

erage for man's use. On the contrary, it is produced solely by *rotting* the grains and the vegetable matters in the juices of the fruits from which obtained, the *principal* products of which process are two deadly poisons, namely: alcohol and carbonic acid gas, in nearly equal proportions each, by weight.

It has been said, we believe, that as a rule in science, it is in bad taste to present more than one proof of a truth or of an error, when that one settles the point at issue; and yet, though we have shown the physical evils of alcohol sufficiently, one would think, to satisfy any rational mind, the vast importance of the subject leads us to violate this rule, and present one or two more facts about which there is no controversy.

"It [alcohol] possesses the power of preventing the coagulation of fibrin," says Youmans, in one of the quotations we have made from him, and all other authorities upon this subject say the same. Then put along side of this established fact, the other, namely; that the repairs of many parts of the system *cannot* be carried on in the slightest degree, without the coagulation of fibrin, and what does it prove? Why, this. If alcohol could be borne in all other respects besides this, without injury, this effect alone would soon kill, if the system was continuously kept under the influence of it, to the extent of preventing such coagulation. And there never has been a question raised upon this fact, namely, that when taken in moderate quanti-

ties, the effects of ardent spirits are in degree proportioned to the amount taken.

We have thus far spoken only of the evil effects of alcohol in health; now let us turn our attention to its effects upon the human system in disease. Here the evils are greatly increased, for its action is necessarily the same in kind, but much exaggerated in degree, because, the weaker the patient is, the less able is he to resist injurious influences, in this, as in all things else that disturb or annoy him. It has hitherto been thought necessary that we should, by all means, avoid anything and everything that could in any way impede respiration in the sick; especially, that nothing should be allowed to interfere with their inhaling *pure* air, and exhaling all that was possible of the noxious gases generated in their system, either through natural operations, or as a result of disease. And what was true once, in this respect, we believe to be true still. What, then, must be said of all those physicians—especially those who claim to be well educated—who so heedlessly prescribe whisky, or any other alcoholic stimulant for the sick, when it is inevitable that they must thereby slowly poison their patients by the forced retention of carbonic acid gas within their systems, which the alcohol prevents them from throwing off through the lungs? Let us show all such by a single illustration, what frightful evils they are committing. Carpenter, in his *Physiology*, page 367, says: "The first product of the decay of all organized structures is *carbonic*

acid; and this is the one which is most constantly and rapidly accumulating in the system, and the retention of which, therefore, within the body is the most injurious." The disintegration or "decay" of tissues throughout the body, of which Carpenter here speaks, is, as all must know, generally, if not always, much more rapidly carried on in disease than in health, thereby increasing the amount of carbonic acid gas above the healthy standard — another point showing still more prominently the great error of giving anything that will impede its expulsion from the system. Those who are committed to this practice, however, will, we suppose, claim that they do not carry the matter to this extreme. But they shall not escape on the plea that moderate quantities of stimulants have no such action as we have pointed out. Lehmann, in his great work entitled *Physiological Chemistry*, Vol. II., page 456, tells us that, "Vierordt, like Prout, found that the excretion of carbonic acid is both absolutely and relatively diminished even after a moderate use of *spirituous drinks*. He has also confirmed Prout's observation, that the increased excretion of carbonic acid which accompanies digestion was considerably checked by the use of spirits." An evil, again, in digestion, instead of a help to it, as has so long been supposed. Better that the advocates of stimulating in disease, compel their patients to go into an atmosphere overcharged with carbonic acid gas, or what would be the same, confine them in small close rooms without any ventilation, and thus poison

them in a direct manner to the same extent, than to indirectly compel the retention of this same gas within their systems by whisky, etc., under the delusive hope that it is the best that can be done for them.

In all this we have made no account of the *fact*, endorsed by both Bouchardat and Leibig in one of the quotations from Youmans, that alcohol *robs the arterial blood of its oxygen*, and is burned to carbonic acid and water, thus *actually and markedly increasing the quantity of this gas* in the blood, beyond what would be there through natural operations, and at a time, too, when even the natural amount cannot be expelled because of the action of this same agent of mischief.

Again, as we have seen, alcohol *prevents the coagulation of fibrin*, and this entirely suspends, or greatly retards — according to quantity taken — the repairs made so necessary by the great waste of tissues in disease; therefore, convalescence from any serious malady is made slow, tedious and uncertain by it, the victim rendered a bloated unnatural object, many times without any energy or endurance for months, and far too often, through no fault of his own, he is absolutely forced into a condition where, by artificial appetites and cravings excited and fastened upon him at a time when all the sensibilities of his nature are aroused, there is no escape from his becoming a confirmed drunkard.

But this terrible record does not stop here even, so true is it that a violation of any of God's moral

laws, is a violation, in an equal or greater degree, of all physical laws or facts bearing upon the same point. We have seen that Youmans says that alcohol acts "more powerfully" upon the brain and nervous system, than upon any other organ or texture of the whole animal body. Of this, however, we will not speak in detail, preferring to let it rest upon the explicit language of this author. We will only ask if any can suppose that such violent action upon the nervous system, together with the excitement that must necessarily be engendered thereby, can have any beneficial effect in allaying the excitements and disturbances caused by disease?

Now, it will no doubt astonish many to be told that there is not one single favorable effect which alcohol is known to have upon the human system, that will counterbalance, in the least, any of the evils we have shown. It will stimulate, we grant, but who does not know that the person who takes it, must, as soon as the stimulating effect passes off, sink as much below the point he was at, when taking it, as he was carried above by it, and be more or less exhausted generally by the excitement and consequent depression his system has been forced to pass through? Many patients get up from acute diseases, we know, under the action of stimulants, as many would get up, if not too much prostrated, in spite of other evils that might be heaped upon them. But many, also, die if compelled to carry *any* burden in addition to their disease, while they *might* live without it.

There is another great evil committed by stimulating. We have frequently known diseases driven from a *less* vital, to a *more* vital organ or part by it, and here, perhaps, forced into a dormant condition by the stronger vitality of this part, thus allowing the patient to get up apparently well, but with the certainty of having some serious acute or chronic disease break forth in the more vital organ, as soon as the resisting power of this stronger organ is sufficiently overcome to enable it to do so.

It should be borne in mind here, that all the objections raised apply to *pure* liquors for it is the alcohol, *alone*, of these, against which we are speaking. If they are drugged, as is so commonly the case, other evils are simply added which correspond to the quantity and quality of articles used in drugging them.

Some will perhaps say, such reasoning may do well enough in theory, but no other treatment, beside stimulating, can be carried out in practice with as good results, even, as has attended that. To which we make answer, that we have carried our theory, or rather *Nature's truths* upon this subject, into practice with the most remarkable results, if we may be allowed to judge. We have now been engaged in the general practice of medicine, treating all classes of disease, over fifteen years, and we think we may truthfully add, that our professional life has not been an idle one. And, for the reasons detailed herein, we have never, in all this time, prescribed alcoholic stimulants for but just two pa-

tients, and then but for a few hours, and solely for their stimulating action to pass a crisis in great emergencies arising from most violent hæmorrhages; but we deny the propriety of their use, even then, except as an expedient in the absence of positive knowledge of the exact drug to be administered on the first threatening of danger in such cases. The time will soon come, however, when a fuller knowledge of the specific action of drugs will enable us to control *all* such cases with medicines, as we now do *most* of them, far more safely for the patient, than by any other means.

We will now cite for an example of our results in treating disease without stimulants, *typhoid fever*, in which whisky, or its equivalent, is thought pre-eminently necessary, because of the greatly debilitating effects of this malady beyond most others. In the time we have been in practice, we have passed through three very serious epidemics of typhoid fever, and several milder epidemics of the same, treating our proportion of patients in all these; twice, indeed, having charge of many more than our proportion, and have, besides, treated many sporadic cases. We never allowed alcoholic liquors of any kind, name or nature, in a single one of all the cases treated, and have never lost but two patients of this fever, and these were among the sporadic cases. One of them died suddenly from a most violent hæmorrhage from the bowels, which came without any warning, when he was apparently doing well; the other was a case where a long and harassing

cough was suddenly suppressed by some kind of balsam, taken against our orders, which drove all the diseased action from the lungs, to the brain, and resulted in one of the most severe cases of cerebral typhus. Nor is this all of this record. The period of convalescence in all saved was remarkably short; not one of them went into consumption or other chronic disease, results which are by no means uncommon with such patients under stimulating treatment; not one of them, that we now remember, got up with a broken constitution, but all were as well after, many in fact better, than for a long time before their sickness. We will here mention another fact, not without significance, in this connection. About the only trouble we had with any, during convalescence, was with a few who violated our most positive orders not to take stimulants, but took them, nevertheless; and in every instance of this kind, that came to our knowledge, the patients had relapses more or less severe, while not one who obeyed orders, had, or was even threatened with, relapse.

Now, all this occurred, while in the epidemics mentioned, patients who had stimulants were dying all around us, and many of these we sincerely believe *lost their lives in consequence of the alcoholic poisons given them*. How could it be otherwise, in view of the frightful effects of alcohol upon the human system, which we have pointed out?

We could extend this favorable report to many other, among the gravest classes of disease, and show equally good results in the treatment of all

these without stimulants; but for want of time and space we must pass on and give our further attention only to Consumption. It has now been the almost universal custom among Allopathic physicians, for some fifteen or twenty years, to prescribe whisky as the very best remedy for this disease, as was the case with them in regard to cod liver oil, for a series of years preceding. Let us see with what results this practice has been attended. To such vast numbers of consumptives has whisky been administered through such a number of years, we should naturally be led to expect, if there had been *any* favorable results, to find them among the statistics of this malady, showing a lessening of its frightful mortality; but instead of such being the case, we are warranted, by all the facts we can gather, from the most reliable sources, in saying that the mortality from consumption is now *as great*, if not greater than *ever before*.

We will call attention to another point which seems to us to have peculiar force in this connection. All must know that *ulcers* are frequently *caused* by intemperance, and that both wounds and ulcers upon drunkards are far more difficult to heal than they are upon those who are temperate, simply because of the great derangement or poisoning of the blood by the spirituous drinks. Then how can it be possible that whisky or alcohol in any other form, can have or excite a healing action upon ulcers *already existing* in such delicate tissues as those of the lungs, especially when all of this that is taken into the stomach must first go to and through the lungs, before it is

distributed over the system? The fact of the congestion, inflammation and ulceration of the stomach and liver, so commonly found existing in the intemperate, as a result, solely, of the alcoholic stimulants taken, must not be overlooked in this connection, neither must the equally important fact, that *all* of this agent, which has created such terrible havoc in the organs named, must move along in the blood-vessels, with a greater part of its fiery forces unexhausted, to a like attack upon the lungs, before it can find any possible outlet, whereby its fury may be abated. What must be its effects, then, upon the lungs of a consumptive, when there are tuberculous deposits, and probably ulcers therein, with such a marked tendency as always exists in such cases to congestion and the lighting up of inflammation under the most trivial excitement? Once it has been distributed through the lungs, the alcohol must have its force very much weakened, both by evaporation carrying off considerable portions of it in the exhaled gases, and by the chemical changes between its elements and those of the inhaled air; and yet, it even then reaches the most remote parts of the system, carrying more or less havoc in its course, and causing those irritations and derangements of the blood and tissues, which, as already mentioned, make it so difficult to heal wounds and ulcers upon those addicted to intemperance.

In addition to this we will simply say, the reader will find, by reference to another part of this journal, that we claim to have discovered the *cause* and true

pathology of Phthisis Pulmonalis, and the knowledge afforded by this discovery, shows us as clearly, if not more so, than anything presented in this paper, that alcohol in any form, is a most unmitigated curse in this disease. We are fully aware of the great responsibility which such a claim carries with it; still, we have no hesitation in asserting that it is supported by more *known facts* in both physiology and pathology, which have hitherto stood isolated, and not thought to have any connection with or bearing upon Phthisis, than is any other discovery in medical science. Indeed, we can say it is sustained by the most remarkable chain of evidence of any truth in organic Nature, with which we are familiar, and is without any conflicting testimony upon a single link in the entire chain. And we repeat, it is as much or more, from facts gathered in this new field, and through long research therein, that we condemn the use of spirituous liquors in all tuberculous diseases.

We know there are many who sincerely believe they have been materially helped, and others that they have been cured of consumption by whisky, or other stimulants, but we would say, and we think what we have shown warrants our saying, that all such got better in spite of both the violence of their disease, and the evil effects of their treatment; and we think we may assert, in view of the incontestable facts we have herein pointed out, that *in all cases of disease, life is more certain, and recovery more speedy, without, than with alcoholic poisons.* Is there a possibility of its being otherwise, in op-

position to all the laws of Nature bearing in any way upon the subject?

In conclusion we turn our attention a few moments to the claim made by many, that alcohol is an article of food, and necessary, as such, for the animal system. Notwithstanding the weight of authority sustaining this claim we cannot speak of it but as a most monstrous pretence, which is all the more degrading to man and derogatory to the Almighty, because advocated by able minds. What! After seeing that the Creator has provided food for us which is almost without limit in quantity and variety, and that He has made provision whereby the annual reproduction of all this is apparently to be continued to the end of all earthly things, must we say, in effect, that He did not furnish us with a sufficient variety, and thereby *neglected a plain duty* which *we are competent to correct*? And then, upon this blasphemous declaration, shall we set ourselves to work, and *rot* a portion of the *best* He has provided, to make an article one-fourth or less in quantity of what we destroy, and this an article so deadly that its destructive effects upon animal life can only be avoided by greatly diluting it with water; and which, when thus diluted, is and has been the greatest curse of our race? Does either of these enormities, or any other, even in the slightest degree, attach to any among the great variety of *natural* food which God has given us, we would ask? Again we must say, such pretense is most monstrous. Too monstrous, indeed, to be harbored an instant by any intelligent being.

A little material that would serve for food might be found in some of the most deadly vegetable poisons, but is there any evidence in this that such should be eaten? In the name of all that is right, are there not enough articles of food furnished us, which are entirely innocuous in every respect, without our using any questionable materials whatever?

CENTRAL NEW YORK HOMŒOPATHIC SOCIETY.

OFFICIAL REPORT.

This Society held its regular meeting in Syracuse, Dec. 17, 1868. The following physicians were present: W. H. Hoyt, C. W. Boyce, H. Robinson, Jr., Belding, Sumner, Swift, Wells, Gardner, Sheldon, Benson, Southwick, Hauley, Miller, Bigelow, Brown, of Binghamton, Sweeting, Schenck, J. Bigelow, L. Clary, Mera and Gwynne.

The meeting was called to order by Dr. W. H. Hoyt, President. Dr. C. W. Boyce, the Secretary of the Society, read the minutes of the last meeting, which were approved.

Medical reports were then taken up.

Dr. R. R. Gregg made a very interesting and instructive report upon Leucorrhœa.

On motion, the thanks of the Society were returned to Dr. Gregg for his very able and instructive paper, and it was ordered that it be returned to him for publication in his journal or such other as he may designate.*

Dr. C. W. Boyce read an interesting paper on the use of carbolic acid as a local dressing.

All the physicians present were invited to take part in the meeting.

Dr. Gardner read a paper on Leucorrhœa, which was referred to the Committee on Publications.

Dr. Belding gave a very interesting history of a case of Leucorrhœa, cured by Phosphorus 5^m dilution.

Dr. Guernsey, of Philadelphia, presented a paper on the same subject, for which he was tendered the thanks of the Society.

Drs. E. A. Munger, R. D. Rhoades, Geo. B. Palmer, J. C. Owens, J. C. Raymond and D. D. Loomis, were elected members of the Society.

The question with regard to the place of holding the next meeting of the Society was then taken up.

Dr. Wells offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the by-laws of the Society, so far as they relate to the next meeting, be suspended, and that the said meeting be held at the Butterfield House, in the city of Utica, on the third Thursday of March next, at 10 o'clock A. M.

Adopted.

The Secretary read the history of a case of poisoning by corrosive sublimate, presented by Dr. Brown, of Binghamton.

Referred to the Committee on Publications.

The Secretary also read an article from the proceedings of the Boston Homœopathic Society, discussing the selection of remedies. Phosphorus was chosen as the subject for discussion at the next meeting.

A communication on "The Dose" was received from Dr. T. D. Stow, and was on motion laid on the table for want of time.

The Society then adjourned. H. ROBINSON, JR., Sec'y pro tem.

* This paper will appear in the April or July number of this journal.—Ed.

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No. 2.

THE CAUSE OF TUBERCULOSIS.

[Nature, when undisturbed in her purposes, is ever perfect in all she does. Of the constituents of the blood, of which there are seven, in the general classification that is made of these, she has so nicely adjusted the proportions of each to that of all the others, that the health she seeks to bestow must result from its action. A loss, then, of a portion of any one of these constituents from the blood, leaves all the remaining ones in a relative excess in the blood-vessels, and hence the results which Nature seeks are defeated; these excesses becoming sources of physical derangement from the moment the healthy proportions of the blood are destroyed. Upon this proposition, the investigations which follow are based.]

(Continued from page 12.)

Again, as a further proof that the albumen discharged in disease from any of the passages lined with mucous membrane, is a waste of it from the blood, we give the following:

Lehmann, in the work of his before referred to, on page 537, Vol. 1st, in speaking of the abnormal constituents of the fœces, and of albumen as one of them, says:

"It is in dysentery that it [albumen] is secreted in the largest quantity from the intestine; the dejections in this disease are often so rich in albumen, that, on the addition of nitric acid, or on boiling after neutralization with ammonia, the whole fluid solidifies."

And on page 618, same volume, he gives a partial list of the diseases in which albumen is found