

pint or gallon, as he does solid provisions by ounce or pound. And let his purchases of liquor be delivered at his home, as openly as his meat and vegetables are. What would be thought of the man who should pack his fill of beefsteak and oysters within his own waistcoat, and leave his family to dine, as best they could, on bare potatoes? If the beer is good for the husband, a little of it would be equally good for the wife?

No articles of consumption are so tampered with by deleterious adulterations as the staples of the bar-room. No articles are sold at such a disproportion between the wholesale cost and the retail price. Nothing measured by the yard or weighed by the pound is so vague in quantity as the saloon 'glass.' People sneak behind the lattice-screen, and submit to the extortionate dishonesty for the sake of the privacy of their selfish indulgence. In the higher order of such places the patrons are further attracted by objects of luxury and sensuality. Gas, gilding, mirrors, statuary, and paintings are lavished on the surroundings. The wretched tippler's home is, of course, dull in comparison with this brilliant vestibule to the temple of vice.

Prohibition and local option are the measures most widely recommended for the cure of the drink-habit. But the true remedy has not been thought of by the advocates of these worse than ineffective panaceas. The social curse can only be stopped by stopping the liquor-supply at the point where alone it is capable of legislative control. Shut the saloons. Allow no liquor to be sold anywhere to be drunk on the premises. This is the grand summary of a grand revolution.

This 'prohibition' leaves to every man the due exercise of his personal freedom: it prohibits only the manufacture of drunkards, paupers, tramps, and criminals.

The spiders who fatten on the weak frequenters of their glittering nets of doom would have to turn to other employments. *They* would not be the liquor-sellers of the future. These would be of the class of ordinary honest tradesmen who put a fair price per definite quantity on a definite quality of their wares. Purchasers would be protected as to quality by certified inspection, and as to quantity by the compulsory use of measures in selling. Cut away by these provisions, the source of dishonest profits from the business of the bar-room, and even the proprietors of such establishments would speedily relinquish the traffic.

Prohibition of the *use* of alcoholic liquors has never succeeded — never can succeed; for it is a tyranny from which every independent mind revolts. If a man will play the fool with his brains

and his means, society cannot stop him; but it ought not through its licensed agents to facilitate the process. It should, moreover, provide an easy means of family protection from the consequences of drunkenness. Legislation can accomplish this, and nothing more would be necessary.

To stop the sale of alcoholic liquors for consumption on the premises would inconvenience nobody. Phials of any capacity might be obtained for use at home. And the gilding and glitter of the saloon might still be available to render attractive the tea-room, coffee-room, and reading-room, where families as well as individuals might resort for the cup 'which cheers but not inebriates.'

B.

PETER'S ATTACK ON PASTEUR.

THE discussion in the Paris academy of medicine, which originated in Professor Peter's recent paper on death by hydrophobia after preventive inoculation, was concluded at the last meeting (Jan. 18). Professor Peter spoke again upon the subject, but in much milder language, and his remarks may be summarized as follows:—

When death takes place after preventive inoculation, the defenders of Pasteurism recur to an alibi or to extenuating circumstances instead of confessing the truth. For instance, they argue that death was due to some other cause, such as uraemia, meningitis, or albuminuria, but not to hydrophobia. In other cases they admit that hydrophobia is the cause of death, but they explain it by stating that the patient did not apply for treatment until it was too late. M. Peter does not accept these excuses, and bluntly says, that, if patients die after having submitted to preventive inoculation, their death is due to the inoculation, entirely ignoring the effects of the rabid animal's bite. Pasteur's method, according to M. Peter, is an ingenious one; but it should not be applied to man, especially the more recent method of intensive inoculation. The old method, he admits, is harmless though useless; the new method, he claims, is harmful, even murderous. To it and not to the bites of the rabid animals, he attributes the recent death of patients with hydrophobic symptoms, after preventive inoculation.

M. Brouardel, in a short matter-of-fact address, said that M. Peter's arguments were utterly illogical, and concluded by giving the statistics of results already achieved at Odessa, as follows: out of 101 cases treated by the ordinary method, there were 7 deaths; out of 35 cases treated by the mixed method, 1 death; out of 140 cases treated by the intensive method, *not one death*. This disposed of the charge that the latter method is mur-

derous. M. Vulpian stated that out of 136 cases of bites inflicted in the face by animals known to be rabid, treated by the ordinary method, there were 10 deaths; out of 50 similar cases treated by the intensive method, *no deaths*. As to the charge that the method is useless, that is refuted by statistics already familiar to those interested in the subject.

M. Vulpian spoke at some length on the possibility of encountering the paralytic form of hydrophobia in man under ordinary conditions, mentioning some cases which prove that it does sometimes exist where the person bitten by rabid animals has not been subjected to preventive inoculation.

The discussion is ended for the present, but it will doubtless begin again at some future time. Though M. Peter was somewhat moderate in his remarks at the last meeting of the academy, he does not seem to possess the spirit of scientific criticism, perceiving neither the weight of the arguments advanced in opposition to his assertions nor the fallacy of some of his own.

As M. Pasteur has been accused, though wrongfully, of concealing the results of his treatment, it has been decided to publish statistics monthly, instead of quarterly as heretofore. They will appear in the *Annales de l'institut Pasteur*, which will be published under the direction of M. Duclaux.

ST. PETERSBURG LETTER.

THE geographical event of the season is the return of Potanin, who is expected here in time to attend the annual meeting of the Russian geographical society this month. A large map of the route travelled by him is being prepared by Colonel Bolschew, the military cartographer. The previous travels of Potanin were especially noteworthy on account of his ethnological and anthropological studies; but the chief importance of the expedition from which he now returns lies in the geographical studies made by him in the higher parts of Asia, not only because he has visited regions heretofore untrodden by civilized man, but also because of the accuracy of his observations in those regions. The latitude and longitude of sixty different points have been ascertained, and the barometrical observations of the expedition will permit of a tolerably accurate determination of heights. There were 4,500 versts of accurate survey made, and this in the parts least known, while in the more thickly settled regions approximate surveys only were found possible. The co-operation as topographer of Skassi, who accompanied Severtzow on many of his travels, contributed much to these results. The travellers

were exceedingly well received by the Chinese authorities, who furnished them with guides and all necessary information. The most important work was done on the journey from Koko-Nor directly north to Kiachta by way of the Gobi desert. The river Ersin-Göl was followed over a great part of its course to the point where it falls into Lake Soyok-Norinto. Farther northward four ranges of mountains were found.

The second in importance of the Russian scientific expeditions of the past year was the so-called Chan-Tengri expedition, headed by Ignatiew, who visited the glaciers of that mountain. The results of the expedition are not yet made public. He travelled through the Muzart pass, and found it to be as difficult of access as it was generally believed to be. The botanist Krasnow took a more easterly road, and, traversing the Bedel pass, went to Utsch-Turfan. Much is to be expected from the latest work of this young naturalist, if we may judge by what he has already accomplished.

The secretary of the Geographical society, A. W. Grigoriew, recently attempted to visit the Solovetz Islands in the White Sea, desiring to make observations on the depth and temperature of the waters there, but, as he could find no ship to transport him thither, did not succeed in reaching the islands. He made an excursion, however, to the waterfalls of Kiwatsch and Por-Porog, from Petrozavodsk on Lake Onega. The position of the latter waterfall, as well as of its river, is not shown on any map as yet. There is a great lack of astronomically determined points and of accurate surveys in that part of Russia, and there is but little hope of any thing being accomplished there at present by the military surveyors. It would be a good field for private enterprise, as the region may be easily reached from St. Petersburg by means of the steamers plying on Lakes Ladoga and Onega. It is a picturesque country, with numerous lakes and waterfalls, and affords excellent salmon and trout fishing.

Some new data on the topography of the country between Vologda and Archangel were obtained during the past summer by Kusnezow. The greatest elevation on the watershed between the Volga and the Dwina was found to be 756 feet. Thus the topographical work of Russia is slowly advancing.

The Geographical society has under consideration some short practical instructions to explorers, the main point aimed at being to draw their attention to the alleged gradual drying-up of the inland waters of the Asiatic continent. It has already been mentioned that Jadrinzew, on comparing last-century maps with those of recent years, finds that the lakes of the Baraba steppe,