

of cigarette smoking, and which has been exploited *ad nauseam* by many members of the "yellow" journalism. The argument is clear, trenchant, and to our mind convincing, and is put with forcible lucidity, logical coherence, and the strictest regard to the laws of evidence.

The inquiry originated in a paper by Mr. William H. Garrison, read before the Medico-legal Society of New York in November, 1897. The principal charges brought by those who would forbid altogether the manufacture and sale of cigarettes, are that the use of them causes insanity, phosphorus, opium, arsenic, or other poisoning, the production of tumor on the brain, paralysis, suicide, beggary and death. The absolute untruth of all these statements is clearly shown by a searching investigation of the reported cases upon which they are founded.

We are glad to see that, generally speaking, the medical press takes a moderate and sensible view of the question. It is pretty well proved that tobacco does not directly produce insanity, whether smoked in cigarettes or in any other form. The *Lancet* commission of experts which examined many brands of cigarettes reported that in no case did it find any trace of opium or any unclassified alkaloid or any trace of chlorine or arsenic, though some cigarettes showed a faint trace of copper, due, no doubt, to the metallic label on the wrapper. That the excessive use of tobacco might produce paralysis may be inferred from its known physiological effects, though that result is far more likely to follow the habit of chewing than that of smoking. As to the assertion that the nicotine is volatilized and is drawn into the air vesicles, where it finds an easy entrance to the blood, and that particles of carbon are also inhaled into the air vesicles, it is probable that they do not penetrate beyond the larger bronchial tubes at all. Further, the amount of carbon that could pass into the lungs from cigarette smoking would be so small that it may be neglected as an appreciable increment on that which every dweller in a large city habitually inhales.

Process reproductions of some of the startling newspaper reports are given, and on the opposite pages are statements of the actual facts of the case as borne out on investigation. In every instance it is clearly shown that there was no connection whatever between cigarette smoking and the results attributed thereto, and in many cases it was shown that the victims did not smoke cigarettes at all.

So much for the paper. Now as to the question itself. We do not believe that it has been shown that cigarette