

plotted in endeavours to determine what is the true direction in which social work can best cope with this evil. There are, however, several elementary facts which serve to guide society in its more simple efforts, as when it is stated that if alcoholism is associated with 25 or 35 per cent. of cases of venereal disease, the plain fact must exist that under the influence of intoxicants many first cases have become infected. Hence society to-day is concentrating its efforts as never before on curbing the national vice of alcoholism, basing its arguments on physical, mental, moral, industrial and national grounds. Where the old argument is used that only the hereditary degenerate gets drunk, and that the ordinary use of alcohol by the normal man in society is harmless we only pity the superficiality of the observer or question either his good faith or his intelligence. When we are taught by most extended statistics, as those of Dr. Mott of London, that practically all paretics and tabetics are syphilitics, that 40 to 50 per cent. of the children of such are feeble-minded and show the spirochætes in their blood, and that many of these were alcoholics, we are again met by the argument that it is inevitable. When we learn that 80 per cent. of the children in the juvenile courts of New York, or 10,000 in a single year, were feeble-minded, and and that some 50 per cent. of the young women sent to reformatories are feeble-minded, we hear the statement that such is inevitable, and from many quarters are met with the old chestnut: "What is the use of talking about these things, drunkenness, vice and feeble-mindedness even to insanity, all have been and will be. Better leave well enough alone." It is indeed like a fresh breeze from the Laurentians blowing over thousands of miles of evergreen forest, uncontaminated by the presence of humanity, to find a man like Dr. Herman Biggs, for a quarter of a century general medical officer of a city like New York, taking for his motto everywhere: "Public Health is purchasable: within natural limitations a community can determine its own death rate." Where women are demanding, with fury even, the vote to devote it to social ends, where Scotland possesses a general Act preventing drinking places from opening till 10 a.m. and where the leader of a political party in Canada's most important province makes "Abolish the Bar" his battle cry, it is quite clear that social forces taught by statistics, by physiology, by economics and above all by the cost of vice and its logical consequences in individual, social and natural enfeeblement, and where especially the cry is going up from the diseased, the feeble-minded, insane, and neurotics, all of