

by the lines into the basket of the parachute.

"Don't do it, Burt!" I cried. "The wind is too high."

"Mind the balloon, Frank, and look out for Mabel!" he called back, in a firm, clear voice. "You're all right to cross the bay now," and he pulled out the knot.

"The parachute, as we flow, hung slant. The moment he fell clear of the car, the wind caught it. As the 'umbrella' opened, the wind seemed to double one-half of it under and within the other.

"The basket whirled around. At the same instant I saw Burt's hands, with all his quick young strength trying to untwine the cords, but in vain. He had fallen a hundred feet already. Then for the first time he glanced up, with a gesture of despair—perhaps 'good-bye'; then he looked down at the cruel earth. Yet once more he turned his face upward—in prayer, it may be.

"I shut my eyes; I could have thrown myself down after him. Mabel had got up beside me.

"Poor Burtie!" she lisped. "Wa'n't he 'fraid? What made him go in 'e pallysute?"

"My poor comrade had fallen from a height of at least five hundred feet and was, of course, instantly killed. Several men who had been watching us ran to the spot where he had fallen—on some ledges a few hundred yards back from the shore.

"Thus died Burt McClintock, as noble and as brave a boy as ever laid down his life for his friend. He was not quite twenty-two.

"The balloon, thus dearly lightened, rose rapidly. But for little Mabel's sake I would rather have gone down into the bay. In a short time we had crossed to the east shore, where we effected a landing, in the twilight, near a great pine-tree, two or three miles from the bay.

"That was my last balloon ascent that season. For a time I thought of abandoning my profession altogether; and I closed my connection with the professor with that intention. One and another circumstance, however, drew me back to the study of aerostatics, and I hope that the discoveries and devices I have made justify my choice of a profession."—Henry G. Willis, in *Youth's Companion*.

CIGARETTE SMOKING.

(By Dr. Titus Munson Coan in *Harper's Young People*.)

What a wonderful distiller of poisons is nature. The active principles of opium, hashish, tea, coffee, and tobacco are only most widely known. Among many others, whether in excess or in moderation, these stimulants and alcohol are used by probably three-fourths of the adult population of the world, and it would be a hard thing to estimate their effects, for evil or for good. Tobacco is more generally used, according to the best estimates, than any other stimulant.

Does it surprise you to hear tea and coffee classed with opium and tobacco as among nature's poisons? The active principles, so called, of all these substances are poisonous; but it does not follow, as we all know, that the use of the substances themselves is necessarily injurious. Even strychnia and aconite have their medicinal uses. But the active or essential principle of tobacco is one of the strongest of all the vegetable poisons that I have mentioned, and when we see so much injury resulting from its use among young people, we may well stop and ask whether the evil is not one that can be kept in check.

The particular evil that I have in mind is that of cigarette smoking by boys, and the persons to whom I want to speak are the boys themselves and their parents.

Now I am not going to indulge in any general tirade against smoking, though from my own early training it might be expected that I should do so. My father was the strictest sort of a disciplinarian in this matter, especially in his church, and he was for many years the pastor of the largest missionary church in the world. There was especial reason for his strictness. In the Hawaiian Islands the natives took to smoking with the greatest eagerness, as all primitive people do when tobacco is first introduced. They learn how to grow their own tobacco after a time, and they use stumpy wooden pipes. A

ring of these people, sitting in one of their thatched huts, would pass the pipe around, each one of them not merely inhaling the smoke, but breathing it deep down into the lungs, so that after a few pipefuls of the heavy narcotic the whole group would be plunged into a tobacco drunkenness, from which it took them a long time to recover. My father made this sort of thing an offence against church discipline, with penalties of some kind for the more obdurate tobacco drunkards, and I dare say he was quite right.

Now what the ignorant islanders did was precisely what many cigarette smokers do among us. The inbreathing of the smoke throws the poison directly upon the blood, and nothing can be more injurious than to tamper in this way with the delicate tissues that grow around the fountains of life. I would a great deal rather blow steady currents of smoke into the works of the most delicate watch than into my lungs; these are a more delicate piece of machinery. The paleness, the giddiness, the injured sleep and digestion, that come from this sort of poisoning are the surest proof of the injury it works. Of course there are people who can stand it, as there are people that can eat arsenic or swallow glass for a time and not seem to be hurt. But that does not make it the less injurious.

Some people, however, smoke cigarettes without inhaling the smoke. Very well; I will ask them if they know what a cigarette is. It is a roll of tobacco, usually of poor quality, the poorness of which is partly hidden by a paper wrapper. I do not say that good tobacco is not sometimes used in cigarettes; but that is the exception. Of twenty brands that boys buy cheap in the cigar shops it is a glowing optimism to expect that more than one will be even decently good—as goodness is counted in tobacco. If one is going to smoke at all, it is not boys, but tough men, that can withstand the effects of bad tobacco burned in paper. The adult smoker who makes his own cigarettes out of a tobacco that he knows all about may or may not injure himself, according to his constitution and to the amount of his smoking. The boy who buys cigarettes is sure to injure himself.

Now I will take the most favorable case of all, and the rarest. Suppose a boy has a lot of good cigarettes, and smokes a few of them every day. Is there any injury in that?

I can tell you, for I had such boys for patients. Such smoking, even in so-called moderation—as if there were such thing as moderation in stimulants for the young!—will do three things for him: 1, it will run his pulse up to one hundred or more per minute; 2, it will reduce his weight below the healthy standard; and 3, it will reduce his strength and general vitality, as will appear in his "pale complexion" and his diminished appetite.

If this is true of boys' smoking under the least injurious conditions, how much truer is it in the more frequent case where bad and adulterated tobacco and excessive smoking combine in their attack upon the delicate tissues of the growing lad! The physiologist will tell you that the effect of stimulants in general is to check the changes in tissue. In a growing animal of any kind this means to check the growth. The dog-fancier is said to give whiskey to the puppy when he wishes to stunt its growth. I do not know whether he has taught puppies to smoke, but it would be a good way to keep them from growing. I went to see some hair seals lately that were advertised to smoke and do a good many other things that were not necessary for seals to do, and I noticed that when the showman put lighted pipes in their mouths there was not the least smell of tobacco. Of course the seals did no more than hold the pipes in their mouths, inhaling the smoke being something quite beyond them. Not that animals cannot be taught to use stimulants; it has been done. Dogs and monkeys have been taught to drink beer, and cats to like bread that has been baked in it. Animals are much more human than we are apt to suppose. But all this proves nothing as to our point. We want to make up our minds, just now, not as to what may be done with stimulants, but as to the injury that we know they inflict upon the young.

The simple fact is that young people need no stimulants of any kind, unless as medicines. Tea and coffee are not good for children, and it is a mistake to give them

to children. Much more are cigarettes injurious, because tobacco is a much stronger stimulant than tea or coffee. And what to do about it?

Nothing is more surprising than the apathy of many parents on this question. The father who forbids tea or coffee to his boy as absolutely as he would forbid absinthe makes but the mildest protest against cigarettes, and the hopeful youngster may be seen in the street, in all his pride, all a-puff with cheap tobacco. It is, of course, with the parent that the cure exists and that the reform must begin. I am quite old-fashioned enough to believe that the rule of obedience which my father enforced in this matter upon his children as well as on his church members is the only way out of the trouble, unless the young smoker be one of those poor waifs that we see in our great cities so frequently who have no parents or guardians to disobey. But where there is a home and a parent there is no better occasion for authority than in this matter of smoking.

It is of no use, of course, to point out the trials and troubles of learning to smoke. No youngster but is cheerfully willing to brave them, for nothing gives him so much of a sense of "manliness," as he imagines it, as the mastery of this accomplishment. The parents may do much by pointing out the foolishness of this notion, at least in the case where the child is disposed to think for himself. My father settled all this matter for his children by a laugh. "There goes another chimney!" was his remark when a smoker went by. We were not "too good" in Hilo, but I do not think that any one of our little community of playmates, some half a dozen in number, ever had the least wish to indulge in these forbidden pleasures. Doubtless this was partly due to the fact that there were no street loafers (at least with white skins) from whom we could learn bad manners.

In conclusion: cigarette smoking is one of the worst of habits, physically, that a boy can form. It injures the heart and the digestion, and it tends to check the growth. It gives a lad false and silly notions, and it does not bring him into good company. The parent's duty is a simple one. Let him point out the injuriousness of the habit; let him laugh at it; and if this is not enough, as it should be with any right-feeling boy, then let him forbid it with penalties, and do seasonably what is to be done. I am not of those who think that severe measures are often necessary in the management of children that receive a careful and affectionate training. But if, in some cases, nothing else will do, it is well to consider that a switch in time saves nine.

TEMPERANCE ARITHMETIC.

Please work out this problem and think it over:—

A poor man, 70 years of age, was sent to the almshouse. Had he saved the money spent for tobacco since he was 20 years of age, providing he spent an average of \$30 a year, how much would he have had?

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Question Corner.—No. 15.

PRIZE BIBLE QUESTIONS.

45. What nation or tribe was for deceit condemned to perpetual bondage?
46. (a) When was the tabernacle first set up in Palestine, and (b) when was its use discontinued?

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