

The testimony of Mr. Delavan is of interest on this point. He says:—

"I was engaged at the time, with two gentlemen, in erecting a large block of buildings. The laborers were much alarmed, and were on the point of abandoning the work. They were advised to stay, and to give up the use of strong drink entirely. They agreed to do so, with only a single exception; he would not, and died. All the others escaped. There was prepared for them every morning a drink composed of iced water, vinegar and ginger, which they liked very much. I was at the same time engaged in digging down a clay bank in the south part of the city. I employed a large gang of laborers, who also became frightened, and were about leaving. The same proposal was made to them, to furnish a drink which would not intoxicate if they would give up the use of strong drink while the cholera lasted. They promised, and kept their promise—not one died. On the opposite side of the same clay bank there was another large gang of diggers. They continued the usual ration of whiskey, and I was informed by my contractor that one-third of that gang died of the cholera."

In New York city, in 1832, of 204 cases in the Park Hospital, only six were temperate, and all of these recovered, while 122 of the others died. Similar facts are recorded of all the other hospitals.

"Facts abundantly authorize the conclusion," said a distinguished physician, who had given special attention to the subject, "that, had it not been for the sale and use of spirits, there had not been cholera enough in the city of New York to have caused the cessation of business for a single day."

Another gentleman of that city says: "A quantity of spirit was taken from a certain store in the morning and distributed in a number of grog shops. In the evening the workmen assembled and received their accustomed quantity. The next morning, one, and another, and another, were carried by my door to the hospital, and in the afternoon were taken to the Potter's Field; and so, from day to day, disease and death followed round after ardent spirit, seizing upon those who drank it, and hurrying them to destruction, till so obvious and striking was the connection, that even some of the sellers—scared as were their consciences—said, 'This will never do; the way from the grog shop to hell is too short!' and abandoned the business. Others shut up their shops and fled." "In my neighbourhood," says another gentleman, "there was not a retailer left; they were actually afraid to encounter the dangers of their own business." It made the arrows of death fly so thickly around them that they dare not risk it. Had they been sure that those arrows would strike only their neighbors they might have been willing to stay and drive their business; but when there was danger that the shafts from their engines of death would strike themselves, they closed their doors and fled. How many lives had been spared, how many families saved from ruin, and how many evils averted from the community had they never returned, and their cholera manufactories remained closed for ever!

The truth deduced from this array of facts—which could be greatly enlarged—is apparent. Rum is the predisposing cause of nine-tenths of all cholera cases, and dram-drinkers may well be denominated CHOLERA CONDUCTORS. A word as to *cholera preventatives*.

I am aware that much has already been published by way of precau-