

The Committee on Alcoholism as a Causative Factor of Insanity reported the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, in the opinion of the meeting of alienists and neurologists of the United States in convention assembled, it has been definitely established that alcohol, when taken into the system, acts as a definite poison to the brain and other tissues; and

Whereas, the effects of this poison are directly or indirectly responsible for a large proportion of the insane, epileptics, feeble-minded, and other forms of mental, moral and physical degeneracy; and

Whereas, many hospitals for the insane and other public institutions are now compelled to admit and care for a multitude of inebriates; and

Whereas, many States have already established separate colonies for the treatment and re-education of such inebriates, with great benefit to the individuals and to the commonwealths;

Therefore, be it resolved that we, unqualifiedly, condemn the use of alcoholic beverages and recommend that the various State Legislatures take steps to eliminate such use; and be it further

Resolved, that we recommend the general establishment by all States and Territories of special colonies or hospitals for the care of inebriates; and

Resolved, that organized medicine should initiate and carry on a systematic persistent propaganda for the education of the public regarding the deleterious effects of alcohol; and

Be it further resolved, that the medical profession should take the lead in securing adequate legislation to the ends herein specified.

The Committee on Syphilis as a Causative Factor of Insanity reported the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, syphilis is responsible for a large percentage of all insanity and mental deficiency,

Be it resolved that:

First: Health Departments (municipal and state) should be equipped to make laboratory examinations for venereal diseases.

Second: All hospitals for the insane should be equipped to make laboratory examinations for venereal diseases.

Third: Hospitals and dispensaries for the treatment of venereal diseases should be provided.

Fourth: Physicians should be compelled by law to report cases of venereal diseases, as is now done in other contagious diseases.

Fifth: Applications for marriage should be required to furnish health certificates.

Sixth: Lectures and bulletins should be offered freely to the public regarding venereal diseases.

Seventh: Newspapers should be requested to use their best influence to educate the people concerning venereal diseases.

Eighth: Sex hygiene should be taught in the public schools, above grammar grades, to the sexes separately.