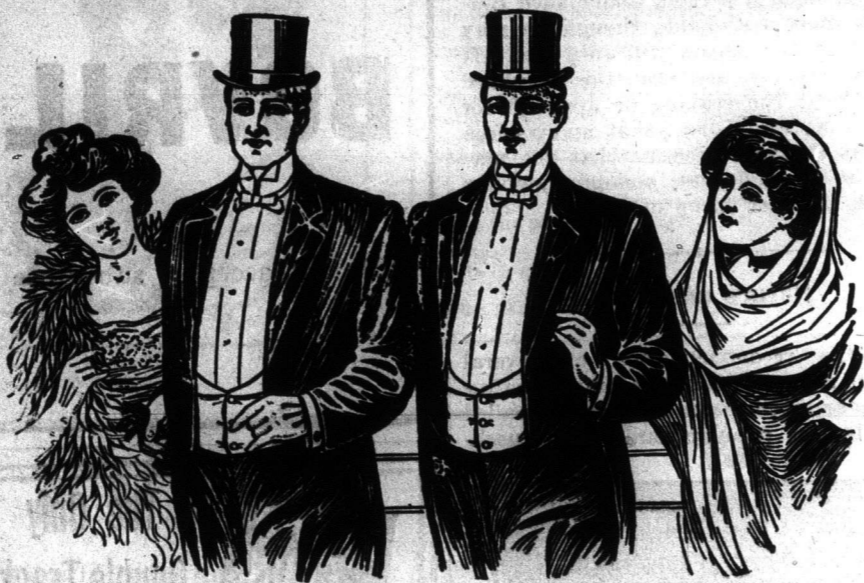


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It is asserted that the institution has done much to convince the lower classes of the good influence of a natural mode of life. No less than 200,000 persons have availed themselves of the opportunity offered them, and for this year an increased area has been thrown open for the "air cure." There is a special medical attendant present.

It is a step in the right direction, that the Germans are learning how to get well otherwise than with beer, kraut and turn-halls.

Make Social Drinking Unpopular.

If social drinking in the society world could be made unfashionable the cause of temperance would be greatly advanced. If social drinking among men could be made unpopular total abstinence would receive a mighty impulse.

It is as a social custom that strong drink begins its deadly work. The young man does not take his first drink because he likes it. He takes it because he thinks it will make him seem manly and up-to-date to do so. He does not purchase a bottle of whiskey and go off by himself to drink it. He may do that later on; but at first he drinks for the social pleasure he expects to derive from it.

Temperance workers find their main fields of work among the children and the drunkards. One class devotes its chief efforts to pledging the children, and the other class applies its energies to saving the drunkard. But between these two extremes is the great recruiting ground of inebriety—the social drinking customs of the country.

Visit any restaurant where liquors are served at any hour when they are crowded with guests and it will seem to you that every patron of the establishment, whether man or woman, is drinking cocktails, champagne or beer, with an occasional order for straight whiskey. Judging by such appearances you may think that drinking is largely on the increase. And perhaps it is true that there is more social drinking than formerly. Modern demands have not reached this branch of the liquor problem. But it is believed that there is not so much drunkenness as there used to be. Not because people have become more abstemious in their desires, but because sobriety has become a business requirement.

The social drinker is in a sort of fool's paradise. He imagines he is having a good time; but he is blocking his way to advancement. The man who carries a whiskey handicap has a hard road to travel. Nobody wants him.

The real rulers of the world have decided against whiskey. Railroads and corporations have adopted rigid rules with regard to strong drink. They will not employ men who drink. They will not continue in their employ men who are known to use intoxicating liquor.

Trades unions are beginning to bar the drinking man. They are finding him an expensive proposition. By their rules there is a regular scale of wages for certain kinds of work. But the drinking man fails to make good. He reduces the average and brings reproach on worthy members.

In these days of close competition and small margins it is necessary for a man to be at his best if he would succeed; and no man can be entirely fit who is ever so slightly under the influence of strong drink.

Then there is the domestic, or home, side of the drink question. The man who drinks brings wretchedness and misery to his family. He is not a good husband. He is not a good father. He defrauds those whom he has sworn to

love and cherish. He robs them of their birthright of honor and protection. If whiskey makes him vicious they fear him. If it makes him stupid they are ashamed of him. If he is poor they suffer deprivation and want. If he is rich they look to the time when bad management or neglect will reduce them to poverty, and added to the humiliation of his habits there will be the discomforts of penury.

Whiskey has been driven from nearly every place of honor and trust. It is a bar to achievement, an enemy to happiness and a menace to health. Even as a medicine alcohol has lost its vogue, and the best physicians seldom prescribe it.

But in spite of business requirements and domestic needs, social drinking continues. There is something incomprehensible about the tolerance of a custom which, if continued, may ruin a man's prospects.

Sobriety is stock in trade for the ambitious man. It opens the door of opportunity. It gives him a chance to utilize his ability. It converts his energy into cash. It materializes his aspirations. Inebriety blights ambition, closes the door to opportunity, paralyzes energy and destroys the aspirations.

Sobriety builds up. Inebriety pulls down. The two are antagonistic. They have nothing in common. And yet, at the very time when sobriety is at the highest rate of premium, and drunkenness at the lowest rate of discount, we are told that social drinking is on the increase.

There is more than a note or inconsistency in a policy that finds its pleasures in undermining its possibilities.

Social drinking does not in all cases lead to drunkenness; but nearly all drunkenness begins in social drinking. The young man who begins to drink does not intend to become an inebriate. He means to be a moderate drinker. He knows of prominent business men who drink moderately, but who are respected and honored citizens. If he thinks at all, he thinks he will be like them.

Unfortunately, there are plenty such men—men of wealth and prominence, who, by their example, say to the young man, "It is right and possible to drink moderately."

As has often been said in these columns, all men are not equally affected by the poison of alcohol. Many men can never be moderate drinkers. For them there is no half-way ground. They must let drink alone or they will drink to excess.

It must be remembered that the moderate drinkers who occupy high positions have reached those positions in spite of their drinking practices, and not because of them. While they might defend those habits in themselves they would be quick to object to them in those who asked their assistance.

There is no profession or position or occupation where drinking habits are a recommendation. If they are tolerated, they are not approved. Science and industry have pronounced against them. It remains for fashion to say the final word.

A Cure for Fever and Ague.—Disturbance of the stomach and liver always precede attacks of fever and ague, showing derangement of the digestive organs and deterioration in the quality of the blood. In these ailments Parlee's Vegetable Pills have been found most effective, abating the fever and subduing the ague in a few days. There are many who are subject to these distressing disturbances and to these there is no better preparation procurable as a means of relief.

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