

MEDICATED CIGARETTES.

By W. E. BOWMAN, M.D.

Cigarettes may be made of almost any variety of thick paper, but that kind should be selected that on burning yields a smoke most easily inhaled. I have always employed the heavy paper used for copy book covers (olive pressings); thick blotting paper however makes a good cigarette, but the regular filtering paper does not answer as its smoke is dense and suffocating.

First, cut the paper into strips about seven inches long and an inch and a quarter wide, and next ascertain exactly how much fluid it requires to saturate 25 of these pieces. This is readily done by soaking them in an exactly measured ounce of water, when on withdrawal it will be found that about five fluid drachms of the liquid has been imbibed, this will give the key to the strength you are to make the solutions.

Next saturate the slips with the remedy, and when nearly dry gum or paste one border of each, and roll it around a pencil as shown in the following wood cut, afterwards withdraw the pencil, and the cigarette is made.



Arsenical Cigarettes.—Boil 35 grains of arsenious acid (the lump broken up, is purest) in a Florence flask with four ounces of water, down to the quantity required to saturate 100 slips of the paper previous to rolling. They will then contain a quarter of a grain each. If you have not the usual apparatus, hang the flask above some live coals by means of a wire.

Mercurial Cigarettes.—Dissolve three drachms of red precipitate, in three drachms of nitric acid, and add enough water to make up the quantity requisite to saturate 100 slips of paper. They will contain about three grains of the nitrate of mercury.

Nitre Cigarettes.—Dip the paper in a saturated solution of the nitrate of potash, before rolling.

Balsamic Cigarettes are made by giving the dried nitro cigarettes a coating of tincture of benzoin.

In the British Medical Journal, Dr. Nevins of the Royal Infirmary School of Medicine, Liverpool, speaks highly of these cigarettes in a number of cases.

Aphonia.—A patient who could not speak above a whisper for over a year, probably due to a thickened condition of the chordæ vocales, as she had no pain or constitutional symptoms, used the mercurial cigarettes for a month, and perfectly recovered.

Offensive Discharges from the Nostrils.—With a sense of uneasiness in the frontal sinuses, was quite cured in about a month with the mercurial cigarettes. The patient held his nose after taking a mouthful of the smoke, and then forced it into his nostrils in the manner practiced by accomplished smokers.

Polypus in the Nose.—A patient who had been twice operated upon for polypus, is now able to keep the disposition to form fresh polypi in check, by smoking the mercurial cigarette in the same manner, when he feels that uneasiness which warns him of the danger of its recurrence.

Deafness.—When dependant upon an obstructed Eustachian tube, he finds the nitro cigarettes, made with brown paper, most successful, and that the smoke forced into the tympanum from the throat, gradually restores the sense of hearing. The circumstance which first led him to adopt this method, was hearing a deaf person on one occasion remark, that when he was sneezing the day before, he heard perfectly; the violent effort appeared for the moment to have dilated the Eustachian tube, and hearing was the result. He says, that in a deafness of seven years standing, he had benefited a patient more by this treatment than by any other.

Phthisis.—Tronseau long ago, recommended a puff or two of an arsenical cigarette twice or three times a day in phthisis.

When the attention of the profession has been duly aroused to this subject, there will doubtless be found many other affections in which medicated cigarettes may be advantageously employed, as in syphilitic ulcerations of the throat, ozæna, offensive breath, obstruction of the lachrymal duct, diphtheria, &c., &c.

ON THE ARREST OF THE SECRETION OF MILK, By W. E. BOWMAN, M.D.

Mrs. F—, at 30, has had five children, and has been several times troubled with indurated breasts after labour. She was delivered by a midwife on the first of May inst. of a still-born child. I was consulted twelve hours after her accouchement, on account of some imaginary abnormal sensations and put her at once on five grain doses of iodide of potassium every four hours, directing frequent frictions of camphorated oil to the breasts, and keeping them covered with cotton batting and bandaged tightly, hoping by these means to prevent the formation of milk; this caused her some pain in them for twenty-four hours, when it gradually subsided. Had I commenced the treatment a little sooner, I feel confident it would have succeeded, as the quantity secreted on the setting in of the milk fever, was extremely small; to disperse it, I now conjoined with the iodide of potassium, half drachm doses of the wine of colchicum, continuing the local application of camphor and the bandaging, and giving directions to take away a little of the milk, should the breasts become painful. They were slightly drawn twice, and in two days after the commencement of the colchicum (4 days after confinement) I found the mammary gland soft, indurated and without milk. In twenty-four hours after this, I was compelled to suspend the use of the remedy, on account of its purgative action on the bowels, and now trusted to the camphorated oil alone to remove the induration, which it did completely in about a week. The breasts remain much smaller than natural, and the areolæ are of a dark brown colour, and papillæ much enlarged. She says she has not had any trouble with her breasts since the first day, and denies feeling the least uneasiness in them. She finds, however, that she is not gaining her strength as fast as usual this time.

Dr. Locock remarks that the ill health that follows the artificial arrest of the milk, is best relieved by laxatives; these I had found necessary to give a few days since, notwithstanding her pale anæmic appearance, as the costiveness with which she had been troubled, seemed to be one of the causes of the excessive flow and continued retention of