

The public must realize that spirit, to be at all suitable for consumption, must mature for several years, and, realising that, they must also be told frankly that they must pay a percentage more than they do at present for the whisky they drink. Considering the extremely small increased cost of high-class Scotch whisky over vague, immature spirit bearing that name, there should be no hesitation in the matter. This is not a question of mere opinion, but one of corroborated fact.

The agitation of scientific men in regard to the whole liquor question must turn on this, as one of the vital points begging the question. If liquor is to be drunk at all, it must be good, unadulterated and mature; and, considering the fact that the majority of people cannot afford, or ought not to afford to proportion a large share of their income to their liquor bill, they are more likely to get purity and quality in dealing with whisky than with wine. The drink bill of this country is something over £180,000,000—an astounding and a criminal sum. A large proportion of that figure is spent on the consumption of inferior wine manufactured abroad.

There is another important point upon which it is necessary for the unprejudiced observer to warn a gullible public. Readers of the advertisements in many of the London and provincial newspapers may have noticed that certain firms are continually advertising what they call "All Malt" Whisky, and endeavoring to persuade the public that that commodity alone is the one that meets the wants both of science and of common sense. A recent leader in the *Edinburgh Medical Journal* emphasized the fact that an "all malt" whisky is contraindicated in nearly every case. The digestive powers of the average individual are not capable of assimilating such a spirit, and, despite the popular opinion, a blend of malt with grain in due proportions is the safest and best. The cry for "all malt" is from the lips of a few interested parties. Let, therefore, the public disregard this shibboleth, and remember that the main principle at stake is the one of age. It is on this question of age that the dishonest merchant cheats the public. Old matured spirit is expensive and is difficult to procure, hence the importance of buying only the brands of high-class, old-established and distilling firms who have a reputation to lose—some of these firms being of ancient standing, one in particular going back as far as the Jacobite rising of '45.

The present writer has no business concerns, logs to roll, or axes to grind in the matter. He views the matter primarily from the point of view of a man of science, and secondarily as a man attempting to reach to the common-sense point of view.

(Signed) A. STODERT WALKER, M.D.