

assailable? The Bureau of Scientific Temperance Investigation is able to put into his hand within one week every published statement on any of the above topics by any man of standing among scientists.

How are these truths placed within reach of the teacher? Through the publication of the *School Physiology Journal* and the other leaflets that present the latest facts in a popular form.

\* \* \* \* \*

The law requires that oral lessons be given in the primary grades, and yet there is not a book prescribed that the teacher can use in preparing these lessons. It is like asking them to make bricks without straw. One honest teacher said: "How can I spend so much time in teaching the effects of stimulants and narcotics, when I can tell all I know about them in two or three sentences?" The "Oral Lesson Book on Hygiene" for primary teachers contains outlines of oral lessons for three years, and is admirably adapted for the purpose. We would like to urge its adoption by our Council of Public Instruction.

The importance of teaching this subject faithfully in the first school years cannot be overestimated when we consider how many pupils leave school at the end of that time. I have not the figures for Nova Scotia, but in the United States the percentage of pupils in the schools drops from 32 in the first year to 8 in the fifth, and from that down to 6 in the third year of high school.

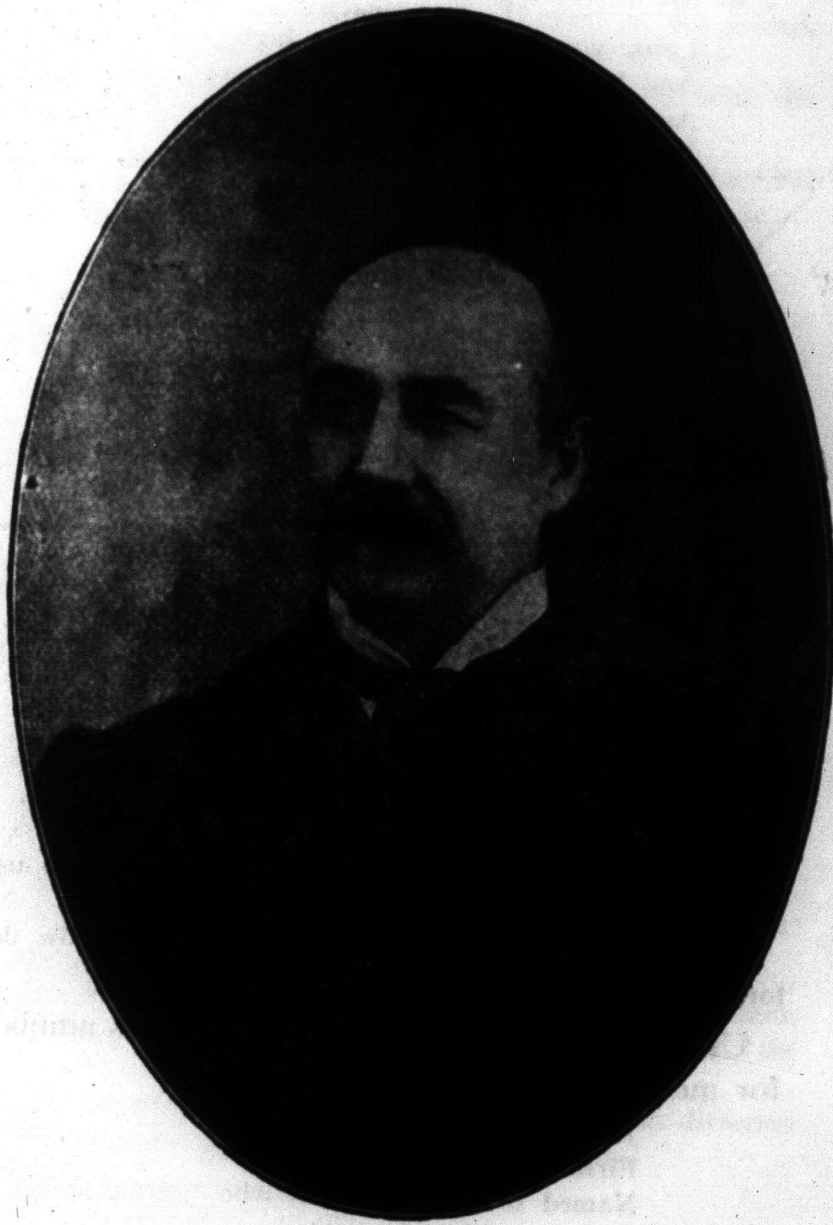
In Bellevue Hospital, where they have a very large number of alcoholic cases for treatment, Dr. Alex. Lambert says that in a special inquiry made by one of his colleagues, out of 259 cases about 7 per cent. began the use of alcoholic drinks before they were twelve years of age; 23 per cent. before they were sixteen; and 68 per cent. before they were twenty-one. He says that this record showed that the habit began much earlier than he had supposed.

Certainly it is evident that we cannot begin too soon the formal temperance instruction which will impress upon the mind of the child the necessity for total abstinence. Neglect of scientific temperance education in the first five school years means further saloon majorities. But when all the children are thoroughly taught the physiological reasons for not using alcohol and other narcotics, then total abstinence will become a decided principle of their lives, and when they come to the ballot-box they will vote out the saloons.

Why is it that we find much more advanced

temperance sentiment in the Maritime Provinces than in other provinces of the Dominion? One reason, among others, is, that for about twenty years these provinces have had compulsory scientific temperance instruction. But let us not rest satisfied with what we have done or are doing, for we can do much more effective work if we use the *School Physiology Journal*, the "Oral Lesson Book," and the latest literature on the subjects.

"We glory in the teaching of this country—conscientious, overworked, underpaid. They are friends, first, last and always,—the friends of the child, and the allies of every advance movement in the field of reform, as well as in their own special realm, and, on the whole, the schoolroom is anti-tobacco, down on swearing, and alcohol prohibitory."



THE LATE DR. JAMES FLETCHER,  
Entomologist and Botanist of the Central  
Experimental Farm, Ottawa.