

Effects of Tobacco on the Mental Faculties.

In reference to the question of the influence of smoking on the mental faculties, Dr. Richardson, in the *Social Science Review*, says tobacco like all agents of its class, has the property of checking the oxidation of the body, and thus of diminishing waste. If mental labour is commenced when the system is well sustained, and the supply in excess of the waste, indulgence in smoking does produce in most persons a heavy dull condition, which is difficult to throw off, because it stops the processes of assimilation and destruction. But if mental labour be continued until the wasting of the corporeal power is greater than the supply, then the resort to tobacco gives a feeling of relief; it checks the rapid waste that is going on, and enables the mind to bear up longer in the performance of its task. Many men who commence a day of physical or mental work on a good breakfast and tobacco, find that they go through their labours with much less alacrity than other men who are not smokers, while the majority of smokers feel that after a day's labour the resort to a pipe, if the practice is moderately carried out, produces temporary relief from exhaustion. He also adduces the well-known fact that many persons of great energy and industry cannot sleep owing to the actual severity of mental or bodily effort to which they have subjected themselves. In this condition there can be no doubt that tobacco produces a soothing effect, causing mental rest. Dr. Richardson does not advocate the necessity of tobacco as a requirement of the natural life. He believes that in this day we are not living naturally; we have run into the extreme of industry; have carried our exertions to the borders of insanity; and so it is to be admitted that to the natural man such adventitious aids as tobacco are unnecessary. He condemns the use of tobacco until the body is fully developed; and states that the indulgence in it by our children and youths is degrading the national intellect, and establishing a race which will transmit its own degradation to future generations.

Manufacture of Linseed Oil.

The attention with which farmers have of late regarded the cultivation of flax and its estimated value as a rotative crop, has caused it to become a highly important staple. The quantity, both of seed and fibre, now raised in the Upper Province is very considerable, and is steadily increasing every year. There are several manufactories in operation for working up the latter and creating a large yield this year. Some of those are being enlarged and extended. But, with the exception of a very small portion crushed at Bridgeport, C. W., the seed has as yet to find in Lower Canada a market, from whence and from England we now derive our supplies of linseed oil, which could so readily be obtained on the spot, saving the heavy cost of duty and transport. These facts have influenced persons to contemplate the erection of an oil mill at this point, as an enterprise which will not only prove very lucrative to those who engage in it, but also aid materially in developing the resources and fostering the manufacturing interests of the country. With this view it is proposed to form a Joint Stock Company, under the management of a gentleman from England, who

has for a number of years been engaged in the oil business and thoroughly understands the manufacture in every branch, and who demonstrates to the satisfaction of experienced men that this point is peculiarly adapted for the profitable working of such a manufactory. The capital required for the efficient working is estimated at \$10,000. It is proposed to issue shares of \$50 or \$100 each, and it is hoped that capitalists and property-holders interested in the welfare of the city will look into the scheme and give it that encouragement it truly deserves.—*Toronto Leader*.

Patent Ice-making Machine.

The *Birmingham Post* gives an account of a very ingenious machine for the manufacture of ice, patented by Messrs. Siebe Bros., Mason-st., Lambeth, London, and manufactured by Mr. W. H. Phillips, of the Atlas foundry, Oozellsstreet, Birmingham. The machine has been made for a firm in Banbury who have now in use one of Messrs. Siebe's machines, which is capable of producing four tons of ice per day. This machine which is the first of the kind made in Birmingham, is capable of producing ten tons per day, and is driven by an engine of twenty horse power. The machine has been completed only a few days, and as it was necessary to try it before exportation, it has been used, and the ice manufactured has been bought by Mr. Copner of New-street and others. The machine consists of an engine, a large tank, and four longitudinal troughs of considerable dimensions, and placed side by side. In these troughs the spring water to be converted into ice is placed, in metal vessels about 2 in. wide, and some 2 ft. deep. Brine containing as much salt as can be held in solution is forced through the troughs, and runs round the vessels containing the spring water, and when it has run through the whole series it is pumped back into a large tank, and after being again reduced to an intense degree of cold is once more forced through the troughs; and this process is repeated until the whole of the water is converted into ice, which is turned out in slabs of even size and thickness. The degree of cold produced is so intense that the ice begins to form in about twelve minutes from the commencement of the operation. The ice made by the machine is beautifully clear, and not the least of the many advantages of the process is that no chemicals whatever are used. The manufacture of ice in tropical climates is a most important operation, and to this end Messrs. Siebe's machines have been extensively applied, one of them being now at work in Peru, almost under the Equator.

Another New Metal.

A letter from France says that another new metal has been announced during the week. M. Osravais, Professor of Geology at Strasbourg, has obtained a hard shining metal, of the colour of gold, but soft as lead, from the mineral waters of Alsace. The metal, not admitting of a high degree of polish, will be useful to employ in the dull or coloured goldsmiths' work so much in fashion for ornament just now. The specimens, submitted to connoisseurs in Paris, have excited the highest admiration.—*Mining Journal*.