

Temperance Column.

ALCOHOL AS A POISON.

"Is alcohol a food, and does the human system crave it as it does tea, coffee, cocoa, etc.? That question," said a learned female physician, "was discussed by the St. Louis Medical Society at its meeting last Saturday night. I could hardly believe I was living in the close of the nineteenth century when three sons of Asclepius undertook to indorse such sentiments. How did men live before its discovery in the thirteenth century? Since that time it has been proved that alcohol is not a food, but a poison. It enters the stomach as alcohol, passes through the system as alcohol unchanged, is found in the tissues and brain after death as alcohol, and will burn as alcohol then. It is not converted into tissue building or blood making, and not assimilated anywhere in the system as food. Alcohol will retard destructive metamorphosis of tissue in diseased body, and may thus serve as a medicine, a stimulant to tide over the disease, as arsenic and strychnine do good as medicine often, though deadly poisons. That alcohol is assimilated in the system and aids in building muscular tissue is false. Temperance societies have proved that it is not a necessary stimulant in disease, for in Chicago a hospital has been opened in which alcohol has been prohibited, and the records of recovery are proof of its success. The people of India never used it until a few years ago."

—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

THE DRUNKARD'S POSITION.

At the hall of the Central Temperance Association in London last month, Mrs. Annie Desant delivered a notable temperance address, in the course of which she said that instead of the drunkard's being "no man's enemy but his own," he is "a focus of poison to the community in which he has a physical presence;" and it is the views which she holds of the relationship of one man to another, that have made her a total abstainer.

TEMPERANCE NOTES.

"No member shall be permitted to drink the white man's grog" is the pertinent regulation of a newly formed Zulu church in Africa.

Eleven gentlemen met at lunch in Shanghai, and it came out that they had all been life-long abstainers. They had each lived in the trying temperature of North China for periods ranging from twenty-four to thirty-five years, and not one of them had been once sick from climatic causes.

The directors of the Columbian Exposition have refused to grant space to the World's Woman's Christian Temperance Union for the erection of a building in which to exhibit the work and progress of the temperance reform.

The Mississippi Legislature has just passed a scientific temperance instruction bill, by which every grade of the public schools is now compelled to teach the subject under exactly the same regulations which govern every other study in the schools. The same Legislature has also passed a law forbidding the sale of tobacco in any form to boys under eighteen years of age.

Lady Henry Somerset, who is one of the most conspicuous leaders of the temperance movement in England, has returned from her crusade in the United States. She admits that her efforts have not been rewarded as she hoped, and that the cause of temperance does not flourish as it ought to do in the United States. Lady Henry is an earnest worker and an excellent speaker.

Lady Henry Somerset told a Chicago audience how she had first been drawn into Temperance work. She had seen two children, a boy and a girl, sip wine at their father's table, and heard the guests laugh at the precocious little ones. She had seen the boy go to a drunkard's grave when twenty-four years old. "But what became of the girl?" she went on. "The girl was happily married, and became the mother of lovely children. The fatal seed had been sown, however. The young mother became a slave to strong drink. I prayed with her and wept with her. She asked me one day if I would be a total abstainer if she renounced strong drink for ever. The proposition was a strange one, and I asked twenty-four hours for consideration. When I saw her again she said it was too late. I felt that if I had given her promptly the answer she should have received, she might have been saved. To-day her home is shattered, but I resolved, then, to do in the future all I could for God and humanity."



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