

THE PEOPLE WHO DRINK.

The Result of Observations at First-class Bars.

From the New York Sun. Physicians say that nearly two-thirds of their male patients suffer in one way or another from alcoholic poison.

No close observer will be disposed to doubt this. From the low shops on South and West streets, along the line of more fashionable saloons on and near Broadway, in the vicinity of the old Post Office, in the gilded retreats that greet the Astor House, in the several places of note on Printing House square, and in the magnificent marble palaces that fringe Madison square, not omitting the frosted club room and the dainty shops of the extreme east side—from the first to the last, and in them all, the same story of intemperance may be learned.

And who are the drinkers? Boys, young men, middle-aged men and old men. They all drink. Two young men meet in the lobby of a theatre, "What'll you take?" is the first and commonest salutation.

They adjourn to a barroom and drink. As the one says, the other looks at his watch and says, "Just time for another. Repeat"—and both drink again.

At each fall of the curtain at least one-half of all the men rise, push out, and hurry for a drink. This is no exaggeration. We all know it and many of us do it. I went into the basement of one of Gotham's greatest architectural firms this morning, and stood at the end of the counter, half an hour, to see what was done.

There were four bartenders, all busily engaged. In that brief time they sold to all sorts and conditions of men two hundred beers, thirty-two whiskeys, ten lemonades, two plain seltzers, and three gin cocktails.

It was an exceptionally busy half hour, to be sure; but as I took my seat at a little table near the counter, I noticed in the next half hour, and made a memorandum to guard against mistakes, a sale of one hundred and thirty beers, fifty whiskeys, and six gin cocktails.

The men who drank were not "bums." Very many of them are known to the world of politics, several are noted writers, the City Hall furnished his quote, some do business in the swamps, and not one seemed in the least degree affected by what he drank.

Leaving this place, I went to another saloon, equally well known, whose proprietors pay an annual rent of \$60,000 for premises which are kept open from 8 o'clock in the morning until 11 in the evening.

Standing by a little cigar case which is placed at one side of the room I devoted half an hour to a close count of the drinks and drinkers. There were three barkeeper, and they had all they could do to attend promptly to the customers.

One company of six young men drank six times in less than fifteen minutes, and each took his whiskey straight. In half an hour's time that bar sold ninety-eight whiskeys, four ginger ales, three cliders, and fourteen gin cocktails.

The men who drank were respectable men of business, a few literary people, and two or three persons who might have been truckmen or mechanics. None of them showed the effects of their drink.

As I went out I said to one of the six young men who drank six times, "What are you drinking so much for to-day?" "Oh, nothing," he replied. "I didn't intend to. Christy and I went for an oyster, and were ordering when those four fellows from Albany came along. Charley asked 'em to drink, and one followed the other."

That's the history of many a spree. The spree doesn't intend to go off, but meeting a friend the one tempts the other.

Returning to the saloon I visited first, I ordered a lunch, and was soon joined—I always am—by an acquaintance, who, of course, said, "What'll you take?" Being in a taking mood, I said I would try a glass of rye. He took the same. Having said "How," and emptied our glasses, I said, "Rufe, what did you drink that whiskey for? Do you like it?"

"No, I don't like it. I'm drinking too much, too. Guess I'll pull up."

FARM AND HOUSEHOLD.

BREEDING FOR STYLE. The most casual observer of human nature has noticed that extremes attract each other, that a large burly man generally admires a small, even delicate woman, and vice versa; that black eyes look wistfully at blue; and the dark and light shades of hair are envious of each other; and so on, through the various shades of temperament.

Will not this law of physical adaptation apply, to a certain extent, in breeding live stock, of any class? Permit us to mention a few instances coming under personal observation which evince the advantages to be derived by paying regard to this law of nature.

We remember a certain herd of cattle which had been bred for years with much regard to their size; the owner and breeder having a great fancy for a large animal. He got what he was after, viz., size; he also got a fair quantity of legs; and could not complain of a limited allowance of bone.

Just at this juncture he purchased a bull; got him in a trade; didn't like him; he was too small and runty. The writer took a good look at the bull. He certainly would not have weighed over 1,500 pounds in his eight year old form—in pretty good flesh at that. But barring his size, he was a capital fellow; neat limbed; round, plump form; a broad, compact body, on legs that were almost too short. He was christened "Grand Stumpy" by the cow boys, and looked for all the world, just like his name sounded.

He was used to a limited extent the first season—eight cows procured calves by him. Seven out of the eight we have seen march out of the show yard with a prize ribbon fluttering above them. This turned the scale in his favor, and he was used extensively by his owner for four successive years, when he became impatient. His calves from this herd of cattle as a collection were the best and most uniform we ever saw from a single sire.

But, you observe, this argues nothing. It only shows that he was a remarkable sire, and that he would probably have begotten calves equally as good from cows of a different mold; not so. We happen to know the bull's previous history. He had been used in another herd whose general characteristics were similar to his own, viz: compactly built cattle, somewhat undersized; and while his calves from the cows were good, even above the average as a collection, they were by no means the equals of those in the herd I have just mentioned.

The matter is worthy of more consideration than it generally receives.—Farm and Factory.

A CLEAN FLOOR. The other day I went to see my friend Mrs. Cook. She had just finished mopping her kitchen floor. I noticed it looked very nice, and asked her how she kept it so well.

"Why," she said, "don't you know I oil it about every six months? That is what makes it so easily kept clean."

"Oil!" I said. "How do you do that?" "I take a quantity of the cheapest and least offensive oil (labeled) I can secure, and I apply it with a common paint brush. I put it on smoothly, and so that it will strike equally all over, and yet not stand in spots on the surface. I do this at night after the evening work is done, and fix the place ready for use again next morning. Of course it will not injure the oiled surface itself to tread upon it at once, but grease is liable to be tracked from it, at first, to adjacent parts of the house. A new coat of oil applied once in six months, or even once a year, sometimes is sufficient to keep a floor in perfect order. One may in this way prepare to great advantage the floors of kitchens, pantries, summer dining rooms, back rooms, back halls, stairways, porticoes, closets, bath rooms, and laborers' beds rooms.—Household.

HOME MADE BAROMETERS.—All are familiar with those little wooden toy-houses with two doors, out of one of which the man comes in wet weather, and on his going in, the wife comes out of the other, when it is fair. The principle on which they are made is that catgut in wet weather shrinks, and in dry weather regains its length. A yard or more of common whipcord, with a small plummet attached, suspended against the wall, will indicate the weather by rising before rain and sinking before fair weather. Salt, which has been thoroughly dried, greatly increases in weight before rain. A pair of scales kept suspended with an iron or brass weight in one end, and an equal quantity of dry salt in the other, will infallibly show any change in the atmosphere.

The best way to boil eggs is not to boil them at all. Put them in a tin dish, and pour on boiling water; cover the dish tight, and set it back merely where the water will keep hot; let it stand from ten to fifteen minutes, according to the size of the eggs, or the preference of the eater for "hard" or "soft." The egg is quite different from that produced by boiling; both the flavor and the texture of the egg being so superior to any other way of cooking, by means of hot water, that those who have tried it, will hardly be likely to return to the old way.

The Spanish peasants think that birds eat the grain, and that trees harbor birds, so they cut down the trees, and the country represents the character of endless, melancholy, dreary plains, with a poor, stunted cereal vegetation.

Broom corn was introduced into this country by Dr. Franklin. While examining an imported-corn-whisk he accidentally discovered a single seed, which he planted in his garden, and from which the corn was propagated.

VEGETINE

WILL CURE RHEUMATISM. MR. ALBERT CROCKER, the well-known draught and apothecary of Springfield, Mass., writes: "I have been troubled with Rheumatism for several years, and have tried every remedy known to me, but have not been cured until I used VEGETINE."

Read His Statement. I have been troubled with Rheumatism for several years, and have tried every remedy known to me, but have not been cured until I used VEGETINE. I have been troubled with Rheumatism for several years, and have tried every remedy known to me, but have not been cured until I used VEGETINE.

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Of the story element, the brightest features in the Christmas Number are the tales of "The Boy and the Bear," "The Boy and the Wolf," "The Boy and the Fox," "The Boy and the Cat," "The Boy and the Dog," "The Boy and the Horse," "The Boy and the Pig," "The Boy and the Sheep," "The Boy and the Goat," "The Boy and the Cow," "The Boy and the Chicken," "The Boy and the Duck," "The Boy and the Goose," "The Boy and the Turkey," "The Boy and the Piglet," "The Boy and the Lamb," "The Boy and the Kid," "The Boy and the Goatling," "The Boy and the Sheepling," "The Boy and the Calf," "The Boy and the Piglet," "The Boy and the Lamb," "The Boy and the Kid," "The Boy and the Goatling," "The Boy and the Sheepling," "The Boy and the Calf."

THE CHRISTMAS NUMBER contains also the opening of a new series of stories, "The Boy and the Bear," "The Boy and the Wolf," "The Boy and the Fox," "The Boy and the Cat," "The Boy and the Dog," "The Boy and the Horse," "The Boy and the Pig," "The Boy and the Sheep," "The Boy and the Goat," "The Boy and the Cow," "The Boy and the Chicken," "The Boy and the Duck," "The Boy and the Goose," "The Boy and the Turkey," "The Boy and the Piglet," "The Boy and the Lamb," "The Boy and the Kid," "The Boy and the Goatling," "The Boy and the Sheepling," "The Boy and the Calf."

ST. NICHOLAS FOR 1875. Besides Miss Austin's serial for girls, and the three articles said to follow, the Christmas Number contains, will contain a short serial for boys, "The Boy and the Bear," "The Boy and the Wolf," "The Boy and the Fox," "The Boy and the Cat," "The Boy and the Dog," "The Boy and the Horse," "The Boy and the Pig," "The Boy and the Sheep," "The Boy and the Goat," "The Boy and the Cow," "The Boy and the Chicken," "The Boy and the Duck," "The Boy and the Goose," "The Boy and the Turkey," "The Boy and the Piglet," "The Boy and the Lamb," "The Boy and the Kid," "The Boy and the Goatling," "The Boy and the Sheepling," "The Boy and the Calf."

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