



Which?

(By Minnie Pike, in the 'War Cry.')

I laid my boy in the coffin,
I closed his sweet blue eyes,
I folded the hands so snowy,
As the flower that in them lies;
With a heart that was almost broken,
I gazed on that little face;
Farewell! On a brighter to-morrow
I shall meet him, by God's grace.

But what of that other mother,
Whose boy is strong and tall?
She has seen him grow to manhood—
He was her joy, her all.
To-night, as she prays by her bedside,
He revels with comrades fine;
When he staggers home drunk in the morn-
ing,
Whose heart will ache most, hers or mine?

Away in the graveyard yonder,
In a cold and narrow bed,
They had laid my little daughter,
The birds sing o'er her head.
Ah! the day they took her from me,
And laid her 'neath the snow!
But I'll clasp her to my bosom
In the home where I mean to go.

And to-night there's another mother,
With a girl so bright and fair;
She has grown to be a woman,
'Neath a mother's love and prayer.
She's the belle of balls and parties,
The brightest of all to shine;
If mother sees her go, 'not ready,'
Whose heart will ache most, hers or mine?

Oh, ye who bend over small coffins,
And treasure bright curls of fair hair,
Think not that your hearts are the saddest,
Or your cross the hardest to bear!
For in the bright fields of fair Eden,
Your flowers are blooming above,
Go, pray for the drunkard and outcast,
Who once shared a dear mother's love.

The Effects of Alcoholism on Future Generations.

Medical schools of Charlottenburg and Paris have of recent years been devoting especial attention to the psychic reasons which underlie the craving for alcohol in certain human subjects, and have, as a result of experiments carried out in a regulated series of cases, come to the conclusion that those beings who come of stock which at any period in the ascending line given to the abuse of alcohol, are certainly not of the order of humanity which is to evolve the long-expected Superman. In other words, two highly respectable schools of medical thought and science practically assure the world that there is but a small permillionage of mankind that holds the power of transmitting greatness to posterity, and that their being able to do so depends upon their abstinence from alcohol in all forms while they live.

According to the argument, all the really great men who have appeared upon the earth, like Caesar, Aristotle, Shakespeare and Napoleon, came from a select series of ancestors to whom the use of alcohol was practically unknown. The fact, it is argued, that Napoleon's father may have been a tippler, will not alter the case for our Superman, since the weakness of the father escaped the son by some unknown but none the less certain atavistic process, as in cases of epilepsy or insanity. It is held that by such a series of atavistic accidents, the taint of alcohol has 'skipped' every particular hereditary phase that goes to impress itself upon the ultimate issue, namely, the Superman, who thus comes into the world wholly free, in the matter of heredity, from the taint of alcohol.

The consequence of this is that he has a

perfect Will, and herein lies his power over all other men who by accident of evolution from their forefathers, are, by far the greater part, of very imperfect will power. It does not matter if the Superman himself be a devotee of the bottle. He is provided with a perfect will, and only his progeny is likely to suffer from his abuse of strong drink.

Doctor George B. Cutten, the author of the 'Psychology of Alcoholism,' likewise discusses will power and the effects of alcohol upon it. Cutten disagrees with the view that there is such a thing as an especial area in the brain which 'telegraphs' the desired energy or motion to any particular part of the frame. On the contrary, he thinks that the human will is diffused over all the muscular parts of the body. In the course of evolution—especially where it is concerned with moral conduct—will was the latest comer, and as it is the latest and highest product of social development, and, consequently, the most complex, it is among the first activities to suffer injury and undergo dissolution, according to the rule: 'Last to come, is first to go; first to go is most to go. First to come is last to go; last to go is least to go.'

Alcohol, as is well known, creates an artificial energy which lasts but a short while. A time eventually comes, however, when it ceases to exist. This is the 'confirmed' stage of alcoholism, in which the mind loses its direction, its sense of proportion and self control, its grasp of even ordinary affairs, and

energy ceases even in the simplest bodily movements, such as writing or speaking.

According to the new schools the effects of alcoholism travel down to countless generations, producing, in more or less appreciable form, paralysis of the physical instrument, and consequently partial impotence of the psychical factor, of the will. Greatness, in its real sense, is therefore impossible in the offspring of alcoholic persons, unless by a series of accidents which can only occur in a long cycle of years—which is practically telling us, seeing the extent to which alcohol is used, that the world is degenerating.—'World,' New York.

What Helps to Ruin Girls.

Of all the ten or twelve thousand unfortunate girls and wrecked women arrested every year in Chicago, among those who tell their woes to me, ninety-nine out of every hundred attribute their downfall to the first glass of wine or champagne taken generally with a male companion, always for good fellowship's sake.

That first glass is the beginning of the end, and here you see what the end is. When a woman once begins to drink, even in a social way, her future is threatened with either moral wickedness or utter ruin.

So many women who come here tell me that the first sparkling glass of champagne was the beginning of all their misfortune.—M. Keegan, Matron Police Department, Chicago.

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