TEMPERANCE COLUMN.

HYGIENIC CONGRESS.

Discussion on Alcoholism and Public Health

Dr. Norman Kerr, F.L.S., Lop. don. President of the Society for the Btudy of Inebriety, said that the loss of life through alcoholism was appalling. As the issue of an ex tended series of inquiries into the mortality from alcohol (the figures having been laid before the British Medical Association and other learned societies and pronounces moderate 'and 'within the truth'), he had estimated the number of deaths prematurely occurring in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, every year at 40,000 from personal intemperance. To this direct annual premature fatality of 40,000 inchriates there must be added double that number of deaths of individuals occurring not directly from the'r own habit, but indirectly, through accidents violence, starvation, neglect, and disease, occasioned by the alcoholic indulgence of persons other than the slain by alcoholic poisoning. A terrible slaughter truly; and achieved at great pecuniary cost. The average worth of an adult to the community had been reckened ot 2s por day. Deducting Sundays, this made £31 6sper year (313 days at 21). If they allowed five years of working capacity on an average to each adult life thus cut short, this would give £!56 10s. as the current value of each life (5 years at £31 6s per annum). 40,000 lives prematurely lost from inebriate addiction, at £156 10s per head, would amount to £6 260,000 of wealth lost to the nation every year from alcoholic personal excess.

The waste from alcoholic disease, over and above the waste from alcoholic deaths, was most serious. There were generally acknowledged to be at least 39 cross of non intal disease to each case of disease ending in death, with (as they had seen) an average value to each individual of 2s per day. The average duration of each such illness was 18 days. The 40,000 deaths promaturely happening through the alcoholism of the deceased, multiplied by 40, gave 1,600,000 as the total number of illnesses yearly. This, multiplied by 18 (the average number of days in each illness), gave 28 800,000 days in each year, during which adults were incapaci tated for work from atcoholism. At 2s per day, there would therefore be a money loss during the twelve months, from alcoholic intemperance, of £2 880 000.

Dr Norman Kerr said that on that cecasion he left out of the reckoning altogether the considerable number of promature deaths and of attacks of non-fatal maladies, arising from alcoholic indulgence in quentities commonly called 'mcderare,' 'free,' and 'generous'; trough the records of the United Kingdom Temperance and other insurance companies and friendly societies showed that this would have made a very substantial addition to the saddening tale of alco.

holic death, disease, and consequent money extravagance. To these fell to be added a large proportion of expenditure on pauperism, the administration of justice, the police, and other expensive charges. Still further, there was a mass of mental unsoundness, moral disorder, and social tumult. Looking yet further ahead, reading the future from the experience of past and present, there could be discerned an enormous increase in the next and succeeding generations of mental impairment, defective control, paralysed will, and degraded morale from inherited brain degeneration through the poisonous influence of alcohol on parental organ and tissuo.

| To be continued]

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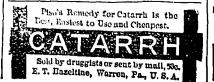
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Edgehill, Windsor, N.S., June 1st, 1891

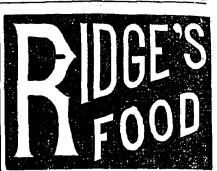
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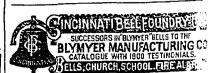
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