

of smoking is very wide-spread, and foul pipes and carious teeth are very common. Every smoker of a pipe has been disgusted now and then by sucking into his mouth a few drops of the highly pungent and nauseous product of the combustion of tobacco. In the action of smoking the tip of the tongue ordinarily receives this deleterious fluid, and is very much blistered in consequence. Were it not for the tongue one can readily imagine that hollow teeth would often receive this fluid: with what amount of risk the case before us well shows. It is well known that, for phosphorus to excite the inflammatory action which so often affects the lucifer-match workers, the fumes must be applied to a raw vascular surface in immediate connection with the nutrition of bone. This almost always happens through the medium of a carious tooth. There is no reason to suppose that tobacco oil would set up inflammation except under similar circumstances. It is, however, very probable that some cases of acute necrosis of the lower jaw of obscure origin may have really originated from the accidental poisoning of the tooth-pulp by this liquid, and the possibility of this source of disease, should be borne in mind.—*Medical Record.*

Boys Using Tobacco.

A strong and sensible writer says a good sharp thing, and a true one, too, for boys who use tobacco.

It has utterly spoiled and utterly ruined thousands of boys. It tends to softening and weakening of the bones, and it greatly injures the brain, the spinal marrow, and the whole nervous fluid.

A boy who smokes early and frequently, or in any way, uses large quantities of tobacco, is never known to make a man of much energy, and generally lacks muscular and physical as well as mental power. We would particularly warn boys who want to be anything in the world to shun tobacco as a most baneful poison. It injures the teeth.

It produces an unhealthy state of the throat and lungs, hurts the stomach, and blasts the brain and nerve.

The Production of Timber.

Bayard Taylor, in a recent letter from Kansas, says that hundreds of acres of prairie, which have been protected from fires by contiguous cultivated fields, are overgrown with hickory and oak trees from four to six feet high. Where land is tolerably well watered and undisturbed, especially if in vicinity of wooded country, it will give support to what is commonly called spontaneous growth of timber. The character of the growth depends mainly upon the quality of the soil. The seed may have remained for years in the soil, possessing a latent vitality, which awaits only favorable conditions for its development. Poor soils seem first to favor the pine, and this in turn gives place to the more rapid-growing deciduous trees, until the chesnut and the oak find fitting support and conditions for their growth and development. But in a country like this, where the demand for timber for manufacturing and building purposes threatens to rob us of our forests, it may not be well to rely wholly upon the unaided forces of nature for a supply. The resolution introduced into Congress to offer incentives to the planting of our immense

prairies with trees, we regard as a timely suggestion. The great drawback to the settlement of those vast fertile plains is the absence of wood and an unfailing supply of water. These secured, and our prairies will be selected in preference to localities less favorable to agricultural pursuits, but which furnish wood and water in profusion.

Wherever there are forests there will be water, and the last is an indispensable requisite to human habitation. A section of country unprovided with elevated points as gatherers of the moisture of the clouds, must have a clothing of forest or retain the rains, which, on a naked plain, alternate periods of extreme drought with seasons of superabundant moisture.—*Scientific American.*

An "Aerial" Railway.

An elevated railway is authorized by the common council of the city of New York, to be constructed on each side of Greenwich Street and Ninth Avenue, from the Battery to and across Harlem River. It is thus described by the *American Artisan*:—

The Superstructure.—This will consist of a series of wrought iron columns about one foot in diameter and fourteen feet high above the level of the sidewalk. They will be firmly secured in large blocks of stone or masonry beneath the level of the street. The track will be supported on the upper ends of the posts, and will be open between the rails except the guides for the propelling rope, and a latticed iron frame to bind all together. To prevent oscillation a second row of pillars will be set at long intervals next to the buildings, and their ends braced to the main track for its lateral support. The cross-streets will be spanned with ornamental bridges of steel trestle-work, which will combine both beauty and safety.

The Motive Power.—This will be supplied by engines of thirty-horse power, placed in vaults beneath the surface of the street at intervals of half a mile. Attached to the engines will be a number of large drums, over which will revolve an endless wire rope, which, passing up through the hollow iron pillars to the level of the track, will extend between the rails for a distance of a quarter of a mile each way from the engine, and will return in a pipe placed beneath the pavement.

The Cars.—These are to be of a peculiar pattern. The body will hang between two four wheeled trucks for the purpose of bringing it close to the track; and by this means all danger from the breaking of a single axle or wheel will be avoided. By moving a lever the conductor will be able to stop or start his car at any point on the road.

Stations.—These will be placed at a distance of about five blocks from each other; and for waiting-rooms a portion of the second story of a building adjoining the track will be hired, and passengers will be able to ascend and descend by stairways inside the block.

[Since the above was in type, we learn that the mayor of New York has vetoed the ordinance on account of doubts as to its legality, and insufficiency of restrictions on the company.—*Ed. J.*]