

lessen the amount of crime in the city throughout the year; if you enlarge the number, you will increase the crimes; if you keep up the same number still, you will prevent the crimes from being diminished by others. The state of public morals in this city, for the current twelvemonths, depends, in a great measure, upon you. You occupy a place of tremendous responsibility.— Upon your action it depends whether iniquity is to abound in this city, or be kept under restraint. What man, who is not dead to every moral feeling, can think of occupying such a position without fear; and without feeling an anxious desire to discharge the duties connected with it in such a manner that the name of God will be honored, and the best interests of the city advanced!

But, it may be pleaded that our rulers cannot mend the matter; for the law requires that tavern licenses be granted, and they have no alternative but to fulfill its mandate. It is true, the law requires that *some* licenses be granted, but it does not define the number; it does not deprive magistrates of the power of *diminishing* it. In point of fact, there has been a process of reduction going on for some years, and the law offers no impediment to the carrying on of that process somewhat farther this year.

But, whatever may be said upon this point, the law requires that the city shall be protected from the *unlicensed* retailer. We cannot advert, without indignation, to the conduct of the magistrates on the bench, who have such a strong "leaning" in favor of the illicit dealers, as to render it "next to impossible" to obtain a conviction against them. They cannot but know that this is illegal; it is a shameless attempt to set aside the very law which they are appointed to execute; it is a piece of open injustice perpetrated against those who purchase a license, and its effect upon public morals is so deplorable, that we feel it impossible to exhibit it in colors too hateful, or condemn it in language too severe. If there is any regard to justice, or good morals on the bench; if conscience has any control over the acts of those who sit there, neither of which points would we for a moment call in question, we implore our magistracy to protect the city from the unlicensed vendors of spirituous liquors.

THE ALIMENTARY PROPERTIES OF WATER.

No fallacy has been so fraught with evil as that contained in the short sentence "Water has no strength." To those holding this opinion, the share which water has in the composition of the human frame must appear incomprehensible, since they are accustomed to regard it as being made up entirely of solid matter, which is so far from being the case, however, that were it possible to remove from a frozen body, all the materials entering into its structure, excepting the water, there would remain a statue of pure ice, perfect in all its parts, down to the minutest lineaments of the countenance. In order to ascertain the relative proportion between the fluids and solids, scientific persons have resorted to the expedient of placing a dead body into an oven, and there allowing it slowly to desiccate, until it became so light in weight, that what had once, perhaps, been a strapping life-guard-man, could, with no great exertion of strength, be held out at arm's length. A distinguished Professor in one of the French Universities, selected for the above purpose a corpse weighing 120 pounds, and found, after many days' drying, that it was reduced to 12 pounds; and it is said, that bodies, after having long been buried in the burning sands of Arabia, are found to have sustained a loss of weight even greater than that induced by artificial means. The

solid portion of the body is thus proved to be amazingly small, and it may be compared to a fillagree work of exquisite elaboration, each atom of which is immersed in a sphere of water, bearing the proportion of nine to one. It will no longer appear surprising, then, that the diffusion of a foreign, and a poisonous fluid, like alcohol, through this mass of living water should be followed by so many disastrous consequences. If the action of alcohol be brought to bear upon water, and the animal tissues in their dead state, it will convert them into substances differing materially from their original condition. How much more likely is its continued action upon the sensitive and frail textures of the living organism, to be succeeded by the disturbance and final destruction of the whole! Examples of this truth are of too common occurrence for farther comment here.

Having shewn the proportion of fluids to the solids, I will now devote a few words towards proving that water is as essentially an aliment as bread or animal food. The body being made up chiefly of water, the loss of this must be repaired by water, and hence it is in itself a substance which conveys real nourishment. The want of it is made sensible to us by an appetite so imperious, that if not gratified, it gives rise to sufferings which it passes the power of language to express. They exceed in intensity the widely different agonies endured by the victim of alcohol, when deprived of his deadly potion. But this proof of the alimentary power of water is exceeded by another which places it beyond all dispute, persons have been known to live upon water alone. I am aware that a statement like this, so calculated to excite incredulity, should not be advanced without satisfactory testimonials as to its veracity: I shall therefore, quote my authority in full, premising that it is from the pen of the late Dr. A. T. Thompson, a man of great learning and fine abilities, who was Professor of Materia Medica in the University of London. He says, "Were it necessary to prove by any other arguments, the utility of water as an aliment, and as procuring every salutary process connected with the support of vitality, we might mention some of the well authenticated cases of persons having lived on water alone, under circumstances which precluded them from obtaining any supply of solid aliment." The information here imparted was not for the purpose of exciting popular wonder, but it is inserted as a received fact in a dry elementary text book, solely intended for the use of students. I have used the term water in its general signification, the infusion of innocent substances like tea, coffee and cocoa, are included under the same head, since water is the basis.

I could dilate more at length upon this interesting topic, but I trust that enough has been brought forward to prove that water is so far from being a neutral or weakening agent, that without it we should cease to exist. The fatal error "that water has no strength in it," has created a countless host of drunkards.

February, 1850.

MEDICUS.

SONS OF TEMPERANCE.

We have received a copy of the "Journal of the Proceedings of Grand Division of the Sons of Temperance, of the State of Tennessee," for 1849; from which we learn the following particulars of the state and progress of the Order in that State. The Grand Division met quarterly, in January, April, July, and October. During the first quarter, returns had been received from 104 Divisions, showing an aggregate membership of about 7000. At the annual meeting, returns had been received from 183 Divisions. It appears that the Grand Division has granted 106 new charters during the year, and gained a real accession to their members of