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THE residents of Dwight and vicinity are pretty well informed as to the rise, progress and development of the Keeley treatment in the United States and perhaps in other states also. It is not so well advertised however what has been accomplished abroad. During the past summer what is known as the London Keeley Committee held its fifteenth annual meeting. This Committee at one time had for its chairman Canon Fleming who was chaplain to the late King Edward Seventh, but since Canon Fleming's decease Lord Montagu of Beaulieu has been chairman. The report is quite a lengthy one and the Christian Commonwealth of London has published a synopsis of it which we present to our readers.

MIRACLES OF REDEMPTION.

KEELEY WORK IN ENGLAND—ANNUAL MEETING OF LONDON INSTITUTE—TESTIMONY OF PEOPLE SAVED BY THE KEELEY TREATMENT.

IS there any hope for the inebriate? For just two hours, in a room at the Keeley Institute, West Bolton Gardens, S. W., last Wednesday, an emphatic affirmative answer was supplied to this question by a succession of witnesses who were themselves the final apologetic and justification of the claim made on their behalf. In that brief space of time seventeen people, of both sexes, and ranging in age from twenty-three to sixty-eight years, presented themselves in proof of the assertion that the Keeley treatment for inebriety effects a permanent and genuine cure. They gave their testimonies without hesitation or reserve to the standing committee which meets at intervals to investigate the results of the Keeley treatment. Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, chairman of the committee, presided and questioned the patients about the efficacy of the cure, the length of time it had lasted, and the extent to which the disease had made inroads upon them. The patients replied to these kindly questions frankly and fully, and as one witness succeeded another it became clear not only that the cures were beyond question genuine, but that those who had attended the Institute for treatment had been moved to come before the committee by their desire that other victims of the disease should be made aware that medical science had discovered a cure for it which had stood the test of time and had conquered, when all other efforts had failed.

This was the fifteenth meeting of the committee, which was formed at a public meeting held in 1892, to obtain information and prepare reports regarding the Keeley Institute. Since the last meeting Rev. Canon Fleming, who had acted as chairman of the committee since its inception, and Mr. W. Hind Smith, of the National Council of Young Men's Christian Associations, one of the committee's earliest members, have died, and the Institute feels its loss deeply. Canon Fleming from the beginning took a keen interest in the work of the Institute and in the investigation of the cures, and each year strengthened his confidence in the treatment. New members have since been added to the committee, including the Lord Bishop of Southampton, Rev. R. J. Campbell, Mr. H. W. Forster, M. P., and Mr. Burbage (of Messrs. Harrods, Limited). The presence of these gentlemen on the committee is a guarantee that the treatment has been thoroughly tested and systematically examined on its merits, with direct reference not to the reputation of the Institute, but to the actual conclusions to be drawn from the evidence. A large number of letters from patients who were personally unable to attend the annual meeting were also available to the committee, and these confirmed the oral testimony to which they listened.

A remarkable fact is that the percentage of "failures" is very small. Not less than 75 per cent of the men treated, and 90 per cent of the women, are proved to have been permanently cured. And it must be remembered that the "failures" include all the patients who, for whatever cause, have lost touch with the Institute. It is possible to explain the difference between the percentage of successes in the case of the two sexes by the fact that women who take the treatment are subjected to fewer temptations to relapse when they resume their ordinary life. Men, on the other hand, who have been known to indulge to excess in alcohol may enter the Institute and be entirely cured, and go back among their old associates, whose first thought is to invite them to drink. And it is one of the strongest evidences of the success of the treatment that so many patients are able to say that they are pursuing occupations or are living under conditions which encourage drinking, and yet they remain immune. The Keeley treatment does not, of course, absolutely prevent relapses. A man may deliberately re-cultivate the craving for drink by tipping. If any one who had

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passed through the Institute were to begin to drink again, the effect would be the same as if a person who had never touched alcohol had begun suddenly to drink heavily. What the treatment does do, however, is to restore to a normal condition of mind and body men and women who have become confirmed drunkards or drug-fiends; it frees them from the craving by treating it as a disease, and they leave the Institute with no desire to touch liquor again. That is the fact to which the evidence of the patients who came before the committee last Wednesday clearly points.

All the personal details relating to patients are, of course, confidential. The danger of publicity, or semi-publicity, which prevents some people undergoing the treatment is completely minimized by the precautions taken and by the methods which are pursued. Scarcely a month passes without someone being treated without anybody, except perhaps the very nearest relatives, knowing anything about it. Ample opportunities are given to the committee to investigate, and the names and addresses and necessary biographical particulars are supplied; but obviously none of these is intended for publication.

FREE FROM THE CRAVING FOR DRINK.

The first patient presented was a lady who was treated ten years ago. Through a great deal of trouble and illness she had fallen a victim to the habit. After the treatment had done its work she left the Institute completely free from the craving. In her case the cure had been successful for over ten years—a good long test, as she described it and remarked that she had talked with a great many people about the treatment, and in two cases she personally knew the results were as satisfactory as in her own case. The next patient was also a lady who had entered the Institute nine years ago. She declared she could only speak in praise of the treatment from beginning to end. Her testimony was all the more significant because as a nurse she had sent a good many cases for treatment, and in only one instance had an entire cure failed to follow. "I had such faith in the treatment," she added, "that when, through a breakdown in health, I had been persuaded to take brandy, I came back to undergo the treatment again. That speaks for itself." She added that she advised everyone she knew who suffered in the same way as she had done to enter the Institute.

The third case was that of a solicitor who entered the Institute eleven years ago. He claimed the honor of being the third patient to receive the treatment in the present establishment. To the chairman's question regarding the extent to which he had fallen a victim to the habit he replied that he was almost ashamed to say how bad he was. "I think no one could have been worse than I was. Two and three bottles of whisky a day, and sometimes more than that I used to drink. I used to drink whisky before six o'clock in the morning." He explained that he could sometimes leave off drinking for two or three months, and sometimes up to four or five months, before he took to drinking again. From the first week in September, 1902, he had not tasted drink of any sort. The desire for it had completely disappeared: "I believe I should be sick if I had to have it now," was his final word.

After seven years a fourth patient returned to testify that he had not had the slightest craving for drink since he left. He was a farmer, and had gone through some very difficult times during the seven years, and had felt afraid that the craving would return, but now had complete confidence that no temptation would make him drink. He had attended champagne luncheons since he had undergone the treatment and had not felt the slightest desire to indulge. This gentleman acknowledged that he used to drink "two or three bottles of whisky a day for certain." His health had also been re-established. The fifth visitor was introduced as one "who thought he could be a moderate drinker," and had returned again to the Institute for treatment. He entered

first seven years ago, his father, he remarked, giving him six months before he "broke out" again. But for three and a half years after taking the treatment he had never touched drink. He began drinking again, not because he had any inclination for it, but because he found, when his father died, that he had failed to regain the latter's confidence and had been cut out of his will. "I did not want to drink," he said, "but I just picked up the whisky bottle and said, 'Here's to a broken promise and here's to myself,' and drank." For a year or two he went on in the old fashion and then re-entered the Institute. In no circumstances, he affirmed, would he touch drink again. His experience had been an exceptional one, inasmuch as the treatment had successfully eradicated the desire for drinking, but he had resumed the old habit, believing he could remain its master.

CURES PERMANENT AND FINAL.

The father of the chairman had advised the sixth patient who presented himself to enter the Institute nine years ago. If he had not entered when he did, he said, he would now probably be dead. He spoke with the greatest confidence of the treatment he had received. It seemed to restore his will power and make a new man of him. The seventh case was perhaps even more marvelous. It was that of a young man who entered three years ago. His father had said, too, that it was no use taking the cure, as his case was hopeless. The young man, who was a farmer, confessed that he was very bad indeed when he entered. He had been drinking heavily for some years—as much as three or four bottles a day, "and more even." His cure seems perfect and final. "I never have the slightest difficulty in keeping away from it. I have had it under my nose and I keep it in my house, and never want to touch it. My friends, if they want it, can have it when they visit me, but I never touch it." This patient remarked that he had gone to another home before he tried the Keeley Institute, but had left without being cured; the craving for drink had remained. A newspaper man succeeded with his testimony to the effect that he had been a patient nineteen years ago. Three years after he left he felt himself so safe that he had ventured to drink a small bottle of port one night after a very heavy day's work. He felt a craving for more the next morning, and had returned to the Institute at once, and now, after sixteen years, he declared that he never felt the least desire to resume the habit. With the newspaper man's instinct for the graphic phrase, he declared that before he took the treatment he had "drunk enough to float the 'Great Eastern.'" If a man wants to get rid of the desire to drink, he said, the treatment he gets here will knock it out of his system altogether. He becomes regenerated. For the first two or three days, this gentleman added, the patient may feel depressed until he begins to feel the treatment is having an effect, and then he picks up amazingly. Speaking of his lapse, he remarked that it only showed what a little thing would put one altogether wrong: "I thought I was strong enough to stand it, and I was not. It is much easier to let it alone. Some men can take a whisky and soda, and others cannot, and for the latter there is no middle course."

From the ninth patient came a remarkable confession: "I could never get it out of my head," he told the committee; "I had to have it. I used to pour it down my neck, as it were; I did not drink in order to be sociable." He could not say he had much hope of being cured when he entered the Institute. With him drink had become an absolute necessity. He was afraid to walk across the street without it, and every morning felt bound to drink in order to liven himself up. All that feeling had gone, and he was conscious of no desire to drink anything of any sort. The tenth patient spoke obviously with perfect honesty when he said that he thought the treatment was an enormous help to a man. He had been drinking for twelve years, all sorts of liquor, except perhaps whisky, which made

him ill; but brandy, champagne, and port, and practically everything else. For years he had dropped it at intervals for perhaps two months, and once five; then he had broken out again. The last time he became so ill that he decided to enter the Institute. Two men he knew had got "put right" by the treatment, and he thought he might try. The treatment was successful. His business placed him in circumstances of great temptation, but he had not touched drink since he left the Institute.

Then followed a master mariner, who had become a patient five and a half years ago. If he spoke for a month, he said, he could not tell all that he felt about the treatment. Before he entered he had been drinking for two or three years; never less than a bottle or a bottle and a half of whisky each day. He was never downright drunk, but was always in a muddled state and he had lost all interest in life; he knew he was going to the dogs, but did not care. Through the interest of his brother, who had been a patient before, he entered the Institute, and had been completely cured. Since he left he had lived in a country public-house until quite recently, and had sometimes gone into the bar to serve drink to others, but had never felt the slightest desire to drink himself. If he felt ill at any time he always refused brandy or anything of the kind. With unmistakable earnestness this gentleman declared that he would walk fifty miles to try to reclaim anyone from the grip of the habit which had once enslaved him.

WORK OF COMPLETE REGENERATION.

In the testimony of every patient who attended before the committee there were points of interest or significance. One gentleman who had just returned from a business tour abroad told the committee that he was just completing his tenth year, and he had persuaded seventy-four other victims of the drink habit to undergo the cure. Only three, he thought of that number had gone back since they left the Institute. One patient he had brought back with him from abroad. He did not feel the slightest craving for drink; he declared: "It was the best investment I ever made in my life. I came in here at the age of forty-seven, absolutely done to the world, completely ruined. In six months I was well and on my feet. One of my greatest pleasures is to bring someone else here to receive the same benefit that I received." Following him came a young member of an aristocratic family who had tried every institution in the country and every known cure. They had all failed, and he was considered incurable. From the age of sixteen he had been drinking, and went on for years, drinking as much as four bottles of brandy a day. He was never sober until he was drunk, he explained whimsically, meaning that he had to drink a certain quantity to steady himself. The treatment had cured him. This gentleman had also tried being a moderate drinker, and had failed. There is only one thing to do, he said, and that is, give it up completely. He never felt the slightest craving for it since he had taken the Keeley treatment.

So they succeeded one another in their evidence. A gentleman of sixty-eight told the committee that he had spent one month in the Institute seven years ago, and had left it completely regenerated. He was fond of athletic pursuits, particularly of walking, and had found it impossible to walk more than half a mile before he took the treatment. Now he could walk twelve or fourteen miles a day without any fatigue. "I feel younger today," he said, "than I did seven years ago, when I entered the Institute." Another gentleman, an accountant, entered five years ago, after periodical bouts of drinking which had reduced him to a terrible state, and now felt not the remotest desire to drink. Eighteen months ago, the last witness said, he was only twenty-four years of age, and had got the habit of drinking while in the United States, having very little to do and plenty of money to spend. While in America he heard of the Keeley treatment. Most of the Englishmen he met appeared to have heard of it, and a great many of them had benefited by it. He came home and entered the Institute, and left with the craving entirely eradicated. Added to these oral testimonies were the letters from other patients, all bearing witness to the same effect, and all expressing their faith in the treatment. Before the committee separated it was stated that two patients formerly addicted to drugs were coming to tell the committee that they, too, had been cured. But the writer left before they appeared, so convinced of the genuineness and permanence of the cures that further testimony was needless. Within the short period necessitated by the treatment—and no patient is accepted for less than four weeks—any victim of the alcoholic habit can be cured. That is the clear conclusion to be drawn from the statements of the people who submitted themselves to the committee on this occasion.