



## RECEPTION TO DR. T. D. CROTHERS

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ON Tuesday afternoon a numerous and influential company, comprising Foreign and Colonial members of the Congress, Members of Parliament, and representatives of the leading Temperance and Prohibition Societies, assembled in the rooms of the Medical Society of London, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, on the invitation of the President and Council of the Society for the Study of Inebriety. The object of the gathering was to do honor to Dr. T. D. Crothers, of Hartford, Connecticut, U.S.A., Secretary of the American Society for the Cure of Inebriates, and Editor of the "Quarterly Journal of Inebriety."

The CHAIRMAN, Dr. Norman Kerr, in proposing a resolution of welcome to Dr. Crothers, said that to America we were indebted for the modern movement on behalf of special treatment and special legislation for the Inebriate. From the illustrious Dr. Benjamin Rush, one hundred years ago, to the present day, American physicians had laid the foundation of a great work of permanent reformation and cure. Besides the incalculable services of the United States in the rise and progress of the general Temperance reform, and in the practical application of enlightened and effective prohibitory legislation, the recognition of the diseased state of many drunkards, and the consequent necessity for remedial treatment as in the case of other disease conditions, had been first fully and persistently pressed in the United States. In that great and friendly community across the Atlantic special institutions had first been established for the cure of the disease of inebriety. The results had been excellent, and such as filled all their hearts with joy and thankfulness. In England we were far behind the United States in this practical and useful work. There, the inebriate, willing to surrender his liberty, was deterred by no forbidding appearance before two justices from applying for admission to a Home for Inebriates. The applicant could be received at once, and detained for the period for which he contracted with the managers on simply signing an agreement. There, too, the long-suffering and harassed friends of the inebriate could, on proving his inebriety, have him compulsorily, if necessary, sent to a retreat for a time for care and treatment. He (Dr. Kerr) had seen in America the most satisfactory issue from such commitments. Provision, too, was to some extent made for the poor. Here we had no legislative pity on the destitute drunkard or on his sorely tried wife and family. But the future was not without hope even in Britain. A better day was dawning, an auspicious prospect for which we were mainly indebted to such pioneers as Dr. Parrish, Dr. Crothers, and Dr. T. L. Wright, who had, with S. E. O. Thwing and other American friends, all honoured the Society with their presence to-day. The three gentlemen first named were an illustrious American triumvirate, who had laid the world under deep obligations by laying the foundation of an enlightened and permanent literature of inebriety. They had the privilege of offering Dr. Parrish a reception at the Dalrymple Home at Rickmansworth a year and a



halfago. Now they had the happiness to welcome amongst them Dr. Crothers. Dr. Crothers has already won the reputation of being an enthusiastic enquirer in this field, and, imbued with the true spirit of scientific research, he had done grand work as editor of the "Journal of Inebriety," as in many other ways. The President concluded by proposing the following resolution of welcome:—

"That this Congress of British, Colonial, and Foreign members, comprising members of the Legislature, Ministers of religion, physicians, lawyers, philanthropists, Abstainers, Non-Abstainers, prohibitionists, and other friends of the habitual drunkard, convened by the Society for the Study of Inebriety, offers a hearty welcome to Dr. T. D. Crothers, Hartford, Connecticut, U. S. A., Secretary of the American Association for the Cure of Inebriates, and Editor of the 'Quarterly Journal of Inebriety.'"

"That this Congress tenders its hearty congratulations to Dr. Crothers, and his American colleagues, for the excellent work done by their Association and Journal in enlightening the profession and the public on the physical aspect of inebriety, and trusts that through the united efforts of all who are interested in Temperance Legislation, the time will soon arrive when the diseased state of the inebriate will be generally acknowledged, and when effective measures will be passed by the Legislatures of every country for the judicious care and treatment of all inebriates willing to be treated in special Homes, and for the compulsory seclusion in such Institutions of inebriates unwilling of their own accord to put themselves under restraint."

Dr. G. M. CLARK, M.P., seconded the resolution, saying that it was of the highest importance to have the advice of these eminent men from abroad to aid in the legislation and the growth of a clearer view of the inebriate and his malady.

Dr. CROTHERS, in reply, remarked as follows:—Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, while I am profoundly grateful and impressed with the distinguished honor you are conferring on me, on this most memorable time and occasion, I am conscious that it is more a tribute of your respect and esteem for the little band of pioneer workers in America, who long ago united in an association to explore this new realm from the scientific side. Nearly a quarter of a century has passed since the American Association for the Cure of Inebriety began its work. Although persecuted and condemned from all sides, it has gone on quietly and fearlessly. While many of its early members have passed away, those who remain have the great satisfaction of feeling that this event, and this Congress, is the dawn of a new era—a flash of light bursting up the skies indicating that the long night of empiricism and ignorance of inebriety and inebriates is drawing to a close. The scientific aspect of this subject is at last being recognised. On behalf of the American Association for the Cure of Inebriety; on behalf of the "Journal of Inebriety," and its wide circle of readers, I most sincerely thank you. For myself words cannot express the feelings of this hour. A period has been reached in the scientific study of inebriety, when the many facts and conclusions should have a prominent place in the march of truth. The papers which will be presented to this Congress will no doubt take a permanent place in this direction. It is also time that some history of the early progress of this movement should be recorded. For this purpose I invite your attention for a moment.

First. *The Origin of the Movement.*—In 1809 Dr. Benjamin Rush, of Philadelphia, Pa., published a work entitled "Medical Inquiries," in which he declared "that Intemperance was a disease, and that hospitals for its exclusive treatment should be established in all the principal cities of the land." Similar views had been urged at different times in the past, dating from the comments of Ulpian, the Roman jurist, who wrote in the second century of the Christian era.

The honor of bringing this fact into the realm of practical science is due

to Dr. J. E. Turner, a practising physician in the state of Maine. He vitalized this idea in the organization of the first inebriate hospital in the world. In 1846 Dr. Turner became interested in this work, from an ineffectual effort to save an early friend who was an inebriate. He recognised the nature of the disease of inebriety and the need of hospital treatment, and began an enthusiastic agitation of the subject. After eight years of most persistent effort, in the face of great opposition, he succeeded in enlisting the attention of many eminent medical men, and forming a company to build an Inebriate Hospital, with the late famous surgeon, Dr. Valentine Mott, as president. Laws were passed to give power to hold inmates, a charter was granted, and nearly ten thousand pounds subscribed for the grounds and building. Ten years later, in 1864, a magnificent building was completed and opened for patients, at Binghamton, N.Y., the pioneer hospital of the world. Later, a fire destroyed part of the building, which was soon after rebuilt. Then the board of trustees became involved in a controversy with the founder, Dr. Turner, resulting in his retirement, and placing the hospital in the care of the State. Passing into the management of politicians, its history was a series of misfortunes, until finally it was changed into a chronic insane asylum. Thus Dr. Turner, the founder, who had conceived and built this hospital, giving over a quarter of a century of time and effort, and his own personal fortune, shared the fate of all reformers and benefactors of the world, in the obloquy and disgrace of being driven away from the creation of his own genius. Thus the pioneers and leaders of all great truths of science are martyrs in their day and generation.

The enthusiasm which at first centered about Binghamton Hospital reacted, and the moralists and Temperance advocates, who from the first had opposed this movement as an "infidel work" to diminish human responsibility, used every means to spread the idea of failure and condemn other efforts in this direction. But a great fact had been organized, and its practical character had taken deep root in the public mind. The birth of the Binghamton Hospital was followed by the organization of over a dozen different hospitals for this work in different parts of the country, some of which are still in existence, doing grand work.

*The Hospitals for Inebriates to-day.*—Notwithstanding the misfortunes of the first hospital and its founder, a large number of similar places have been organized and managed with success. As in all new enterprises, many of these hospitals must suffer from non-expert management, and be organized on some theory of the nature and treatment of inebriety not founded on correct study and experience. After a time they are abandoned, or changed to homes for nervous cases and insane. Over fifty different hospitals for inebriates have been established in America. More than thirty of this number are in successful operation; the others have changed into insane asylums, water cures, etc. Three large buildings or institutions are practically "faith cures," where all physical remedies and means are ignored. Several asylums are called homes for nervous people, to conceal the real cause, and thus protect the patients from the supposed stigma of inebriety. Others are literally lodging houses, where the inmates can remain a few days and recover from the effects of spirits. Several places make a specialty of opium cases; in some the treatment is often empirical. In only a few of these hospitals is the disease of inebriety studied and treated on a scientific basis. The others are passing through the ordeal of "elimination and survival of the fittest," incident to every new advance of science. In many of the States large public hospitals are projected and awaiting pecuniary aid from the State or from other sources.

*Inmates of Hospitals, and the Cures.*—Not less than two thousand inebriates are under treatment in hospitals in America. Over a thousand of this number are in special hospitals. They represent most largely the incurable cases; persons who have tried every means found in the pledge, prayer, and by moral suasion, and exhausted every resource of home and friends, and



come as a last resort, expecting extraordinary change and cure. They have been victims of this disease from five to thirty years, and present the most complex and varied degrees of physical and mental degeneration. Yet, notwithstanding this fact, the experience of the few scientific hospitals in the results of treatment is exceedingly promising. Statistics of over three thousand cases, which have been under treatment at different hospitals, indicate nearly forty per cent. restored and temperate, after a period of from six to eight years from the time of discharge from the hospital. The best authorities unite in considering thirty-five per cent. of all who remain under treatment one year or more as permanently restored. In view of the chronic character of these cases, and the imperfect means of treatment, these statistics are encouraging, and indicate great possibilities in the future from a better knowledge and control of these cases.

*Legal Control of Inebriates*.—The legal control of inebriates in America, and legislation, are very imperfect. In Connecticut the best laws are in force, giving power over inebriates to voluntarily commit themselves, or be committed by their friends, without the formality of appearing before a judge or court. In other States they are committed to asylums in about the same way as the insane are. In the hospitals they are controlled legally the same as the insane, only with more difficulty, and the constant intrusion of disputed questions of authority which cannot be settled. Nearly all the leading hospitals have special powers of control, which they exercise with caution in most cases. But generally both legislation and legal authority are not far ahead of public sentiment, and hospital managers are unwilling to go beyond this. Most of the hospitals have power to control patients a certain specified time, agreed upon when admitted to the hospital.

*Hospitals organized by State and private means*.—Most of the inebriate hospitals in America are private and corporate organizations, which received, from time to time, State aid. Some of them have endowments, such as free beds, or incomes from estates, or are given so much of the license money. Others depend upon the income from patients, private donations, and charities generally. Very few paupers or indigent poor are received in any of these hospitals. This class appear in the "lodging" and "faith cure" places. The State of Connecticut has projected a workhouse hospital for the criminal class of these cases where the commitment is for three years, but want of State aid has prevented practical work so far. In three other States similar projects for the pauper inebriates have been organized, but for various reasons have not gone into operation.

*The Literature of the subject*.—The exact scientific study of inebriety has revealed facts and conclusions which have roused bitter controversy, from those who should have been first to welcome its truths.

A large number of so-called reformers have been from the first denouncers of the disease theory, but unwittingly they have greatly helped on the work by controversy and agitation. In 1870 an association was formed of persons who were connected with inebriate asylums, or interested in the subject, called the American Association for the Cure of Inebriates. This Association has met yearly and semi-yearly ever since, and its papers and transactions comprise the first permanent literature on this subject. In 1877 the *Journal of Inebriety* was issued as the organ of this association, and from that time has been the medium through which most of the literature of the subject from Americans has been presented. The disease of inebriety and its curability in special hospitals, have been the cardinal principles of this Association, which it has demonstrated and maintained with increasing vigour. Discussing exclusively the physical side of this subject, amid difficulties which only pioneers in a new field have to contend with, the foundation of a scientific literature has been laid which will be historic to future students of this subject. This Association and its journal are great silent powers, crystallizing and marshalling the many facts constantly appearing from a study of these cases. Already two members of this Association, Dr. Parrish (who is the only original organizer of our Society still in the field), and

Dr. Wright, have published works on inebriety that mark the beginning of a "new era," and have given great impetus to its scientific study.

*Inebriety in America*.—It is evident that inebriety in America partakes largely of the intensity of life and living so noticeable to foreigners. It is more precipitate, maniacal, and rapid in its progress. Stronger spirits are used, insanity follows more quickly, and all forms of degeneration appear. The life of an inebriate dating from the time of the first intoxication is much shorter than in other countries. The victim seems to plunge into every form of excitement, such as speculation, politics, religious and Temperance agitation, and every new movement which attracts attention. Public sentiment seems to seek relief more for the inebriates who are active brain and muscle workers, but has not advanced far enough to be much interested in the pauper and criminal class. It is the cure and treatment of these cases who seem to have power to help themselves, the men of genius, education, property, and influence, that are rousing interest in the subject, and creating a demand for help, which quacks and charlatans are rushing forward to meet. Eleven different specific remedies are advertised as certain cures for inebriety, and the intensity and impulsiveness of the various moral movements for this end are psychological wonders of the age.

*Some Conclusions*.—The history of the inebriate asylum movement in America is only a repetition of every real advance in science, having three regular stages of growth; first, agitation; then opposition; and finally acceptance. It is now in the first and second stages. The students of science who have examined the facts find the disease of inebriety and its curability in special hospitals supported by such an array of evidence as to demand its full acceptance. The opponents who have misunderstood the subject are still agitating and opposing this view. Inebriate hospitals in America are rapidly merging into well-appointed, thoroughly scientific places for the study and cure of the inebriate. Empiric institutions, managers, and methods of treatment still exist, but in them all there are most hopeful indications of a larger and more accurate work. A great undercurrent of public sentiment is not content with only the moral remedies urged by agitations. It is turning to physicians and scientists, with a growing conviction that from this side the true remedy for this evil will be found. The few pioneer workers grope along the borders of this "new continent" of facts like the "old northmen" on the shores of New England, conscious that a great, new, unknown world of laws and forces stretch out before them. The demand in America, as elsewhere, is for well established facts concerning inebriety and its treatment in special hospitals—facts and conclusions reached by competent observers, and based on data beyond question. The subject must be studied, independent of all opinions and metaphysical theories, before its cure or prevention will be a practical reality. Legal power over the inebriate long enough to make a possible cure, and means to organize and sustain hospitals for this purpose, are demanded everywhere to-day. These wants are being rapidly recognized, and all investigation sustains the conviction that the time is not far away when the inebriate will be taken from his home and on the street, and quarantined in special hospitals, the same as if suffering from an infectious disease. If an incurable, he will be housed and made self-supporting for life. A united sentiment in this direction will be felt all along the line of progress and civilization.

The President introduced Dr. PARRISH, saying that he was a very old friend of the cause, whom they all delighted to honor. This was his third visit to this country in the interest of this great subject. They all remember the great value of his services before the Parliamentary Committee of 1872, and his influence in helping to form public opinion, which had rendered special legislation for the inebriate possible in this country. He welcomed Dr. Parrish as a teacher in this new field of science, who in ill health had braved the perils of the ocean to be with them to-day.

Dr. PARRISH replied as follows:—Mr. President, in consequence of physical disability, the paper which I shall presently offer, as my humble contribution



to the proceedings of this Congress, will be read, with your permission, by my friend and companion, Mr. W. E. Schermerhorn, also from America. But before the reading you will, I am sure, allow me to express my grateful acknowledgment of the kindness and generous hospitality which characterises this reception to our honored friend, Dr. Crothers, and the American Delegation. The subject which has brought us together is a many-sided one. There is room enough in the wide field which it occupies for workers of every description. Church methods are applied with devotion and zeal, moral suasionists, hand in hand with the Church, follow up the same lines of approach; and politicians come on, with their ever varying and seemingly wise methods, the chief element of which is an elasticity, which accommodates itself alike to all conditions, and all necessities of all classes. There is, however, a side to this many-sided subject which needs more workers. It is the physical side, the disease side, that portion which calls for medical investigation, and which needs scientific explorers, because the fact has been reached without any flaw in it, without any doubt, or room for doubt, that inebriety is a disease. If alcohol is a poison—a now accepted truth—then surely persons who fill themselves with poison, cannot do other than exhibit the symptoms of poison. The staggering gait, the muttering speech, and allied symptoms are familiar signs which are seen daily in our streets, and in our homes. We have met to consider this subject, in this aspect of disease, and this alone. It is the absorbing topic of the time. It is now moving the hearts of nations. It puzzles the brain of our civilization. It calls for research and study. Let us give ourselves to it with earnestness. We come from all climes, but in this matter we are one people, one nation, one heart, and one mind. We are brethren all. Our business is to help our brothers whose silent helplessness looks for help. In the name of our common humanity they shall have it, freely.

The paper was then read by Mr. SCHERMERHORN as follows:—

There is a feature in the career of inebriety to which I desire, very briefly, to invite the attention of this Congress. I shall present it in the form of an enquiry, for the reason that the subject has not been discussed hitherto, so far as I know, nor even mentioned as a clinical observation by any writer on the subject which has, this day, brought together so many representatives from nearly every nation on the globe. The question is this—Is there a climacteric period in inebriety?

The dogma of critical days is as old as the art of medicine itself. It was taught by the Father of Medicine, and has had a place in medical literature through all the ages, from the time of Hippocrates till now. It is true that it was carried to great extremes by some of the older practitioners, being applied in certain diseases to a degree that was almost grotesque in the multiplicity and minuteness of its detail. And yet every age, and every author, and the sentiment of mankind at large, have accepted as a radical fact, the existence of the two crises, known as puberty, or the beginning of manhood-life, and the menopause, which marks the decline of virility. The constitutional changes that occur at these two periods, need not be enumerated in such a presence as this, as they are essential physiological facts in the history of every normal human life. With the appearance and development of the generative function, the change in physical structure, in the moral sentiments, in desire, inclination, appetite, and passion, are too well known to need repetition, except to enforce the analogy to which I shall presently refer.

This is the period when the constructive metamorphosis is perhaps the most active. The food of a preceding term of infancy is changed or abandoned; the mother's breast, the simple nutriment of earlier years, the habits of life, the social relations, all undergo modification or abandonment. A new era commences, in which the relation of the subject to his environment is completely changed. In fact, a new world is open before him. Thirty years later in life—after a generation has been granted for the production of a succeeding one—comes another crisis. The constructive gives way to the

destructive metamorphosis. The desires, inclinations, passions, appetites, are either exhausted or changed again. The food, the social and domestic relations, undergo modifications that are adapted to the new stage of existence, which is described by the wise man of Holy Writ as "the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the strong men shall bow themselves, and the grinders cease, because they are few," and when "desire shall fail."

In the application of these well-known truths to the inebriate, it should be borne in mind that to deal with inebriety according to the demands of science, we should not indulge in broad platitudes and generalizations, after the manner of popular thought and practice; but rather seek for such differences of causation and symptoms, as will enable us to arrange them, each according to its own class or grade.

My purpose now is to confine myself chiefly to such cases as are called periodical drinkers. I trust that we may, hereafter, find a more descriptive classification, as we proceed with the study of the subject; but at present we all recognise a class of inebriates who invariably refer to the gastric region as the seat of that irresistible gnawing, or craving for drink, which they describe as similar to a kindred sense, or appetite, known as hunger, and the accompanying imperative demand for food. To such it matters but little what kind or quality of drink, or food, may be used for the time being, so that the longing or craving is satisfied.

In such cases inebriety is the result of a defective or perverted alimentation, and to that portion of the cerebrum which presides over the digestive system, and communicates its impression to the solar plexus, is to be attributed the longing or craving in that region, which I believe to be almost exclusively found in that class of drinkers called periodical.

I have repeatedly found in my own experience, individuals who would place their hands over the region of the stomach and cry out with a sense of distress, which they described as worse than pain, and which demanded for its immediate relief an alcoholic stimulant.

Such cases are usually of the hereditary type, having no desire for drink at any other times, but who cannot be satisfied short of complete oblivion. The debauch over, business is resumed, and duties performed with no desire for indulgence, but rather a loathing and disgust for it until seized by a similar paroxysm. Periodicity is a marked feature in such cases, and though the intervals may be long or short between them, they are sure to return with more or less regularity. The question now seems to be that as periodicity is the law of the constitution in such cases, is it not reasonable to conclude that the desire may exhaust itself by repeated indulgence, and possibly do so at, or about, the time when the vital force begins to wane, and all the functions that are dependent upon it are enfeebled?

In looking over a record of nearly five hundred cases of inebriety, kept with reference to ascertaining their physical condition at the commencement of drinking, and also when it would probably close either spontaneously or while under treatment, I have come to the following conclusion.

The majority of them were, at the beginning of their indulgence, affected by disease, or accident, or affliction, by which the moral sentiments and the affections were subject to strain, and that they had a decided tendency to periodical outbreaks, during which they were frequently most incorrigible subjects. On the other hand, the record disclosed the fact that there were many who could not trace their indulgence to any traumatic cause, but who, from mere infirmity of nature, were the victims of circumstances and surroundings. Lacking a firm moral principle, trained to self-indulgence, without the fibre and force of a self-reliant and courageous spirit, they allowed themselves to drift into the current of debauchery and degradation. From this they could only be delivered by the strong hand of the law, or of parental authority, compelling restraint and the infusion of



new motives and purposes by prolonged abstinence, together with the reforming influences of another and a better life.

What, then, is the climacteric period when the morbid element which tends to alcoholic intemperance may exhaust itself? It is not a particular day or year, but it is when the vital energy—the force which produces and maintains and continues life—fails in intensity as to this appetite or passion. This it does naturally with the approach of age and altered conditions. It may be expected with inebriates between 40 and 45 years of age, and yet may occur much earlier.

Another fact should be named here, that is worthy of thought in connection with this interesting enquiry, to wit:—There is in the human constitution, as declared by Dobell and others, the power to throw off poisons, under certain conditions. Indeed the force that produces and maintains the vital functions, if not impaired below its normal standard, does resist and sometimes overcome the morbid element in the form of poison.

In relation to heredity, I would remark that the word is often used in such a limited sense as to deprive it of its real significance and value in relation to the subject before us. It is a popular notion that what is called an inherited tendency to inebriety must be the product of an intemperate parentage, or at least of a generation immediately preceding that, but this is an error I have no doubt. The parents and grandparents of an inebriate may be sober and discreet persons, who never indulge in strong drink, and yet their offspring may be born with a tendency to alcoholic excess, from the fact that the union of incompatible elements in them has engendered in the offspring a temperament as unstable as if tainted by the poison of alcohol.

These considerations I submit to the Congress, not with the expectation that they will be at once approved, but that they may stimulate enquiry in the same direction, and lead to results in the future which may be of practical value to the race of mankind.

The PRESIDENT said he had been charmed with a philosophical and thoughtful work, which would amply repay perusal by all of them. The title of this work was "Inebriism," and the learned author was Dr. T. L. Wright, of Bellefontaine, Ohio, U.S.A., whom he had the great pleasure of presenting to the audience.

Dr. WRIGHT responded as follows:—Mr. Chairman, ladies, and gentlemen—This magnificent reception to my friend Dr. Crothers we all acknowledge with feelings of profound gratitude. This occasion is the outgrowth of the most grand and beneficent movement of the age in which we live, a movement designed to raise the fallen and to inspire with new hope the despairing. The place is most fitting, this great city—the centre of the population, the wealth, and the enlightenment of the whole world. It is, therefore, eminently proper that we each should place on the altar of humanity some small offering in furtherance of the central idea which has brought us here from every clime under the sun. In following out this thought I beg leave to ask your attention for a few moments. The time has come when some practical application of the principles developed by the study of Inebriety is desirable. The anæsthetic, the benumbing, the paralyzing influence of alcohol upon the nervous system, and especially upon common sensation, always darkens knowledge, misleads judgment. And this is of necessity the case, because the perceptive faculty is so intimately associated with, if it is not wholly founded upon, sensation. When the senses are disturbed and impaired, perception is correspondingly disturbed and impaired; and it is unable to present to the mind facts as they truly are, as they really exist in the surroundings. The fine shadows, and uncertainties, and doubts which invariably attend all human transactions, escape the notice of a man who is intoxicated; and not being perceived by him, he imagines they do not exist. Everything has, to his mind, the quality and energy of absolute demonstration. He never hesitates, never doubts. He is, therefore, a very bad, as well as a very dangerous,

witness in a court of justice, and particularly in criminal proceedings, where he is very likely to appear—bad from defective knowledge, and dangerous from a morbid positiveness in conviction and assertion. It seems, probable, indeed, that a drunken witness testifying as to events observed while sober is more trustworthy than a sober witness testifying as to events observed while intoxicated. These incapacities are inseparable from the use and influence of alcohol; and even the moderate dram of ardent spirits—in some cases it may be small—will remove, dislodge, the human character from the highest position it is capable of occupying—that of a sound mind in a sound body. I will, with your permission, touch upon another point. There is a great deal said about heredity, and the various causes which incite to drunkenness. These things are rightly and properly said, for, not only is there often an inborn predisposition to drunkenness, but there may be also an acquired pre-disposition. The latter accompanies the establishment of a neurotic constitution through physical injury, or prolonged and profound disease, or some overwhelming bereavement, and soon. Yet this predisposition does not, all of the time, impel to drunkenness. Very often drinking is not indulged in, and is not desired. There is, therefore, something else, something additional which calls for intoxication at particular times. What is the actually present force bearing on the nervous system which incites with such irresistible power, to alcoholic indulgence? The answer is, the neurotic constitution is one of non-symmetry of function—one of distraction amongst the several sub-systems of nerves, which, when operating in harmony, distinguish the normal man. This inharmonious activity in the nervous systems may be, and often is, slight at times. But like some fault in the perfect working of machinery, every movement increases the disturbance until the whole nervous organism becomes excited and distressed. It is to subdue this that alcohol is taken. For the paralyzing influence of that substance abates pain and overcomes the disturbance in nervous unity of action. At length the time comes when a readjustment amongst the several nervous functions becomes imperative. There is a continuous irritability of nerve. If trouble is not real, trouble will be imagined. An unceasing and insupportable nagging from nervous distress and universal hyperæsthesia will torment the physical and mental and moral powers. There is no period of abatement, no city of refuge. Rest, repose is indispensable. The agony is dreadful, and it must cease, or a resort to suicide is threatened as the last and final remedy. What now happens? A convulsive movement, like some great seismic upheaval, takes place in the form of drunkenness. For a time, the readjustment in the harmony of nervous function is accomplished, and repose ensues. To secure this result, a stoppage of the nervous storm and tumult in nervous function is indispensable, and the paralyzing and anæsthetic influence of alcohol is called in to secure the desired rest. It is not for excitement that, most commonly, alcohol is taken into the system; it is to secure repose; and this repose is simply paralysis. In the paralysis of sensation, pain is abated; in the paralysis of the co-ordinating nerve centres, the moral and sympathetic distresses no longer harass and agonise the system. Alcohol is a complete remedy, for paralysis means death; and the paralysis of alcohol extends throughout the whole body. It is seen in the motor system through the staggering gait, the imperfect articulation, and the distorted countenance. It is seen in the organs of sensation through anæsthesia, and the suspension of the sense of feeling. It is seen in the intellectual functions through confusion of the mind, and the intrusive distortions in the ideas and imagination. It is seen in the moral sense through the loss of that sense, and the inflow of untruthfulness, deceit, and prevarication. The fact is that drunkenness is a temporary suicide, which is frequently sought by the neurotic inebriate, in the unconsciousness of drunken stupor. Again, the man of sober and equable temperament will point to alcohol, and say to the inebriate, "This substance will affect me just as it does you, yet I abstain without difficulty, while you resort to it in spite of the disasters it entails. It is useless to declare that you cannot forbear as well as others." The error lies in contemplating the



nature of alcohol, and leaving out of view the nature of the victim. It is not the strength of the alcohol which determines the event, as much as it is the weakness of the inebriate. A feeble assault is successful when the defences are weak, while the same assault is easily repulsed when the defences are strong. A neurotic constitution is one wherein the bulwarks of nerve power and endurance are thrown down, and where, in consequence, temptation gains easy entrance. Build up the resiliency of nerve function in the inebriate by adequate mental, moral, and especially by hygienic and medicinal appliances; remove the weakness of body, and mind, and will; restore their strength and endurance, and then the onslaughts of alcohol will be vain. In view of the march of scientific and unprejudiced investigation, the following conclusions appear to be warranted:—1st. The condition of drunkenness, by impairing sensation and consciousness, renders the acquisition of accurate knowledge impossible, and the legal testimony as to facts observed in the drunken state, should be viewed with suspicion. 2nd. The inebriate constitution is neurotic, and founded upon instability of nerve energy, and the discordance of nervous function. This is shown by the disruption of the normal interdependence that should subsist between the several nerve sections, both as to the power, and the time of their mutual activity. 3rd. Inebriety is a physical disease, exhibiting most commonly periodical symptoms. It is at once evinced and demonstrated by an imbecility of the will, and of the controlling and conservative powers of the nervous system in general.

Short remarks were made by Dr. Thwing (of Brooklyn, New York), Dr. Koch (of Holland), Dr. Moeller (of Brussels), and Dr. Farquharson; after which the reception adjourned to a sumptuous lunch served by the Society for the Cure of Inebriety.

The first Colonial and International Congress ever held on Inebriety, and the special treatment and legislation needed for the diseased Inebriate, took place next day, under the auspices of the Society for the Study of Inebriety, in Westminster Town Hall, beginning at 10 a.m. The following is a list of the papers read and the authors:—Norman Kerr, M.D., F.L.S., President, opening address, "Inebriety, a disease requiring medical, moral, and legislative treatment." Mons. le Chevalier Max Proskowetz de Proskow-Marstorff, President of the Austrian Inebriate Society, "Inebriety in Austria." N. S. Davis, M.D., President, International Medical Congress, "Inebriety, a Disease." Professor Binz, Bonn, "The German Law on Inebriety." Dr. Moeller, Brussels, "Inebriety in Belgium, from a Medical and Legal point of view." Clark Bell, Esq., President, Medico-Legal Society of New York, Editor, Medico-Legal Journal, "The Relation of Intemperance to Insanity." E. C. Mann, M.D., Brooklyn, U.S.A., "Pathology of Inebriety." L. D. Mason, M.D., Consulting Physician, Fort Hamilton Home for Inebriates, "The Relation of Disease to Inebriety." Rev. Dr. De Colleville, Brighton, "Continental Legislation for Inebriates." Rev. J. W. Horsley, M.A., "A Prison Chaplain's Observations on Inebriety." Alfred Carpenter, M.D., J.P., "The Meeting-place of Vice and Disease." Surgeon-Major Pringle, M.D., "Homicidal and Suicidal Inebriety." President, "Colonial Legislation for Inebriates." Dr. Cameron, M.P., "Need of Legislation for the better Control of Inebriates." Dr. B. W. Richardson, "On the Action of Alcohol on the Heart, as seen in the Sphygmographic Tracings." Dr. Petithan, of Liege, "Legislation on Inebriety in Belgium."

Very interesting discussions followed the reading of these papers, in which Lord Denman, Drs. Cameron, Richardson, Parrish, Wright, Crothers, Carpenter, Moeller, Thwing, Koch, Branthwaite, Gray, and many others took part.

In the evening of Wednesday the Westminster Town Hall presented a brilliant appearance, when an influential and representative company of some 250 ladies and gentlemen sat down to dinner. Dr. Norman Kerr, Presi-

dent of the Congress, presided. Among those who had accepted the invitation were Lord Denman, Lord Mount-Temple, Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild, Sir Wilfrid Lawson, M.P., Sir Trevor Lawrence, M.P., Dr. Cameron, M.P., Wm. Johnston, M.P., W. B. Rowlands, Q.C., M.P., P. MacLagan, M.P., Dr. Clark, M.P., T. W. Russell, M.P., S. McNeill, M.P., J. C. Stevenson, M.P., Canon Ellison, Rev. Drs. Lansdell, F.R.G.S., Dawson Burns, De Colleville, Revs. J. Gelson Gregson, Wm. Allan, E. Grose Hodge, G. Howard Wright, A. Styleman Herring, F. Storer Clark, W. R. Mowll, J. R. O. West (Manchester), G. M. Murphy, R. P. Cook, F. D. Buckhorne, Henry Varley, Consul-General Waller, Sir Edwin Saunders, F.R.C.S., Hon. Conrad Dillon, Lieut.-General Gillilan, Lieut.-Colonel Young, Lieut.-Colonel Whale, Captain Phipps, Drs. Joseph Parrish, T. D. Crothers, T. L. Wright, E. Thwing (U.S.A.), Dr. Moeller (Brussels), Lady Denman, Lady Mount-Temple, Mrs. Norman Kerr, Mrs. Hind Smith, Mrs. F. Sherlock Messrs. John Taylor, Robert Rae, J. W. Leng, Fred. Sherlock, Stephen Bourne, Tudor Trevor (Leeds), Geo. Ward (Manchester), John T. Rae, W. I. Palmer, J.P., Joseph Peters, John Fair, Wm. Saunders, Kegan Paul, J. D. M. Pearce, J.P. (Maidenhead), and Robert Lockhart (Edinburgh).

During dinner the well-known and fashionable Anglo-Hungarian band, under the leadership of Mr. Edward Crosse, in their picturesque costume, played a selection of high class music.

The dinner was elegantly and tastefully served by Mr. A. B. Marshall, of the West End School of Cookery, 30, Mortimer Street, who has contracted for the different valedictory banquets to the Viceroy of India in the same hall. The banquet was a masterpiece—rich, elegant, and in good taste, comprising several new dishes designed by Mrs. Marshall. The following is the *menu*, which was displayed on a neat card:—

#### POTAGES.

Consommé Sévigné. Vert Pré.

#### POISSONS.

Filets de Merlan Frits au Crème d'anchois Froide.  
Filets de Saumon à la Morny.

#### ENTREES.

Petites Caisses en Salpicon.  
Escalopes de Pigeon à la Castellane.

#### RELEVES.

Quartier d'agneau. Sauce Menthe.  
Poulardes Braisées aux Nouilles.  
Pommes de Terre Olives. Petits Pois au beurre.

#### SALADE.

#### ROTS.

Jambon Roti aux Epinards.  
Salade de Filets de Sole à l'Impériale.

#### ENTREMETS.

Baba à la Parisienne.  
Crème de Pain Bis Glacée à la Montmorency.  
Gelée à la Française.  
Petites Croustades à la Versailles.

#### CAFE.

#### DESSERT.



Besides a supply of water and ice, in addition to the coffee, two other beverages were provided :—Brunnen table water, a brisk and pleasant drink, a royal favourite ; oxygenated water, flavoured with lemon, charged with oxygen obtained from the atmosphere by Brin's process, a palatable and refreshing beverage.

The toasts were "The Queen and the Royal Family," by the Chairman ; "the Houses of Parliament," by Sir Edwin Saunders, F.R.C.S., responded to by Lord Denman and Mr. P. Maclagan, M.P. ; "Religion, Law, and Medicine," by Lord Mount-Temple, responded to by Rev. Dr. Lansdell, F.R.G.S., the distinguished Siberian traveller, Mr. W. B. Rowlands, Q.C., M.P., and Dr. C. J. Hare, for Dr. Withers Moore (President, British Medical Association) ; "The Study and Cure of Inebriety," by Dr. J. S. Bristowe, F.R.S., responded to by Dr. Crothers ; "Our American Guests," by Dr. B. W. Richardson, responded to by Dr. Joseph Parrish ; "Temperance Organizations," by the Chairman, replied to by Sir Wilfrid Lawson, M.P. (U.K.A.), Canon Ellison (C.E.T.S.), and Mr. John Taylor (N. T. League) ; "Our Foreign Guests," by Dr. T. L. Wright, reply by Dr. Moeller (Brussels) ; "Legislation for the Inebriate," by the Rev. J. W. Horsley, responded to by Mr. Wm. Johnston, M.P. ; "Our Colonial Guests," by Dr. Danford Thomas, reply by Rev. J. Gelson Gregson ; "The Dalrymple Home," by Surgeon-General Francis, replied to by Dr. Cameron, M.P., President of the Dalrymple Home.

The company separated at an early hour after having spent a very pleasant evening.

#### VISIT TO THE DALRYMPLE HOME.

A large party of the Colonial, Foreign, and Provincial visitors were entertained at lunch at the Dalrymple Home, Rickmansworth, on the following day, the 7th inst. The guests, who went out by train from Euston *via* Watford, were conveyed by carriages in waiting at Rickmansworth Station to the Home, one mile distant ; and were received by Canon Duckworth (the Chairman), Dr. Norman Kerr (Consulting Physician), Mr. Branthwaite (the Medical Superintendent), and the Committee of Management.

After lunch, an informal meeting was held in the spacious Concert Room, when Dr. Parrish, Dr. Crothers, Dr. Wright, Dr. Thwing (U.S.A.), Dr. Moeller (Brussels), and others expressed their delight with the charming grounds, their high opinion of the scientific and practical methods of treatment of the disease inebriety, and their gratification at the excellent results already attained.

Very interesting papers were sent by the following Americans, who were unable to be present, and were read with great interest, which will appear in the proceedings soon to be published :—Dr. N. S. Davis, of Chicago, Dr. L. D. Mason, of Brooklyn (N.Y.), Dr. E. C. Mann, of Brooklyn (N.Y.), and Clark Bell, Esq., of New York.

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The following letter was sent to the President of the Congress, Dr. Norman Kerr :—

London, July 10th, 1887.

TO NORMAN KERR, M.D., F.L.S., *President of the "International Congress on Inebriety," and of the "Society for the Study of Inebriety" in Great Britain, etc., etc.*

DEAR SIR,—The American delegates to the Congress just closed, cannot be true to their sense of obligation to you and your associates, without leaving some testimonial of our sincere regard for you personally, and of our admiration for the skill and energy you have displayed, in the inception, and conduct of the Congress, and in providing so sumptuously for the pleasurable entertainment of