

in the alimentary tract, thus giving rise to a higher or lower series of alcohols. We now return to our description of the physiologic action of alcohol.

Small doses of alcoholic beverages, when taken before meals, will invariably stimulate the appetite, augment the gastric secretion and favor peristalsis. After having exerted its action upon the alimentary tract it is absorbed and enters the circulation. There it is attacked by the oxygen-carrying erythrocytes, which convert it into heat and energy, simultaneously liberating carbon dioxide and aqueous vapor by the pulmonary and integumentary apparatus.

Alcohol is thus completely assimilated by the economy and utilized as a means for calories. Hence alcohol could be classed among the foods. Still the amount of alcohol which undergoes combustion is very small compared to that which remains in the system and produces the well-known re-action. True alcohol upon coming in contact with the medullary centers will invoke an increased activity of the respiratory and circulatory functions which would undoubtedly lead to the inhalation of a greater supply of oxygen. The red blood cell, however, tasked to the utmost, finally assumes a semi-paresis, so to speak. To be sure alcohol primarily will stimulate the function of the central nervous system as well as of the vaso-motor apparatus, thereby augmenting the diverse secretions of the body, temporarily stimulating the mind, intellect and imagination, creating a powerful influence upon the various emunctories of the organism, in short, producing a *bien être* of longer or shorter duration. In this manner it indirectly contributes to the nutrition of the body. As already intimated the red blood corpuscles are deprived of their normal stability; they can no longer carry the vitalizing oxygen as thoroughly as before. Their motility is considerably diminished and the body enters a state which has been termed sub-oxidation. Individuals grow fat and this obesity also involves the manifold organs of secretion and excretion. The liver, spleen, kidney and heart undergo fatty infiltration or degeneration. The brain too, participates in the bodily confusion and mental deterioration is its direct sequel. The beverage continued, the misery increases, and we finally enter into a state of affairs where body and mind no longer co-operate effectively. A shattered nervous system, a depressed circulation, an advancing mal-nutrition brings about pathologic states and structural lesions in the nerve unit.

Still, happy for those who so end. Much woe and endless misery to the many who fill our prisons as criminals paying the indemnity of alcoholism. Again, were the disaster to end right here we would perhaps say, "forebear;" but alas, in countless instances, inebriate parents transmit all their moral and physical infirmities to the offspring, which infirmities are not infrequently conducive to many a criminal tendency. Doctor Louise E. Rabinovity, of Paris, France, has made an examination of the relation of criminality in the offspring to alcoholism in the parents. This examination has revealed the following statistics: The Alosys Asylum, of St. Anne, Paris, shows an average of 50 per cent. in which criminal children can be traced to the existence of alcoholism in the parents; the Elmira institution at Elmira, N.Y., shows a percentage of 48 ascribed to the same cause.