

money, it should not be many years before tropical diseases had been swept from the British possessions. Investigations showed that the fly responsible for the sleeping disease was spreading rapidly into new regions, and was threatening to be a real menace to trade.

Much good work had been done in finding out the breeding places of these insects. Certain types of vegetation prevailed in the regions where the fly breeds. By clearing up these areas there would be good ground to suppose that the fly would disappear. These researches promised to be of much importance, and should be followed up vigorously.

Sir Edward Durniny spoke in scathing terms of those who excited public opinion against experiment in medicine. He said that it was largely due to vivisection and judicious experiment that medicine had made its great advances.

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### ALCOHOLICS.

There has been a vast amount of idle talk about the treatment of alcoholics. There are those who would have us believe that alcoholism is a disease. It can become such. But in the first place it is a disease similar to gonorrhœa or illegitimate children being diseases by being preceded by wrong habits of life.

There are, no doubt, weaknesses of character that render it easier for one to fall into the drink habit than it would be for another. This does not do away, however, with the doctrine of the freedom of the will and responsibility by any means.

In by far the largest number of alcoholics the habit began by willingly indulging in drink, encouraged by bad example and bad companions. There must in all cases be the yielding agent—the person who is going to become a drunkard. The number who are born with such a nature that they must become drunkards are very few indeed. The drink habit is a disease when one makes it such. The cure proves this. Those who become *cured* secure this happy result largely by being *willing* to quit the habit, or by being kept from the habit long enough till the desire dies out—a desire *created* by former indulgencies.

We think these cases should be treated by being sent to some place where they can be usefully employed, rather than by being sent to a hospital.

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