

DRINK AND LONGEVITY.

The opponents of true temperance and liberty, the coercive teetotallers, are continually stating that the most moderate use of alcoholic beverages leads to the shortening of life, that it is interesting to know what independent thinkers make of their foolish contention. A statistical table lately published in a London journal gave particulars of the ages attained by those who refrain wholly from the use of these beverages, those also who use them in moderation, and those who abuse them by excess. The table was as follows:—

	Years.	Days.
1. Total abstainers	51	22
2. Habitual temperate drinkers	63	13
3. Careless drinkers	59	67
4. Free drinkers	57	58
5. Decidedly intemperate drinkers	53	3

It would be interesting, said the editor, to have the views of a few eminent physicians, like Sir James Barr, for example, on these results.

A MODERN INSTITUTION.

The public-house bar is a comparatively modern institution. Three centuries ago, when Ben Jonson and his merry crew met at the "Mermaid" in Cheapside or the "Devil Tavern," near Temple Bar, there was no such thing as a bar, the bumpers of sack or canary being brought by the "drawer" into a room almost as private as a modern club room. Later on the mug-houses were established, which were said to have helped to keep the Hanoverians on the throne, and these were followed by the Geneva shop satirised by Hogarth in "Gin Lane." The real era of the public-house dates from the prize fighting, roaring days of the Regency. And the saloon bar, the successor of the sanded parlour, where tradesmen sat and smoked their "churchwardens," is more modern still. For it was introduced in the West End in the early seventies at a hostelry, which was frequented by the gilded youth of the period, and even occasionally patronised by Royalty.—"Licensing World."

CLUBS SPELL COMFORT.

Some amusing remarks on clubs were made by Mr. Plowden, the well-known London magistrate, at a lecture to a Richmond Club. He belonged to two clubs, said Mr. Plowden, which were diametrically opposite in character. One was famous, with great traditions, but it was a terribly dull place. There was none of that "How are you, old fellow; what'll you have?" Many of the members never removed their hats, even, and when they were in the rooms scowled at any later arrival as much as to say, "How did you get in? It must have been by some awful fluke." One member had wittily said, "It is not a club at all; it is like the country house of a duke, with the duke lying dead upstairs." That was the club to which he went, said Mr. Plowden, when he felt particularly sulky or disagreeable. When he felt lively, and was enjoying life, he went to the other club, where they all sat down to dinner at the same time, and afterwards adjourned to the billiard-room and smoked. Everyone talked to his neighbour, and almost invariably found he had something interesting to say. Mr. Plowden advocated making the membership basis of clubs as wide as possible, and said that it was the English climate that made clubs necessary. Abroad, where they had a sunnier and more even climate, everyone went to the cafe. The people lived in the streets, and no class distinctions were required. A thief could sit down at a table next to a duke, and no one would be the wiser. A cafe spelt amusement, a club spelt comfort, so some supervision of the membership was essential.

WHY A WINE BOTTLE'S BOTTOM IS CURVED.

There is much more important reason for the dimple in the wine bottle than the usual idea of the wine purchaser, who feels that the manufacturer of the wine has used a bottle so that it will not require as much wine to fill it. The real reason is that wine cools more quickly, and the temperature of the entire bottle is made more nearly equal if there is a dimple in the bottom than if there isn't one. And a scientist has discovered that what works well in cooling will have precisely the same effect in heating, so that if a person desires to have a kettle or saucepan that will heat water more quickly than is ordinarily to be obtained, all that is necessary is to make a depression in the bottom. The discoverer of this fact has asserted that a quart of water may be boiled from the flame and heat of a burning newspaper if the water is placed in a covered vessel with an indented bottom.

AUTOMATIC BOTTLE MAKING.

An automatic bottle-making machine, invented and in use in Germany, is one of the triumphs of modern machine building. Doing the work of



MR. ROBERT AGNEW, the celebrated tenor of "The Dan-dies," opening in the Town Hall on May 10.

250 expert glass-blowers, it was considered such a menace to labour in Germany, where bottle-making is an industry of great magnitude, that the Government is said to have limited its use by rather stringent rules. The automatic making of bottles is accomplished through a great number of movable vacuum arms. A certain quantity of molten glass is drawn into the machine, air pressure is applied, and the glass is injected into an iron mould accommodating several bottles. This operation takes but a few seconds, then a device cuts the several bottles apart, the mould opens, and the bottles are automatically placed on a conveyer and transported to the cooling chamber. The machine can produce 2000 bottles an hour. The bottles are absolutely uniform in shape and capacity, exactly the same quantity of glass being blown into the mould, and they are delivered in an uninterrupted stream.

An enormous increase in the direct use of habit-forming drugs and in the use of raw alcohol united with Paregoric, cocaine, or laudinum has



The Lounge at head of Staircase.

followed in every locality where Prohibition has been adopted. Thus the attempt to enforce abstinence upon the man who wants to drink is not only ineffective, but destructive."—Dr. Chas. B. Towns, in "The Century Magazine."

Mr. Harris, of the National Licensed Victuallers' Defence Association, England, recently told the members that he was sure they would find the Trade again fighting for its very existence within the next 18 months. The Government, he said, was very vindictive, and had never forgotten the way in which the unjust Licensing Bill was "returned" by the Lords, and was only waiting to once more introduce a measure of so-called temperance reform. No body of people wished to see drunkenness decrease more than the licensed victuallers themselves, but why the Radicals should persist in harassing and worrying them on every conceivable occasion puzzles fair-minded individuals. The main thing, however, was that licensed victuallers should be on their guard.

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