

sumption was estimated at one ton daily, in England and America alone, ranging from innocuous doses at thirty grains to danger and death at one hundred and twenty, when used as an hypnotic. It is far more seductive in its effects, and more dangerous in its consequences. It affects the brain, the spinal cord, the intellect, and brings on imbecility and death. (U. S. Dispens).

Consumption of
Chloral in En-
gland and
America.

An American paper thus refers to its use in a very late issue:

"A terrible vice has crept in among the fair sex of New York. Fashionable ladies from the 'Fifth' and the adjoining regions of the high-toned may be seen entering drug stores and calling in silvery accents for a glass of soda-water. Into this innocuous beverage white crystals from a white mouthed bottle are dropped and dissolved. The solution is gulped, fifteen cents are paid, and the elegantly dressed apparition vanishes. These ladies are known as 'chloral fiends.' The drug is now imported into New York by the ton. This is, as a weakness, worse than opium smoking because more readily indulged in, and almost as revolting as the hypodermic injection of morphia."

Its use should be limited to medicinal or scientific purposes, and every aid should be given to those who seek to prevent its consumption being introduced as a habit among our people either for smoking or other merely indulgent ends.

The evidence taken before the Commission in British Columbia shows no perceptible tendency among the people of the Province, in any way, to adopt such a habit. In every city, in every part of the world, there will possibly be found persons of the lowest and most degraded habits who frequent opium dens, but they are almost always persons who have fallen so low from previous debauchery and vice, that there is no lower depth to which they can descend.

No tendency in
British Columbia
to adopt the
habit.

With reference to Chinese prostitution the evidence shows that out of a total of 10,550 Chinese in the Province there are altogether only 154 Chinese women, of whom seventy are prostitutes, scattered throughout the Province entirely among their own countrymen many as concubines, that relationship being among them deemed no offence, and no discredit.

Chinese Prostitu-
tion.

It is doubtful whether a similar number of English or American people in a strange country would show any better record, though they might not use exactly the same terms. In dealing with this question it is impossible to avoid plain language.

The evidence does not show reasonable ground for fearing in British Columbia any contaminating influence from either one or the other of these vices, as coming from the Chinese. It may safely be affirmed that the white associates (few as they are) of the low Chinese in these vices will be themselves found to come from the lowest and most degraded classes of the whites, persons so utterly dead to every feeling that becomes either a respectable man or a virtuous woman, that wherever they might be, in whatever city of the world, if it were possible to find any place other than an opium den or a Chinese house of prostitution, it is there they would have to be sought. It is a reflection upon the people of British Columbia to assume that as a people they could be led away by degraded tastes.

In the police reports extending over five years from 1879, there are only two charges against the Chinese for prostitution, and none against the Chinese for the improper sale or use of opium, or for having

Police Reports