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IS POISONING BOYS.

TERRIBLE EFFECT OF THE CIGARETTE HABIT AMONG CHILDREN.

It Stunts the Physique, Ruins the Health, and Weakens the Mind—Remedies Proposed for Stamping Out the Evil Among the Youth of San Francisco

Every school teacher and principal takes a deep interest in the subject of reclaiming boys from the cigarette habit. It has claimed their attention for years.

There is not a school teacher who has not been brought face to face with the evil effects of the cigarette-smoking habit time and again, and they are united on the proposition that it is necessary to stamp out the cigarette if the race of men is to be preserved unstunted in physique, robust in health, and with mentality undebased by the excessive use of tobacco.

In his twelve years' experience as principal of the Franklin Grammar School Elisha Brooks had ample opportunity to study the effects of nicotine on growing boys, and yesterday he told an Examiner reporter his idea of what would be the best way to stamp the habit out of the schools altogether.

"It is a most frightful habit," said Mr. Brooks, "and one to which the teachers should give great attention. Cigarettes are responsible for more of the mischiefs among the pupils of the public schools than any other cause I know of. The harm does not lie alone in the immediate effects of the nicotine on the lungs and other organs of the body, but it is responsible for habits among boys that might well cause parents to shudder when they think of the future of their children. I say right here that if cigarettes are not removed from the reach of the boys of this country the second generation from now will be composed of a lot of hollow-chested, sallow-faced, weak-lunged men and women unworthy to be called human beings.

SAPS OUT THEIR LIFE.

"Cigarettes sap the life out of boys. I know a cigarette fiend the moment he shows his face. They are dull eyed, listless chaps, who seem to lack every ambition in them. Every time I meet a boy I look for traces of the cigarette habit in his face, and if I do not find them there I look at his fingers. If he smokes cigarettes the stain of the nicotine is sure to appear upon his fingers. Such a boy I reason with, whether I happen to have authority over him or not. I deem it my duty to save them from cigarettes just the same as I would save them from smoking opium. That the habit exists among the boys of the schools to an alarming extent there is not the slightest doubt. What shall be done to stop it is another matter.

"In the first place I should recommend all principals to cease smoking themselves. It is just as well for them to have the beam out of their own eyes before they seek the mote in others. The principals can do far more by example than they can by preaching. No boy will be much impressed by a lecture upon the evils of smoking if he sees his principal walking down the street with a large cigar between his lips. In the absence of other measures I should say that principals and teachers should every now and then give the boys a confidential talk, explaining to them what evil results will be sure to follow upon the heels of smoking. Boys are very susceptible to reason. If they once understand that a thing is bad for them they will try with might and main to overcome their inclination to fall into temptation.

"Much of the fault lies with the parents. They seem apathetic upon the subject, as though they did not fully realize what danger confronted their children. The teacher may control the boys in the schools, but we have no authority over them after they go home. If parents would hunt for the tell-tale stains on their fingers of their boys and make a penalty for finding them they would do much toward improving the mental and physical condition of the youth of the land. Some parents even seem to me to approve of their boys' smoking. They seem proud to imagine that they have boys of a smoking age.

IMPOSE HEAVY PENALTIES.

"Would it not be a good idea to adopt a law providing a heavy penalty to be inflicted upon cigar dealers who sell tobacco in any form to minors, and have a number of public-spirited men form a society to see that the law was enforced? The city might be divided into districts over each of which a number of the members of the society could have supervision. If the women would take an interest in such a society and had a law to back them I would have no fear but the law would be respected. Certainly something should be done to save our boys from the effects of their bad habit."

Joseph O'Connor of the Horace Mann School is another principal whose large experience with boys' in school entitles him to be ranked as an authority on the subject of how the cigarette evil should be corrected.

"It cannot," said Mr. O'Connor, "be reached by reasoning with the lads' although I must admit that reason has good results with some boys. My idea would be to prevent the sale of cigarettes to boys by placing a prohibitive internal tariff upon their manufacture. I don't think such a law, if proposed, would meet with any great opposition. The dudes won't still be able to smoke cigarettes, and I think they would rather like a high price upon their cigarettes because the vulgar herd could not afford to buy them.

KEEP THEM FROM SCHOOL.

"Although I am firmly of the opinion that only by law is the thing to be stamped out effectually, still much good can be done by constant reasoning with the boys. Of two brothers whom I once had under my charge one was an inveterate smoker, while the other was just starting to smoke. One day I called them into my study and I gave the one who did not smoke a severe lecture, using his brother as a horrible example. He saw the force of what I said at once, and from that day to this I do not believe the little fellow has touched a cigarette.

"Don't you think it would be a good idea to prohibit boys who smoke from attending school? That plan would do much to call the attention of parents to the subject and they would perhaps see to it that their children did not contract habits that would detract from obtaining a free education."

"We have a very good way of curing the cigarette habit in the state prisons," said Director Sonntag. "We just passed an order stopping the giving of cigarette paper and tobacco to the prisoners, and we do not deliver to them the cigarettes their friends send them from outside. That disposes of the matter so far as the prisons are concerned. Nine out of every ten of the men who receive are cigarette fiends when they reach the prison. Law breaking and cigarette smoking seem to go along hand in hand. Since we stopped the use of paper cigarettes the sick list has decreased materially, showing how noxious to things are to health."

The Educational committee of the Federation of Women met at Mrs. Dr. Burns' office, No. 226 Market street, yesterday afternoon. Mrs. Emily Pitts Stevens presided. The committee had a considerable discussion of the cigarette evil as it prevails in public schools, and agitated methods for its remedy. It was finally decided that the most effectual move that could be made would be to inaugurate a system of lectures in the various schools to be illustrated with stereopticon views showing the pupils the awful effects of indulgence in tobacco. Views of the different organs of the body as diseased by the nicotine would, it was argued, be an interesting and effectual warning to those who are just in the beginning of the habit. A fit person to deliver this lecture Mrs. S. B. Eyster was selected.—San Francisco Examiner.

ELECTROLYZED OF SEA WATER.

It Is Said to Be Working Wonders in Purifying a French City.

The most wonderful stories are told of the disinfecting power of sea water after electrical treatment, as exhibited at Havre, where experiments upon a large scale have been made under the direction of M. Hermite, the inventor of the system. The following is an extract from the special correspondent of The London Standard: "A central station for the proper electrolyzing of sea water has been established at Havre, on Quai Lombardie, near the Angoulême bridge, and pipes in connection with it have been laid through all the streets of the St. Francois quarter, inhabited by some 12,000 people of the poorest classes and formerly the hot-bed of every infectious disease. The electrolyzed sea water forced through the pipes had, however, effected a marvelous change. The streets watered with the disinfecting liquid by means of hose connected with the pipes had lost that putrid odor which formerly made them not only repugnant but an ever-present danger in the very center of the town. In addition to this two of the most insalubrious houses in the district had been cleansed by M. Dutrul, the town architect, for the appointment of the Hermite system to dwellings. One of them was situated at No. 24 Rue de la Fontaine and the other at No. 35 Rue a Edreville. A large tank connected with the electrolyzed sea water mains had been placed at the top of each of these six-story buildings, and pipes from the tanks carried down to flush the closets and sinks on the various floors. In the case of the house No. 24 Rue de la Fontaine, the now odorless water from the cesspools of the closets and sinks was conducted through pipes to the street gutter, down which it ran some distance before it ultimately fell into the sewer. The object of this arrangement was to offer the public a constant, visible and olfactory proof of the purifying qualities of electrolyzed sea water. The disinfectant liquid, so to say, consumed the sewage matter as well as the microbes it contained, and in passing along the gutters and through the sewers it contributed to the disinfection of both of them by the chlorine it still contained. With the Hermite system all the sewage water could, without inconvenience, be allowed to flow into the sea or even into rivers, for it purifies instead of contaminating them."

Very Exact.

Judge (to witness)—What is your age, senora?

Witness—I am over 20.

"You must tell me the exact truth."

"Between 20 and 30."

"But when will you be 30?"

"To-morrow, my lord."—La Union de Valparaiso.

SHIPPING MOLASSES IN BULK.

It Comes in the Same Tanks in Which Kerosene Has Been Carried.

Almost all the molasses which comes from Cuba to the United States is brought in the same tanks in steamships that are used to carry petroleum as a return cargo. The ships' tanks are about sixteen feet deep and have a neck seven feet deep. They are pumped full of oil at Brooklyn or Philadelphia, then taken to Havana, and the oil is pumped out into the tanks of the refining plants there. Molasses is brought from the interior of the island in huge hogsheads, which are emptied into storage tanks. A suction pump drawing about 10,000 gallons an hour fills each ship's tanks to within about two feet of the top, that amount of space being required for the expansion of the molasses. It might be supposed that a few gallons would have a bad effect upon the molasses, but it has been shown that the contrary is the case, and as nearly one-half the importation is made into rum and the balance refined into sugar, a little oil is not of much account. The tanks are cleaned after the molasses has been pumped out by turning in a powerful steam jet, which washes down the sides and liquefies what ever molasses may be left in the bottom of the tank, and the suction pump finishes the work.

A cargo of molasses, which formerly required ten or twelve days, can now be unloaded in forty-eight hours, while the difference in cost of handling, to say nothing of the saving of time, amount to a large sum.

The first attempt at handling molasses in bulk was made by the brig Novelty in 1877. She was fitted with a lining and her whole hold was used without partitions. She made several trips between Matanzas and Boston, but was not successful as a dividend earner. Since the present system of dividing a vessel's hold into tanks was devised and put in practice on steamers the profits of the trade and steamship companies have largely increased.—Albany Express.

The Disadvantages of Bank Life.

There is a mistaken idea which is not wholly confined to our young people as to the superiority of the work of the bank clerk. This idea leads too many of our young men to make every effort to secure a bank appointment, the supposed advantages which tempt them being the comparatively light hours of work and the social position which is associated to some extent, but there are a few disadvantages in the bank clerk's life which it is well should be brought forward at the time when the choice of a work in the world is before our young men. There is little chance for a bank clerk to rise in the world. It has been carefully estimated that ninety-five per cent. of all bank clerks fail to obtain a salary higher than $800. This salary, while ample for the young unmarried man does not go very far for the man who has a wife and children. The salary given to the young bank clerk who is just beginning his work is seldom more than $200 per year, and it is not until after the fifth year of consecutive service has been passed that the salary is raised to $600. The social side of the bank clerk's life presupposes money, and the apparent ease with which money may be appropriated from the funds which are always on hand, have wrecked many a bright young man. In many cities the bank clerks are under a strict surveillance. They may not board except in houses chosen by the bank—they may not frequent theatres, pool rooms, and they must be scrupulous as to the characters of men with whom they associate. They must not marry without permission, nor until their salaries have reached a certain standard. It is but right that these restrictions should exist, the young men are certainly none the worse for them, but nevertheless the loss of freedom must at times be galling. The great positions in banks are open to the men who have more than ordinary ability and usually great influence which they can bring to bear, and, unlike other professions, there is little room at the top for the patient climbers. The training which a lad receives in a bank is an excellent one, but as a rule it fits him for a life which he has no opportunity to lead, and the more ambitious men who see that the upward way is blocked, usually step into mercantile life. We recommend the careful consideration of these facts to the intelligent young men of the Province.—Halifax Critic.

About the Eyes.

Don't allow a cold wind to strike the eyes.

Don't have colored shades on the lamps; use white or ground glass.

Don't go directly from a warm room into a cold raw atmosphere.

Don't open the eyes under water in bathing especially in salt water.

Don't let any strong light, like that from electricity, shine directly into the eyes.

Don't strain the eyes by reading, sewing, or any like occupation, with an imperfect light.

Don't bathe inflamed eyes with cold water; that which is as warm as can be borne is better.

Don't sleep opposite a window in such manner that a strong light will strike the eye on awaking.

Don't, above all, have the children sleep so that the morning sun shall shine in their faces to arouse them.—The New York Commercial Advertiser.