

alcoholic intoxicants received from some ancestor leads on to dipsomania and a thousand ills of the flesh, to distortion of the intellect and immorality.

Alcoholic inebriety is the prolific mother of crime and poverty; it disturbs the inalienable rights of the peaceful citizen and imposes a heavy burden upon the taxpayer; no other force is so potent in undermining the integrity of our national life. Accurate statistics relating to murders committed by alcoholic inebriates are not readily obtainable and are more or less unreliable. Coroners in reporting such cases are not always careful to state that inebriety was their genuine cause. Compilers do not always mention the cause of murder, even though it may have been stated correctly. Such statistics do not declare the whole truth, and hence are misleading. A prominent liquor paper concedes that nearly 500 murders are committed annually in this country as the result of alcoholic inebriety. Dr. Story states that the number of murders from drunkenness annually committed in the United States is 600. According to a high license journal 1130 murders were caused by liquor in the United States in one year. Remarks similar to the above are applicable to the difficulty of obtaining accurate statistics concerning those suicides which are committed by the alcoholized maniac. The real cause of the suicide is often buried under a wrong name. The reader of a daily paper of any of our large cities must be satisfied that the suicides from this disease are very numerous. Dr. Story places the annual number in the United States at 400. In 1893 in Prussia occurred 500 suicides among inebriates. Prof. Westergaard has said that out of 100 suicides in Denmark forty-four were notorious drunkards. In France 401 was the number of suicides from drunkenness in 1866.

Alcoholic inebriety plays an important rôle as a cause of accidents. The shipmaster, railroad engineer, trolley motorman, cable gripman, coachman, and all kinds of vehicle-drivers, inebriated by alcohol send many an innocent victim to death. The alcoholized brain of husband and father is responsible for many disfigured wives and crippled children. I forbear to present in detail more of the evils for which alcoholic inebriety is directly responsible. Their severity and universality are well known. By their enormity and ever-increasing outflow they are a constant

menace to the stability of the republic. Their restriction and extirpation demand the best services of physician, philanthropist and citizen.

For the requirements of this paper alcoholic inebriates may be classified in accordance with their drinking habit as follows:

1. The moderate drinker.
2. The excessive drinker.

The moderate drinker takes a class of liquor occasionally, say of wine or beer, with his daily meals or socially with a friend in the evening and once in a while some stronger alcoholic beverage. Perhaps, at long intervals, he may drink enough to become slightly intoxicated. As soon as his drinking habits have carried him to the point where his intellect and physical system have become visibly affected, as shown by his conduct, he may be properly classed with the excessive drinkers. Notwithstanding his moderation he is daily poisoning himself with alcohol; he is an inebriate and is suffering from the disease of alcoholic inebriety.

What shall be done for the moderate inebriate? As long as he keeps within the bounds of decency, has not become a nuisance, is able to take care of himself, his family, and his property intelligently, is not a menace to the peace and welfare of society, has committed no crime, the law cannot take any cognizance of his acts. He may be guilty of withholding from those naturally dependent on him, from society and from the State his best services, but for this the law cannot punish him and can place upon him no restraint. The total abandonment of the drinking habit is all-important for this class of drinkers. As long as the habit is continued, fuel is being added to a fire which is gradually destroying the physical and mental integrity. All reasonable methods which will accomplish this object should be adopted. In this matter the medical profession has an obligation which it should discharge with strict fidelity. In doing so it should become a wise counselor and teacher. On account of its anæsthetic property alcohol is a deceiver, and hence the moderate taker of it may not realize its damaging effects till he has been using it for many years. He may call his physician for a disease which is the result of his ingestion of alcohol. Then is the time when the wise and humane doctor, without being subject to the charge of