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BAD EFFECTS OF TOBACCO ON THE YOUNG.

THE well-worn subject of the injuriousness of tobacco has again come to the front. This time, however, it presents a phase of much more than ordinary importance.

Certain English medical journals have been giving a partial endorsement of the weed, protesting that, on the whole, it is rather a boon than a bane to mankind. An exception is uniformly made, however, to its use by the young, and at this point Dr. Gihon appears, and in the annual report of the Surgeon-General of the Navy, presents most strongly the evils wrought upon the young by smoking.

The case of the human organism against tobacco is made out by Dr. Richardson and others to be something as follows:

In smoking tobacco we take in carbonic acid and carbonic oxide, several ammonias, and an oily substance which is crude nicotine. In this crude nicotine are nicotine proper, a volatile empyreumatic substance and a bitter extract. The ammonias and the nicotine especially are the substances which so sadly poison the system, and they act in numerous directions:

1. The ammonias, entering the blood, make it too alkaline and fluid, thus interfering with its proper nutritive activity.
2. The stomach is debilitated and dyspepsia induced by the general influence of the drug.
3. The throat is made dry and red, the tonsils enlarged, and the morbid condition known as "smokers' sore throat" results.
4. The innervation of the heart is disturbed, its action being weak, irregular and intermittent; palpitation, precordial pains, faintness and vertigo are the consequence, forming the well recognized symptoms of "tobacco heart."
5. The laryngeal and bronchial mucus membranes, if already irritable, are made more so.
6. Owing chiefly to the disturbance in the blood and heart the processes of nutrition are slowed, and in the young may be seriously affected—tissue is degraded (Acton).
7. The sexual organs are at first stimulated, especially by cigarette smoking, but are eventually weakened in power; "excessive smokers, if very young, never acquire, and if older, rapidly lose their virile powers."—(Acton).
8. Vision is impaired, especially if alcohol is used in conjunc-