

a manner that it shall increase the energy of the organism. What now shall we say of the third claim which is made for this agent, viz. : that properly used, alcohol is capable of increasing the comfort and pleasures of human life absolutely and relatively? If alcohol can do this its use may be justified even if through it the total duration of life is lessened. This is not a question which can be settled by reasoning, it must be decided entirely by experience. No one who has always been in the habit of using alcoholic stimulants can be heard on this point, because, having had no experience of life without alcohol, such a person cannot draw a comparison between life with and life without that agent. The opinions of those who have never drank alcoholic liquors must equally be disregarded, since they do not know of their own experience that they would not be more happy if they used them. We must confine ourselves, therefore, to the testimony of those who have for a certain part of their lives used alcoholic liquors as a beverage, and who for a certain other part of their lives have altogether abstained from the use of these stimulants. Now, I have known a great many people of this class, and have spoken to many of them upon this point, and I am able to say that beyond all doubt, as far as the testimony of these people is concerned, the balance is strongly against alcohol. The verdict is unmistakable—it is that the pleasure derived from alcoholic stimulation, no matter how slight or how great this may be, is on the whole more than balanced by the depression following it. I am also able on this point to give my personal opinion based upon careful observation of my own experience.