

ble affections readily amenable to medical art. The skilful physician perceives the difference ; and while he loses his patient, feels that he has done what he could, but had met his superior in power. Not so the mass. Undisciplined in mind, they perceive only the resemblance ; and hence, when another case occurs *resembling* this, but differing in its essential character, and which recovers, they are loud in their condemnation of the first physician, and vociferous in their praises of him who has cured a patient "just like that."

Cancer is a disease of this kind. It is what physicians call a heterologous growth ; that is, a series of cells, unlike those of the healthy tissue, is produced among the healthy tissues, and these multiply till the frightful results of this terrible disease take place ; and these cells are always the same. In its early stages, especially, it resembles, in its external characters, a simple non-malignant tumor. The microscope, however, shows the cancer cells ; and the experience of the world has thus far shown, that when once these peculiar cells are produced in a part, nothing but the entire abscision of the part will check them ; and that, even then, in a majority of cases, the germs of these cells will be found so widely disseminated in the blood, that they will speedily spring up, and form new growths like the first. The skilful physician perceives this character in a tumor, and pronounces it hopeless without an operation, and doubtful with it. In another, resembling this in external appearance, he fails to find these cells, and it recovers. No noise is made about it, for no great cure has been performed, nor is true science either noisy or brazen tongued. But the *cancer doctor* comes, with loud boasts of skill, and finding a simple non-malignant tumor, he will not, or cannot, see it to be such, and if the tumor disappears while he is giving his syrups, he has done what the regular physicians could not—cured a cancer ! And the multitude applaud him for his skill. There was no cancer in the case, but his own insufferable ignorance and arrogance, surpassing in malignancy the fatal disease he pretends to have cured.

[To be continued.]

HYGIENICS OF TEMPERANCE, OR WATER AND ALCOHOL CONTRASTED ON LAWYERS.

BY SAMUEL A. CARTWRIGHT, M.D., NEW ORLEANS, LATE OF NATCHEZ.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

SOME weeks ago the writer had the honor to receive a lengthy communication from a theologian of high standing and great influence—the Rev. Dr. C. K. Marshall, of Vicksburg, Mississippi—earnestly calling on him for the results of the observation and experience of the medical profession in regard to the physical effects of alcoholic beverages on the different classes of people. It appeared from the communication, and the documents accompanying it, that an organized opposition was being made in Mississippi against the only king who has any sway there—that being hard pressed by the reverend gentlemen and others, the advocates of alcohol had sought refuge in the strong and inaccessible fortress of

medical science. They claimed protection from medicine, and demanded allegiance to alcohol by virtue of the theory (or rather the assumption) that the use of distilled liquors, in moderation, by persons in health, is useful in preventing disease, bracing the system against sudden changes in the weather, and in giving the body strength, vigor and endurance under fatigue and exposure;—that its general use, in some form or other, is almost indispensable in those parts of the South where the fogs are heavy, the mosquitoes troublesome, and nature has furnished nothing but rain and river water to drink. The reverend gentleman wished much to know, whether the medical faculty would sustain the advocates of alcohol in these positions and pretensions? and whether the span of life was lengthened or shortened by the daily use of alcohol in any form? On such grounds, the question, in regard to the claims of alcohol to medical protection, is strictly one, which none but physicians have a right to decide or sit in judgment upon.

Having no authority to speak for the medical profession, the writer simply proposes to contrast the effects of water as a beverage with those of alcoholic drinks, from facts derived from his own experience and observation, and to answer the reverend gentleman by giving the result of the contrast through the appropriate organs of the profession—the Medical Journals.

In a former article on the *Hygienics of Temperance*, the writer gave a summary of his observations on one class of citizens, the physicians themselves, residing in the locality where he formerly practised. That article was intended as a part of his reply to the reverend gentleman's interrogatories, and was written with a hope that it might draw the attention of abler men to the important subject. It was also thought that it might be useful to the junior members of the profession.

Before going further, it may be necessary to premise, for the benefit of juniors, who have not got through their studies, and for seniors, who have not kept up with the progress of the sciences, that alcohol belongs to the Ethyl group of Lowig (the latest and most voluminous chemical authority of Germany). Ether or letheon is also a compound of the radical, ethyl. The former is an oxyhydrate, and the latter an oxide of ethyl. Chloroform is a compound of formyl. The compounds of ethyl and formyl are kindred in properties. None of them are found in nature, but are creatures of the chemist's alembic, as much so as the steam engine is of the mechanician. An important question has arisen, whether they ought not all to be kept exclusively under the control and direction of those who know where, when and how to use them? The oxide of ethyl, like chloroform, is the realization of the fabled waters of Lethe; while alcohol, which is an oxyhydrate of ethyl, is even more than the realization of the fabled potion, used by Circe, in transforming the companions of Ulysses into swine. The vapor of the oxide of ethyl, when breathed, destroys the will and renders the body insensible to impressions: but it should be remembered that all spirituous liquors contain a greater or less quantity of ethyl in the form of an oxyhydrate; the vapor of which affects the will and the senses, rendering those, who come within the sphere of such exhalations, less competent to govern

their passions and inclinations. In other words, the atmosphere, within and around those places where spirituous liquors are retailed, contains ethyl—a substance palsying the will and depriving man of his free agency. The contaminating influences of an atmosphere containing ethyl cannot be avoided without avoiding the places charged with it. A few have such strong wills as not to be sensibly influenced by it, but in the great majority of mankind the will is so weak as to be affected by the smallest quantity in the air. Moral persuasion is lost upon such. Indulgence in drinking creates a greater susceptibility to such influences, until those, who see their error and wish to reform, are unable to do so. The smallest taint of ethyl in the air, from some neighboring distillery, or retail liquor shop, will cause them to break the most solemn vows; and often with tears in their eyes to be led, against their better judgment, to seek the cup, which they know is causing their ruin. Some would rush to it at the cannon's mouth if they knew the match was being applied, so completely are they deprived of a will of their own. It is a penal offence to poison springs and wells, but there is no penalty attached to poisoning the air with ethyl. Whether there should not be, is a question highly important in a political as well as in a medical and moral point of view. Ours is not properly a land of liberty while the oxyhydrate of ethyl, vulgarly called spirituous liquors, is not only permitted to taint the air with its exhalations, but to be infused in the water which thoughtless youth and ignorant, peaceful citizens are tempted to drink; transforming them into lawless, reckless, dangerous madmen, more numerous and mischievous, a greater restraint upon the liberty of the majority, and a greater nuisance to society, than the marauders of Mexico or the banditti of Italy.

Before giving countenance or encouragement to the general use of such an agent, by the people at large, on the strength of a vague theory, that it is useful to ward off disease and to enable them to endure fatigue and exposure, it is important that every physician should take the necessary means to ascertain whether such a theory be true or not. It should be well considered and tested by experience and observation, the only sure method of arriving at truth. In a former article on the Hygienics of Temperance, it was shown that that theory prevailed in Natchez thirty years ago, and as far as a certain class was concerned—the physicians themselves—the practice of drinking ardent spirits, in what is called moderation, time and experience proved to be highly pernicious—and instead of lengthening, cut short the thread of life.

And now for the voice of time and experience in regard to the lawyers and other professional men. What does it say? It says, in a tone too clear, loud and plain to be mistaken—that as it was with the doctors of Natchez and vicinity, so has it been with the lawyers. The lawyers of that city and vicinity, thirty years ago, who were in the habit of using alcoholic beverages in the place of plain water between meals, like the doctors who followed the same practice, are all dead long ago. There is not one left. Even to bring down the time to twenty years, there is not one left. While of the temperate lawyers of the same locality, from twenty to thirty years ago, all are living at the present

time, June, 1853—minus a number *less* than the natural decrease of mankind, incident to the most healthy countries, as set forth in the Carlisle tables of mortality. The bench and the pulpit have scarcely lost a member except from accident or old age. The temperate lawyers, with the exceptions just mentioned, are not only all living, but they are all rich, although they began life poor. The contrast arrived at by consulting time and experience is so great, that it may be said that death is in alcohol and life is in water, when used as a common beverage. That plain, good, pure water is better than alcohol in any form to enable the human system to endure fatigue and exposure, and to give both body and mind strength and vigor, the history of the above-mentioned classes would plainly prove. The proofs, in regard to one of them, may be read in the history of the Mexican war, requiring nothing more to be added, than that Major General John A. Quitinan is the model of a temperate man in all things—except politics, where, if he runs into extremes, it is from the same principle, which, in war, impels him to advance nearest to the foe. Another of the temperate lawyers of Natchez, 28 to 30 years ago, is the Hon. Robert J. Walker, late Secretary of the Treasury, and present Minister to China. Although he never broke through the massive walls of the houses of Monterey with a pickaxe, or stormed Chapultepec, yet he swam Pearl river a cold frosty night without catching cold. The writer is assured, by a creditable person who was with him, that the natural treble tones of his voice, at a political meeting the next day, were not altered or reduced to a bass. His travelling companion of the canteen was too hoarse to speak, although the future holder of the nation's purse, after swimming the river, got a boat and ferried him and the horses across. Capt. John B. Nevitt, for more than thirty years has resided on his estate near Natchez, and been the master spirit at political meetings, yet he never drank as much as half a pint of ardent spirit in all his life—proving that fiery zeal in politics is not incompatible with perfect temperance. He and his other temperate shipmates, under Decatur before Tripoli, proved that water as a beverage is better than opium-eating to give celerity of motion, as the American sword, in their hands, against the Turkish cimetar, was like the lightning's flash. Col. Henry Chotard, a resident of the same vicinity, the same length of time, and of the same temperate habits, three times repelled three fierce assaults of the British regulars on his cannon, and so far won the applause of Gen. Jackson as to be mentioned by name in his despatches as one of the three who "*by their intrepidity saved the artillery.*"—(See Niles's Register, vol. vii., page 357, giving an official account of the important battle of the 23d of December below New Orleans.) His sobriquet, "My Lord Chesterfield of Adams Co.," from his high degree of polish and urbanity of manners, is sufficient to show the folly of some young men who fall into intemperate habits from the fear of being regarded as rustic or clownish.

Space will not permit to speak of all the temperate lawyers, judges, divines and politicians of Natchez thirty years ago, who are now living. Joseph E. Davis, Esq., is one of them; both he and his younger brother, Col. Jeff. Davis, the hero of Bona Vista, and the present Secretary of

War, are so very temperate that they had rather be shot at than to drink a bumper of ardent spirit; yet no men excel them in energy of mind. The Hon. Powhatan Ellis, for two terms the Nestor of the U. S. Senate, and former Minister to Mexico; ex-senator Gen. John Henderson, who made Spain tremble for Cuba; and Gen. Felix Houston, the John the Baptist who prepared the way for Texian Independence—are all old Natchez lawyers, owing the energy of their character and their good health at the present day to their rejecting alcohol and using water as a beverage. His Excellency Gov. Poindexter, a Natchez lawyer of more than thirty years ago, becoming crippled and bed-ridden under the alcoholic theory, so fashionable in his day, repudiated it—went back to water as a beverage—recovered the use of his limbs, rejuvenated, and again entered the political arena, giving his opponents such sharp thrusts, that the editors of the *Globe* named him “the devil’s darning needle.” Their Honors Judges Turner, Perkins, Cage, McGehee, Boyd, Black and Montgomery, are all living at the present day in the possession of their faculties, with nothing but their great wealth to trouble them. They are as temperate as preachers. So are the two renowned brothers, Colonels Claibornes, natives; so are J. A. McMurren, Esq., R. M. Gaines, Esq., A. Buckner, Esq., and M. W. Ewing, Esq., Natchez lawyers of thirty years ago, Kentuckians, with houses full of children. The Rev. J. C. Barruss, the Rev. Messrs. Drake, Curtis, Van-Court, Smilie, Page, Chase, Fox, Fyler, Winans, and the Rev. Dr. Potts, the present pastor of Grace Church, New York, were the principal clergymen in and about Natchez twenty-five to thirty years ago. They are still living. The deaths among the clergy and judges have been less than half the natural mortality indicated by the Carlisle tables. Judge Ogden, of the little town of Vidalia, opposite Natchez, has moved away, but is living yet, nearer a century than three score and ten. Like Judge John Perkins, also of the same side of the river, he is the personification of temperance.

It is unnecessary to go into further particulars in drawing a contrast between water and alcohol as beverages. The temperance casket has been opened, and many jewels of great price have been shown; that of alcohol has also been unlocked, and the more numerous gems lodged there for safe keeping are turned to dust and ashes. Alcohol, that promised to preserve, has been the slow devouring fire to consume them. The human system will often withstand an occasional dose, even a heavy dose, of poison, and recover from its effects; but the stoutest frame will sink under its daily use in portions ever so small. Some of the above-mentioned professional men, classed as temperate, occasionally partook of that slow but potent poison to the blood, alcohol, but let a sufficient time intervene to recover from its effects before taking more; and it appears that they have long since renounced it. It is the daily use of alcohol—particularly between meals—though in quantities regarded as small, which is so highly pernicious.

In the progress of physiology an important fact has been developed, that those, who use water as a beverage, consume more oxygen, than those who partake of spirituous liquors. Although the physical effect of alco-

hol in diminishing the quantity of oxygen consumed was known to Prout and others, and may be found recorded by Dunglison in his article on respiration, yet its value, as an overwhelming argument against alcoholic beverages in every form, is not clearly seen, but will be, when certain late revelations, made by the crocodile on the dissecting table, become generally known and have time to correct some fundamental errors which have crept into physiology in regard to the motive power of the blood and the primary seat of life. They prove, that the oxygen of the air is the chief motive power of the blood, and that that fluid is the primary seat of life as Moses said it was. But until this new doctrine be acknowledged, no short cut can be taken to demonstrate the poisonous properties of alcoholic drinks in small quantities upon the human system, by arguments drawn from the laws governing the organism. The truth will have to be ascertained by the slow and toilsome process of experience and observation. The result, obtained by that sure and safe method, proves that there exists a wide contrast between water and alcohol used as beverages by professional men.

The result of the effects of each on the people at large, of the same locality and at the same period of time, can be told in fewer words, but the labor of arriving at it by the same method is vastly greater; so much so, that if the large quantity of statistical matter, which has been collected since he made the call upon the writer, as preliminary to the induction to extract truth, hid among so many particulars, could be seen by the Rev. gentleman, he would doubtless find an ample apology for the delay in replying to his interrogatories.

Canal st., New Orleans, June 28, 1853.

CASE OF VENEREAL CHANCRE PRODUCED BY SODOMY.

BY N. R. MOSELEY, M.D., OF PHILADELPHIA.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

In the month of February last, I was requested by an office pupil to visit John Mc——, aged 35, of good general health and robust constitution. The patient was troubled with a sore just within the verge of the anus, which had been growing worse for several weeks. As no contaminating disease was suspected, he had been treated with mild local remedies without benefit. Upon making an examination I found, one half an inch above the termination of the mucous membrane of the rectum, what appeared to be a large Hunterian chancre. The genital organ was unaffected, and the parts about appeared healthy, with the exception of a little tenderness and swelling in the right groin. My opinion was that the man had syphilis, as his subsequent acknowledgment and facts proved. It seems that about five weeks previous to my visit, the man had been on a drunken frolic, and was one night arrested in the street and committed to one of the city lock-ups for safe keeping until morning. While in this place, another man, put there for the same offense, did some time during the night (mistaking his bed-fellow) com-