

against such powerful germs as those of consumption.

Every time a man takes a drink of alcoholic beverage he lays himself open for a time to contracting diseases. Every time a man takes a drink he puts his life in peril. No wonder the mortality statistics show as they do, that a total abstainer has nearly twice the security and hold on life that the average drinker has, and about three times the hold of heavy drinkers and those engaged in the liquor traffic. If the drinks are repeated, the microscope shows that the fighting powers of the white blood corpuscles are permanently impaired, even when they are not actually drunk. This accounts for the lowered vitality of regular drinkers, even though temperate. After long continued drinking, even though temperate, the microscope shows that the white blood corpuscles, with the serum which contains their vegetable food continually sucked up by the dehydrating toxin, become carnivorous, and begin to feed upon the do.

tissues and organs like disease germs

The favourite tissue food of the degenerate corpuscles are the tenderest cells of latest development. In the human being the latest development is the brain. The microscope shows the degenerate corpuscles with the goods upon them, down in their bodies the grey matter of the brain. This accounts for the tremendous mortality among heavy drinkers and for the degeneracy.

The Army War College at Washington made an investigation of the destructiveness of war. Taking all the wars of the world, from the Russo-Japanese war back to 500 years before Christ, the war college found that the total number of killed and wounded in battle amounts to about 2,800,000 of which it is estimated that about 700,000 were killed, and something over 2,000,000 wounded.

The comparative figures show the appalling fact that alcohol is killing off as many Americans every year as all the wars of the world have killed in battle in 2300 years. With such an array, we do not wonder that Shakespeare should say, "O God, that men should put an enemy in their mouth to steal away their brains." I don't suppose that had been scientifically proved in those days. Shakespeare was judging by their actions in all probability, but to-day the microscope actually shows the gray matter of the brain down in the body of the degen-

erate white blood corpuscle when its character is changed from friend to enemy by the vicious effects of alcohol. By the science before us no man or woman who loves the race, and are truly patriotic, can either take alcohol themselves or can influence others to do so.

When one realises that alcohol is more destructive to life in one country alone (America) in one year than all the wars of the world were in 2300 years, it is time for people who say they love their country to prove it by putting out this life-destroyer from our midst.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

At the Annual Conference of the National Council of Women, remits were passed as follows:—(1) "That the National Council of Women of New Zealand wishes to draw the attention of the Government to the inconsistency of allowing 10/- a week maintenance to children admitted to a State foster home; whereas if a widow elects to keep her children in her own home she is only allowed £12 a year apart from the war bonus for the first child, and £18 for two children; £24 for three, and £30 for more than three children up to the age of 14 years.

Further, seeing that the Government has already admitted, through two of its Departments, namely, the Defence Department and the Health Department, that the ordinary pension for widows and children is not sufficient to keep a family of young children unless the mother either leaves her children to the care of others while she goes out to work, or else resorts to charitable aid for help, this Society would respectfully urge upon the attention of the Government the obvious necessity of granting to all widows with young children a basis of pension not less than that granted to epidemic widows. In urging the above the Council pointed out that "it is not in the best interests of either the individual or the State that a mother should have to leave her infant children to the care of others while she goes out to work, and that, on the other hand, if she does not do this, part of the maintenance of her family must ultimately fall on the State or on the community through the Education Department or charitable aid; and her family has to carry

a stigma from this source, which no one should have to carry who is not guilty of anything but misfortune."

(2) "That the National Council of Women affirm the principle that married women who are performing service in the home, whether maternal or household duties, or who are assisting their husbands in business, should have a legal right to some share of their husbands' incomes."

(3) That for the better protection of girls legislation should be urged making provision for:—

(a) Raising the age of consent to 18 years.

(b) Extending the time limit during which information can be laid for criminal assault.

(c) The abolition of the powers of accused to plead belief in the girl's attainment of the age of consent as a palliation of an offence against her purity while under that age.

(4) That in the interests of women and children women police should be appointed.

(5) That women Justices of the Peace should be appointed to assist in dealing with the cases where women and children are concerned.

(6) That Juvenile Courts should not be held in the ordinary Magistrate's Court buildings.

(7) That statutory provision should be made for the compulsory remunerative employment of men who neglect to support their wives and families, the money earned by the men to be devoted to the maintenance of their families.

IN MEMORIAM.

MRS GILBERD.

Mrs Gilberd, late President of Henderson Branch W.C.T.U., was born at Parnell in 1856. Her parents, the late Mrs and Captain Commandant Le Roy, were prominent workers in Church, Sunday School, and the Temperance cause. In all these Mrs Gilberd followed their example, being an active worker in many Temperance societies. She organised the Henderson Branch W.C.T.U., of which she was President until her death in June of this year. She is survived by her husband, Mr H. J. Gilberd, two daughters, three sons, and seven grandchildren.