

"classes : the habitual drinker of alcohol and the habitual abstainer from it ;
 "and the division would be found to correspond, at least with tolerable accuracy,
 "with that farther one which might be made between the nations which rule
 "over others and the nations which have been subjugated by others."

The writer of the article quoted from goes on to point out that force and energy in the animal world are found to be features of those animals who live upon flesh or upon those grains which contain great nourishing power in small compass ; those living upon vegetable diet being relatively inert and slow-moving. Hence those animals feeding upon others get their food in more concentrated form, and less nerve force is required to assimilate and digest. The force they thus husband gives them speed and activity needed to secure their prey.

Alcohol, he considers, is food in its most highly concentrated form, and taken in moderate quantities, *with other food*, enables the system to assimilate it with less expenditure of nerve force in digesting it than if the other food were taken alone, and hence that what nervous energy is saved in this way is available for external work.

The fact that there exists in mankind an almost universal craving for alcohol—that it has been used by nearly all civilized nations for many centuries without reducing the average duration of life ; that the material from which it may be extracted exists in profusion all around us ; that its taste and odour are pleasing to man ; all these considerations would suggest to the unbiassed mind that it has an important office to perform, and the mere negations of medical experts, or assertions of men who are wedded to a theory, and refuse to look at any truth which cannot be woven into the fabric of their belief, cannot be accepted as satisfactorily disposing of the matter.

There is at present absolutely no evidence that alcohol used in moderation is generally harmful ; there is no evidence that it is not in many cases beneficial ; upon these points we must await further research. Until this feature of the case has been efficiently dealt with legislation aiming to force *A* to relinquish the use of alcohol because *B* thinks it is an evil, is an impertinence.

LEGAL.

EVERY right minded man must sympathize with those who desire the abatement of those evils which grow out of intemperance in the use of alcoholic liquors : but one cannot without serious apprehension regard the action of those who in their eagerness to compass this desired end, would adopt means which menace the most sacred rights both of person and property.

"The principal aim of society" says "Sir Wm. Blackstone" is to protect