
Cheap Temperance Drinks

Source: *The British Medical Journal*, Vol. 2, No. 1752 (Jul. 28, 1894), p. 209

Published by: BMJ

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/20229404>

Accessed: 29-05-2016 01:38 UTC

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and ophthalmology, besides physics, chemistry, and anatomy. About thirty-four years ago Ito, Takenonzi, and Hayashina established a vaccination station in Tokio, and in connection with this institution a school of medicine, of which K. Ogata and R. Mazumoto were the directors, was established three years later. Subsequently T. Zuboi, K. Schimamura, and others taught in this school. In the year of the War of the Restoration (1868), a military hospital was founded in Yokohama; this was afterwards transferred to Tokio, and amalgamated with the medical school under the name of a university. Here the English physician, Dr. Willis, taught, and after a time Dr. Bodwin came from Nagasaki to Tokio. Twenty-one years ago the then director of the Medical Faculty of Tokio, K. Sagara, being convinced that medical science was more advanced in Germany than in any other country, induced the Government to invite teachers from that country to come to Japan. Accordingly Dr. Müller and Dr. Hofmann came to Tokio as teachers of surgery and medicine respectively. German became the official language of medical and scientific teaching in the university. Other German teachers soon followed. Seventeen years ago a *Staats-examen*, on the lines of the German one, was instituted. The course of professional study extends over eight years, and the number of students who graduate averages from 20 to 40 annually. Up to 1891, the degree of doctor of medicine had been conferred on 384 persons. The total number of medical practitioners in Japan in 1889 was 41,305, about one-fourth of whom had studied European medicine "more or less." The majority of practitioners dispense their own medicines; they charge nothing for advice but live by the sale of drugs. Those whose practice is at all extensive have several pupils, besides one or two qualified assistants. Some physicians and surgeons in large practice in cities like Tokio, Osaka, etc., have private hospitals accommodating from 40 to 100 patients.

THE SICK POOR IN PROVINCIAL WORKHOUSES: ABERYSTWITH.

THIS little seaside town boasts a clean, airy and comfortable workhouse, which stands in a well kept garden, giving a refined appearance to the institution. Encouraged by these outward signs our commissioner rang, and asked to see the inside of the house, and the matron courteously assented. The inside did not belie the outside, the inmates appeared to be humanely treated, their needs being thoughtfully cared for. This was especially the case in the sick department, where we found a pleasant-looking nurse, seemingly on the best of terms with her patients. The wards, properly so called are on the first floor; they are too crowded, particularly on the women's side, where a passage has been taken off by means of a low partition. There were only a few patients in when we went round, but when the seven beds are all filled the amount of air space must be below the proper quantity per patient. On the ground floor we found the infirm old people; they were sitting in their bright day rooms, which gave easy access to the airing courts; these are, however, nothing but a back yard. Is it not possible to make these airing courts more like a garden, a place of recreation where the men may sit and smoke, and the women do their knitting, with bright flowers, trees, or grass to gladden their eyes? There was the usual sprinkling of imbeciles among the inmates, and we were surprised to see how little means there appeared to be of controlling these irresponsible beings. We understood that it was mainly on their account, that the inmates generally had to be confined to the airing courts instead of being permitted to enter the gardens. One woman with a roving tendency wandered off towards the gardens while we were in the court; she was promptly brought back, but it seemed that the want of classification among the inmates of the house must hamper its efficiency. Still with these defects the house contrasted favourably with others seen, and doubtless the Board of Guardians are doing their best to provide more accommoda-

tion, and to establish a better classification. The impression left was one of satisfaction at seeing the pleasant quarters provided for the sick; but we would recommend—that the partition in the women's ward be removed—it hardly seemed necessary; that bath rooms be attached to the sick department; that more efficient means be provided for controlling the imbeciles, either by placing them in separate wards, or by the employment of a paid attendant; improved airing courts for the infirm; day rooms for the infirm; employment of trained nurses for the care of fever, or lock cases.

THE SCANDALS AT NEWTON ABBOTT WORKHOUSE.

It seems extraordinary that the Local Government Board have not even yet issued any report respecting their recent inquiries into the management of Newton Abbott Workhouse. In the meantime reforms are delayed, and most things are at a standstill. The *Western Mercury* states that the master and matron (Mr. and Mrs. Cawse) are considerably overworked, and the strain is telling on their health. It seems a curious commentary on the position of affairs that of every suggestion the master has made—and they have been numerous—not one has been adopted or carried out by the Board. Whatever might be said about the master's work in the past, he has spared no effort recently, not even his health, to put things right; and it is a pity that the Board have not yet seen their way to adopt any of his recommendations and their report is so long delayed.

CHEAP TEMPERANCE DRINKS.

WE have once again received a strong denunciation of temperance reformers for not having discovered a cheap, palatable, and popular teetotal beverage. The advocates of abstinence are not, however, specially blameworthy in this matter. Repeated attempts have been made, by the offer of handsome prizes by abstainers and others, to stimulate the production of such a drink, but the issue hitherto has been failure. In a well-known attempt of this kind, of the forty-seven competing beverages, it was truly said that the attractive were intoxicating, and the un-intoxicating repulsive. There are several varieties of effervescent pleasant non-alcoholic drinks, such as orange and lime-fruit champagnes, but a still and pleasing liquor has not yet been forthcoming, at least such a one as would prove acceptable to the public. Whoever succeeds in producing such an article will speedily make a competency. This achievement ought not to be beyond the resources of modern manufacture. Meantime, we know no more refreshing drink, especially in hot weather, than lemon juice in iced water, but it ought to be drunk moderately. Ginger beer in penny stone bottles, or "home made" selling at a penny a bottle, is an extremely pleasant, wholesome drink, to our palate more acceptable than champagne of whatever brand. It is far more refreshing than the costly ginger ales of commerce, of which the price is at least three times as high.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND THE LIBERTY OF THE SUBJECT.

THE conference which the London County Council convened to discuss the subject of infectious disease and vagrants, and which was held last week in the County Hall, has served a useful purpose. The observations which have been made show no sympathy with the vagrant; he may be arrested, detained, disinfected, and subjected to the requirements of possessing a ticket upon which his route is indicated, but he must not be vaccinated, except with his consent, and even his vaccination, however willing he may be, is protested against as useless and injurious, and as an infringement of the liberty of the subject. It is evidently a nice point to decide where the liberty of the subject is to begin, if this thought is to govern the treatment of the vagrant, and we are not at all prepared to say it should be lost sight of; the incarceration of persons who may possibly