

Allen: Right!

Allen: Yes, and even driving in the city at 25 miles an hour, that stopping distance would be from 5 to 20 feet, and that might mean the difference between hitting a child playing in the street and missing him.

Naismith: I am in entire sympathy with these scientific tests, but can we be sure of their findings? Suppose they emptied a bottle of beer and then filled it with near-beer? Would not this psychological situation make these taxi drivers think that they had drunk alcoholic beer and might not this influence their driving?

Chambers: The men making these tests are after the truth, and the truth only. They give the same kind of tests on several different days to the same persons. The alcohol was always given in highly perfumed drinks, so that it could not be tasted or smelled. On the days when the people being tested were not to have alcohol, they were given these same perfumed drinks without the alcohol. You see, the persons did not know whether or not their drink on that day contained any alcohol. Even if they thought that they were drunk, they would think the same on other days, too, so the results would be fair.

Naismith: Dr. Allen, what was that story that you told our group about a scientific test that was made concerning alcohol that some of the young boys entirely misunderstood?

Allen: Oh, yes, Dr. Naismith, some of the very best lessons in life are always misunderstood by a small minority. The case I mentioned was when the school teacher endeavored to show her grade school class of tenement dwellers the harmful effects of alcohol by using earthworms as her demonstration medium. The teacher took two water glasses, filling one half-full of drinking water and the other half-full of grain alcohol. She dropped the earthworms in the glass of water and asked the class to observe the experiment for 3 or 4 minutes. Nothing eventful happened. The worms continued to move around in the water with apparently no ill effects. Then the teacher dropped some earthworms in the glass half-filled with alcohol and almost immediately they wriggled but once or twice and all were dead. A pall of silence gripped the youngsters. Then the teacher asked the class what object lesson any of them had learned from this class project. Quick as a flash, bright-eyed Johnny Gillispie's hand shot up. "Johnny, you tell us," said the teacher. "Well," said Johnny, "if you keep that much alcohol in you all of the time you won't have worms".

Naismith: That is a good one, but there was one about a swimmer.

Allen: Yes, and the strange case about this woman was that she was a former Olympic swimming champion. She was discussing with me the questionable good that came out of our taking exercise to maintain our health. I pointed out the benefits and the exhilarating effects of the exercise to be followed by a bath and a good rub-down. "Yes," she interrupted, "but gin will do the same thing."

Chambers: You don't suppose that she believed that stuff? What is the use of all of your recreation fields and playgrounds if that is so.

Naismith: It would make a very interesting parade to line up the men who have been abstainers from alcoholic liquors all of their lives and march them along