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Much interest has been excited in England recently by the decline of the national drink bill and the decrease in consumption of intoxicating and especially of strong distilled beverages.

According to board of trade officials, it is closely connected with general business conditions. When the country is prosperous there is much drinking; when it is unprosperous, drinking decreases.

Another explanation is put forward by some well informed and judicious observers, which we should be glad to accept as applicable to America as well as to England—that is, that the growth of other forms of entertainment has won people away from mere drinking places.

The belief that Baron Komura's forgetfulness, anent his credentials, which he neglected to bring to the first meeting of the peace emissaries at Portsmouth, Wednesday, was intentional, will doubtless receive credence in many parts of the country.

Those Dear Girls. Grayce—How old is Maude? Gladys—She says she's as old as she looks.

Fiendish Suffering. if often caused by sores, ulcers and cancers, that eat away your skin. Wm. Beddell, of Flat Rock, Mich., says: "I have used Bucklen's Arnica Salve, for ulcers, sores and cancers. It is the best healing dressing I ever found."

THE ILLINOIS CENTRAL. Maintains unexcelled service from the west to the east and south. Making close connections with trains of all transcontinental lines, passengers are given their choice of routes to Chicago, Louisville, Memphis and New Orleans.

Twenty-five dozen young turkeys have been shipped from Kentucky to Portsmouth for the peace envoys. If that's all they get from Kentucky the deliberations ought to be characterized by harmony—Baker City Democrat. This sounds rather "Small."

There was a peculiar appropriateness about a little 'Gene Field' poem that was disgraced by falling into a Recorder column last night, which the August editor must have missed: "Back to the dear old homestead, (Tacoma)

With an aching sense of pain; But there'll be joy in the coming, When I go home again."

IN LIGHTER VEIN NATURAL MISTAKE.

Mrs. Naylor—Delightful! Simply divine! Mrs. Nextdore—Why, what do you mean? Mrs. Naylor—That aria from Parsifal. Is it your daughter playing? Mrs. Nextdore—Aria from Parsifal? That's my husband on the back porch filing a saw.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

HIS LITTLE SCHEME. Flora—Freddy is a very gay young man, isn't he? Dora—Why, no—he's extremely pious. Whenever he calls on me he talks about religion? Flora—Oh, that's a bluff he's working to get a look at your family bible.—Cleveland Leader.

DIFFERENT. "Why, Pete and Jim are as friendly as ever. I thought you said that the lie was passed between them last night." "Oh, no! I said that several lies were passed between them last night."—Cleveland Leader.

TAGGING HIM. Miss Innitt—Why don't you smoke? Mr. Sappy—What—while I am walking on the street with you? Miss Innitt—Well, I want people to know I have a man with me.—Cleveland Leader.

REAL DANGER. "The physician who visits the sick gentleman a few doors above our house comes in a high power automobile." "Gracious, is the case very dangerous?" "I should say so. Two or three neighbors have been run down by the machine already."—Detroit Tribune.

A MARTIAL ROMANCE. Mrs. Brideigh—Oh, George! We're going to have a novel cake for supper. Mr. Brideigh—Why do you call it novel? Mrs. Brideigh—Because I won't know what it is going to be till I finish it.—Cleveland Leader.

ON THE HEAVING OCEAN. First Passenger—What was in that stew we had for supper? Second Passenger—I give it up. First Passenger—I believe I will, too. Let me at that rail, please.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

THOSE DEAR GIRLS. Grayce—How old is Maude? Gladys—She says she's as old as she looks. Grayce—I don't believe it. No woman could be 150 years old.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

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