

wait to have this matter forced on their attention, but will, of their own motion, accord substantive rank to the medical officer, so that he may be able to wear his uniform without wounding his self-respect or feeling that he is sailing under false colors.

We commend this subject to the attention of medical officers, who may meet together in the various camps this summer.

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THE question of prohibition has been discussed during the present session of the Dominion Parliament. With regard to its economic or political aspects we do not concern ourselves. Whether the petitions were numerous enough signed to warrant the conclusion of some that the time is ripe for prohibition, or whether the fears of others were well-grounded that a revulsion of public opinion would follow, such legislation is not the question here. In reading over the discussion we notice an absence of all reference to the danger that a compulsory deprivation of their customary stimulants would lead many people to resort to the substitution of other and more dangerous narcotics, such as opium, cocaine, ether, Jamaica ginger, etc. During the McKenzie administration similar petitions were submitted to the House of Commons. The Hon. Alex. MacKenzie speaking on the subject thought it would be in the public interest to ascertain whether or not it was a fact that the consumption of these narcotics was largely on the increase in communities where prohibition prevailed.

The ether habit in Ireland would appear to be a case in point. The causes for this habit are variously attributed; by some to the total abstinence movement since the days of Father Matthew — the "new drink" being resorted to to enable one to get drunk without breaking the pledge, by others to the suppression of illegal distilling, the high excise duty enhancing the cost, and the comparative cheapness of methylated ether. It is but too true that the use of other stimulants and

narcotics than alcohol is alarmingly on the increase in America. Is this owing to nerve over-strain, or is the partial enforcement of prohibitive liquor laws which take no account of the craving for stimulants inherited or acquired by so many people, and also that unwritten code which puts a social ban, especially among women, upon the drinking habit, responsible to a large degree for the increasing use of the more pernicious narcotics? It is strange that during the recent discussion at Ottawa this aspect of the question should have been overlooked. It surely behooves the temperance reformer to contemplate this complicated question with a wider range of vision than this discussion would indicate, and to recognize the fact that appetites and passions cannot be eradicated by an act of parliament, that men cannot be made "moral, good and wise" by legal enactments. The man in the fable who stood on the seashore with thoughts intent upon the dangers of the deep, and regarded not the monster approaching from behind which devoured him, was merely a prototype of many a sincere though illogical reformer of the present day.

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IN reference to the decision of Judge Alley, of Charlottetown, in the case referred to elsewhere, we think it only right for all to keep in view the difficulty presented at times in the diagnosis of typhoid fever. This is especially true when a doctor has to rely upon his own judgment exclusively, from being beyond the reach of convenient consultations. Moreover, it will be recognized by all that it is easy to be too hasty in coming to a diagnosis of an infectious case, leading to alarm and trouble that turns out to have been unnecessary.

But with all this in view, and a ready sympathy with a country medical man in the many difficulties of his position, it is nevertheless clear that it is wise in any doubtful case to mention to one responsible and concerned person one's doubts as to the nature and ultimate