

the odious dictum that minorities, and a *fortiori* individuals, had few or no rights at all. A safer path would be to follow the line indicated by Mill in the fifth chapter of his *Essay on Liberty*, in which he enumerated the principles that had been adopted as the basis of the pharmacy and poisons Acts, and justified the State in imposing restrictions on drink dealers, although, apart from the justification arising out of the interest of these dealers in promoting intemperance, such restrictions would be infringements of legitimate liberty. The kernel of the whole matter was in the restraint of liberty to secure a larger and truer liberty; the limitation of self-will in the interests of free-will and self-control; the repression of self in the cultivation of self-hood—principles which needed to be safe-guarded alike against undue application and undue neglect. Finally, the lecturer passed in review recent legislative action, urged certain radical reforms in the pharmacy and poisons laws, and suggested also that it would be salutary if medical men would think, not once or twice, but many times, before prescribing potent drugs of addiction for internal exhibition if, as often happened, simpler and non-abusable remedies would meet the case. He referred to the prohibition of vodka in Russia and absinthe in France, and expressed himself convinced that little progress towards individual and national sobriety would ever be effected unless our statesmen took their courage in both hands, and either by heavy duties or penal restrictions, confined to medical and legitimate purposes all drugs of addiction, of which alcoholic beverages containing more than a moderate proportion of spirit were most widely resorted to and most pernicious in their total effects.—*Brit. Med. Jour.*

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#### ANESTHESIA.

In a study based on special observations by himself and his assistants, A. D. Bevan, Chicago (*Journal A. M. A.*, Oct. 23, 1915), analyzes the many existing methods of anesthesia as regards safety, comfort to the patient, efficiency, control by the operator, simplicity, after-effects, complications, and the effect on immunity to pathogenic organisms. The first anesthetic taken up is chloroform by inhalation, open drop method. This, while agreeable, is the most dangerous of all inhalation anesthetics. It is also the most efficient, affording the most profound and complete anesthesia. It can be stopped on the signs of danger, but the drug inhaled in the system cannot be rapidly eliminated, and the margin between the toxic and anesthetic dose is too narrow for safety. In simplicity and general adaptability it is all that could be desired, but the after-effects, now generally recognized as late chloroform poisoning, are