seeks repose, falls below his vital zero and is gone—"gone to that bourne from whence no traveller e'er returns," to require the restoration of his physical system.

It might well have been supposed that an agent which has worked such a baneful influence upon the moral condition of millions of the race, and which modern investigators have clearly established to be a fruitful cause of disease, would have, long ere this, been expelled from the list of remedies for disease, or have been confined to the narrowest limits which necessity would permit, instead of having been allowed, upon the *ipse dixit* of a Todd, however eminent or successful (although his success has been questioned) to become the almost universal panacea of human ills, or, as especially in its milder forms of ales and wine, to have become alike the sauce of the gourmand and the condiment of the dyspeptic. All the while the great Apostle being held responsible for the teaching, because, forsooth, he happened to advise his younger brother to take a little "wine for his stomach's sake," and "his often infirmities." At the same time, that it may fairly be questioned whether St. Paul was not a much wiser theologian than physician, in which latter capacity there is no account of his excelling.

I argue, besides, that the truly scientific physician will never prescribe a remedy the precise nature and strength of dose he does not fully understand. Now, as most alcoholic preparations are of variable strength, he has no means of knowing this except by surmise or testing; and as to the particular form of alcohol present, whether *methylic*, *ethylic*, or *amylic*, he is quite as far from having the remotest conception. The difference in the action of these various forms of alcohol is very clearly stated by Dr. W. B. Richardson, F.R.S., as follows: "Does he (the physician) want a quickly acting stimulant, which eliminates rapidly, taking out little force, he has it in methylic alcohol. Does he want an alcohol that shall create a more lasting impression (draw out more power) he has it in ethylic alcohol. Does he want to reduce the body, to prostrate it for many hours, he can do it with amylic, or butylic, or caproylic alcohol. But, (he continues) when he is ordering alcohol by the general loose names of gin, brandy, rum, wine, or ale; he has no conception of what he is prescribing nor of the effect of his prescription."

Baron Liebig, thus argues, in his Animal Chemistry (1863), as to the *force wasting* action of alcohol and its consequent negative character as a food: "The circulation will appear accelerated at the expense of the force available for voluntary motion, but without the production of a greater amount of mechanical force." "Wine," he continues, "is superfluous to man. It is constantly followed by the expenditure of power. These drinks promote the change of matter in the body, and are, consequently, attended by an inward loss of power, which ceases to be productive because it is not employed in overcoming outward difficulties, *i. e.*, working." In other words, that alcohol abstracts the power of the system and employs it in the endeavour to eliminate the alcohol itself, instead of in some useful endeavour.

I argue that alcohol is contra-indicated in all forms of indigestion and dyspepsia, because of its action upon the albuminous food, solidifying it and thereby making it more difficult of digestion; by its action upon the pepsine of the gastric juice rendering it incapable (until a fresh supply is thrown out) of dissolving the albuminous articles of food in the stomach; thus, in two ways interfering with digestion and favoring indigestion. Again, it irritates the mucous lining of the stomach, favors repeated congestions of the organ, inducing change of structure, vitiating the gastric secretion and thus promoting positive organic disease, as induration and ulceration in the organs, and by its action in promoting congestion of the mucous membrane of the whole alimentary canal, aggravating all such cases as diarrhœa, dysentery and congestive forms of fever. Speaking of their use in such cases, Dr. Ellis says: "If they do not relieve they are sure to aggravate, therefore, they are not safe, and I do not use them; nor is their use necessary, as there are plenty of remedies far more certain as well as more safe."

In all diseases affecting or impairing the function of the several organs engaged in the important office of nutrition, emaciation results as a consequence of lack of nourishment, accompanied by a wasting of the tissues of the body; for the system, in the absence of a supply of nourishment, has been obliged to draw upon its store-house of nourishment or fatty deposit, through the absorbents, for the support of the vital functions, and the exhausting process may be greatly exaggerated if the poison acting be one exerting a depressing power over the nervous system, as in the case of typhus and typhoid. If alcohol were *food*, then, under these circumstances, it would be strongly indicated, and must prove beneficial rather than hurtful. On this point Dr. Lees remarks: "The end of food is the generation of force, with which man performs the works of life. But the possible methods by which food can generate power are only three: (1) by the organisation of tissue; (2) by the supply of the chemical ingredients of the blood; and