ALCOHOL AS MEDICINE. Report on the Use of Stimulants by the Profession.

At the annual meeting of the Medical Society of the State of Pennsylvania, held in June, 1868, Doctors H. Corson, W. W. Townsend, and J. L. Stewart were appointed to report on the following resolution offered by Dr. Corson:—

"Resolved, That the present terrible practice of simulation, which sends its victims daily by thousands prematurely to the grave, and which fills our land with drunkenness and crime, caunot much longer maintain liself in the confidence and esteem of the reflecting members of a great and learned profession. A modified, improved, regenerated practice, based upon common sense and a sound clinical observation, must take its place, and thus carry healing and blessings upon its wings to the nations of the earth."

The undersigned (Dr. Stewart dissenting) beg

The undersigned (Dr. Stewart dissenting) beg leave to offer the following

REPORT. That as the language of that resolution was the sober, earnest utterance of Professor Samuel D. Gross, of the Jefferson Medical College, before an audience of thousands of his fellow-citizens, a man audience of thousands of his fellow-citizens, a man who weighs well his words, and whose lengthened life and great medical experience entitle his decirations to profound respect, we feel bound to consider it carefuly. The declaration, if true, is appalling: if erroneous, it should be corrected. That the use of alcoholic stimulants does send its victims daily, by thousands, prematurely to the grave, and fills the land with drunkenness and crime, no one doubts. The query then arises:—Are physicians responsible for this? The medical profession is one of treat articulty, of high honor and commanding in sponsible for this? The medical profession is one of great antiquity, of high honor and commanding influence over the opinions and habits of the people, in all that regard favorably, or unfavorably, their health, or length of life. In all ages and in all countries the "Medicine Man" has controlled the minds of his people in relation to the safety or danger of all their articles of food or medicine. The profession is spread over every foot of the civilized world; its members are welcome visitors in every family; their teachings are medical gospel, received in the fulness of faith, and acted out on the principle that self-preservation is the first law of nature. Does the physician say the health of the infant or its mother demands that it should be taken from the breast, "though its joy to yield it as 'its joy to sip?" she makes the sacrifice. Does he say a journey to and residence in a distant and foreign country are and residence in a distant and foreign country are essential to the restoration of the health of the diseased and enfeabled wife? she separates herself from her home and all its idols to gain the precious boon. Is the husband and father told by his physician that the chill, lank hand of consumption has hold of him and that articles are the same father told by his physician that the chill, lank hand of consumption has hold of him, and that nothing but absence from his beauful home, and a residence for years in the frozen re-gions of Minnesota or Lake Superior can loosen its grasp? not a moment does he healtate—his business s stopped, his home is abandoned, and, filled with tope and a holy belief that it is a solomn duty to proteet his life as long as possible, he leaves behind him all that have been dear to him, and hies him onward to his dreary and desolate home in the midst of strangers, that his health may be restored. The strangers, that his health may be restored. The poor cottager, who can barely, by the hardest labor and greatest frugality, procure the necessaries of life for his family, when all are in health, should wife or children get sick, stops not on account of expense, but confiding in the skill of his physician, places the sick one in his hands and calmly and humbly submits to whatever of sacrifice may be numbly submits to whatever of sacrifice may be necessary for its preservation. In every country, with every grade of society, among high and low, rich and poor, learned and unlearned, this faith in our profession, this submission to our opinions, this acquiescence in the remedies we prescribe and the hygienic measures we advise, is given with a readiness which shows how great is the industrie of the medical profession.

ness which shows how great is the inducate of the medical profession.

In times when choicera, or typhus or typhoid fever, or smallpox, or madgmant dysentery prevails, no man will take food or drink said by his physician to be harmful. Half a century ago, and even now, in some districts of country, no mother would allow her child, affleted with measles, to take a single swallow of cold water, although the little suffering creature plead in most piteous tones for a drink to cool its parched and burning mouth. Why did she refuse it? Because the doctor said "it would make the measles strike in and kill the child." Even here, where the physician was wrong, the faith was here, where the physician was wrong, the faith was

In 1832, when the Aslatic cholera first invaded this country, every physician was besieged by swarms of people begging to be informed how they swarms of people begging to be informed now they should live so as to avoid the pestilence. Clothing, food, and drink all were regulated by the flat of the doctor, and no one falled to carry out his directions to the very letter. falled to carry out his directions to the very letter. Even the veriest quacks—mere pretenders—controlled masses of people who believed in them. The "Cholera Physician of Montreal" as Dr. Stephen Sayres, an eccentric itinerant doctor, was called) had hundred of people crowding around his house to get advice and medicine, and every cherished, long-indulged habit was flung aside, if "ended in the slightest degree to predistioned than a take or "the dreaded malady. The love pose to an atack or "the dreaded malady. The love pose to an atack or "the dreaded malady."

told time. dreaded malady. The lov-pose to an attack of the interest inbroken voice of life is universal, and if the new of the medical profession dould be heard in usual. ciation of any article of food or drink, its consump-tion would soon be at an end. Witness the effect of a mere suggestion that there may be danger from eating pork raw or imperfectly cooked. Thousands of persons fear to eat it at all, even though cooked so thoroughly that no trichina could live under so great a heat. The bare supposition that one might still live and be taken into the system deters them. If, therefore, physicians were united on the subject of the deleterious effects of alcohol, would it not be utterly abandoned? We venture to affirm that in less than half a century, when those whom we have fatally indoctrinated into the belief that it is warming. cooling, strengthening, tonic, and silmulating—that it calms the restless, enlivens the dull, invigorates the body, gives strength to the intellect, en-livens the fancy, and brightens the imagination; that it prevents sickness, and is a sovereign remedy in disease:-we repeat, when those thus deluded shall have passed away, the new generation, whose a minds had not thus been poisoned by error, but who had listened in blank astonishment to the wondrous recital of the miseries which its reputed moderate judicious use had brought upon mankind, would in-stinctively tarn with horror from contact with an

Every writer on the diseases of the human system has testified to the direct agency of alcoholic stimu-lants in producing a large number of diseases, and predisposing, by its use, to nearly all others, or at least to making the system less able to resist the action of deleterious agents. Do we hear you say, even if such are its effects, can its almost universa charged upon the profession? Let facts Every physician whom we know personally, all of whom we have heard, use and recomally, all of whom we have heard, use and recommend the use of alcoholic liquors in some form in their practice. The great impority use them freely, in triling as well as in grave cases; on drunkards as well as on the total abstinence people; on the child of a day and the parent of threescore and ten. They prescribe them in diseases of the kidneys, lungs, heart, brain, stomach, and every other organ, and yet they know full well that the diseases of those organs have been produced thousands of times by these very agents. They also resands of times by these very agents. They also recommend them to be taken by the weak, the dyspep tic, and the valetudinarian; the aged because the are aged, the young because they are young, the nursing mother because of the drain on her system (natural though it be and healthful); to those who are given up as hopeless, because they are dying, and to the convalescent, because they are convalescing, and they cannot forego the giorious opportunity to show them how porter or ale, or whisky will "baild them up." The effect of such a course is to impress the community with a high opinion of the valuable medical, lifegiving properties of the various alcoholic drinks, of which which in its varieties, brandy, gin, and whisky make up the convarieties, brandy, gin, and whisky make up the com-

mon stock.
You must all have observed that persons leaving You must all have observed that persons leaving home, to spend the summer in the country, or at the sca-shore, or in the Jersey-pines, or on the mountains, or at mineral springs, or at a country home, are invariably found to have brought with them, by direction of "my physician," some "good brandy," or "real Holland gin," or a few dozen "brown stout," or some of the fine "old port." Many who take none at home, now "by advice of our doctor," bring it along to keep off chills, to prevent the deleterious effects of change of water, to take a little morning and evening on account of the dews, or a little at moon to help digestion, and it is truly painful to a thinking, conscientious man, to see what confidence they have in the preservative and remedial qualities of those afficies so carefully stowed away in the trunk. The parent who at home would shudder to see his child take a little brandy at each meal, now under the advice of his physician deals out to every member of his family this life-preserver, this disease-defier. his family this infe-preserver, this disease-defer. He is still more impressed with the value of these remedies from the fact that white the doctor was so careful to orgate importance of taking the alcoholics along, he said not a word about the necessity of taking some medicines, mecaling valuable in attacks of pain, or vomiting, or distribute, or loss of appetite, or chills, or fever, or headaine. In this emission the patient sees a fact acknowledgment that the stimulants in his bottles are small titles for them and bester than them all. Who can estimate the amount of injury thus brought upon society! Take a seat in a railroad car on any of the long lines of travel, see the passengers as they rouse themselves in the morning when the san is just lighting up the mountain tops. The carpet-bag is unlocked and the old port, or brandy, or whisty drawn forth, and its owner, looking timinly at the feg, just lingering over the river, preparatory to being dissipated by the glowing beams of day drinks deeply, thankful that the antidote for fog is at hand. ghbor across the car has also bro depth of his overcost-pocket a flask of whisey, "the

real article," and with a noble generosity is handing it about to those near by, as something absolutely necessary to their safety, if they expect to travel far, as his doctor told him, years ago, always to have it with him. In every railroad car of the thousands which daily traverse our immense country, on every steamship that ploughs the ocean, not one but whose passengers are freighted with alcoholic stimulants, prescribed by their physicians as important preventives of, and remedies, for disease.

If, then, this picture be true, and not one can gainsay it, that in every house in the land, on board every railroad car, and on every ship that sails or steams the ocean, this agent is used by active of the profession, as preventive and curer

death. Among all our acquaintance we know of no physician who does not prescribe and recommend them more or less. The time was, and many of you can remember it, when they were recommended by teachers in medicine only in weak states of the body, and to be used with extreme caution; now, when the brain is overnowered by supervise.

as in the last days of liness in spotted, typhois, typhoid, or yellow/fever, in every variety of diarrhea and dysentery, in rheumatism, in pleurisy, in pneumonia, in the shock by injury from violence, in mania-a-potu and delirium tremens, in the sleeplessness brought on by the use of alcohol, in the nervous diseases of females during costation and after delivery, and daily during the

gestation and after delivery, and daily during the nursing period, wine or brandy, gin or whisky, or malt liquors, or one or more of the various tinctures or bitters, strong with alcohol, is prescribed and urged with an earnestness which testifies to the faith reposed in them by the physician, and which allays the repugnance of the patients to the use of an agent which they had seen filling the land with drunkenness and ering. Does a child suffer from

drunkenness and crime. Does a child suffer from croup, or scarlet fever, or diphtheria, the building-up

would throw up his arms and cry, "Father, hold me, I am swimming. I will fall out of bed." He was drunk from brandy, when all that he needed was the

removal of the plug from his windpipe. Should any doubt his statement, we refer them to a case published in the American Journal of the Melicul Sciences at page 24 of the number for January, 1863, by

a physician of honored name, himself the author of a treatise on the "Diseases of Chillien." The patient, a child of ten years, was well till the evening of the 2th of April. Next morning complained of sore throat and loss of appetite. In the afternoon the doctor say they with what would make the scarlet fever or diphers as

him with symptoms of scarlet fever or diptheria, as yet so filly defined as to leave doubt. And now less than twenty-four hours from health, and when a

febrile condition was just beginning to manifest itself, comes the physician with salts in one hand and brandy in the other—ten grains of sulphite of magnesia and milk-punch every two hours. Next

morning all the symptoms were aggravated—the in

flammation of throat and skin intense; but still the salts in one hand and milk-panch and beef-tea, a wineglassful of each of the latter alternately every

winegiassful of each of the latter alternately every two hours, in the other. And so on, day after day, till the dry and inflamed throat would not permit a drop of those life-preservers to pass. But nothing daunted, the beef-tea, brandy, and sulphite of magnesia are forced up the rectum (thank Heaven for the doctor's change of bases); the ice which surrounds the throat, now that the flery liquid is kept away, soon cools it, relieves the inflammation, and the throat again becomes the channel to the sto-

on_mile purch; ...
hours—and then resulted in a community the little sufferer barely escaped with life.

I mention this case as the type of the present popular stimulant treatment, and because the

publication of it will cause a similar treatment to be applied to thousands of little sufferers. The case will be read at home and abroad, and the name of the eminent physician and author will

be a sufficient guarantee (to those who are convinced by high authorities of the correctness

of a practice) that brandy was useful in this case;

of a practice) that brandy was useful in this case; and, as a consequence, every child that falls in their way sick with scarlet fever or diptheria must be dosed with brandy. Allow us to state another case, to show how this indiscriminate use and recommendation of alcohol is propagated and leads to results so deplorable that Professor Gross was compelled to cry aloud in depunciation of it.

At page 310 of the October number of the Medical and Surgical Reporter for 1868, Doctor Dale, of Centre county, reports one case of vomiting during pregnancy in which after tiving a few of the usual

nancy in which, after trying a few of the usual remedies, he resorted to good rye whisky, one teaspoonful with three drops incture of acouste three times daily, and says, "It acted like a charm, the whisky being the first thing to give tone to the stomach." He gave whisky and acouste for two weekler but there is not a world of praise for the

stomace. He gave winsky and asome for two weeks, but there is not a word of praise for the aconite. The woman and her friends and the medical profession, as far as the communication can reach, are to regard the whisky as the remedial agent. We have no hesitancy in saying that thousands of pregnant women will be induced and arged to the while the or this single case to try alcoholic.

by the publication of this single case to try alcoholic drinks for the relief of an affection which has rarely

resisted mild and harmless remedies in the hands of experienced physicians. This glowing report, too, is based on a single case, and in which the relief

might properly have been attributed to the effect of the acouste on the nerves of the stomach.

One more case. Two weeks since a gentleman gave us the following history:—Last December his daughter, of about twenty-one years, was taken with pain in the side, and as he had lost three daugh-

ters within a few years of consumption, he, after the second day's illness, left his home, eight miles from Philadelphia, and moved to the city and placed her

Philadelphia, and moved to the city and placed her under the care of a physician of some eminence. He diagnosed pneumonia, and at once put her on the use of beer, ale, and whisky. She died in the early part of May, after great suffering and in despite of twenty-four quarts of the best old rye whisky and an abundance of beer and ale. As the sister who died one year before only took ten gallons of wine during her itness, it was hoped that a heavier stimulation by stronger liquor might prove more successful, hence the substitution of whisky. We mention these cases because they show the present terrible practice of stimulation, and not to throw discredit on those who conscientiously treated them.

conscientiously treated them.

This disposition in physicians to prescribe alcoholic stimulants in every variety of disease reneived severe rebuke from Dr. Sammel Wikes in a lecture to his large class of students delivered in a London hospital two years since. We report that we can present only

may be blamed for letting him slip through your fingers, whilst if he die with it, you have done your best (in their opinion). This would be a comfortable

hest (in their opinion). This wo and lucrative mode of practice.

maen.

For eleven days this terrible treatment went

on from which

when the brain is overpowered by sunstroke, the man falls prostrate with apoplexy, in the as in the last days of liness in spotted, typ

sails or steams the ocean, this agent is used by addice of the profession, as preventive and curer of disease, should it astonish those who know the cravings of appetite and the force of habit, that this terrible practice, in the language of the resolution, sends thousands daily prematurely to the grave, and fills the land with drankenness and crime? Look into almost any of the approved works on the Practice of Medicine, and you will find that are online drinks are named as one of the causes of almost every disease, and yet in the recent works these same deleterious agents are landed as remedies above all others. Some recommend them Making a cost of seven thousand nine hundred and eighty-nine dollars and forty-two cents, exclusive of the cost for alcohol.

In 1867 there was purchased of-Making a total of six thousand four hundred and

stands a total of six thousand four bundred and eleven dollars and eight cents, exclusive of the cost of alcohol, which always goes into the drug account. In the Fennsylvania Hospital Report for the year ending 4th mo., 20th, 1861, 1 find the whole amount for medicines was \$2004.77, which doubtless includes alcohol and chemicals, while the Wine cost.....\$444*29 Porter and mineral water.....

works these same deleterious agents are lauded as remedies above all others. Some recommend them only in convalescence; others in exhausted conditions before convalescence has began, and yet others from the beginning to the end of the malady. With them they treat the cold stage, the hot stage, the stage of excitement, the period of dopression, debrium, coma, steeplessness, and every other condition that may arise. Now, they are given to arouse the energies, then to aliay excitement, here as a supporter of combustion, there as food for the nerves; one day to build up the system by proporting nerve-force, the next to pull it down by increasing the waste of tissues, or, in fashionable language, destructive metamorphosis. With their worshippers, they fold every indication, they combat every symptom, and, though they full to conquer, they are still on hand to be in at the death. Among all our acquaintance we know of no Making two thousand four hundred and twenty-four dollars and ninety-one cents for stimulants alone, exclusive of the alcohol, which would swell the sunt greatly and reduce the drug bill in pro-In the report of the State Lunatic Hospital for

\$404 64 Altegether four hundred and four dollars and sixty-four cents, while drops, chemicals, and medi-cines cost only two hundred and thirty-four dollars

cines cost only two hundred and thirty-four dollars and seventeen cents.

And this is the report of the doings of an institution under the control of one of the most humane and enlightened physicians of the State, one, too, who almost entirely repudiates the necessity of stimulants, except in a single form of insanity. In all Pennsylvania, if we could have the reports from every almahouse, jail, insane asylum, and hospital, we would read the same story, that brandy, whisky, wine, and porter were among the leading medicines, and cost more than all other remedies together. We know of but one single almahouse in which not one drop is used. Of it, we shall speak hereafter, and shall ask you to take note of it.

croup, or scarlet fever, or diphtheria, the building-up process must not be neglected—disregard the infilammation, keep up the strength. It is a blood poison, says authority, and while you send the loddes, the brombles or culorides through the body to wrestle with the poison, give brandy-toddy, whisky-punch, wine and beef-tea to keep up the strength, and as the poor child, with a plup in its wind-pipe which prevents access of air to the lungs, struggles for breath, pour down the brandy, wine, or whissy. For what? The answer comes not, for reason and experience have none to give. But a short time since a friend of ours, a gentleman of Philadelphia, told us that a son of his of ten years of age, attended by two of the first physicians of that emightened city, in a case of diptheria, had so much brandy urged upon him, when the membrane had invaded the windpipe, that during the last few hours of his life as he lay on his bed he would throw up his arms and cry, "Father, hold me, The use of alcoholic liquers by physicians seems to The use of alcoholic liquers by physicians seems to be founded on the popular doctrine and belief that they neurish the body by supplying plastic material or heat material, or else indirectly support the system by diminishing metanorphosis or atomic change; hence this class of remedies is spoken of as supporters of vital heat, food for the nerves, generators of force, etc. The mind is filled with a vague idea that strength and increased health are the results of their use by persons in health, thus warding off disease; and that in the sick, in whom, they say, the case; and that in the sick, in whom, they say, the vital force is always depressed, they aid in sustaining it. This is a popular doctrine, and were it not that it has led to fatal results, it would be amusing to witness the satisfied air of those who so triumphantly prate about giving brandy and whisky as feed for the nerves to tailly food for the nerves, to beind up the system, to prevent metamorphosis, etc. We utterly repudiate this doctrine. We deny that alcohol increases vital force, is food for the nerves, or is indispensable in sickness

Dr. T. Kennard, of St. Louis, in an article in the Medical Archives, on alrohol, says: "Whatever may be the exact nature of the deleterious agent in alcohol acting upon the human organism, we know that it affects different individuals in very different degrees, but always by veranging the nervous system. Some persons are injured by it in even the smallest quantity, some are rapidly poisoned by its abuse, while others are very slow to experience its baneful effects. It creeps upon them slowly and unconsciously, and its temporary soothing and exhitarating enects delane its victims with the belief that it is the designer and rather. that it is the deficiency and not the excess of amount taken, which gives rise to all the miserable symptoms of chronic alcoholism." Professor N. S. Davis, who has with much propriety been called the Father of the American Medical Association, in an "Essay on the Effects of Alcohol," writes:—"It is probable that a very large majority of the people, even at the present time, regard alcoholic drinks, when taken with moderation as tanks have been supported by present time, regard alcoholic drinks, when taken with moderation, as tonic, neurishing, warming, and life-sustaining, the conservators of strength in manhood and the milk of age. These popular notions are strengthened on the one hand by their freet exhibitrating effects of alcohol on the nervous system, and on the other by certain theoretical dogmas promulgated by Liobig, Johnston, Hammond, and others, who have boldly proctaimed alcohol to be resultatory or accessory food. This

alcohol to be respiratory or accessory food. This class of chemico-physiologists simply point to the fact that alcohol in its chemical relations belongs to es of hydrocarbons: and that those substances out of the living body are capable of undergoing bustion, by uniting with oxygen; and they straightway man, to the conclusion that, when taken into the system, they actuan, enter into like combination with oxygen, and thus become respira-tory food. And yet we search in all their writings, in vain, for the first item of proof that their mere theoretical deductions are correct. A more recent modification of the theories emanating more recent moduleation of the theories chainsing from this school of writers makes alcohol not respiratory but accessory food. It having seen clearly proved by the experiments of Boker and others, that the presence of alcohol in the system lessened the atomic changes and secretions in such a way as to diminish the sum total of eliminations in a given time, it was at once assumed that the diminution of atomic charges in the dissues of the body was equivalent to just so much nurition or addition of new matter through digestion or assimilation; hence the alcohol was declared to be accessory or indirect food, a fallacy which will be exposed hereafter. He continues:—"We have thus stared fairly the theoretical doctrines of this class of men, because their names are continually quoted as authority throughout all departments of our litera-

authority throughout all departments of our litera-ture. Let us now see how their theoretical assump-tions and popular notions are sustained by a wide range of experiments and carefully observed facts.
"First, Numerous chemical analyses of the blood and different tissues, made by different experimenters, show that, when alcoholic drinks are taken, the alcohol enters the blood and permeates with it every part of the body. This position is acknowledged to be correct by all classes of observers.

"Second. An equally reliable series of experiments have shown that alcohol undergoes no chemical change in the system, but is eliminated through the excretory organs, more especially the lungs and kidneys, within a few hours after being taken. This position, though long disputed, was fully established by the results of the well-devised and carefully exeby the results of the well-devised and carefully executed experiments of Lailemand, Perrin, and Duroy, "Third. While in the blood and circulating in the system, the alcohol diminishes the sensibility of the brain and nervous system in the same manner as other aniesthetics, and also retards the active changes in all the tissues; and consequently diminishes the sum total of climinations or excretions in a given period of time. The numerous and patient experimental investigations of Prout, Sandras, and Bouchardat, Boker, Hammond, and others have removed all doubts in regard

mond, and others have removed all doubts in regard to the truth of this proposition. "Fourth. By diminishing the atomic changes in the tissues of the body and the sensibility of the nervous system, the alcohol, by its presence, also diminishes the temperature, the strength, and the power of endurance. That its presence in the system reduction temperature was first fully established by i results of a series of experiments performed by in self in 1870, some of which I repeated in 1867. The self in 1850, some of which I repeated in 1867. These experiments consisted in testing the actual temperature of the body every half hour, with a delicately graduated thermometer, for three hours after a moderate drink of alcoholic liquor. The tests were applied to both wine and whisky. These results are confirmed by the observations of Magnus and others in Europe. That the presence of alcohol directly diminishes the strength and nower of endurance is proved, not only by the foregoing scientific investigation, but also by a large number of carefully observed fleets in relation to the results of lator in civil and military life, and by the statistics of sickness and mortality."

Professor Davis also presents numerous facts, and a locture to his large class of students delivered in a London hospital two years since. We regret that we can present only brief extracts. He said:—'I should be sorry to say that the doctor panders to the public taste, since he is too often in accore with it. But this agreement between doctor and patient resolves itself into this. An extra stinutant is presented. It matters little what is the nature of the disease, since the reasons for the treatment are applicable to all complaints, and are founded out this stopple proposition. All persons who are if are west. They have loss strength; they require it to be restored. Alcohol is a supporter and tonic; therefore abshol is a remedy for all discuses. This is no paroly, for I constantly hear medical mensaythey give brandy to all their patients, for they always find them lose. Moreover, is is a medical mensaythey give brandy to all their patients, for they always find them lose. Moreover, is as medical mensaythey have been destroy to all their patients, therefore, do before, if you have no compute the first of the patients approve, assuming as they do its supporting and strengthening power. You cannot, therefore, do before, if you have no compute those in careering your prefession into a more rece, than to say to all your patients, after feeling their paise, that they are very low; that you are sure that they do not take enough, and order them several glasses of wine daily. Should they be exceedingly ill with some desperate organic complaint, you must turn your remarks to the friends, and speak of the necessity of expering the patient by giving him as much brandy as can be poured down his throat. By this method you are sure to give satisfaction, for should the patient die without such treatment, your hagers, whilst if he die with it, you have done your

and by the gratistics of sickness and mortality."

Professor Davis also presents numerous facts, and
the authority of great hames, among whom may be
found Dr. Benjamin Rush, Dr. Frank H. Heraliton,
and others as eminent, to prove the traits of his
position. In conclusion he says:—"it were easy to
fill a volume with facts and statistics showing that
the avery relation of life the use of alcoholic drinks
diminishes man's capacity to endure both montal
and physical labor; increases his predisposition to disease, and shortons the average duration
of life. And although we have had our attention diof life. And although we have had our attention di-rected to this subject for forty years, we have not found, either in the records of medicine or of general literature, a single statistical item calculated to prove the contrary. We have seen an abundance of opinions expressed, but opinions are not facts. It is very common to hear that some sick or injured

is very common to hear that some sick or injured person has been kept up, or kept alive, on brandy, or whisky, or wine. But do those who testify have any reliable means of knowing whether the sick person was actually kept nlive by the petion, or whether he lived in spite of it?

The eminent fr. Todd testined strongly to the sustaining and benedicial influence of alcoholic drinks in the low forms of fever, yet statisfies show that in the London Pover Rospitals, with which he was connected, the ratio of mortality increased In addition to the regular prescriptions by medi-cal men of alcohol, the use by their advice of Tipe-

pari passa with the increased use of alcoholic drinks. The able corps of medical attendants at the Believue and Emigrant Hospitals of New York also bore decided testimony to the utility of those liquors in the treatment of the same forms of fever, and used them largely. But the mortality was one in every five or six cases treated. The same fevers placed in tents with plenty of fresh air and nourishment without a drop of alcoholic drinks in their treatment gave a mortality of only one in seventeen. only one in seventeen.

Those who imagine that to diminish the waste of tissues by diminishing the atomic changes is equivalent to the actual assimilation and addition of new atoms, forgot that all the phenomena of life in the physical organism are the direct result of such atomic changes: and whatever diminishes these actually diminishes physical life—and to stop them is to stop life." Such are the opinions of Professor N. S. Davis, one of the most eminent of American medical men, and against whom lies no charge of radicalism in temperance. Against the use of alcohol as accessory food, by its power of dimishing or retarding metamorphosis or atomic change in the system, allow us also to quote from "Chambers Renewal of Life." On page 31 he says:—"There cannot be too active a metamorphosis of the body possible, the highest possible development of life, is health; the complete cessation of metamorphosis, death; the partial cessation or arrest is dimedae."

If, then, as these authors have proved alcohol Those who imagine that to diminish the waste of

If, then, as these authors have proved, alcoho lways, and in whatever dose used, permeates the ystem unchanged and arrests in degree the natural atomic changes, on which health depends, why shal we not believe with those whom we have alread that it is always a producer of hever valuable as a remedy; and with Doctor Day, the distinguished physician of the Inebriate Asylum at Binghamton, N. Y., and with Dr. Joseph Parrish, the enlightened and phinanthropic physician of the Sanitarium at Media, Pa., "that even the appetite for alcohol is the result of a disease produced by its use," and with Dr. Kennard, of St. Louis, "that it always nets by decreasing the pervious system." always acts by deranging the nervous system."

Having thus disposed of the first part of the reso lution, we come now to consider the latter clause, in which it is asserted that a practice based on comin which it is asserted that a practice based on common sense and a sound clinical experience and observation must take its place, and thus bring healing and blessings on its wings to the nations of the earth. There are hosts of physicians in this country, and many in this society, that have unbounded faith is the present stimulant treatment, and exhibit the utmost scorn towards those who are inclined to believe that alcohol is not resential to the treatment of disease. It is our duty then to examine this part of the resolution, to see whether a modified regenerated practice—a practice that dispenses with the use of alcoholic stimulants—would not only be safe but be so advantageous as to "bring healing and blessings on its wings to mankind," for we are not disposed to allow the author of this declaration to escape one tota of the responsibility which he has invoked.

The eminent Professor Benjamin Rush was one of

The eminent Professor Benjamin Rush was one of he first in this country of the teachers in medicine o speak against the use of alcoholic stimulants, and Professor Chapman, one of the brightest ornaments of our profession, near the close of life and after a long medical experience, said:—"It is the sacred duty of every one exercising the profession of medicine, to unite with the moralist, the divine, and the economist in discouraging the consumption of those baneful articles, and as the first step in the reformation to discountenance the baneful notion of their reme Professor Seward, of Washington City, says:-

While we are convinced that there is no case in which ardent spirits are indispensable, and for which there is not an adequate substitute, we are qually assured that as long as there is an exception allowed, and men are permitted to use it as a inedi-cine, so long we shall have invalids and drunkards among us.

The eminent Dr. Muzzey, of Cincunnati, declared:

"To a place among preventives of disease spirituous drinks can present but the most feeble claims. The best protection against disease is derived from a natural, healthy, unfluctuating state of vital action sustained by plain articles of nutriment uninfluenced by any innutritious drinking of stimuli which operate on the whole nervous power. There is the most appailing evidence of the pernicious influence of intoxicating liquors in preparing the constitution for an attack of cholera. Tipplers, exposed to the exciting causes of inflammatory, epidemic, and contagious diseases, are liable to attack, and die in great numbers. Witness the results in epidemic pleurisles, pneumonia, the severe forms of influenza, pestilential fevers, and cholera."

Thus spoke this great medical practitioner, and eminent Dr. Muzzey, of Cincinnati, declared

of influenza, pestilential fevers, and cholera."

Thus spoke this great medical practitioner, and yet so universal has the belief in the preventive and remedial powers of alcohol become; so universally is it prescribed, that Dr. John Bell, one of the oldest and most learned physicians of Philadelphia, during the last visitation of cholera to this country, at a meeting of the College of Physicians, felt called upon to denounce their use in that disease as murderous. He said Cholera results from an attackers. derous. He said Cholera results from an atmo poison. The alcoholic practice is investerous. Too much attention has been paid to the prestration, and this has induced a belief that stimulants are necessary in the treatment. The proportion of deaths from thi the treatment. The proportion of deaths from this practice is perhaps nine out of ten. The idea that alcohol is a preventive of disease is a most popular one, and one which," he feared, "was encouraged by the profession. It was a most fallacious, and, he might add, pernicious doctrine that the use of alcoholic drinks was a preventive of disease. It was argued some years ago that a fever might be kept off by their use, but the fallacy of that argument had been conclusively shown,"

De Pall was followed by Dr. Nebinger, so well and 13. Estimates the consideration of the previous speaker has objected to the publication of his remarks (in the public papers) in reference to the perficus as a preventives of cholera, and his well-uttered demunciations of the practice, for they are not only well worthy of publication, but deserve to be published in letters of publication, but deserve to be published in letters of publication, but deserve to be published in letters of publication, but deserve to be published in letters of publication, but deserve to be published in letters of publication, but deserve to be published in letters of publication, but deserve to be published in letters of the tray might attract and he read by every gold, that they might attract and be read by ever eye. The terrifically bad effects of the recommenda tion by the faculty of Philadelphia and other places, in 1832 and 1842,of the use of alcoholic beyerages as preventive of cholera, is well known. Dr. Bell had wisels raised his voice against a practice which, while it was well calculated to contaminate the morals, so distempered the body as to produce a predisposition to an attack of the malady it was improperly used to prevent." To these bold, many utterances of those scientific physicians, made in the presence of their fellows, there was no dissenting presence of their fellows, there was no discerning voice, and still the murderous practice goes on. We have already shown that fevers are cured better without them than with them. If, then, in the fearful prostration of fevers and cholera they are not needed, where shall we use them?

The eminent surgeon of Nottingham, Mr. Higgin-bottom, writes:—'Ii all intoxicating drinks were banished from the earth it would be a real blessing, and in a few weeks they would not be missed ever as a medicine. For the first twenty years I iguo rantly gave alcohol in some diseases, as was customary, yet as early as the year 1813, I discontinued it in typhus, typhoid, and other fevera with the most marked beneficial results. For thirty years I have not prescribed alcohol as a medicine, have discovered a great truth, and made a great dicovers—that alcohol in every form may be dispensed with in medical and surgical practice and is not required to a single disorder or discuss. My practice has been open to hourly inspection and observation for thirty years or more, in the centre of a large and populous town, surrounded by more than forty surgeons and physicians, most of them intelligent and discorping non Surgic some one of them. and discerning men. Surely some one of them would have informed me of my insufficiency or malpractice, had I been in error. During my long practice I have not known or seen a single disease cured by alcohol; on the contrary, it is the most fertile producer of disease. It is destitute of any medicinal principle implantal by the Creator in continuously. disease. It is destitute of any medicinal principle implanted by the Creator in genuine medicines;" and, quoting from a medical writer, he says:—'The diseases occasioned by alcohol have been by far more destructive than any plague that ever raged in Christendom, more malignant than any other epidemic pestilence that ever desolated our suffering race; whether in the shape of the contagious and burning smallpox, the choicra of the East, or the yellow fever of the West-diseases by far more loathsome, infectious, and destructive than all of them put regether, with all their dreadful array of suffering and death, united in one ghastly assembling of horrite and appalling misery."

Dr. L. M. Bennett says:—'I for one believe that

Dr. L. M. Bennett says:-"I for one believe that there is no curable disease but may be treated and cured better without alcohol than with it."

Dr. R. L. Barclay, of Stonebridge, writer:—"I have banished them from my practice since 1847. During theze twenty-one years I have not made lewer than one hundred and eighty thousand visits, and I am free to say that the recoveries have been more numerous and more rapid than they were during the ave years I followed the usual practice, and gave brandy, wine, and beer. Of these numerous patients, many were laboring under the most aggravated forms of typhus and other malignant fevers, smallpox, cholera, mania-a-poin, large exhausting abscesses, and many other diseases in which alcoholic stimulations are usually accounted. holic stimulants are usually administered and thought to be essential. I have attended, likewise, the patients of two large hospitals for many years one in town, the other in the country; the paupers of a populous parish for sixteen years; the members of nine benefit clubs for many years, some of them numbering three hundred members—and in all these different cases and under all those different circumstances I have not once found it necessary to prescribe either environs vinces of mall lights. prescribe either spirituous, vinous, or mait laquors."
Say Dr. Henry Mudge;—"Having published short notices of over forty forms of disease, including accountements by the hundred, hemorrhages, shock, typhus fever, consumption, purulent discharges, large burns, and indigestions, cured without alco-

clies, I have some right to claim equal explicitness

holics, I have some right to cialm equal explicitness from those who prescribe them."

Dr. W. W. Townsend, of the Chester County Almshouse, in a letter to the chairman of this committee, says:—"There has not been a plut of alcoholic liquors in the form of brandy, wine, whisky, beer, or ale used in this house as an internal remedy for twenty months; and very little since I have had charge of it, and the little that was used, I am certain did harm. My patients got well sooner and better when none was used. I have treated mania-a-potu, typhoid fever, dysentery, pneumonia, and surgical cases, and I appeal to the record for the evidence of the success of my practice. There have been fewer deaths than in any period of the same length of time for twenty years—I have examined the records no further—and I am so well satisfied of the correctness of the practice, that I shall never resort to those kinds of stimulants in the treatment of any kind of disease that may come under my care."

Dr. T. W. Gairdner, in a late number of the Glasgove Medical Journal, in an able article on Alcoholic Stimulation, says:—"It is an error to conceive of alcoholic stimulation as a proper substitute in febrile diseases for ordinary food. Even beef-tea (so much favored by Dr. Todd in conjunction with alcohol) is of very inferior mutritive value to milk, and of secondary importance. To give brandy and beef-tea every hour or half hour for days and nights together, even waking up the patient (as is recommended by Dr. Todd) in order to give him his food

together, even waking up the patient (as is recom-mended by Dr. Todd) in order to give him his food and stimulants, is the surest of all ways to destroy what remains of natural appetite. It is an error to suppose that patients affected with very severe symptoms of acute disease are capable of tolerating indefinitely greater grounts of alcoholic liquors than can be given in health.

"It is almost certain from facts already observed that in young represent the mortality of fewers is

that in young persons the mortality of fevers is greatly increased by the continuous administration of alcoholic stimulants; and, it may be confidently anticipated, as a result of improved consideration given to the subject, that the profuse and continuous administration of alcoholic stimulants, with a view to alimentation in acute disease, will ere long be believed as inconsistent with an enlightened. abandoned as inconsistent with an enlightened physical sound practice. A subordinate, though very important consideration, bearing on this profuse and continuous stimulation, is that such liberal doses of wine

profuse and continuous stimulation, is that such liberal doses of wine and spirits given habitually under medical advice tend to give a wrong bias to public opinion, and (even apart from the grave moral consequences arising from the abuses of alcoholic liquors) to involve the whole medical practice of the country in a system of numerosary and therefore in a system of unnecessary and, therefore, wasteful expenditure. It is as nearly as possible a demon-strated fact, that much of what is spent in wines and spirits for the sick in hospitals (and pro also in private practice) is unnecessarily, if no inriously spent. Typhus fever, as it occurs in gow, almost always among the poor, and imong the most ill-nourished, debulitated, and pated classes, is the very type of a dis-case which would appear to require the highest doses, and the most fre quent and liberal administration of alcoholic stimu require deent and floeral administration of account supplies fants. Yet it has been clearly shown that typhus fever in Glasgow may be so treated as to have a diminished mortality with the aid simply of milk

diet and careful nursing."

In confirmation of the above, allow me to quote again from the lecture of Dr. Wilkes. "To my mind, again from the lecture of Dr. Wilkes. "To my mind, the most important question in therapeuties is the value of alcohol in disease. You are as thoroughly to consider the propriety of it, as you would any drug in the pharmacopoeia. You have witnessed that fevers will do well without them. Young persons with typhus and typhoid do far beter, I believe, without them. That they make good recoveries on simple milk diet is a fact which my hospital cases prove, and which no argument can gainsay. It is also a fact, that in bronchitis I have often seen improvement after stimulants have been omitted; and as regards heart disease, the amount of mischlef done by stimulation is immense." Such are the testimonies of some of the first medical men in Europe.

It is but a few years ago, that almost the only

It is but a few years ago, that almost the only treatment for mania-a-potu, delirum tremens, and all the tortures of chronic alcoholism, was more rum : now scarcely any really enlightened physical thinks it necessary. Dr. Day, Physician and Super-intendent of the Incbriate Asylum of New York State, does not use it in the treatment of those discases. Dr. John Curwen, Physician of the Pennsylvania State Asylum for the Insane at Harrisburg informed a member of this committee, that he has found it necessary only in a single form of flerce in-sanity, and then not as a means of cure, but for procuring quiet, by means, we suppose, of the deep procuring quiet, by means, we suppose, of the deep

intoxication which it produces.

But again we are met by the almost universal demand for whisky as a cure and preventive of conmand for waisky as a cure and preventive of con-sumption. There is scarcely a single person in the whole country, threatened with or saffering from that disease, who is not dosed daily with either brandy or whisky, in large doses, by advice of the physician, who conscientiously regards them as the great remedies to increase vital force, and thus avert the disposition to tubercle. We have for several years had occasion to deplore this system of treat-ment, and from most careful observations made in a large region of country, where the history of every large region of country, where the history of every case of phthisis which occurred could be ascertained from week to week, we have falled to discover the least benefit derived from the use of alcohol, either

as a preventive or remedy in that affection.

In 1859 the Rhode Island Medical Society offered a prize of two hundred dollars for the best essay on "The effect of the use of alcoholic liquors in tubercular disease or in consti-tutions predisposed to that disease, to be shown as far as possible by statistics." The prize was awarded to John Bell, M. D., of New York. Seldom have observations been more thoroughly made; more care-fully conducted through a long period of time, and embracing every condition and circumstance which could conduct to reliable conclusions; and what are

First. That the opinion prevalent as to the use of alcoholic liquors having a marked effect in prevent-ing consumption is without any solid foundation. Second. Their use, on the contrary, appears rather

to predispose to tubercular deposition.

Third. Where tubercle already exists, alcohol has no obvious effect in modifying its usual course.

Fourth. Neither does it mitigate in any considerable degree the morbid effects of tubercle upon the system at large,
Such are the conclusions of an extended investi-

gation of the subject by the man to whom the Medi-cal Society of Rhode Island joyfully awarded the meed of merit; and we are happy to oppose it to the alcoholic practice of Anstic, Bennett, Todd, Cham-bers, and others, who have placed alcohol at the head of the list of remedial agents. They have sung praises to the healing virtues of alcohol. Their songs have been heard in every family, and now through-out the length and breadth of the land, in palace and out the length and breadth of the land, in palace and in hovel, the word has passed that the young child, the delicate school girl, the slender apprentice, the studious youth, the nursing mother, the anxious merchant, the girls in the store, the tailor on the bench, all who take exercise, and those who take none, can have immunity from consumption only by the daily use of whisky. To oppose this popular practice is to call down on our heads the anathemas of those who are ever ready to stifle free discussion. We have conscientiously and prayerfully desired to make a just report on the resolution, and are constrained in view of the facts bearing on the subject, to declare that there exists a terrible practice of stimulation which "sends its victerrible practice of stimulation which "sends its vic-tims daily, by thousands, prematurely to the grave, and fills the land with drunkenness and crime;" that a modified, regenerated practice, based on com-mon sense and a sound clinical observation, should take its place to bring healing and blessings on its wines to the nations of the earth. All of which is respectfully submitted.

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