

## HISTORICAL EXPERIENCE OF COMBATING ALCOHOLISM IN SWEDEN

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Sweden accumulated rich experience in the sphere of fighting with alcoholism. Situation was dramatic, because since 1788 full freedom of distilling and potatory trade had been held. By 1829 there were 173,124 distilleries and approximately each village had tavern. Drunkenness achieved the top in the middle of 19<sup>th</sup> century. Annual alcohol consumption per capita was 34 liters. Some laws aimed changing of this situation, were adopted after 1835. The number of distiller plants was shortened up to 43,947 by the 1850, and per capita annual alcohol consumption decreased nearly twice. In 1855 home-made alcohol production was forbidden. In five years, in 1855, the number of distillery plants had been reduced to 3,481, and per capita annual alcohol consumption decreased from 22 liters to 9,5 liters in 1865 per capita. There were other measures for the limitation of potatory trade that started to depend on the permission of the community and local government; more than that the value of patents was increased and the attention was paid to increasing of the moral qualification of shop-assistants. However, personal benefits encouraged sellers to spread of alcohol consumption. This led to the realization of the need to remove drinking trade from the hands of interested parties and thereby deprived it of the character of profit.

In 1865, in Gothenburg, a pastor-philanthroper Peter Wieselgren established "The Gothenbourg Joint Stock Company". The new system of combating alcoholism took the name of this company. The main principle of this company was spending of profits on the welfare of the population. The Gothenbourg Joint Stock Company got potatory monopoly and from the very beginning it started to reduce the number of taverns from 72 to 19 in 1885; the rest of pubs had spacious good premises; selected contingent of trustworthy sellers, who earned sufficient salary; the sale of alcohol on credit and on bail was strictly prohibited. It was forbidden to sell of alcoholic drinks to drunken visitors as well as young people under the age of 18. Moreover, the sale of alcohol could be denied for adults, known for their drunken behaviour, at the request of their relatives. Due to the fact that according to the experience, people were more likely drank on an empty stomach, much attention was paid to the sufficient amount of food supplies, dishes and soft drinks in every drinking establishment, to the rate approved by the society; their successful sale was ensured because all profits from the sale came in the personal favour of sellers.

In addition to the desire of limitation and streamlining of the consumption of alcoholic beverages, the society set the goal of contributing to everything that could distract the population from the desire to use alcohol: it arranged several extensive dining rooms and several large reading rooms, where everyone could find a significant selection of books, newspapers and magazines and got for a small fee healthy,

soft drinks. Each drinking establishment had a choice of magazines and newspapers, which were available to everyone every day until 10 pm, while the sale of alcoholic beverages stopped at 7 or 8 pm, depending on the time of year, and moreover, on all holidays and weekends. The totality of all these activities had led to the fact that from 1875 to 1892 the per capita consumption of alcohol in Gothenburg decreased for more than the half. Nevertheless, the joint-stock company made profit from the enterprise, which it (with the exception of 5 % on the spent capital) expended money for the benefit of the population; this was achieved by increasing of the cost of alcoholic drinks nearly twice at that period. The local city government supposed to control the revenues from the system and use them to arrangement of dining rooms, reading rooms, lectures, libraries, parks, museums, sports grounds, cinemas, as well as to finance ambulance services and mercy sisters' work. Gothenburg system and its principles started to use in Norway, Finland and Scotland. In 1919–1955 Swedish government changed the system. Swedish youth nowadays considers that making alcohol consumption illegal in Sweden have an impact on the Swedish culture and lifestyle. Sure, it decreased some of the disadvantages for the certain group of people, but could also increase illegal imports of alcohol that does not withhold the Swedish standards and be even more dangerous for a person. And if a person starts to accept that him/her is doing something illegal, it's reasonable to believe that it would be easier for that person to perform another illegal act within reason, like trying other illegal drugs. It is also possible that making these things accepted could also affect people around to follow the same behaviour. Overall, from our point of view, giving the information about handling of alcohol would be more effective than making it illegal.

#### **References:**

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## **CONTRIBUTION OF ANDREAS VESALIUS INTO ANATOMY**

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Andreas Vesalius laid foundation of modern anatomy by his works. It won't be an understatement to say, that he made a revolution in medicine back in his time. Not only he discovered and described numerous bones, muscles, vessels, nerves and organs of the human body. But he also dared to correct the most unbeatable medical au-