

and bad blood, but only increases the power of a local authority, already important, and which it should be our policy to make more important—the Town Council; sixthly, it enables any amount of temperance feeling in a place to be accurately represented. If there is a very strong feeling in the place in favour of buying up, and either shutting or putting under much stricter regulation public houses, a great many will be bought up. If there is not so strong a feeling, fewer will be bought up; but I believe that, in a dozen years, everywhere a great many will be bought up—and surely that will be a great gain. Just think what a vast benefit would be effected if you could get public-houses put under managers who, as in the case at Gottenburg, have a direct interest in selling good and non-intoxicating liquors, but have no direct interest in selling intoxicating liquors. I hope and believe that Mr. Chamberlain will bring in a bill embodying his plan; and if so, I will certainly support the second reading, unless I have reason between now and then to think that it is a less practical proposal, than I now believe it to be. In the concluding portion of his address the speaker named many general aids to temperance, such as increased education, the influence of woman, improved manners, better ideas of hygiene, a higher standard of morals, the expedient of total abstinence and the teaching of temperance societies, improved cookery among the people, abolition of all custom duties on wholesome beverages, the suppression of adulterations in liquor. These more than any legislative scheme, he considered, would operate in diminishing drunkenness. The temperance societies, now almost superseded by legislative projects, had done nearly all that had been done in this work. He concluded by saying:—On principle, sensible men are all agreed both as to the evils of intemperance and the expediency of leaving every traffic as free as possible, but when they come to the liquor traffic there are infinite diversities of opinion as to the precise way of carrying into effect the two principles on which they are all agreed. I should like, on a purely social non-political question like this, to represent the average view of those, who send me to Parliament. Many years will pass before we arrive at a system which will be thoroughly satisfactory, and the only way to do so is to discuss first one plan and then another, till we see what will ensure the most general support from thoughtful and moderate persons in all parts of the United Kingdom.

At the close of the lecture, the Chairman moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Grant Duff, remarking that the lecture was a very able, interesting, and exhaustive discussion of the whole question. He thought he might venture to say without hesitation that a more valuable contribution to the solution of this problem had rarely been submitted by a Scotch member of Parliament to his constituents.