

who gave him the following fact, as an eye witness. "A physician abstracted blood from the arm of a drunkard, in a fit of intoxication. A lamp was applied to the blood, and it burnt for some time, emitting the same blue flame arising from burning alcohol." Alcohol is as incapable of nourishment as arsenic or henbane—as fire or lightning.

But says an objector, "I know spirit nourishes me, for I feel stronger, after I have drunk it." He may and doubtless does feel stronger, but that is no proof that he is stronger. That his feeling of strength results from the excitement produced by a powerful stimulant, and not from its nourishing qualities, is certain, from the fact, that no substance, however nutritious, can impart real strength, so soon as alcohol seems to when drunk. There has not been time for digestion, through which process only can any substantial nourishment and strength be derived to the body.

Yours, truly,

INVESTIGATOR.

INTEMPERANCE AND MENTAL DERANGEMENT.

Dr. Hutcheson gives a most important statistical table in the report for 1840, in which he "exhibits the causes of the disease, as accurately as they could be ascertained, in the patients admitted during the year." A similar table is furnished in the reports for the six succeeding years. The following are the principal points:—

Year	Total number of patients.			Cases where the disease was hereditary, etc.	Cases where the cause was unknown, etc.	Cases where Intemperance was the cause.			Cent. Prop. of Intem. cases.
	Mal.	Fem.	Tot.			Mal.	Fem.	Tot.	
1840	78	71	149	3	31	12	8	20	13.1
1841	83	74	157	20	44	22	8	30	19.1
1842	114	85	199	54	20	27	19	46	23.1
1843	184	143	327	116	38	21	10	31	9.4
1844	157	133	290	77	41	39	14	53	18.2
1845	200	161	364	47	38	57	33	90	24.7
1846	222	192	414	49	62	68	37	105	25.3
Total	1038	862	1900	366	277	216	129	375	19.7

It appears, then, from this table, that the total number of patients admitted into 'The Glasgow Royal Asylum for Lunatics,' from 1840 to 1846, was 1,900, of whom 375 had been deprived of reason by strong drink,—being 19.7 per cent. on an average, or, within a fraction of one-fifth of the cases for seven years. The number of cases of insanity from other causes than those mentioned above is 902.

'On examining,' says the doctor, in his report for 1846, 'the different assigned causes of the disease for the past year, the reader will be struck with the enormous number of cases attributed to intemperance, which amounted to more than a fourth of the whole. Of late years, the operation of this cause has been becoming more and more manifest.—This cause appears, during the last year, to have operated on patients of all ranks; and I am inclined to think, that this has been owing, in a great measure, to the excitement in which the community was kept by that universal spirit of gambling which seized on society like an epidemic mania.

There is a great connection between general excitement and the craving for stimulants, as may be every day seen during contested elections, public dinners, pic-nic parties, and races. It is, also, a fact well known to those who have minutely studied the subject, that over-exertion of the brain leads to a desire for stimulants, which, however, are easily enough abandoned when the brain is allowed to rest. The subject, however, is too extensive to be properly discussed here; and I must content myself with briefly alluding, to it, in the hope that I may yet have leisure to give a full exposition of my views.'

Dr. Robinson, Lecturer on Medical Jurisprudence, Newcastle-on-Tyne, justly observes that, 'until very recently, no general register of the causes of insanity was preserved in this kingdom, and that even now, many cases are annually transferred from workhouses into asylums, without any history or statement of their causes. And there is every reason to believe that intemperance has induced the mental disorder in many of the cases returned as from "unknown" causes. Thus, in the commissioners' report (p. 95) the medical officer of a private asylum in London, in referring 32 out of 61 cases to causes "unknown," adds, "but probably exposure in a tropical climate, combined with intemperance." And, at page 198 of the same report, I find in the return from a provincial asylum, admitting all classes of patients, six cases of *delirium tremens*, included among 17 referred to physical causes, independent of intemperance. A second obstacle to the acquisition of correct information on this point, is occasioned by the dislike of friends and relatives to expose the former vices of patients. There is, therefore, from this cause, often a tendency to ascribe the mental infirmity to some bodily disorder, or to regard it as an inscrutable affliction, instead of recognising in it a natural punishment of former excess.

'And it is scarcely necessary to add, that certain of the other causes of insanity, viz vice and bodily disorder, are either generally connected with, or a consequence of, intemperance.

'For these reasons I beg to subjoin a second table, exhibiting the proportion which intemperance and vice bear to the other causes of insanity, as described in the returns from 25 asylums situated in various parts of England, and admitting different classes of patients.'

In the table referred to, there is a list of 2,792 cases; of these 688 were 'caused by intemperance,' and 170 by 'vice and sensuality,' giving a total of 858.

'It will be seen,' says the doctor, 'that these returns refer to intemperance alone, one-fourth, and to it, in conjunction with vice and sensuality, nearly one-third of all the cases of insanity admitted. And, as a number of the causes are, even in these selected reports, marked as "unknown," we are, [the italics are our own] I think, fully justified in considering the results afforded by this table as fairly representing the proportion which intemperance bears in this country to the other exciting causes of insanity.

'In another report, published a short time ago by the metropolitan commissioners in lunacy, the total estimated number of lunatics in England and Wales is stated (p. 54) to have amounted on the 1st of January, 1847, to 26,516. If, then, we apply to this number the estimate just adopted, we shall find that intemperance alone has reduced 6629 of the present inmates of our asylums to their lamentable condition, and that to it and other bad habits 8538 persons now under restraint owe the deprivation of reason.—*Moral Statistics of Glasgow.*

AN INTERESTING CASE.

The following facts furnished us by one of our principal physicians, go to show conclusively, that the most confirmed habit of taking narcotic stimulants, may be broken up—that where the laws of life and health have been violated, no matter how long, or to what an extent—it is safe to break off—to obey those laws, instead of continuing to violate them.

Miss E. B. of this city, above 38 years of age, being out of health, some twelve years ago, applied to Dr. Coleman for his services. He finding her laboring under disease of the bowels, prescribed paregoric and brandy, which afforded the desired relief. She continued to take them daily, until the habit was contracted, and to produce the desired effect, the quantity was gradually increased, from month to month, and from year to year, until the last year she took weekly, four