



HIEF among the curses of our civilization are the drink and drug addictions of the Anglo-Saxon peoples. Men and women who have habitually to work at high pressure too often seek relief in the oblivion of alcohol or one or more of the narcotics to be found in the current pharmacopœia. The occasional dose is increased until the user becomes a creature of habit, and finally a victim to that phase which constitutes the vice of alcoholism or of drug addiction.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, a life-long advocate of total abstinence from alcoholic beverages, lifts day by day his voice in earnest warning against the evil that menaces our national prosperity, and in lament that the efforts of our social reformers seem impotent to stem the torrent of inebriety which saps the very foundations of our status among the nations. From the pulpit, the Bench, and the platform come striking comment on the inadequacy equally of legislation and of private suasion to cope with the evil in our midst. Medical science seems powerless, and our foremost physicians confess their inability to prescribe a remedy that shall be at once efficacious and permanent in its effects.

The first authority of the day in the arena of medicine as applied in remedy of the drink habit, after fifty years of active practice, says that, with one exception, the only cure for drunkenness is to leave off drinking. But how is the victim to achieve this?

We are brought, therefore, to a consideration of the one exception, and that, he frankly adds, is the Keeley Cure. From the depths of his unique experience he states that the Cure is practically unailing, whether it be applied to the drink habit or, in altered and different form, to the no less fatal but perhaps more insidious and enslaving addiction to opium, morphia, and other potent narcotics, excellent as is alcohol as medicine, but destructive alike to mind, body, and estate when constantly resorted

to as palliative for brain-fag and as panacea for the thousand and one ills brought about by overwork, worry, and consequent nerve exhaustion.

But who is Keeley and what of his Cure? the English reader may inquire. The average American knows all about both, man and method having been before the public of the United States for some twenty years, receiving the commendation of such men as General Neal Dow, P. D. Armour, T. de Witt Talmage, Dr. George Lorimer, of Tremont Temple, Boston, General Forsythe, and Joseph Medill, editor of the *Chicago Tribune*, who have all given this Cure the most practical of tests extending over many years.

Leslie E. Keeley, M.D., LL.D., originally a surgeon in the United States Army, and afterwards surgeon-in-chief of the Chicago and Alton Railway System, made inebriety the study of his life, pursuing the subject scientifically and availing himself freely of the ample opportunities afforded by his practice for investigation and experiment in a field of pathology that had baffled the best efforts of physicians of all times. Noting from day to day, and from month to month, the alternate periods of drunkenness and sobriety in the case of each inebriate under observation, he concluded that inebriety when induced was a species of circular insanity, a recurrent mania, acting independently of the will of the victim, and leading or forcing him to drink in order to satisfy the physical craving which the continuous imbibition of alcohol had caused. Believing this diseased nervous condition to be curable if a specific treatment could be devised, he set to work to that end, and after years of patient investigation discovered the method of treatment known as the Keeley Cure.

Turn we now to the Cure, which has successfully treated during the last twenty years about half a million of cases of chronic alcoholism, narcotism, and not a few obstinate

ones of nervous exhaustion and prostration. In a few words, the Cure consists in the administration by hypodermic injection of certain solutions punctually at regular hours four times a day, coupled with the taking of a medicine every two waking hours. At the end of two or three days the patient loses all desire for alcohol in any form, and if the treatment be maintained for some four weeks the cure is permanent! Only 5 per cent. of those who have been treated return to their old habits, and this always because they have either wilfully experimented upon themselves, moved by a mischievous curiosity to see if alcohol would have any effect upon them, or because they preferred a vicious life to a virtuous one. Considering Carlyle's liberal estimate of the percentage of fools to the population, this 5 per cent. of "impure cussedness" figures out phenomenally low.

Dr. Keeley founded his first Institute for the cure of inebriety and all the miserable rest of drug addictions at Dwight, Illinois, so far back as 1880, and since then some sixty other Institutes, all in the charge of highly qualified medical practitioners, have developed and been worked successfully in the leading States of the American Republic.

In England the introduction of the Cure only dates back some nine years, when an Institute was opened in London under the medical directorship of Mr. Oscar de Wolf, M.D., M.A., Professor of State Medicine and Public Hygiene in the Medical Department of the North-Western University, Chicago, and Commissioner of Public Health for the City of Chicago from 1877 till 1890. Soon after the opening of this Institute a public meeting was held in London, and a standing committee was appointed, consisting of gentlemen of high standing, the chairman being the Rev. Canon Fleming, B.D., one of the Chaplains to Her late Majesty Queen Victoria. For more than eight years the work of the Institute has been carried on at No. 6, Grenville Place, Cromwell Road, S.W.

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The meetings of the committee have been both frequent and thorough, and the eight annual reports afford instructive reading to those who desire to get at the truth of the whole matter of the Keeley Cure. Acting not as partisans, but simply as men deeply interested in all the phases of temperance reform, they have closely watched the operations of the Institute and faithfully recorded the results. In these they say "success has been the rule and failure the exception."

Numbers of medical men send patients to the Institute for treatment, knowing by observation and experience the efficacy of the Keeley Cure; but the profession cannot in Great Britain officially recognise the Cure because the exact composition of the injections and medicine

have not been made known. Dr. Keeley himself stated that it was not for the good of the public that these formulæ should be disclosed, as his treatment was in reality a system, and could not be successfully conducted by the simple administration of a sovereign remedy. In this view all medical men who have tested the treatment and watched its methods entirely concur; some indeed adding that the exigencies of their practice would not permit of their punctually administering the

remedies at the necessary intervals. Upon this regularity of treatment success depends. "If I believed my remedy would be made in all its purity, handled only by the educated members of the medical profession and administered in the proper way, I would most cheerfully throw it open to the world." So declared Dr. Keeley, a few years before his death.

But whether the Cure remains in the category of secret remedies or is published to the world, there is no gainsaying the fact that it has succeeded where all other methods have failed. In a word, until Keeley discovered his Cure nothing short of a miraculous self-control could rescue man or woman from the degrading depths of alcoholism or drug addiction once the disease had been established in the nervous system of the victim.



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