

ALCOHOL AND SOCIETY

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Alcohol and Society by John Koren

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JOHN KOREN

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AND SOCIETY**

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BY
JOHN KOREN



NEW YORK
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1916

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GEORGE C. DEMPSEY

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PREFACE

SINCE the memorable work of the Committee of Fifty was published there has been little discussion of the liquor problem except from the propagandist standpoint; and new studies of a general nature have not been undertaken. Evidence against alcohol is diligently being sought, not to enrich our knowledge but to prove an assumption. Searchers after fact are chided for failing to take it for granted that every depth of the drink problem has been explored and thoroughly mapped, and for venturing to question the wisdom and sufficiency of current remedial proposals.

Are we to believe that science has said the final word about alcohol? Is the solution offered by prohibitionists sufficient and are their methods sound? May there not be a better approach to the temperance ideal than through coercion? These questions, among others, the author seeks to answer. If the original articles in *The Atlantic* upon which the book is based awakened much resentment among prohibition enthusiasts, they were also accorded an attention which encourages the author to give them a more permanent and much enlarged form.

Of recent years so much ignorant assumption, prejudice, and fanaticism have obscured the real issues

in temperance reform that relentless criticism has become a necessity. One naturally shrinks from the obligation of giving a hurt by writing unpalatable truths; but there can be no apology for them. The wrath that may descend upon the writer is harmless so long as his utterances are not proved false.

The author gratefully acknowledges his great indebtedness to recent publications on the alcohol problem from which he has drawn both inspiration and information and which he has used freely. Foremost among these are the works of the Committee of the Swedish Medical Society, of the Norwegian Alcohol Commission, and the monumental studies by Dr. Ulrik Quensel. With these authorities on the many phases of the drink question and true temperance reform the author takes his stand, but he is willing always to modify his views in the light of new knowledge.

J. K.

March, 1916.

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