

12597*a*. Would the use of lager beer in moderation produce the deleterious results you speak of?—I do not think it would.

12598*a*. You think, however, that in the habits of some people it has grown to excess?—Oh, yes.

12599*a*. What do you say in reference to the use of ordinary ale and porter?—I think, for instance, Bass's ale, the bitter ale, is a better beer than lager.

12600*a*. Can you speak as to the ale and porter made by our Canadian brewers?—Not so well. I do not know so much about that.

12601*a*. What about the use of Canadian wine?—I have never yet tasted a Canadian wine that is worth drinking.

12602*a*. Speaking apart from the question of taste?—I do not suppose it would be injurious.

12603*a*. What about the lighter wines of Europe—the clarets?—I think they are very good indeed, and if they were used more than stronger drinks, it would be a very good thing.

12604*a*. Have you considered at all the relation of insanity to the use of liquor?—I cannot say that I have. Of course, the abuse of anything may lead to insanity, but what proportion of the insanity is due to the use of alcohol I am not prepared to say. I may, however, give you a very good illustration that I have now in my mind. A gentleman was taken up here as insane. He had tried to throw himself in front of a train, and he was very wild and ungoverned in all his actions. He was committed and sent to the asylum. It was said that this man had been an excessive drinker. He came to my house a short time ago, and I was very glad to get rid of him. He had left his home in England, and had seen considerable service on the Nile and elsewhere, and had been mentioned honourably by different commanders. He is now in the asylum. I received a letter from his wife the other day, asking me to go and see him. It appears that this man, while on the Nile, had got a sunstroke, from the effects of which, every now and then he got crazy. He was in the habit occasionally of getting drunk, and to this his insanity was attributed. In many cases disease is the cause of drink, and not drink the cause of disease. We are very apt in some cases to be uncharitable. The abuse of alcohol is a very serious matter, but sometimes, indeed very often, it is the result of disease. Take a poor consumptive; he is weak and wretched, and he is glad to get a little stimulant; he takes it and feels better; and perhaps after a time it becomes a habit, and may aggravate his disease. That man should not be classed as a drunkard; he is a diseased man. There are a great number of cases of that kind; but alcohol is such a dangerous thing that medical men are sometimes compelled, almost contrary to their own convictions, to hold their tongues and say little or nothing about it. It is a splendid servant, but a bad master.

12605*a*. Do you find, as the result of your observation, that insanity has increased to any extent within the last few years?—No, I believe it has not.

12606*a*. Do you think it has decreased?—Yes.

12607*a*. Do you attribute that decrease to the increased state of temperance in the community?—And the better treatment of the insane, and the prevention of disease rather than the cure of it.

12608*a*. That has prevented the number of insane people multiplying?—Yes, I think so. Of course, in periods of excitement there is always an excess of insanity.

12609*a*. Some have told us that the number of insane people is increasing, and that the government is constantly adding to the accommodation for them?—I believe there are more applications, but it is not because the number of insane persons is increasing, but the people have been educated to know that an insane asylum is like a hospital, and that any one bereft of his reason would be more likely to recover his health in an institution where he would be under the surveillance of skilled men than if left at home.

12610*a*. Do you think many of these have been left at home?—Yes, and in the jails of the country, I am sorry to say.

12611*a*. Is that in the different jails of the province?—Yes—a shocking thing.

12612*a*. Do you think heredity has anything to do with intemperance?—I think it has.