

or its equivalent of methylated liquids, escape permanent damage, *i.e.*, most persons are, to some extent, immune to serious poisoning by small quantities of methyl alcohol, this is by no means true of larger quantities; nor does it, by any means, prove the immunity of every person from poisoning by very small quantities. Until the experiment has been made, nobody can be assured of safety to eyesight from the ingestion of much smaller amounts of the poison. There are many well-authenticated instances in which the drinking of a couple of teaspoonfuls of wood spirits was followed by blindness.

The intoxication of persons from inhalation of the fumes of methylated alcohol is another example of poisoning by small quantities of the intoxicant, because the actual bulk of liquid so absorbed by the lungs and skin must be comparatively small.

The cumulative quality of methylism has been referred to by several writers. This matter will be further discussed in speaking of the pathology of the subject. Meantime our investigations undoubtedly demonstrate that in many instances no marked poisonous symptoms were noticed until twenty-four hours or longer, after the last of a number of doses (usually small "drinks") had been taken. Unlike most poisonous agents that are responsible for acute symptoms, these may not much disturb the patient for a relatively long interval after the ingestion of the poison. Indeed, it may be set down as a rule that, except in persons exhibiting an idiosyncrasy against wood alcohol, or unless a large dose of the poison is drunk within a few hours, not only may the severe abdominal symptoms, the cardiac and nervous collapse and the blindness be postponed, but even the fatal termination has, in some instances, been delayed for several days.

This information, derived from the histories just published, demonstrate the fact that there is danger, albeit an unknown degree of danger, to life and eyesight attending the ingestion of *any* amount of wood alcohol. Moreover, while the acute, unmistakable symptoms of the ordinary forms of intoxication enable us to recognize them at once, there can be no doubt but that much smaller quantities, taken into the system, as methylated quack remedies, adulterated foodstuffs (Jamaica ginger, "lemon extract," essences), or the secret dram drinking of bay rum, cologne water, etc., may, in persons not immune, injure the digestion and permanently damage the vision.

There are very few poisons that more distinctly exhibit the selective character of the intoxication than wood alcohol. It has again and again been demonstrated that a minority of those who imbibe methylated fluids suffer no permanent damage from