

means not only fails to effect a cure, but also interferes with the use of means really efficacious.

But we must now pass on to the consideration of another supposed cure, viz: *Teetotalism*, or the giving of a pledge of total abstinence from the use of intoxicating liquors either to a society or to an individual.

Those who urge this as the cure for intemperance are ready with many arguments in favour of their prescription. For instance, they tell us that if every one would abstain from the use of intoxicating beverages, there could be no intemperance; "therefore," they say, "let us do something towards that desirable end by abstaining ourselves, and by leading others to abstain through our influence and example." My reply is this: You are striving to effect the impossible; you are endeavouring to annul an universal law of nature; you are endeavouring to destroy what is a human instinct. I am aware that these are strong expressions, but I feel justified in the use of them when I have such evidence as that which I shall now adduce.

In the third annual report of the State Board of Health of Massachusetts, dated January 1872, there is an analysis of a correspondence, "on the use and abuse of alcoholic stimulants among foreign nations, and a comparison of the same with the United States in this particular." This correspondence was with American Ambassadors and Consuls, and elicits information from all the civilized parts of the globe. This correspondence is most valuable to all those interested in this most important subject; and the analysis by Dr. Bowditch reveals some remarkable facts. Here is a brief summary:—"Stimulants are used, and often abused, everywhere, alike by civilized and by savage man. Intemperance is very rife above 50° F. Isothermal line. It is very rare and of a much less dangerous character between the Isothermal lines of 77° F. North or South of the Heat Equator. Intemperance is also rarer and less dangerous, where the vine is grown, and wines are made and sold cheap, and used with entire freedom by all, from babyhood to old age." And how does he answer the question—"Will total abstinence ever prevail universally?" I shall quote his own words: "As I consider the love of stimulants a