

## Medical Items.

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DOCTORS AND THE TEMPERANCE MOVEMENT.—Medical men, as a rule, are less liable to fanaticism than other people; hence it is not to be expected that total abstinence, which is just as much a craze as vegetarianism, should find many adherents in the ranks of the profession. They condemn the abuse of alcohol just as they condemn the abuse of tea or coffee, but they recognize that used in the right way, and in strictly regulated amount, it is harmless, and to some people helpful in health, and often invaluable in disease. There is no real inconsistency in a doctor preaching abstinence and himself taking such an amount of stimulant as he finds needful to enable him to do his work. The difference between precept and practice may, however, sometimes be illustrated in an amusing manner. Thus it is related of a late physician of the highest eminence, who was known to the public as an apostle of temperance, that a country doctor on one occasion brought him a leash of patients for consultation. The great man asked him to dinner, but first carried him off to a temperance meeting at which he was to preside. The country doctor heard Sir Anthony (this was not the physician's name, but 'twill serve) deliver an eloquent harangue in which the evils of alcohol in any form were depicted in the blackest colors. At dinner afterwards, the country practitioner was astonished and a little scandalized to see the orator, whose eloquent denunciation of alcohol had edified him a few hours before, drink freely of wine. When they had poured a few libations together the country doctor ventured to hint at the apparent discrepancy between his host's views on the alcohol question as expressed on the platform and as illustrated at the table. Sir Anthony shrugged his shoulders and delivered himself as follows: "My dear fellow, I have a very large correspondence, and the only time I can find to do it in is after dinner. I cannot do it at all unless I take some champagne; and when I have had champagne I don't care whether I do it or not!" This is the philosophy of the use of alcohol in a nutshell.—*The Practitioner.*

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MR. CLEMENS' HABITS.—I can quit any of my nineteen injurious habits at any time, and without discomfort or inconvenience. I think that the Dr. Tanners and those others, who go forty days without eating,