

Every Adult Should Know", written in lay terms. This book will be forwarded on application to the Public Health Service, Washington.

### DOCTORS AND THE TEMPERANCE ACT.

The position in which The Ontario Temperance Act has placed the medical profession is not an enviable nor a desirable one. It is safe to state that ninety-nine per cent. of the members of the Ontario medical profession object to being converted into legal bar-tenders for the people of the province; and would most gladly welcome such amendment to the Act as would enable the people to secure liquor in some other way than by a doctor's order.

In the ordinary discharge of his duties every practitioner encounters cases of sickness where, in his judgment, alcoholic stimulants would be useful; and, accordingly, prescribes such kind and amount as he thinks will suit the patient's condition. To this there can be no objection, nor is there any need for legislation. Alcohol is an article that may be ordered by the medical attendant, as he orders quinine, and comes within his legal right to do so, because he is a registered medical practitioner.

But the Ontario Temperance Act has created a new condition of affairs. It has laid down the rule of procedure in the purchase of liquor to the effect that the purchaser must first obtain a doctor's order. This has had the effect of sending to the offices of the medical profession all those who wish to secure some liquor. In the vast majority of these cases the applicants for these orders have already diagnosed their own ailments, and concluded what is the proper treatment, namely, a bottle of whiskey, or gin, etc. Further, very few of these applicants ask for, or desire, any other prescription or advice. They are applicants for alcoholic stimulants only.

In order to secure an order they have formulated in their minds some story to tell the doctors. They come to the conclusion that they are not sleeping, or that they have lost their appetite, or that they have become rheumatic. They do not come and state frankly that they wish to have some liquor in their houses because they like it, or because they expect some friends. All this begets a wholesale system of hypocrisy, though some of the applicants are quite genuine and honest. As a result of this state of affairs most medical practitioners have often had to refuse these applicants; and, in every instance, offence is given.

The law that lays down the rule that the medical profession alone has the right to order liquor, also creates a Board of License Commissioners, the members of which are laymen; and are not supposed to know anything about the treatment of disease. Nevertheless the doctor has to set forth the fact that the liquor is prescribed for a certain disease or