

Mechanically she went through the next few hours. Stunned by grief, past all feeling, she had watched the lifeless forms carried into the large study opening off the hall. At last it was all over, and she and her brother were left alone with those still forms wrapped in the silent majesty of death.

Major Carey persuaded her to lie down, and accompanied her to her own room, which opened on to the balcony.

She put her arms around his neck and kissed him. "Thank you, Jack, for all. Leave me alone with my God."

(To be Continued.)

WHY THE "PLANT WIZARD" IS A TOTAL ABSTAINER.

"I do not know the taste of whisky," explained Mr Burbank recently to his guests, Dr. Ira Landrith and Captain Richmond P. Hobson, as reported in the "National Enquirer," "and I never used tobacco in any form." "If I had my life to live over," he added, "I would not even drink coffee. As it is, I take only about half a cup a day. Normally the human machine needs no such stimulation."

"I never knew a boy who habitually used cigarettes who ever became a signally great or useful man, or was strong in any line," continued Mr Burbank earnestly. "Tell them for me that the growing human plant can no more stand deadly nicotine than can the plants with which I conjure. Many of my great friends are in their graves for that reason alone."

Asked about the effect of alcohol on the individual and the race, he replied: "Alcohol injures all cell life. We know already that it kills plants and people alike. It attacks first the highest thing in the brain, unselfishness and service, because these are the most delicate parts of the brain, being the last to develop in the process of evolution. That is why the Germans, beer-sodden from their babyhood, ran amok in their selfishness and sensuality, caring only for themselves and their policy of rule or ruin."

"For the same reason the habitual drunkard neglects his family and his duties, and becomes in the end a self-centred brute—his altruistic brain cells burned out, alcoholised, and his baser instincts unleashed."

TEMPERANCE ESSAY

ALCOHOL—ITS USE AND ABUSE.

(K. Symonds, District High School, Hastings.)

The origin of intoxicating liquor dates so far back as to be unknown, but even in the Stone Age there is some indication that men used fermented juice, which, if not such a deadly poison as the more civilised form of alcohol, probably served just as well to inflame the evil passions and dull the intellects of the savages.

Even nowadays the savages have their own primitive methods of making alcohol, which, however, fortunately or unfortunately, they discard in favour of the white man's liquor.

Like almost everything else in the world, alcohol has its uses as well as abuses. Its uses are chiefly for medicinal purposes, although it is also essential in scientific experiments. As a medicine, it is invaluable for stimulating purposes, as such may be used without giving injurious after-effects of similar drugs. In fact, doctors have proved that alcohol has been used with success, where to use any other drug would have been fatal. That, however, is when used in moderation, and administered by skilled physicians. For the ordinary person, with only a vague idea of its powers for good or evil, it is like drinking slow poison to save one's life.

For scientific purposes it is chiefly used for preserving specimens.

In that way it is without equality. In scientific experiments also it is a great help, and has caused many new facts beneficial to mankind, to be discovered. Here, however, its uses end, unless one were to consider it a necessity in sacramental rites, which is a matter concerning religious people only. The irreligious, and in this aspect, at least, the greater mass of people is included, do not express, or appear to have any interest whatever in the matter.

The abuses of alcohol are varied and many, so many, that a new abuse seems to be discovered every day. They can be traced back, and merged into one, and that is the effect of indulgence in alcohol.

Alcohol, when taken indiscriminately, seems, by one giant blow, to injure every part of the body. The limbs are lost control of, the mind is dulled, and the passions are aroused, and the

person for the time being is ruined—physically, mentally, and morally. Then when in this stage anything may be done, even bad actions, but never good ones, and the trouble is that the evil effects do not stop directly the drink clears from a person's brain; but, disregarding sordid details, in one short hour, that may be done for which a person may suffer agonies in body and spirit for the rest of his or her life. It would require volumes of paper to describe a tithe of the evils drink can do, but it may be summarised that drink can ruin nations as easily as it can break just one heart.

There is no doubt that the abolition of drink would make this country "earthly Paradise," and that even could it be controlled and kept down to a minimum, the country would at once feel the benefit. But human nature is so frail that men shut their eyes to the obvious facts, in that for one hour of "pleasure" they would sell their own happiness in life, and also the happiness of the generations that follow. Have they the right?

(We are pleased to receive this essay, and are glad our High School pupils can write so well and clearly on this important subject. But we wish that such bright young intellects were getting more up-to-date teaching. The time has passed when alcohol was considered of use as a medicine, all recent scientific research proves that alcohol is not a stimulant, but a narcotic poison. The Medical Association of U.S.A., representing thousands of physicians, have banished alcohol from their pharmacopoea, giving it as their verdict that it is not a medicine.)

Its chief use is for industrial purposes. In fact, scientists tell us that we need so much alcohol in our industries that we cannot afford to waste it by drinking it. We want our boys and girls taught that the moderate use of alcohol is harmful.—Editor, "White Ribbon.")

NO LIQUOR IN N.S.W. PARLIAMENT HOUSE.

In the New South Wales Legislative Assembly recently, Mr Stuart Robertson moved: "That the sale of alcoholic liquor on the premises of Parliament House shall, on and after the passing of this resolution, cease." The motion was carried without debate.