

With a man's faculties blunted and his powers of locomotion but imperfectly under control he is oblivious of danger, and when it is impending is not always able to escape it, and therefore we marvel, not why there are so many accidents, but why there are so few.

Alcohol augments the mortuary list in extremes of climate or season. In the summer a large number of the most serious cases of insolation ensue through over indulgence in alcoholic beverages.

As the fierce rays of the sun beat down on the unfortunate victim he becomes conscious of a sense of oppression, when he resorts to a "bracer," probably in our time and country, to cool lager, ale, or some of the fabricated "cocktails." A temporary sense of exhilaration follows, the libation is repeated again and again, until the lethal action of the stimulant and the intensifying effects of caloric overwhelm him. Perchance the victim may drag himself to his home or into some byway before he sinks into unconsciousness.

The resources of art can do but little for these cases, because the medical attendant is confronted by a mixed pathological state; the caloric fever may be readily reduced, but the system is surcharged with a poison which we may not be able to eliminate.

Many of the worst falls and frostbites in winter result from the alcoholic state. One drinks and drinks of pungent stimulants "to keep warm," as is said, or rather to benumb the sensory nerves; but the depressing influence of the freezing blast is in no manner mitigated, and alas! should the unfortunate in his stupid state step aside to some sheltered place, the sleep of death may set in to close the scene. In less grave cases the anaesthetic action of alcohol so obtunds sensation that while the free drinker enjoys a most grateful sense of comfort, his hands or feet may be frozen stiff.

THE EXCESSES OF ALCOHOLICS AND PATHOLOGIC SURGERY.

Excesses in alcoholics lead to the necessity of surgical intervention only through their influence on the nerve centres, deranging the mind and inhibiting or enfeebling nerve conduction; never by any specific or local action on an organ or structure.