

DRUG FIENDS.

Of late years, the numbers who use narcotic and habit-forming drugs are steadily on the increase, and are threatening the well-being of the community. The dope habit has become one of the grave perils that threaten society. A noted French physician recently said that the use of cocaine and such like drugs was ruining more lives than liquor. There are many moderate drinkers, but no moderate dope fiends. The one who uses "dope" becomes its slave.

In South America, long before the discovery of the crystal cocaine, the natives ate coca leaves and drank tea made from these, and found that the practice conferred upon them remarkable powers of endurance. This practice reached the negroes in the United States, and from them spread among the white population. The negroes were among the first to use the white powder as a snuff.

One of the seductive dangers in this class of habit-forming drugs is that their primary effect is to retrieve the secondary or reactionary effect which these very drugs produce. Thus the cocaine and morphine habitués resort to these drugs to remove the later feeling they have caused. The depressing effects that follow their use is relieved by the stimulating effects of further doses. So the habit goes on and grows steadily.

Some resort to the use of these drugs because they do not get sufficient rest and sleep, as druggists and doctors. Others because their use gives them strength and endurance, as our professional athletes. Others, that under their influence they may do deeds of daring and terrible crime.

Mrs. W. K. Vanderbilt has given much time and money to the suppression of the drug habit and the restraint of the sale of these drugs. After much investigation it appears that one person in twenty-five in China is a drug fiend, while there is one in every twenty-three in the United States. The effect of cocaine has been shown to lead to many forms of crime. The drug habit cannot be satisfied short of \$4 to \$5 a day, while the person is no longer able to work for this. He then resorts to crime for the needed money.

STATE MEDICINE.

This thought is not a new one. The salaried doctor, in some form, has been tried in many countries and in many ways. We are all familiar with the Chinese plan of pay the doctor when all members of the family are well, and stop his pay when any of them are ill.