

tion with the tobacco, "tobacco amblyopia" being produced. 9. Muscular coordination is impaired, especially in the young. Drawing-masters find that young smokers cannot draw a "clean, straight line." 10. The antidotal effects of alcohol to tobacco lead to forming the habit of drinking. 11. The powers of concentrating the mind, and perhaps of intellectual activity in general are lessened.

The Minister of Public Instruction of France, finding that smokers, as a rule, stood lower in their classes than non-smokers, has forbidden the use of tobacco in the public schools. "Alcohol oppresses the well nourished brain, though it soothes the exhausted one" (Richardson); in general, a person can do more intellectual work without tobacco than with it. All smokers can do more work if they smoke moderately, than if they smoke incessantly.

The above includes all that can be said against tobacco, and it is an indictment that is heavy enough. Indeed we cannot but feel a little of the conscious guilt that comes when ruthlessly proclaiming the frailties of a friend. It is in the cause both of justice and scientific truth, therefore, that we hasten to state some modifications of the very damaging charges given. Tobacco is essentially a functional rather than an organic poison. It modifies the special energies and not the structure. It does not, like alcohol, leave a knobby liver behind to proclaim past indiscretions at the autopsy. This is the strongest point to those who argue for its use. It is an evasive poison. Then again it is a drug that works its bad effects on a minority of those who use it, and these bad effects disappear very rapidly when the habit is given up. Tobacco is eliminated chiefly by the kidneys, and it leaves the system very rapidly; both acute and

chronic symptoms of tobacco-poisoning are, as a rule, in adults, quite transient. The effect of tobacco upon the throat is not very often injurious; Dr. Richardson's idea that it has a tendency to produce dyspepsia is opposed by the experience of many. Tobacco amblyopia is not at all common.

All this and still other things can be said in favor of the drug, but it is to be remembered that they apply almost entirely to tobacco as used by adults. The evils of tobacco are intensified a hundred fold upon the young. Here it is unqualifiedly and uniformly injurious; it stunts the growth, poisons the heart, weakens the sexual organs, impairs the mental powers and cripples the individual in every way. Not that it does all this to every youth, but it may be safely asserted that no boy of twelve or fourteen can begin the practice of smoking without becoming physically or mentally injured by the time he is twenty-one. We refer to this with especial emphasis because the practice among boys of smoking, and especially of smoking cigarettes, is now very prevalent. "The most prominent cause of rejection of candidates for apprenticeship in the navy," says Dr. Magruder, "is irritable heart, caused, in most cases, primarily by tobacco. Ten out of every thousand applicants in the year 1879 were rejected for "tobacco heart."

It is the duty of our public school instructors to make the facts in regard to tobacco known and impressively felt by their scholars, and we hope that this field of sanitary mission work will be actively occupied. Sewer gas is bad enough, but a boy had better learn his Latin over a man-trap than get the habit of smoking cigarettes. For we may lay it down as certain that tobacco is a bane to youth, though it may be the proper indulgence of manhood and a solace to old age.—*N. Y. Medical Record.*