

lessons, are nevertheless morally defective.

Mental Deficiency as Shown in the School-Work of Children.

In a study of the mental deficiency of the ordinary children undertaken in 1901 for the New York Academy of Medicine by Dr. MacNicholl, the effect of alcohol as a factor in the causation of such deficiency was strikingly shown. Fifty-five thousand school children were examined. Of these 58 per cent. were below the required standard of intelligence, 17 per cent. being actual "dullards," 25 per cent. "very deficient," and the other 16 per cent. merely deficient.

The habits of the parents with regard to alcohol are reported in 20,147 cases:

Children of drinking parents..	6,624
Children of drinking parents, reported dullards, per cent..	53
Children of abstaining parents, 13,523	
Children of abstaining parents, reported dullards, per cent....	10

The family histories of 3,711 children were traced through three generations. This was done in great detail with regard to the taking of alcohol. Of the children of abstaining parents and abstaining grandparents only 4 per cent. were "dullards," whereas of the children of abstaining parents, but drinking grandparents, 78 per cent. were "dullards."

Dividing the 3,711 children into two classes, viz., those free from hereditary alcoholic taint, and those with hereditary alcoholic taint, we note very striking contrasts:

(1) Of those free from hereditary alcoholic taint,—
96 per cent. were proficient.
4 per cent. were dullards.
18 per cent. suffered from some neurosis or organic disease.

(2) Of those with hereditary alcoholic taint,—
23 per cent. were proficient.
77 per cent. were dullards.
Of these dull children more than one-third were very deficient.

Of these same children with hereditary alcoholic taint, 76 per cent. suffered from some neurosis or organic disease.

"At a discussion on this subject at the Vienna Congress against alcohol-

ism, a medical man stated that the teachers in wine-growing districts of Lower Austria know that a supply of very bad scholars in any one year denotes a good vintage of six years previously."

Indirect Effect of Alcohol in Causing Infant Mortality.

Briefly summarized, the indirect effect of alcohol in leading to infant mortality is as follows:

(a) Money is wasted by the parents on alcohol, although required to buy good food and milk for the mother and the child. There is a popular belief that stout and porter taken by a nursing mother lead to an increased secretion of milk, and so it happens that many a woman takes these liquids in the honest faith that they are helping her to feed her child. The real truth is that although malt liquors stimulate for a time a secretion of extra milk, this secretion is of a watery nature, and is therefore of inferior nutritive value to the child. For instance, cows are frequently fed upon malt grains in order to increase the amount of milk they supply regardless of its quality.

(b) The inertness of body and mind induced by alcohol leads to maternal laziness and neglect, whereby dirt and semistarvation prevail in the home and often lead to illness and death.

(c) The drowsiness and lethargy of the alcohol-taking mother is recognized as a frequent cause of the overlaying of infants. Thus, Dr. Templeman states:

There can be no doubt, too, that drunkenness on the part of parents is a very important factor in the production of our infant mortality. Apart from the effects of this on the child in utero, there is another aspect to which I could allude, viz., deaths from overlaying. These cases occur, as a rule, in one and two roomed homes, and in a large majority of cases in families in which the parents are of dissipated and dissolute habits, and living amidst squalor and filth. Of 461 cases which have come under my own observation as Surgeon of Police during the past twenty years, no fewer than 219, or 47 per cent., occurred between Saturday night