

Temperance Column.

THERE IS NO HEALTH IN IT.

At a reception by the British National Temperance League, given to the Colonial and Indian delegates, Dr. B. W. Richardson, who presided, said; "They had learned that alcohol, unlike food, acted exactly as a medicinal agent. With regard to its (alcohol's) action, they had discovered that, in the words of the general confession in the Book of Common Prayer, it did those things which it ought not to have done, and it left undone those things which it ought to have done, and there was no health in it. It caused diseases, twenty-four of which were now known to be specifically produced by it, and every day medical science detected more injury arising from its use.

It would be difficult to frame an indictment against alcohol in any stronger terms than this. The happy borrowing and adaptation of the words of the "confession" from the Prayer-book caused laughter, and that it did so is no wonder. Neither does it damage the argument. The light feather of the arrow carries the barb more surely and directly to its point. Witty utterances are longest remembered and are more efficient than rude denunciation. The reader may like to know who this Dr. Richardson is and by what authority he speaks. He is an M.D. and F.R.S., and he is an honorary member of the American Philosophical Society, whose home, ancient and modern, is in Philadelphia. He is the discoverer of many medical facts and appliances and a voluminous author. In his writings he belongs to the experimental rather than the theoretical school, and when he announces that twenty-four diseases are specifically produced by alcohol it may be fairly presumed that he is giving the result of his own observation. He has had over thirty years' experience since he graduated, and his medical brethren have highly honored him by testimonials "in recognition of his various contributions to science and medicine."

These facts concerning Dr. Richardson are here mentioned to establish his claim to be heard as an "expert" upon the subject. And his testimony is valuable as not the utterance of a man of one idea, or one object. In the list of his writings there are few, if any, specially devoted to the subject of temperance. General knowledge and a perception of the relations between all subjects of scientific research qualify a man to reach impartial conclusions. It is in this way that the actual truth can be approached. And in broad-minded discussion and investigation only may we look for advances in moral and social questions, as affected by scientific facts and discoveries.—*Public Ledger.*

Americans have immense faith in the efficacy of law as a remedy for the ills of society. In their view law, when held in one's hand, and shaken over the disorder, has

a magic charm and potency to drive away evil spirits and to restore order in the world. As though law possessed any force in itself! Law simply marks the path of the man behind it. The force is in the executor. The best laws are dead letters without stern, inexorable men to put them in force. The whole country is roused to secure the enactment of a law against the rum power, and then everybody sits down to see it work. When will men learn that a law to be of any value, must be executed; and to have it executed you must put behind it a set of men who believe in it, and have the courage of their convictions and dare to try it on?—*Ex.*

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