

## The Liquor Question In India

The following very interesting extracts, given by the Opawa Union President, Mrs. Gainsford, at the January meeting of the North Canterbury Executive, were taken from "The National Christian Council Review" of October, 1946, a monthly periodical issued by the Council.

**Alcohol:** Lord Moynihan is quoted in a statement contrasting present medical treatment with that of fifty years ago. He says: "To-day medical science is of one mind that alcohol, while it has its uses, is unnecessary and often harmful in the routine treatment of disease." Another statement is: "Insurance companies have found that the expectation of life is some three and a half years less for non-abstainers than for total abstainers."

The Committee for Health Planning in India recommends education of children in schools and of adults, in regard to the fundamental facts in relation to alcohol; the restriction of the sale of liquor; supply of non-alcoholic drinks, adult education in evening classes, strict Government enforcement of controls provided by law; the treatment and rehabilitation of alcoholics. In this last, social and religious workers should take an active part.

**Prohibition in India:** "In accordance with their well-known policy, Prohibition is being introduced gradually by Congress Governments in different parts of India. On October 1, 1946, both the Central Provinces and the Madras Governments inaugurated Prohibition in large areas. In the Central Provinces, about half of the province

has been included, and in Madras, at least one third." This is no new experience, for the Congress Governments in various provinces made a grand beginning after they assumed office in 1937. We congratulate them for once again making an effort to carry out their policy, and we sincerely hope they will ultimately succeed in their noble purpose of bringing all India under the Prohibition Act. There are many well-known obstacles to be overcome, such as that of finding revenue from other sources, the ever-present menace of the black market, and the callous indifference and opposition of those who regard the policy as one of sheer fanaticism. We are quite aware that people cannot be made "good" by Act of Parliament, but we do believe that the Government **can** and **should** protect its citizens by taking reasonable measures against the use of **anything** which is a potential danger to their moral, physical and economic welfare. Accordingly, we find ourselves in entire agreement with the remarks of the Madras Premier, which he made on October 1st, when inaugurating Prohibition in eight districts of the Presidency. He is reported as saying:—

"The financial loss in administrative difficulties are as nothing compared with the large-scale social and economic benefits that emancipation from the drink evil is bound to confer on the people, particularly the poorer sections. It is an experiment in social reform of far-reaching implications, which we have decided must be undertaken on its own incontestable merits."

Jesus made use of broken fragments to feed the people. Has your life been broken? If so, you will allow God to use the fragments, He will make you the means of feeding His people. So often a broken life means better food for others, than a life that has known no suffering.

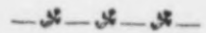
**FRIDAY:** "With the bread of understanding shall she feed him." (Apocrypha.)

Have you ever read articles on "How to keep a husband's love?" You never read one that contained more wisdom than those nine words. With understanding in the home, are health, wealth, peace, and a real happiness. Don't think of understanding as something that comes with love. It often needs cultivating.

**SATURDAY:** "Provide things honest in the sight of all men." (Romans 12:7.)

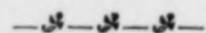
Do we ever have anything we can't afford to pay for? Do we pretend to be something we are not? Does our saying accord with our doing? Are we affected? All these are forms of dishonesty. Most important—do we turn an honest and critical eye upon ourselves? Honesty with ourselves is the rarest kind of all.

F. C. WILSON.



### EFFECT OF ALCOHOL

An interesting test to determine the effect of alcohol on an experienced motor driver was recently carried out in England. The "victim" was a young volunteer and experienced driver who, although fond of whisky, did not indulge heavily. Before the first test the man had no drink, and when the stop sign was flashed on the screen he braked in 0.7 sec., representing 51 feet travelled before stop was effected. At a second attempt 0.5 sec. was registered, equal to 22 feet. Following a drink of whisky by the driver the test continued and 0.8 sec. was registered, equivalent to 35 feet. This time was repeated after two more whiskies, but following the fourth, three tests gave 0.9 sec., 2.4 sec. and 1.4 sec., equalling 39.5 feet, 106 feet, and 61.5 feet respectively. All the tests were made at speeds around 30 m.p.h. A medical examination was made after each test, and the man's pulse rose from 76 to 100. After the fourth drink the doctor pronounced the man to be unfit to be in charge of a motor vehicle.—From "Sun and Star," 11/1/47.



## Thoughts for Each Day

Prepared by a patient in Lister Hospital, Blenheim.

**SUNDAY:** "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." (Matthew 11:30.)

A woman told me that her grandfather kept a team of bullocks, in which there were strong and weak animals. Two weak ones could not do the work, so a weak and strong one were yoked together. Yoke yourself to Christ—the weak and the strong. He will take the heavier part. The Christian life is not easy, but it can be lived close to Him.

**MONDAY:** "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed." (2 Timothy 2:15.)

Perhaps you feel your daily work is so ordinary that it can't concern God. It may be that Monday is your wash-day, and what could be more humdrum than that? Making anything clean is lovely work, so do that washing unto God. Whatever your duty may be, do it so that you arrive at sunset a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, and you will have a sense of satisfaction that nothing else can give.

**TUESDAY:** "Which now of these three was neighbour unto him?" (Luke 10:36.)

You don't like the lady next door? We are not told that the good Samaritan liked the Jew who fell among thieves. He had probably never seen him before, and had been brought up to dislike all Jews. But he was kind to him. Christianity does not ask you to love your neighbour in the way you love your child and other dear ones, but to love your neighbour in the sense of treating her well and serving her when the need arises.

**WEDNESDAY:** "The Eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the Everlasting arms." (Deut. 33:27.)

Notice the word "underneath." It doesn't matter how low you get, you are never too low for those arms to be underneath, bearing you up. They will last longer than any sorrow, longer than any illness, longer than this life, so take heart and rest in them.

**THURSDAY:** "He blessed, and brake, and gave to His disciples, and the disciples to the multitude." (Matt. 14:19.)

Give your children a share in the tasks, the plans and creative activities of the home.—"The Massachusetts Church Woman."