

A BELGIAN SCIENTIST'S VIEWS ON ALCOHOLISM.

Every period in modern history has had its visitation—famine, disease or war. At present we do not have to deplore an armed invasion—and, for that matter, hostilities are now under the control of international law; neither is it disease that can make us tremble, for epidemics are foreseen, overcome and eradicated from the start, and certainly famine is no longer redoubtable. No, these cataclysms belong to the past. But we have no cause to boast, for we also have a public calamity in our midst, and to our shame it has arisen with our knowledge and spread its roots, thanks to our lack of energy. This curse of modern society which strikes deep into every class is alcoholism.

Alcoholism must not be confounded with drunkenness. Drunkenness always existed, but alcoholism, that passion of the masses for the individual and its sad consequences for the family and society at large, was almost unknown a hundred years ago.

How did this deadly poison take its rise? The dominant cause resides in the dominant fact that formerly wine was dear and spirits anything but plentiful, whereas, within the present century enormous quantities of alcohol have been dispensed everywhere. The result has been a perfect flood of distilled liquors all the world over within reach of the poorest.

Very cheap at first alcohol rose in price owing to the heavy duties placed upon it. Yet the consumption did not diminish. The laborer, however poor, still intoxicates himself at the cost of bitter privation to those dependent upon him.

Man seeks in the use of spirituous liquors that happy dream state which brings oblivion to worry and casts a roscate hue over everything—not that condition of complete inebriation which sinks man lower than the beast, but the agreeable sensation experienced after partaking of even a small quantity of alcohol, and which gives the illusion of unwonted strength and energy.

That is why the laborer, exhausted by his work and saddened by his present lot and gloomy future, has recourse to alcohol as to a wizard, who by a stroke of his magic wand, transports beyond the borders of sordid reality. He does not stop to think, poor wretch, that the awakening will find him worse off than before.

Nor is the working class alone affected by alcoholism; intelligent and well educated people, who ought to set a good example, are also among its victims. The gin bottle accompanies the laborer, and the bottle of Burgundy, Bordeaux, rum or cognac is to be found on many a table. It is present at many a ceremony, many a discussion and numberless insipid conversations. This friend which gradually steals away health, reason and conscience is made the confidant of projects, hopes, despair, joy and sorrow. "Who cannot sit among the friends at the bar, in the army, in the civil service, and even in the medical profession," asks Dr. Bienfait, of Brussels (from whom I have taken the materials of this article), "such and such a person whose health is visibly undermined by abuse of liquor?" In Dr. Bienfait's opinion alcohol is physical, moral, intellectual and social poison.

Alcohol is a physical poison. That is quite notorious. Everybody has heard speak of acute alcoholism, chronic alcoholism, delirium tremens and all the long list of diseases induced by the absorption of liquor. And that is not all. Many people in the best of health are stricken by alcoholic intoxication, and many patients succumb, not to the disease from which they are suffering, but to the insurmountable exhaustion produced by the use of spirits. They have so far diminished vital resistance that they cannot attain convalescence.

It results from an examination of life insurance data that abstainers live much longer than persons who make even a moderate use of liquor. Hence the premium demanded of the former is much less—in proportion to the risk. Out of a hundred insured persons who die in the course of a year ninety-six belong to the ordinary class, whereas the rate for abstainers is only sixty-nine which means that out of ninety-six dead twenty-seven would have survived had they been total abstainers. And according to actuarial calculations the latter live, as a rule, ten years longer. Everybody realizes what an extra ten years means in the life of a man. They enable him, says Dr. Bienfait,

to make provision for his wife, to see his daughters married and his sons well on in their careers.

Alcohol is an intellectual poison. Nor could it be otherwise, for the brain, which is the seat of memory, of thought, and of all the intellectual faculties is affected by alcohol, and by reason of the extreme sensitiveness of its tissue is even particularly sensitive thereto. Hence it soon becomes subject to change under the influence of liquor, and quickly deteriorates. The power of thinking is affected, the intellectual faculties are obscured, judgment disappears and the final result is that many alcoholic subjects develop madness.

For that matter, drunkenness itself—that temporary poisoning—is really an ephemeral madness which, by force of repetition, becomes converted into complete madness. It is a statistical fact, which shows at a glance how alcohol affects the mind, that the increase in madness is in direct proportion to the consumption of intoxicating liquors in the different countries.

What misfortune, what ruin, what disgrace and what dishonor have been due, says Dr. Bienfait, to the weakness of a father, a son or a husband who could not stop in time in the downward path! The fact is that spirituous liquor begins by weakening and undermining the will, and at the same time obscures the moral faculties. Where is the necessary strength of purpose to be sought, then, for conforming to the moral code?

Alcoholism is making rapid strides. Every day it goes a step forward, and every day also the vegetative encroaches upon the intellectual existence. But, on the other hand, what weakness it brings of every kind, what loss of nobility of sentiment, what baseness of character!

The alcoholic is a creature of impulse; he decides brusquely, without being altogether conscious of his acts and without having considered their consequences. Reflection or common sense are unknown to him; he becomes an abject being, and his actions more often betray his abasement. Hence, it is not surprising to find that alcoholism plays a considerable part among the factors which conduce to crime.

Human society is like one huge family; and this aggregation derives its worth from the merits of each unit composing it. The labor of each profits all; every one's intelligence radiates upon the collective mass, and thus by continual individual effort the great human family progresses without cease. Unfortunately the good resulting from the energy of a large number and from their collective qualities, which should benefit all, is singularly diminished by the incapacity, the defects, vices and passions of others.

The more sick, unhappy, insensate, criminal and ne'er-do-well members society has, the greater its loss. And alcohol greatly impedes the progress and diminishes the worth of society by enfeebling the body, diminishing the intellect and destroying the moral sense.

Well to do alcoholics ruin their health and their families; as for the hapless working men who give themselves up to drink, their lot is even worse; they become vagabonds, cripples or criminals, thus becoming a weight on the community by filling the prisons and asylums.

Dr. Bienfait points out in his remarkable study of alcoholism that the alcoholic subject is doubly dangerous, for he not only harms himself, but also—what is worse—harms his descendants.

His children are not normal be-

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MRS. J. H. WOOD.

She Was Sick 18 Years, and at Last Was Confined to Her Bed—Doctors Could Do Nothing to Help Her—She Tells How She Got Well and Strong Again.

Here is a short story written by a woman. It is a truthful story, and is addressed to other women. Between the lines you can read many words that are not written. You can imagine the prolonged suffering that was endured for eighteen years. You can understand how happy, how thankful, how joyous the writer must feel now that perfect health is restored to her.

Mrs. J. H. Wood, of St. Paul, Minn., writes as follows: "I strongly believe in Dr. Codere's Red Pills. I was sick eighteen years with womb trouble, caused by the birth of a child, at which time there was great loss of blood. I tried several doctors; sometimes they helped me a little. Last winter the doctors failed to help me any more. I had to go to bed; I could not stand the least exposure to cold weather. In February, I wrote a description of my case to the specialist of the Franco-American Chemical Co., who answered me at length, and gave me full advice free of charge. I strictly followed his advice, and today I am perfectly well. My husband is a shoemaker, and is very grateful for what Dr. Codere's Red Pills and the specialists have done for me. Today I am strong and healthy, have a good complexion, and, of course, am very happy."

(Signed.) Mrs. J. H. Wood, 174 Thomas St., St. Paul, Minn. When Mrs. Wood speaks of "womb trouble" there are a dozen other things that go with it. There are leucorrhoea, nervousness, loss of appetite, headache, backache, sideache, cold hands and feet, loss of flesh, bad complexion, stomach

disorders, melancholy, the blues, general weakness, irregularity in the menses. All these disorders come from womb trouble. All of them are cured by Dr. Codere's Red Pills for Pale and Weak Women. There is no chance about these pills. They do not cure a case here and there, and fail in other cases. They cure all women. They go straight to the seat of disease. They reach the distinctly feminine organs. They heal ulcerations and inflammation, thus stopping leucorrhoea. They restore tone to the organs and thus soothe the nerves and induce rest-

ings, strong, well set up and likely to turn out capable and sturdy workmen or well educated men of productive intellect. On the contrary, careful observation of facts shows more clearly each day that the offspring of drinkers is utterly degenerate physically or morally, and often both. Their children die in large numbers in their first years, and those who survive often remain under-sized, deformed, predisposed to disease; they often suffer from convulsions, dropsy of the brain, dumbness, idiocy, epilepsy and scrofula.

And should the liquor drinkers reply that they are quite free to do what they please—even to shorten their own lives—the Belgian physician asks whether they also consider themselves free to make miserable wrecks of their children, condemning them from their very birth to be objects of contempt, if not of pity—all for the sake of gratifying a low passion? No, this freedom cannot be tolerated; it would with time bring about the complete deterioration of the human race.—New York Herald.

POSSIBILITIES OF A HORSELESS CITY.

What kind of a city shall we have when the horse is eliminated entirely from it? This is a question which interests greatly all students of electricity and civil engineering, and any one who talks much with them will be likely at first thought to reach the conclusion that they are extremely visionary in their views. Whether they are visionary or not, their description of possible developments are very interesting. No one who takes a thoughtful survey of the changes of the last quarter of a century, or even of the last ten years can say that there is anything absolutely improbable in their forecasts of future conditions. It is not our purpose at this time to weigh probabilities, but to set down for consideration some of the many speculative ideas which have come to our notice.

The first result of the final passing of the horse will be the elimination of stone pavements. A horseless vehicle causes little or no wear to the surface over which it runs. It matters not whether the surface is slippery or not, or what the substance is so long as it provides a level and firm roadbed. Some engineers think it not improbable that before many years iron may, because of its cheap quality, take the place of asphalt. With no iron shoes of horses and no iron tires to come in contact with it, there are no obvious objections to be made to its use. It could be cleaned



as easily as asphalt, and it might be so constructed as to make the effects of heat and cold upon it comparatively unimportant. That it would prove as healthy as asphalt—pace President Murphy of the Health Board—seems doubtful, according to our present lights, but improved methods of using it might make it as desirable in that respect as asphalt is now.

With smooth pavements everywhere, over which horseless vehicles can move with ease and rapidly, an extraordinary transformation of street locomotion becomes possible. Some observers go so far as to question the wisdom of the Metropolitan Traction Company investing so much capital in the underground trolley. They point to the proposed introduction of motor omnibuses upon Fifth avenue as an indication of what may become a general practice. So soon as you have smooth roadways in all streets, what is the need, they ask, of rails for public conveyance? Why allow such conveyances, all propelled by electricity, to have equal rights in the streets with other vehicles? Why not let them run where they please over such routes as they choose to lay out and follow? Would not the public convenience be served more adequately in that way than it is at present by the street railway lines?

Then, consider the changes which may come through the use of motor vehicles for private purposes. We published an account several weeks ago of the use of a trolley-car on one of the Brooklyn street lines by a party of neighbors in one of the outlying sections of Brooklyn. They chartered it for their private use, riding to New York in it every morning and returning in it to their homes at night. "Trolley parties" are well-established institutions in many cities of the country, and in many also the trolley-cars are used to take theatre parties to and from places of amusement. If we had motor omnibuses running at will through all our streets, what would be more natural than for the inhabitants of a neighborhood to charter one to take them to business in the morning and bring them to their homes in the afternoon? Surely here is a field for business which would be certain to be occupied.

Then, there is the family use of the motor vehicle. Most of the vehicles of this sort which we have now are very heavy, and are somewhat clumsy in appearance, but improvements in the direction of grace and lightness are being made constantly. Some of the delivery wagons which are in use by our great dry goods establishments are distinct advances in these respects. Suppose that invention shall give us within a few years a light, graceful, compact vehicle which can be housed in small space and be easily handled, and will run swiftly, what will be the effects? Would it not be an extremely handy thing to have in the house? It could be used to take the master of the house to

and fro from his business, to carry the mistress on her housekeeping and social errands, and for theatre or dinner engagements in the evening. It is not impossible that the evolution of the future may be so constructed as to have a room for the storing of such a vehicle. It may be said that if everybody had one, the streets would be crowded comfortably with them, but there is little danger of that. The good paying of every street would of itself make the crowding of any one extremely unlikely, and while many households might not be the keep of a private vehicle, the greater number would still rely upon the public conveyances for locomotion.

But the greatest gain of all from the departure of the horse will be in cleanliness. When he goes, the larger part of the work of the street-cleaners will have come to an end. The cleaning of the roadbeds will be a very simple matter and can be done almost entirely by flushing them from the water mains. The same electricity that gives us the motor vehicles will give us a steadily increasing measure better lighting of our streets and houses and better heating as well. Even the bicycle may return to its former favor and exceed it even, for with good pavements everywhere thousands of men and youths could use it on all pleasant days as their most enjoyable and healthful method of transit to and from their places of occupation. Verily, the horse cannot pass too quickly, if we are to have a city in which the comforts and delights of modern civilization are to have their fullest opportunity.—New York Post.

GUARANTEE BONDS FOR CIVIL SERVICE.

Four guarantee companies have been approved by the Dominion Minister of Customs, whose bonds will be accepted in the case of those officers who are required to give security to the government. The London Guarantee and Accident Co. will insure officers in the Maritime Provinces, the Guarantee Company of North America officers in Quebec, the Dominion of Canada Guarantee Company officers in Ontario, while the Employers' Liability Company gets all the risks in Manitoba and the West. The applications for the fidelity guarantees required on behalf of custom officers will be made by the department direct to the guarantee companies, but existing guarantee bonds may be continued during the year 1899 or until otherwise ordered. The department will pay to the guarantee companies the premiums on the security bonds of custom officers, charging the sums so paid against officers' salaries in the course of the year, in accordance with the arrangement to be made with the department by each company.

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ful sleep. They whet up the appetite, and thus cause the patient to gain in flesh and strength. There is no disorder of girl, wife, mother or grandmother that these Red Pills will not cure.

Mrs. Wood wrote our celebrated French specialist for advice, and it was given free. All women should do that. No local physician has such a wide experience as our specialist, and for that reason cannot give such valuable advice. At our dispensary, 274 St. Denis street, Montreal, women can come for personal treatment and consultation if they prefer.

There is only one kind of Dr. Codere's Red Pills for Pale and Weak Women. They are always sold in boxes containing fifty Red Pills for 50 cents, or six boxes for \$2.50—never by the dozen or by the hundred or in 25-cent boxes. There are many imitations. Beware of them. If you value your life, if you want to regain your strength, health and beauty, like Mrs. Wood, ask for and insist that the druggist supply you with Dr. Codere's Red Pills for Pale and Weak Women. They are the kind that cure. If he will not give you what you ask for, go to another store, or send the price to us in stamps, or by registered letter, money or express order. We mail them all over the world, and there is no duty to pay. Send us your name and address on a postal card, and get a free copy of our valuable book, entitled "Pale and Weak Women." Address all letters to the Franco-American Chemical Co., Medical Dept., Montreal, Canada.

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LEGAL NOTICES.

NOTICE

Is hereby given that application will be made to the Parliament of Canada, at the next session thereof, for an Act to incorporate "THE LAURENTIAN ASSURANCE COMPANY," for the purpose of carrying on the business of Fire and Marine Assurance, and having its chief office in the City of Montreal, in the Province of Quebec.

Montreal, December 20th, 1898.

WHITE, O'HALLORAN & BUCHANAN,
23-9 Solicitors for Applicants.

NOTICE

Is hereby given that L'Association St. Jean Baptiste de Montreal shall apply to the Legislature of Quebec, at its next session, for the passing of an Act amending its Charter 55/16 Vint., Ch. 85, and granting new powers and especially that of creating a savings and aid fund.

BEIQUÉ, LAFONTAINE,
TURGEON & ROBERTSON,
Attorneys for the Petitioners.
Montreal, 14th December, 1898. 23-5

NOTICE

Is hereby given that the Testamentary Executor of the late Joel Leduc, in his life-time trader of Montreal, will apply to the Legislature of Quebec, at its next session, for the passing of an Act increasing their powers and authorizing them to compromise with the legatees and creditors of rents and to anticipate the payment of the debts and legacies and the partition of the succession.

BEIQUÉ, LAFONTAINE,
TURGEON & ROBERTSON,
Attorneys for the Petitioners.
Montreal, 14th December, 1898. 23-5

DISTRICT OF MONTREAL.

NO. 3984.
SUPERIOR COURT.
Dame Annie Beberon Barker, of Chambly Canton, in the District of Montreal, has this day instituted an action as to separation of property against her husband, James Gibson, Book-keeper of the same place, and his Curator ad hoc William J. Pearson, of the City and District of Montreal, Merchant.

Montreal, 20th December, 1898.
NICOTTE & BARNARD,
Attorneys for Plaintiff. 23-5

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

DISTRICT OF MONTREAL.
No. 1846.
SUPERIOR COURT.
Dame Ellen O'Brien, of the City and District of Montreal, wife, common as to property, of William Albert Arnold, commission merchant, of the same place, duly authorized to enter in justice, Plaintiff, vs. the said William Albert Arnold, Defendant.

An action for separation as to property has been instituted, this day, against the said defendant.
MONAN & PARISEAULT,
12 Place d'Armes,
Attorneys for Plaintiff.
Montreal, 5th January, 1899. 23-5

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