

this class can successfully resist the burning desire to quench the insatiable thirst of alcohol. They are the few, and through life have an incessant struggle with the tempter. These are among the heroes of our age. The man who has no taste for spirits can easily avoid this temptation, but the man to whom the whiff of liquor from a bar-room door as he passes, is almost fatal to his integrity of purpose and sobriety has more bravery in him, when he conquers his desire, and more determination of will than has the soldier in a forlorn hope. The hereditary foe is conquered by daily battles, and not by a few isolated repulses or assaults of or against the relentless enemy. This third class is composed of persons in whom is easily discerned constitutional disturbance before the invasion of the periodic outbreaks of dipsomania.

Medical men can easily perceive the unusually nervous condition, the irregular blood circulation, the low nutrition, the morbid fears and forebodings, the unnaturally irritable temper, the lack of resolution and firmness so foreign to the individual in health, and even misconceptions and delusions may supervene when the attack is coming on. The physical and mental conditions show undoubted signs and symptoms of the coming outbreak which the victim cannot resist any more than can the insane maniac. To blame such a man to the same degree as we may those of the other two classes shows ignorance and injustice in respect to these unfortunates of inbred propensity. During these bouts of drinking mania the man is uncontrollable. He has inherited this defective tendency. What in an ordinary man might be very moderate drinking is to him destruction. To even touch the fatal glass is to evoke the hidden energy of incarnate mischief which has come to him as a sad legacy. He is not to be put in the same category as is the man who solely by his own habit puts himself in an irresponsible condition by reason of this drunkenness. Such a person is much to blame for the result of his voluntary acts. He could have avoided been dragged into the frenzy, which often ends in direful acts, perpetrated on himself or others, and so far is without excuse. The person who takes to drinking to excess

by imbibing largely at bedtime, to relieve nervousness and to procure sleep, may scorn the idea of doing so for pleasure, as does the tippler. He usually declares that of two evils he is choosing the least, and treating himself medically. His course of conduct generally ends disastrously to himself, and cannot be excused or palliated. He is responsible for his conduct, as the method adopted of indulging in a nightly debauch is voluntary, and medical experience warns him of its danger. He ought to know what the end must be when he sets out on this evil habit. It is astonishing what credulity these people have in their own will-power. They positively assert that they can stop the habit at any time they choose, yet never make the endeavor. With the most of them this idea of freedom is a delusion and a snare. They boast much of what they can do in throwing off the habit, but their vain-glory is that of a braggart. Seldom is the faith in themselves followed by practical results. So faith without works is dead.

The fourth class is remarkable. A sunstroke, a blow on the head, or a concussion of the brain, or of the whole nervous system often brings about a change of character. The chaste man becomes suddenly licentious in word and action, the taciturn and dignified become garrulous and offensively familiar, the brave become cowards, the honest can no more be trusted; the total abstainer, who never had a desire or taste for stimulants, becomes an inveterate drunkard, not through tipping and confirmed habit, but suddenly after any such nerve injury. The whole nature has undergone a complete revolution, and the morals suffer first. It is not a wickedness, but a physical perversion which has turned into a new channel or modified the moral and intellectual attributes of such a man.

It is singularly paralleled by the magnetic iron, which becomes demagnetized by a blow of a hammer. The shock to the ultimate elements of the iron drives out this subtle agency. The blow changes the nature and quality of each. Experience has shown that many of those who have received a shock or any injury to the nervous system are much more irritable than was formerly natural. As might be expected, such are more easily affected by a powerful