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RIGHTEOUSNESS EXALTETH A NATION, BUT SIN IS A REPROACH TO ANY PEOPLE

Rural Sanitation and Hygiene

At the Health Exhibition held recently at the Kadavaiyile Methodist Mission Schools, Dr. S. C. Thurairajah, M. O. H. Jaffna speaking on "Rural Sanitation and Hygiene" said:—Ceylon was afflicted by three main diseases—Malaria, Typhoid and Dysentery. Confining himself to the spread of the last two, he said that, if sufficient attention was paid to securing purity of the water drunk and the proper disposal of faecal matter, these two diseases could be kept under control. For the prevention of disease and for the maintenance of good health Dr. Thurairajah laid down five golden rules:—

- (1) Construct latrines and use them.
- (2) Drink boiled water, after it has been cooled.
- (3) See that the rooms of your house are properly ventilated.
- (4) Keep your rubbish in bins or in pits.
- (5) Keep a vegetable garden in your house to help to secure a well-balanced diet.

Co-op. Union Hospital Thopuram

A new ward containing twelve beds at the Co-operative Union Hospital, Thopuram, was formally declared open by Mr. M. Prasad, Government Agent, N. P. on Saturday. Mr. K. Supramaniam, the President of the Co-operative Union Hospital Society, Ltd, and donor of the new ward, welcomed the Government Agent. The Secretary, Mr. K. Sabapathipillai then read a brief statement of the history of that institution. After the formal opening the gathering moved on to the hospital grounds where a public meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Mr. Prasad. Dr. K. Kathiravelu, Mr. Justice Cannon and Mr. M. Sabaratnesinghe were the chief speakers.

1500 Teachers without posts
An endeavour is being made by the Education Department to find employment for as many as possible of the 1,500 certificated teachers who are out of work.

Arrangements have been made to give these teachers a training in rural reconstruction, food production and adult education work and after the period of training to place them in charge of the adult education centres which are being established in different parts of the country.

During this period of training these teachers will be paid an allowance of Rs. 15 a month and when they take up work at adult education centres they will be paid a salary of Rs. 26 per month.

The Hindu Board of Education

At the Annual General Meeting of the above Board it was reported that the Hindu Board of Education has completed 16 years of useful and meritorious service to Hindu Ceylon. At the end of 1939, there were 16,000 students and 500 teachers in their schools. And it is stated to be the largest educational institution in Ceylon.

Social Reform League

The Working Committee of the Ceylon National Congress has recommended that Congress should organise a Standing Committee to function as a Social Reform League seeking the co-operation of all communities and Government Servants.

This League is meant for the purpose of implementing the following Five Point Congress Social Code drawn up by the Working Committee:

1. Simple weddings, funerals and other functions
2. Simple dresses
3. Temperance,

4. Abstinence from gambling
5. Patronise swadeshi industries.

Obituary

The death occurred recently of Mrs. Elizabeth Paul wife of the late Rev. Isaac J. Paul. She leaves three daughters, Mrs. J. R. Fry of Kollupitiya, Miss Grace Paul, of Kandy, and Miss Ranee Paul of Udulvi, and three sons Messrs. Charles Paul of Singapore, Samuel Paul of Madras and Robert Paul of the Technical College Colombo. The funeral took place at Udulvi.

The death of Mr. M. Siampu of Karainagar occurred at his daughter's residence at Kandaramadu Jaffna. The deceased was the founder of the Karainagar Hindu English School.

Personal

Dr. W. D. Ratnayake, a Lieutenant in the Ceylon Medical Corps, has qualified as an air pilot and obtained his 'A' license. He is the first doctor in Ceylon to have obtained this license. He is the son of Dr. W. S. Ratnayake of Colombo.

Mudaliyar V. Canagasabey of Navalay has gone for a change to Point Pedro and is residing in Venayaga Mudaliyar Road Point Pedro.

Mr. E. V. Nathaniel, retired Station master is lying very ill at his residence at Station Road, Jaffna.

The Ceylon delegation to the Indo-Ceylon Conference to be held at Delhi would consist of Messrs. D. S. Senanayake, G. S. Corea, S. W. R. D. Bandaranayake and the Financial Secretary Mr. Huxham, The Central Government's Agent in Ceylon will also be present in Delhi during the conference.

Mr. S. R. Arianayagam has been appointed a Notary Public throughout the judicial division of Jaffna, and to practise as such in the English language.

Mr. V. S. Kandaya has been appointed a Notary Public throughout the judicial division of Point Pedro—Chavakachcheri, and to practise as such in the English and Tamil languages.

UNION HIGH SCHOOL TELLIPPALAI

Founders' Day and Prize-Giving

Saturday, Oct. 5, 1940

Prof. C. Suntharalingam will speak and Mrs. Suntharalingam will distribute the prizes.

Please keep the date free.

I. P. Thurairatnam,
Principal.

NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that the Cross Road connecting the Point Pedro—Punnal Road and the Jaffna-Kankesanthurai Road at the 11th mile post known as the Kankesanthurai Cross Road (District Road Committee Roads) will be closed further till the end of September 1940 to permit the construction of a 4 foot span culvert on same.

Mr. Ponmambalam,
for Chairman D. R. C. Jaffna,
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The
Morning Star

Friday Sept. 13, 1940.

MODERATION VS. TOTAL ABSTINENCE.

Public opinion on the subject of the indulgence in Alcoholic beverages, has undergone a vast change in the past half century. With the advent of the microscope and advance in Scientific Research, men of learning have discovered many things unknown in days of old.

Today the Theoretical Value of Total Abstinence has been amply proved by Scientific Research, while its Practical value has been proved by national experience.

The subject is one of special interest and importance to Ceylon students from both the personal and national standpoints. Young people on the threshold of life have a right to expect from educators and scientists such knowledge as shall help them make wise decisions on the great moral problems they must face, for success or failure in life may depend on these decisions.

No one will deny that over indulgence in Alcoholic beverages is harmful. No moderate drinker will admit the possibility of his becoming a drunkard. Drunkenness has been condemned by all religious leaders, and yet the fact remains that many people still firmly believe that taken in moderation, Alcohol does no harm, and is really a food or a tonic. This is one of the beliefs that scientists have now proved false.

"Fourteen glasses of Beer," we are told, "do not contain the food value of a glass of milk" and "There is as much nourishment in a teaspoon of sugar or a slice of bread as in 8 p. of Beer."

Far from being a food, Alcohol interferes with the power of the body to make use of its ordinary food.

In fact—the ultimate harmful effects on the body of small doses taken daily, may really be greater than those following an occasional heavy drinking bout, for in the later case, the free intervals give the body a chance to throw off the poison and repair the temporary damage done.

It is thus possible for a man, who has never been really drunk in his life, to become a Chronic Alcoholic.

In order to understand fully this effect of Alcohol on the human mind and body it is necessary to know something of the structure of the body.

I presume that most of my readers have a general knowledge of Physiology and know that all plants and animals are built up of small forms of matter called "cells" the basis of which is a jelly like material called "protoplasm" having a central nucleus and a delicate cell wall.

The simplest form of life consists of only one cell, which has in itself the power of feeding, excreting, moving, feeling and reproduction.

As we pass higher in the scale of life, however, the cells increase enormously and we find now, a differentiation of labour, certain groups of cells concerning themselves only with some special duty such as preparing special juices, dealing with food supplies, throwing off waste products &c.

As working people in a nation are collected together in shops or factories for special purposes, so cells of certain kind are packed into "organs" which have special functions to perform.

These organs do their work well or ill, according to the condition of their individual cells and the health and activity of these cells depend on the condition of the cell protoplasm.

Sanitary medicine to-day is busy learning how to avoid those things which injure human protoplasm, whether in the air we breath, in food or drink, or whether conveyed by germs whose toxins depress the system.

We all know that the blood carries Oxygen to all the cells of the body, and that Oxygenation of the protoplasmic tissues is necessary to life—that all cells require Oxygen in order to live and work.

The word "Metabolism" is used to denote the normal healthy chemical changes going on in the body as a whole, the process of Oxidation is the means whereby heat and energy are provided and all waste materials are got rid of.

It means not only combustion of foodstuffs, but the burning up of waste products prior to their removal from the body.

Anything therefore, that interferes with the various oxidation processes, impairs vitality and health.

As Alcohol possesses a marked affinity for Oxygen, its presence in the blood stream rots the tissues of Oxygen that would otherwise be used for combustion.

The rate of body metabolism is therefore delayed and the body becomes clogged with worn-out matter that should have been oxidized and thrown off.

Delayed metabolism may result in increase of weight (beer drinkers are usually fat) but this is by no means a sign of health, but rather a sign of a sluggish and unhealthy condition of the body, and the forerunner of such diseases as gout, eczema, liver, abscess, Bright's disease &c.

Scientific research has proved beyond doubt that Alcohol acts as a definite protoplasmic poison on all forms of cell life.

Now cells differ from one another not only as to function, but as to structure as well.

There is a vast difference between the sturdy bone or muscle cells, and the sensitive, intricate cells of the brain and nervous system, which are many million times more delicate than the works of the finest watch that was ever made.

It is not surprising therefore to learn that these delicate cells are the first to be affected by any trace of Alcohol circulating in the blood stream. Therein lies the danger of moderation.

As the brain-cells perform the task of ruling and controlling all the other cells of the body, all the powers of both body and mind depend on their health and activity.

The brain controls all movements, and sends its orders to over 500 muscles. It receives messages from eye, ear, nose and tongue, from the surface of the body and every internal organ. The nerves being the wires that carry these electric messages back and forth.

The time it takes for the eye to see an object, and for it to telegraph the fact to the brain, and for the brain to send an order to the part of the body that must act is called "reaction time".

Under normal conditions this should be about $\frac{1}{2}$ second. When a person has had a moderate drink of Alcohol (a peg of whisky, or arrack—or 2 drinks of toddy) it takes $\frac{1}{2}$ second—the reaction time has doubled. The larger the quantity of Alcohol the slower this reaction.

Moreover, we all unconsciously, when walking or driving judge the distance between ourselves and some object in front of us.

This is called "distance judgment." Alcohol disturbs this sense, and even the very moderate drinker is unable to judge distances accurately. He usually over estimates, and is really nearer the object than he thinks he is.

Errors in "distance judgment" and "reaction time" are the real explanation for many of the accidents that occur in driving a motorcar or in working with machinery.

Science also declares "skilled movements, requiring delicacy of touch, and precision in execution" are adversely affected by even small doses of Alcohol.

Now, at birth the brain is very simple, the cells are not so completely formed and are not connected to each other by fibres. As the child grows the brain develops, becomes more complicated and acquires new powers in a definite order.

At first the brain cells control only simple life functions—then come the development of the cells governing the senses and emotions. Later the group of cells in which memory is stored begin to function, and little by little through school and college days those intricate cells comprising the centre of memory, understanding, reason and judgment reach their full development. Last of all—highest and greatest of all, and the most difficult to acquire, the power of self-control.

We have said that Alcohol first affects the most important cells in the body—those of the brain but it goes farther, and attacks first the most delicate and highly organized cells of the brain itself. Alcohol begins at the top and works down. Self control is the first to suffer—loss of control of thoughts, speech and actions.

This may be serious, for it means that reason judgment and understanding are not under complete control. When more Alcohol is taken, memory and emotions are disturbed with loss of muscular control, and the well known condition of "drunkenness" has been reached.

With the first few drinks, no harmful effects are apparent to the ordinary observer. A person in this condition seems to be able to speak and walk and act as usual and yet that which man values most, reason and judgment have been assailed and such a person is less fit for any position of responsibility.

In these days of competition and unemployment, a young man cannot afford to handicap himself with habits that impair health and efficiency.

In the realm of sport Alcohol finds no place, the opinions of champions and coaches are unanimous on this point and can be taken as safe guidance for all who wish honestly to face the question of Moderation vs. Total Abstinence. I append a few such opinions.

Mary H. Ratnam,
President W. C. T. N.
Colombo
9th Sept. 1940.

Mr. George J. V. CONNELL—
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"No professional Tennis Instructor cares to bother with players who drink, coaches have learned that the game requires not only muscular precision, co-ordination and control, but mental alertness, snap judgment, as well as keen psychology in order to jockey the opponent out of position for a trick shot. The champion must outguess, out manoeuvre and out play his rival on the tennis court and he can not do that with Alcohol in his veins."

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KING GEORGE'S FUND FOR SAILORS

His Excellency the Governor has received a letter from Admiral Sir Archibald Smith, Deputy Chairman of the General Committee of the above Fund, asking

ledging the receipt of a cheque for Rs. 1,500 for the above War Fund, and stating that H. R. H. the Duke of Kent, President, has desired to convey to His Excellency and the people of Ceylon his most sincere thanks, and those of the General Council of the Fund, for the handsome contribution to the War Fund.

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