

has the physician to say in the matter? Now, the answer of the eclectic physician, whose opinions are not trammelled by untamable views on teetotalism, would vary of course in each individual case, when he is dealing with patients above or below the average. In special cases, of course, he will enunciate special views, but we fancy that for ninety per cent. of average men he would recommend whisky as the safest, cheapest, and most permanently bearable of liquors—and for two very simple reasons, the first being that experience has taught that whisky, in the majority of cases, produces the least disagreeable consequences of all form of liquors—considering them from the negative side—and that a high standard of purity in the matter of alcoholic drink is more easily and more cheaply obtainable

These facts are commonplaces of both medicine and popular opinion. At the present time Scotch whisky is not only the drink of Scotland, but the standard drink of the British Isles. It has passed into popular favor from many causes, chiefly on its own intrinsic merits as a liquor, partly from its cheapness, and to some degree through the persistent advocacy of the medical profession.

If we except the dangerous practices of certain irresponsible and catchpenny firms which are attempting to flood the market with certain brands of new, unadulterated and immature spirit, bearing the title of Old Highland Whisky, Scotch Whisky has, on the whole, stood bravely and satisfactorily the test of scientific and popular criticism.

Now, when a man orders a bottle of wine, he takes good care to see that he is procuring a liquid which he knows to be good. He does not vaguely order a bottle of champagne, or a pint of claret, or a dozen of burgundy; but as far as whisky is concerned he is content, in 70 per cent. of cases, and in 99 per cent. when ordering in retail, to ask for a glass of whisky in much the same way as he would order a cup of tea or a glass of milk. This fact is taken advantage of by retailers, until they have found a ready market for certain liquors that are honored by the title of whisky, but which can only honestly be described as rank poison.

The fault and the remedy lie in the hand of the consumer. He must be told that raw and immature spirit is bad, and that no whisky ought to be consumed until it reaches a certain age.

Legislation has refused to act in the matter, despite the urgent appeals, not only of men of science, but of first-class distillers, the latter of whom recognize only too clearly that their own interests are at stake in the matter and that the hanging process cannot be far off if the irresponsible persons who flood the market with cheap and unpalatable spirit give the dog a bad name.