

but is one which can be obtained only by perverting God's gifts from their original design. It is a product of that Satanic alchemy which instead of transmuting the baser metals into gold, transmutes the gold of healthful food into a powerful narcotic poison. Do not regard this as a mere figure of teetotal oratory; it is more than a figure: it is the statement of an undoubted scientific fact.

(2.) Alcohol is not food; nor is there any known process by which it can be converted into food. Let any given quantity be taken into a healthy human organism, and precisely the same amount, to the fraction of a grain, will be thrown off by the excretory organs. Alcohol goes through no process of digestion; it will not assimilate with any part of the human system—bone, brain or muscle. It merely remains in the system for a brief space as a disturbing foreign element, to be got rid of at the earliest possible moment.

(3.) Alcohol is a DRUG: that is its true name and nature. It takes rank among the narcotics, and is classed with opium. Now a drug is a most valuable agent in its place. In disease its aid may be invaluable in enabling nature to rally her forces and remove whatever encumbers the healthful working of the system; but that which is good in disease may be pernicious in health, and that which is useful as a drug may be exceedingly mischievous when used as an article of diet.

2.—*What is the effect of this drug on the human constitution?*
Here it will be necessary to make one or two preliminary remarks.

Every exertion—mental or physical—put forth by the living being, causes a waste of tissue. This waste matter must be removed, and a fresh supply of nourishment brought to repair the loss. The first process is performed by the blood. By the help of the veins and absorbents it takes up the waste matter and conveys it to the lungs, where part is burnt up by the action of oxygen, the remainder being carried off by the excretory organs. The venous blood, in its passage through the lungs, loses largely, and this loss must be made up. This is accomplished by the process of digestion. Food taken into the stomach passes through certain changes. The nutritious portion is then taken up by the absorbents and emptied into the venous blood just before it begins