

Correspondence.

Editor CANADA MEDICAL RECORD,

Dear Sir,—By a medical journal now before me I see that the Legislature of Minnesota has actually passed a law making it a crime to smoke cigarettes or to sell or trade in them within the limits of the State. Whether the law will be enforced, or, if enforced, whether it will be successful in stamping out the nuisance of cigarette smoking remains to be seen. But, if it does nothing more than to compel these trespassers upon public rights to practice their vice in secret, it will not have entirely failed in the beneficial object it has in view. The evil is a growing one, and the cigarette habit, like the alcohol habit and the opium habit, seems to dull the finer feelings of its votaries, so that little by little they think more and more of their own craving and less and less of the comfort and health of others, until they become at last "cigarette fiends." I do not yet know of any instance of a cigarette fiend smoking in church, although I have no doubt that their inability to do so prevents many from attending divine service, but I have seen them shutting themselves up in the closets and dressing rooms at private and public functions instead of performing the duties expected of them in the ball-room, or reception hall, while, at important business meetings, even when held in private houses, they seem to lose all regard for the feelings of the majority of those present, and within a few minutes after the meeting begins they have rendered the air of the crowded room utterly unfit for use. They seem to forget that, while they have gone through a gradual process of inurement until they are able to tolerate enormously toxic doses of the poison, the majority of those present who are in a normal condition of health are seriously affected by comparatively small doses of it. Even those nearest and dearest to them in their own home have to suffer in silence. I know of one family, and there must be many others, in which the wife, and especially the little children, suffer from nausea, anorexia, headache, vertigo and palpitation of the heart as long as the father remains at home, but who all enjoy good health during the six months that the father, who is a "buyer," is away in Europe.

Now, Mr. Editor, I am making this appeal to the cigarette fiends, to be more considerate, through the columns of your journal (I have no hopes of inducing them to stop it, as