

WHY MEN "SEE SNAKES."

Scientists Working on the Problem Caused by "Overindulgence."

That delirium tremens is the direct result of overindulgence in alcohol is well understood. But how does such overindulgence act? And why should some hard drinkers never "see snakes," while other and much milder victims visualize them to such a degree that loss of life follows? Theories of delirium tremens are not wanting, but there are so many as to indicate that the truth is yet undiscovered in its completeness, says the Journal of American Medical Association. There appears to be an interesting, though disquieting, reason for revival of research in the subject just now. The writer tells us that since the Harrison narcotic law went into effect many drug habitues, having exhausted their supply and failing to obtain more, have turned to alcohol as a substitute. In some who had been drinking for years the sudden and marked increase in the amount of liquor consumed has led to the frequent occurrence of delirium tremens. After noting that "chronic alcoholic poisoning produces well known changes in the central and peripheral nervous system," he adds, in substance:

"As yet, however, no changes have been found in the brain which explain why a man who has been drinking for years suddenly develops a delirium which runs a definite course of from three to five days or even longer.

"It has been thought that delirium tremens is an acute infection occurring in chronic alcoholics. Nevertheless, many cases run their entire course without fever, and Nonne found blood-cultures negative in fifteen consecutive cases examined by him. Doeliken believes that continued drinking of alcohol results in the production of a poisonous substance in the brain itself, and that an accumulation or concentration of this substance produces delirium tremens. Jacobson explains the delirium as an auto-intoxication, the toxin arising from the pneumococcus gaining entrance through the liver, the kidney or the intestinal tract, and acting on a brain which has been poisoned over a long period of time by alcohol. The view of Hertz differs from this in that the supposed poison which precipitates the delirium comes from an insufficiency on the part of the kidney. According to Bonhoeffer, chronic alternation in the intestinal tract is responsible for the elaboration of poison which is normally excreted through the lungs. Wagner Von Jauregg believes that the liver, rather than the lungs, is the organ which fails to eliminate the poison, and he thinks that this failure is due to the changes occurring in the liver in chronic alcoholism. Kauffman has asserted that this poison is a carbon-derivative acting on a medulla altered as a result of chronic alcoholism. He believes that the delirium will persist until the deduction of this carbon-derivative stops."

All of these theories presuppose a poisoned central nervous system. It has been objected, however, that many chronic drinkers never suffer delirium. It has been suggested that different poisons may result from excessive drink and that only one of these may cause delirium tremens. There are, however, still other theories.

"The possibility that delirium is due to an increase in the pressure and amount of the spinal fluid has recently been considered. Jauregg, of Vienna, assumes that the body of the chronic alcoholic protects itself by the production of an anti-alcohol which is of the nature of an antitoxin. When a hard drinker suddenly stops taking alcohol this anti-alcoholic substance, having no alcohol to which to affix itself, acts on the body in such a manner as to produce delirium tremens. Hare maintains that the development of delirium is due to a sudden fall in the amount of alcohol circulating in the blood of alcoholics. His evidence is drawn from a study of 75 cases, in nearly all of which there was a great reduction in the amount of alcohol absorbed prior to the onset of delirium.

"Numerous objections have been raised to each of these theories. The views concerning poisons and auto-intoxications have been vigorously attacked because there is as yet no definite proof that a poison is elaborated. There are already adversaries to the recent notions concerning an increased pressure of the spinal fluid and the fall of alcohol in the circulating blood, all of which indicates that much work remains to be done before the final answer to the problem is reached."

He Should Be Glad.

Father—Upon my word, you children are getting too dainty for anything. Why, when I was your age I was glad to get enough dry bread to eat.

Robert—You have a much better time living with us, don't you father? —Answers.

QUEEN FOR 25 YEARS.

Wilhelmina, of Holland, Refuses Celebration of Silver Jubilee.

Queen Wilhelmina has occupied the throne of The Netherlands for 25 years, says the New York World. She celebrated the event very quietly with her husband, Prince Henry, their little daughter, Princess Juliana, and her mother, Dowager Queen Emma.

She would not allow her subjects to spend any money on festivities in her honor, stipulating that the appropriation made by the State for this occasion should be donated to the fund for the war sufferers in Holland. The newspapers, in recently noting this kindly act of charity, brought to the minds of people in other countries the first remembrance that the young queen had actually passed a quarter of a century upon the throne.

Only 35 Years Old.

She will be 36 next August, and was a very plump and dimpled little girl of 10 when her father, King William III, died and she became queen. She was under the guardianship of her mother until she reached the age of 18, since which time she has been very much of a sovereign.

Her position is not an easy one these days, as the head of a nation of 6,000,000 people crowded into an area of 12,000 square miles, less than the States of Massachusetts and Connecticut put together, with about 500,000 Belgian refugees and 2,000 interned British soldiers and sailors as uninvited guests.

Army Kept on the Watch.

There is the army still mobilized, which is costing \$200,000 a day. It was increased last July from 330,000 to 550,000, the navy being enlarged at the same time through a government grant to build two new cruisers and four submarines for the defense of Holland's colonial possessions. And there is, above all else as a source of anxiety, The Netherlands Overseas Trust, the great commercial enterprise which has charge of all trade entering and departing from the country, which is officially recognized by both sides of the belligerents, who, naturally, glare at one another across little Holland's narrow strip of territory and fasten eagle eyes upon the doings of the N. O. T.

The Overseas Trust.

Mr. Van Aalst is the president of the Netherlands Overseas Trust, the ablest financier of the nation and a man held in high esteem both in London and Berlin. He is, however, the representative in the Trust of the Queen, who has the privilege of appointing the president. She is a large stockholder in this lucrative enterprise, which was founded by King William I, and has remained under royal direction ever since.

At the present time the N. O. T. is responsible to the British government for every item of every cargo that enters Dutch ports. The N. O. T. is also held accountable in London for the final destination of every item of every cargo wherever it relates to contraband of war. Dutch citizens, on the other hand, and Germans who have a perfect right to cross the water, since they are not at war with The Netherlands, find it hard to resist the seductions of Teutonic gold for what can be smuggled across the frontier. Prices undreamed of in times of peace can, it is said, be easily obtained for the commodities which Germany desires and which Holland possesses in plenty.

Determined to Avoid War.

It is not believed either in London or Berlin that Queen Wilhelmina has the slightest intention of permitting her country to enter the war. She fears both Germany and Great Britain, being dependent upon the first for the integrity of her territory in Europe and dependent upon the second for the integrity of her colonial empire. The one is at the mercy of the German army, the other at the mercy of the British fleet. The queen's hope is that she may be among the negotiations of the peace which must eventually come and that she may thus have the opportunity of placing Holland upon a higher plane of international importance. Her country was the first to recognize the flag of the American colonists, but on that account Holland's delegate to the conference at Paris was not allowed a seat at the council table.

The Diagnosis.

"Jack," said a friend to a patrolman who had just turned to a reporter about a man taken ill on the street, "what did you say was the matter with that man in your report?"

"I reported," said the patrolman, with all the dignity of an accurate diagnosis, "that he had fell down in an athletic fit."

And Many There Be.

Flubbug—Well, I suppose you were up bright and early this morning?

Roundabout—No, sir, I'm never up bright and early. If I am up early I am not bright, and if I am up bright, I'm not early.

AN ESSAY ON PANTS.

Some Interesting Thoughts About Those Worn by Man.

Pants are of two kinds; human and dog, says Farm Life.

The human pants of commerce are worn mainly by males.

But equal rights prevail among dogs.

Human pants are worn thicker in winter and thinner in summer.

A dog's pants come thicker in the summer.

The dog's lungs are the seat of his pants. (Date 1875, Hostetter's Almanac.)

White pants are not a garment. They are a business to themselves.

The man who wears them doesn't work at much else at the time.

When I was small and on a farm I wore pants that were not new.

So far as I could find out, they never had been new.

When they had been first worn out, by the first tallest ancestor I had, they had been patched at all the ventilated places.

When the original goods wore out between the patches, the first patches were connected by other patches.

And sew on.

Where they overlapped—the patches—the goods became about an inch thick.

And then human legs made of any material less durable than vulcanized flint are incased in a set of inch-and-a-quarter Deer Island jeans trousers patched with every kind of heavy goods from horse blankets to remnants of rag carpet—when, I say, any human nether limbs are incarcerated in these endless tabular garments in a wheat field on a southwest hillside at 2 o'clock on a clear, still day when the temperature is 110 in the shade and there is no shade, the owner of said legs thinks longingly of the bastille, the stocks, the pincers, the guillotine, the pillory, the thumbscrew, the rack, the stake and other religious pleasantries.

I have gone long days in the wheat field in a pair of such asbestos pants lined with sandpaper and barbed wire, and now death or public speaking or fashionable dinners—none of those things has any terror for me.

I playfully inquire of death as to the location of its stinger.

A Story of Daniel O'Connell.

The most interesting of the stories, however, is that of the famous hat incident, which has been told so often. A prisoner, whose name was James, was being tried, and the witnesses for the Crown had sworn to the finding of his hat in an incriminating way. "You are quite sure," said O'Connell, when he rose to cross-examine, "about this hat?" "I am," replied the witness. "Let me look at it," said O'Connell, and taking it he looked inside, and slowly spelt out the word "James." "Do you mean to tell the court that this name was in that hat when you found it?" "I do, on my oath." "You saw the name then?" asked O'Connell. "I did—surely." "This is the same hat, and there is no mistake about it?" "Och," returned the witness, growing impatient, "no mistake at all, 'tis the hat." "And all you have sworn to is as true as that statement?" "Quite." "My lord," said O'Connell, turning to the judge, "you can dismiss the case, there is no name in the hat."—Christian Science Monitor.

Best History of The United States.

The following is the best history ever written of the United States of one hundred words: "The revival of learning, commercial revival and religious zeal in Europe led to Columbus's discovery in 1492. Conflicting territorial claims and parental animosity involved English, French, and Spanish colonists in wars, culminating in English supremacy in 1763. England's oppression alienated colonial affection, induced revolution, hastened independence. Common cause and danger begat colonial union, the weakness of the confederation demanded a federal republic. Party difference tempted legislation, negro slavery precipitated civil strife, secession, emancipation. Federal authority supreme, reconstruction succeeded. Religious freedom and unmuzzled press, invention, and universal education have conspired to prosperity at home and honor abroad."—Exchange.

If Any One Has—

Died.
Eloped.
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Divorced.
Left town.
Embezzled.
Had a fire.
Sold a farm.
Had a baby.
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Come to town.
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Committed murder.
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That's news—Telephone us.
—York News.

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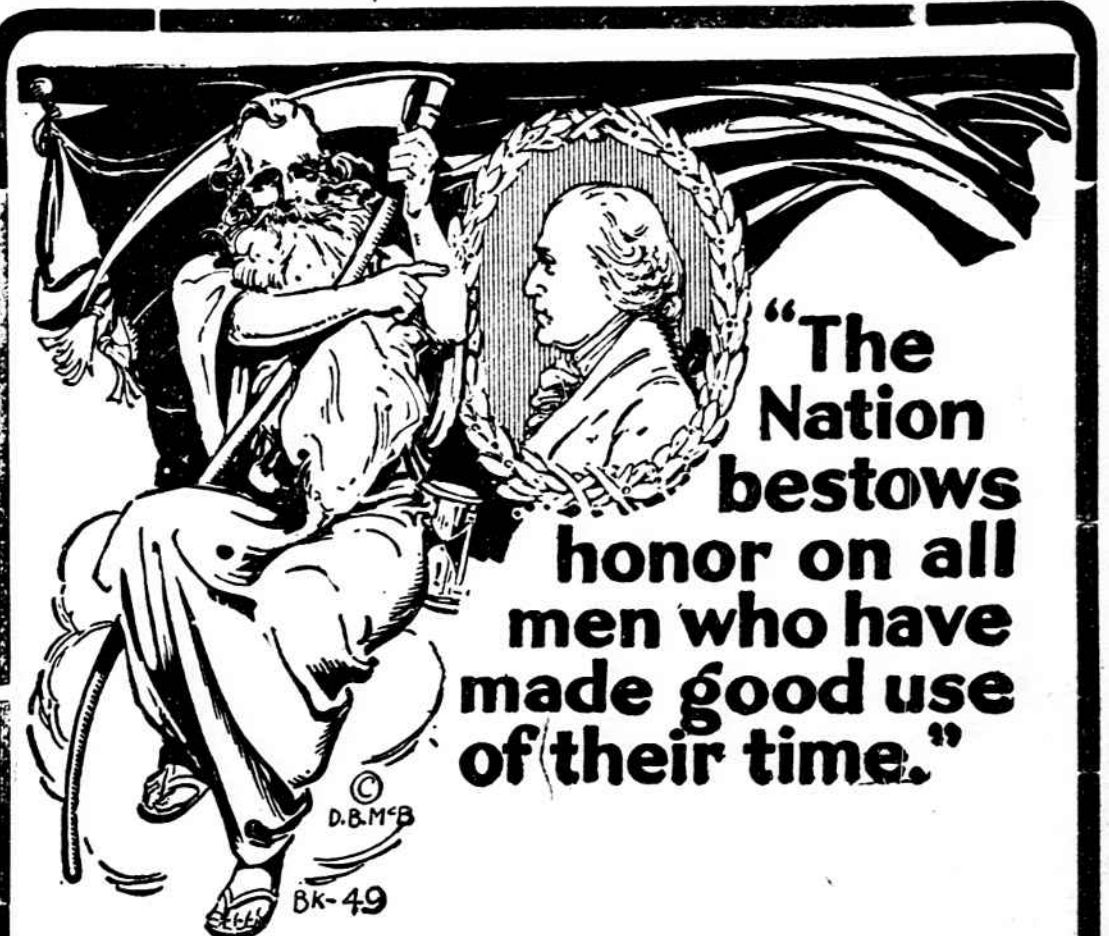
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