keeper of the gin-shop before me: it was kept by a woman, and she certainly seemed ashamed of it. And the boy described his mother as getting up, and going into the gin-shop; and the biggest boy then went out into the market, and tried to get a few pence by holding horses, leaving the other children to wander about, and pick up cabbage leaves, and so on, to eat; they never were washed, they were never carried to a church. And the whole of this was brought on by drinking. He shook like an aspen leaf, and she was reduced to the greatest state of misery and wretchedness; she had scarcely a rag on; I believe she had not undressed herself for many months; and