

**FATALITY AMONG INEBRIATES DURING EPIDEMICS.**—The recent outbreak of cholera in Asia (*Quarterly Journal of Inebriety*) with its extreme fatality, recalls the distinctive morality among inebriates which has characterized the march of this and other epidemics in modern times. We select illustrative statistics of the cholera epidemics 1832. In St. Petersburg, out of 10,000 deaths only 145 were known to be temperate; in Moscow, only 2 out of 6,000 cases were temperate. This fact so alarmed the citizens that nearly all the population ceased to use alcohol; of 30,000 victims in Paris, nearly every one used alcohol, in some form, to excess; nine-tenths of those who died in Poland, were of this class. In some towns *every* inebriate was swept away. In Tiflis *every* drunkard died. In the Park Hospital of New York city, only 4 persons were temperate in 200 fatal cases. In Albany, there were only 7 out of 326 fatal cases who were not inebriates. In the late epidemic of yellow-fever in the South, the percentage of victims among inebriates was nearly as large. These are not extraordinary facts, but follow, naturally, the degeneration produced by alcohol, and are readily explained by the low vitality and lessened power of resistance to toxic forces and agents present in every inebriate. Most unfortunately, this condition is not realized by either the patient or friends until it is too late. The continued use of alcohol keeps up the delusion of strength and vigor; but with the onset of disease all is thrown off, and only the physician and surgeon can realize their hopeless condition,

**CLEANLINESS OF SCHOOL CHILDREN IN GERMANY.**—We are accustomed to look upon the Dutch as a sleepy, stolid nation, exceedingly slow to move in the direction of reform and progress. But in several important sanitary respects they are far ahead of us. They have had for thirteen years compulsory registration of infectious disease, and we now learn that at their best schools there is always beside the teacher an attendant who sees to the personal condition of each child upon entering the school each day. This is a step in the right direction. "Cleanliness is next to Godliness," is a very delightful aphorism for the heads of copy-books, but it is likely to be of much greater service to the child if it is practically demonstrated to him than if it is merely the medium of teaching him how to form pothooks and hangers.

**TESTING AIR AND WATER.**—Mr. Watson writes in the *London Times* that as the fees of the analytical chemist are beyond the means of many, a few simple test papers might be prepared and used for many purposes. Certain cards should be prepared and hung in closets, which by changing color, would immediately betray the presence of sewer-gas in the atmosphere. Other papers might be prepared for testing the purity of water or tea, or other articles of daily consumption. The paper for testing water would immediately, should lead be present, betray its existence; the papers for testing tea would betray the presence of copper and so forth. The papers might be prepared in packets and labelled. These test papers would be very inexpensive, and could be used by the most inexperienced with confidence.