

SCIENTIFIC TEMPERANCE JOURNAL

WINTER, 1925



SCIENTIFIC TEMPERANCE JOURNAL

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EDITORIAL OFFICE
THE SCIENTIFIC TEMPERANCE FEDERATION
400 BOYLSTON ST., BOSTON, MASS.

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PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE AMERICAN ISSUE PUBLISHING COMPANY AT WESTERVILLE, OHIO.
PRICE, \$2.00 THE YEAR. CANADIAN POSTAGE 8 CENTS ADDITIONAL AND FOREIGN

POSTAGE 16 CENTS ADDITIONAL

ENTERED AS SECOND CLASS MATTER JUNE 6, 1915, AT THE POST-
OFFICE AT WESTERVILLE, OHIO, UNDER THE ACT OF MARCH 3, 1879

of alcohol must again be referred to as the worst evil doer in social and sex ethics. It can not be denied that alcohol plays an enormous rôle as seducer and intercessor in nearly all questionable conduct and acts related to sex ethics, that young people usually make their first sex sacrifice to unworthy profligates while under the influence of liquor and incur infection which brings them to bitter repentance. We shall not enter here upon the matter of the many marriages that have been shattered by alcohol, the many sex crimes of all kinds most closely connected with alcohol, nor, finally, the injury to the germ cells of the alcoholized parent which give rise to inferior individuals. All this is passed over in order to present in a few words the question, what social sex ethics should and must require of the state in order that the blighting influence of alcohol may be banished and excluded from among the factors that are most injurious to general sex welfare. In the opinion of the writer it is not simply a matter of outlawing and banishing a pleasure-giving and care-dissipating substance. When a pleasure yielding plant becomes a poisoning weed that can not be restrained, radical measures must be taken. It is not enough to break it off; it must be pulled up, root and branch. That is the verdict to which post-war observation has led. The enormous expenditure for alcohol in times of great scarcity, the increasing price of bread cereals, the extension of loathsome drunkenness, which for a short time seemed to be checked, all lead to the resolution to bring in prohibition of alcohol, as has been done with best results in the United States of America. Even though much alcohol is consumed secretly by many men, they are the exception and do not alter the great benefit which is the rule. As it is easier to bring the individual man who has contracted an injurious habit to total renunciation by an abrupt change than by gradual weaning, so also the masses of the people can be brought to total abstinence sooner by absolute prohibition than by exhortation to moderation. The Gordian knot must be cut, the worst injuries in the domain of sex must be removed from the world, or at least from public life. With alcohol, sex life can never be built up on a harmony of Eros and Ethos.

* * *

PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF DRUG ADDICTION

BY DR. ERNST JOEL AND DR. FRITZ FRANKEL

Berlin

WHILE this article* offers some remarks on prevention and treatment of the misuse of euphoria-producing (narcotic) poisons, the authors do not attempt to give a comprehensive and detailed presentation of the subject. They call attention to only a few points which they believe deserve more attention than has hitherto been given them.

Narcotic addiction is defined as an abnormal craving for euphoria-producing poisons, and while they speak principally of the misuse of opiates and of cocaine, they point out that this can be treated, theoretically and practically, only in connection with the alcohol question. Alcohol must be considered from the same standpoint as the other narcotic poisons men-

**Klinische Wochenschrift*, Sept. 3, 1925. Zur Verhütung und Behandlung der Giftsuchen.

tioned. The following is a summarized translation of the main points:

The indisputable connection between these substances is often overlooked even by physicians. One frequently meets the assertion that a prohibition of alcohol which deprives men of their accustomed pleasure-poison, drives them to the use of other material, perhaps more dangerous, and this consideration is used as an argument against the prohibition of alcohol, but one does not hear the corresponding consideration as to whether morphine and opium users when deprived of their drug do not take to alcohol. This line of thought is due to the common idea that alcohol is less harmful than these drugs, an opinion that is based on inexact reasoning. It is enough to refer to the statistics of alcoholic liver cirrhosis, delirium tremens, toper's heart, and the like. Alcoholism, with us at least, is far more dangerous than the other forms of narcotism. How many deaths from alcoholism are known to the practicing physician, and how many of his patients per year die from cocainism or morphinism? Sceleth and Kuk, who in the last twenty years have treated about 5,000 cases of morphinism in Chicago, estimate that according to their experience, for every death from such narcotics as morphine, heroin, cocain, etc., there are one hundred from alcohol. In view of such a proportion, the energy and zeal shown in the fight against the misuse of the alkaloids and the indulgence shown toward alcohol are very surprising.

Another error plays a frequent role in this connection; it concerns the question of dose. The morphinist is looked upon as intemperate and lost. But one knows sufficiently moderate morphinists and cocainists. A temperate cocainist is certainly in less danger than an intemperate alcoholic. It is difficult in such considerations to exclude the influence of habit. A man who takes cocain as an indulgence (for purpose or pleasure) appears, without question, to be in danger, although in South America hundreds of thousands are devoted to its use, and in the Orient there are innumerable temperate opium smokers. In the same way, to any one who comes to us from a non-alcohol country, it seems amazing that such a different poison as alcohol can be bought without a prescription or the least formality on every street corner.

, It may be objected that in comparison with the narcotics in a stricter sense, alcohol has a relatively greater generality of moderate users. That is true. Nevertheless one must remember that of the morphinists and cocainists, only those who become really ill consult the physician and he, therefore, can learn as little about those who gratify themselves with it as is seen by the laity from whom they hide their sufferings.

The first principle of prevention is to permit as few people as possible to become acquainted with the poisons. The chief measures to this end, limitation of production and control and protection of physician and apothecary from false prescriptions.