

lunatic. The report of the Waterford Lunatic asylum for 1903 states that the most frequent cause of the insanity of those admitted was intemperance.

Dr. Walmsley, Supt. of Idiot Asylum in London, said: "Half the misery and wretchedness of human life is but the outcome of an abnormal state of mind and morals, produced by drink. Our asylums scream with alcohol. Upon the brain and nervous tissues it is a direct poison, leading to formidable maniacal excitement. Of all diseases, insanity is one of the most preventible."

Dr. Steele, Supt. of Cheshire County Asylum, estimated that "twenty-five out of every 100 came there directly through drink, but the indirect results were incalculable."

Dr. Forbes Winslow said: "Insanity is increasing, and the chief causes are drink and heredity." Heredity is not necessarily something apart from alcohol. "Alcoholism strikes a man not only in his own person, but also in his descendants." Dr. Norman Kerr reported a case which is typical of hundreds of others. In one family, a son and a daughter were born, both of them, mentally and physically, splendid specimens of vigorous humanity. After the daughter's birth, the father fell into habits of dissipation, and rapidly became an habitual drunkard. He had four more children, of whom one was defective in mind, and three were complete idiots.

Sir Victor Horsley says, the children of alcoholics often become insane, and that this is after all only what may be expected, when we once learn to recognise the extreme sensitiveness of the nervous system to drugs, and its peculiar susceptibility to the poisonous effects of alcohol. He also suggests that probably the depressing action of even ordinary doses of alcohol upon the developing brain of the unborn child is more profound than is at present recognised.

Dr. Legrain, of Paris, personally followed up the descendants of 215 drunkards, and found that in these descendants insanity and other nervous disorders were extremely common.

Lord Shaftesbury, for sixteen years Chairman of the Lunacy Commission, stated that he had ascertained that no less than three-fifths of the cases of insanity in Britain and America are the result of alcohol.

And what says Dr. Beattie, of Auckland? "I am convinced that heredity and alcohol are the two greatest factors in the production of our increasing insane rate."

In every land, and in every clime, the results are the same.

And we must not forget, that over and above lunatics, there is a great multitude of feeble-minded persons. In 1908 there were no fewer than 149,628 in Great Britain. Those who have devoted much attention to the subject, regard alcohol as one of the principal factors in the deterioration of brain tissue, which causes this feeble-mindedness.

These are a few of the effects of alcohol on the brain. I have not nearly exhausted the subject. Perhaps some of you are wondering if medical science can do nothing to counteract these evil effects. My belief is that there is only one cure, and that is,

National Prohibition.

I was very pleased to read that at the "International Congress on Alcoholism," held in London in 1909, Dr. Legrain said: "There seems no more hopeful cure than the voluntary giving up of this brain poison. There is no means of general safety, of greater value than Prohibition."

I do trust that the knowledge we have gained, as to the terrible and far-reaching effects of alcohol on the brain, will constrain us to do all we can to secure National Prohibition for New Zealand.

What greater justification of our attitude towards the liquor traffic could we have, than the cry of the children, whose mental and moral powers have been weakened, and in many cases completely destroyed, through their parents' use—in moderation or in excess—of this most insidious brain poison.

BIBLE READING IN AMERICAN SCHOOLS.

A Referendum Advocated.

The Californian Women's Christian Temperance Union, at their Conference, 1910, passed the following resolution:—

"It being a well-known fact that the rising generation is in lamentable ignorance of the Holy Scriptures, and as this is largely the result of banishing the Bible from the public schools, this organisation places itself on record, as standing for its re-instatement in the public schools as literature."

The South Californian Women's Christian Temperance Union Conference, 1910, resolved:—

"That we advocate the reading of the Bible without comment, in our public schools, and other educational institutions."

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To July 8th, 1911.

To June, 1910—Mesdames Hare, Auckland; Parkinson, Greymouth, each 2/6

To January, 1911—Mrs Mason, Greymouth, 2/6.

To March, 1911—Mrs Strand, Lower Hutt, 2/6.

To April, 1911—Mrs Sole, New Plymouth, 2/6.

To June, 1911—Mesdames Holland, Kaiapoi; Honore Palmerston; Venables, Christchurch; Campbell, Wanganui, each 2/6 Mesdames Kirkland, Dunedin; Smith, Tolago Bay, each 7/6 W.C.F.U., Christchurch, £1 10s.

To September, 1911—Mrs Greenwood, Westport, 2/6.

To December, 1911—Sergeant Williams, Wellington, 2/6.

To February, 1912—Mesdames Hoskins, Lyttelton; Routledge, Dunedin; Miss Hawkins, Waikanae, each 2/6

To March, 1912—Mrs Gow, Dunedin, 7/6.

To April, 1912—Mrs Sutherland, Kihikihi, 2/6

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To June, 1912—Mesdames Moss, Williams, Jennings, Seed, Cole, Kersley, Sarginson, Boag, Christchurch; Florence, Wellington; Smith, Naseby; Butterick, Brown, Ashburton; Grant, Craig, Ross, Upton, Wanganui; Hansen, Duncan, Dods, Wilkes, Fraser, Gisborne; Hancock, Begg, Dunedin; Rowntree, Eltham; Featherston, Timaru; Snelgrove, Lethbridge, Feilding; Thompson, Stiles, Woods, Foxton; Beale, Masterton; Murphy, Bluff; Hansen, Greymouth; Crabb, Carter, Palmerston; Torry, Hawera; Oram, Allen, Evans, Ellen, Blackwell, J. G. Blackwell, Harrison, Ward, Widdowson, Souby, Crawshaw, Baker, Kaiapoi; Misses Plummer, Nelson; McCarthy, Waihao Downs; Dickenson, Gisborne; McCarthy, Dunedin; Wilkinson, Cross Creek; Hewat, Oamaru; Maunder, Hawera; King, Eagle, Kaiapoi; Mr Brown, Auckland, each 2/6 Mrs Blight, Auckland, 5/-.

To July, 1912—Mrs Robertson, Hawera, 2/6.

To October, 1912—Mrs White, Hawera, 2/6.

To November, 1912—Mrs Jory, Mangawhera, 5/-.

To March, 1913—Mrs Weston, Christchurch, 2/6.

To June, 1913—Mrs Rule, Timaru, 7/6.

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