

THE SALOON IN MANILA.

In considering the increase of heavy drinking in Manila since its occupation by our forces and the consequent increase in the number of saloons to meet the demand created by our soldiers and their officers, it should be remembered that Manila is the focus point of an army of 60,000 men. The great increase in the sale of liquor since we occupied this city two years ago is due to our continued presence here; Americans do the drinking. There is today no appreciable increase in drinking among the original inhabitants of Manila. If we left the Philippines tomorrow, Manila would return to its three saloons and its many little wine rooms selling Spanish wines and native *mino*, because these would again satisfy the local demand for liquid refreshments and intoxicants.

It is difficult to state accurately whether our soldiers stationed in and about Manila, and those who are continually passing through the city, indulge in more heavy drinking out here than they would in a home station under similar conditions. This must be largely a question of personal opinion. I believe they do, and for these reasons: First, because a warm country causes perspiration, which brings its consequent thirst; second, because a tropical climate is debilitating to men of Northern race and their systems feel the need of stimulants; third, Manila offers very little in the way of healthy distraction and recreation, and there is little here for men to do in their leisure hours except drink; and, lastly, because when men are 10,000 miles away from home and living the rough life of a soldier, they become subject to certain feelings of license and a freedom from moral restraint. These above stated reasons in my estimation, tend to make our men in the Philippines drink more than they would at home.

Before the arrival of the American soldier in Manila there was very little heavy drinking here, and this because both Spaniards and Filipinos are temperate people; they do not drink to excess. Any one who has been in Spain or who has seen the Spanish soldiers in Cuba, in Porto Rico and the Philippines will admit they are not addicted to heavy drinking, and I do not think this point needs any further support. And the Filipino is as temperate as the Spaniard. I have been in these islands for one year, and I have yet to see an intoxicated native. I do not maintain that the Filipino never gets drunk, but the occurrence is unquestionably very rare. It is true that before we came they manufactured and consumed large quantities of this *mino* that has such a terrible effect upon our own men; but they drank it in moderation, while our men use it to excess.

Hence, given the incontrovertible facts that both Spaniards and Filipinos

are not addicted to drink, we can understand how Manila got on before we came here, with three saloons licensed for the sale of liquors, such as brandy, whiskey, and other strong drink, while today, May 10, there are 170 licensed saloons in the city and 53 licenses for the wholesale distribution of liquor.

Before we came here there were in and about Manila some 4,000 native wine-rooms licensed for the sale of Spanish wines and the native *mino*. *Minno* is a fiery drink distilled from grain, generally rice, and flavored with anise-seed. It is very strong, and when taken in excess by our men, renders them temporarily crazy and utterly irresponsible. I have seen our soldiers, when under its influence, attempt to kill their companions in the guard-house, and become so violent that it was necessary to gag and securely bind them. When we first came to Manila the American soldiers very quickly discovered where *mino* could be had; and, owing to their excessive use thereof, the authorities were forced to close many of these wine rooms.

Of the 170 saloons in Manila today selling whiskey and liquors 68 are run by Spaniards, 27 by Americans, 26 by Filipinos, 8 by Chinamen, 3 by Japanese and 39 by men whose nationality is not given. As to the patrons of these saloons I think it a very safe estimate that 90 per cent of them are Americans, including soldiers, officers, and civilians. On February 1st, of this year, we put into effect the license regulations contained in general orders No. 2 of 1900. These orders divide the city into two districts and provide for saloons of two classes. Saloons of the first class sell beer, whiskey, and other intoxicants, while those of the second class may dispense beer and light wines only. The first district of Manila includes all the principal streets of the city, where a license would be more valuable than in the suburbs, which are embraced in the second district. For a six months' license, saloons of the first class located in the first district pay \$600 Mexican, and \$250 Mexican if in the second district. A six months' license for a saloon of the second class costs \$100 in Mexican in the first district, and \$50 Mexican in the second district. The application of the high license reduced the number of saloons from 224 at the end of January, 1900, to the 170 existing today.

The authorities refuse to grant license for the sale of intoxicants to discharged American soldiers, and every applicant must pass a careful inspection as to his record and purposes before a license is accorded him. The Escolta, Manila's principal business street, has been written and spoken of as crowded with saloons, and given over to the disorders of our drunken soldiery. It has been called the disgrace of the American occupation

of Manila. Disgraceful scenes are undoubtedly witnessed there, but let us not paint the matter blacker than it really is. The Escolta is as long as four New York blocks, say from Tenth to Fourteenth street, and it is narrower than Fifth avenue. From the geographical position of the city's districts, the river and the bridges, the Escolta is of necessity Manila's main thoroughfare as well as its principal business street. Here are the best stores, restaurants, and business offices. It is always crowded and often blocked with cabs and carriages. From one end to another of this street, on both sides, there are 76 store properties, and 13 of these are occupied by saloons. All day long the Escolta is filled with American soldiers, and at certain times, especially when the troops in and near Manila have been paid off, the street is very well filled with drunken men. At such times ladies are subject to unpleasant experiences if on the Escolta, and private cabs and carriages are often forcibly occupied by our drunken and hilarious troops. During the two days following a recent pay-day, twenty-five drunken soldiers were arrested by the Escolta police, and convictions against all were secured, while many more were gathered in, given time to sober up in the guard-house, and then discharged. It is unfortunate that the main thoroughfare of the city should also be the main drinking-ground, and it has been suggested to the proper authorities that no saloons be allowed on the Escolta. It would be a simple matter to make them go elsewhere, but Gen. Otis never took any action in the matter, and efforts to effect their removal have therefore been futile.

It is not my purpose to speak of the effects of alcoholism in the tropics; they are already well known. It is a fact that a large number of the insane soldiers sent home on our transports can trace their affliction to the excessive use of stimulants, and it is a fact that the drinking of liquors in the tropics weakens a man's constitution and renders him more liable to disease.—Mr. Harold Martin in the Independent.

SUCCESSSES LATE IN LIFE.

"I have been reading the Evening Post's articles and letters on 'why young men fail,' " remarked one of the young men concerned today; "and I have been especially interested in the reason which the older and more successful men assign for it—that is, lack of industry rather than lack of opportunity. In the first place, permit me to remark that the phrase 'why young men fail' strikes me as rather an anomalous and paradoxical one. How, in the proper sense, can young men be said to have failed? It is altogether absurd to put down a man twenty-five or thirty-five years of age, who has not succeeded in pushing him