

TEMPERANCE DEPARTMENT.

MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY.

At the annual meeting of the Fellows of this Society convened from all parts of the commonwealth, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted with great unanimity and ordered to be printed. All the resolutions, with one exception only, passed *nemine contradicente*.

Whereas,—There is reason to believe that the habitual and intemperate use of ardent spirits is often the consequence of an opinion that such liquids contribute to the health of man,—and

Whereas,—It seems to be a duty peculiarly belonging to this Society to oppose and correct so insidious an error;

Therefore, *Resolved*, 1st, That in the opinion of this Society, the constant use of ardent spirits is not a source of strength and vigour, but that it is generally productive of weakness and disease.

Resolved, 2dly, That this Society agree to discourage the use of ardent spirits as much as lies in their power; and for this purpose, to discontinue the employment of spirituous preparations of medicine whenever they can find substitutes; and when compelled to use them for any great length of time, to warn the patient of the danger of forming an unconquerable and fatal habit.

Resolved, 3dly, That the excessive and constant use of wine is, in the opinion of this Society, a cause of many diseases; and that though it is useful in some of them, as in the stage of weakness in fever, its use in those cases are often carried too far and continued too long.

Resolved, 4thly, That in the opinion of this Society, the most salutary drink for the general use of man is water; and that even this pure liquid must be employed in a rational and discreet manner, especially in hot weather; and that if we were called on to recommend some drink of a more stimulating quality, we should advise the use of malt liquors.

Resolved, lastly, That this Society will use the skill of its members, in ascertaining the best modes of preventing and of curing the habit of intemperance; and that for this purpose, a premium of Fifty Dollars shall be offered for the the best dissertation on the subject; which after being approved by the Counsellors, shall be read at the next annual meeting of the Society and afterwards printed; and that the authors be requested to point out the circumstances in which an abandonment of the habitual use of stimulating drinks, is dangerous, and also the effects of the use of wine and ardent spirits on the different organs of the animal economy.

To carry into effect the last resolution, the subscriber gives notice, that the Counsellors have directed that all dissertations must be sent to him, post paid, on or before the first of March 1828, and that each must be accompanied by a sealed paper containing the name of the author; and the premium will be paid to the successful candidate in money or by a medal or a piece of plate at his option. GEO. HAYWARD,

Recording Secretary of the Mass. Medical Society.

Boston, June 9th, 1827.

Printers of newspapers are respectfully requested to insert the above.