

be the neighborhood. She joined us downstairs again. In less than a week, sickness, etc., returned. I was in despair. For nearly three months I racked my brains about drains, wall-paper, milk, water, sauce-pans, any and everything in vain—the child slowly wasted. The weather was too severe to take her away. In an agony of mind, I noticed that, so far from outgrowing her clothes, they were too large for her. The little thing was not eating enough to keep up her strength, and we could not coax her to eat. Yet she was not really ill; she ran about and played in a quiet way and looked fairly well to those who had not seen her more robust. Suddenly my husband was summoned into the country. A week after he went, she began to eat with a relish. In a fortnight she was her own happy self, full of riotous childish spirits. 'Her father has never seen her like this,' I remarked, one evening, when she was particularly merry and mad; and then the truth flashed upon me. It was his tobacco that upset her. He has been away now for a month; and the child's limbs daily get firmer and rounder, and she is the merriest, healthiest little mortal possible. He always smoked after breakfast and after lunch, with her in the room, neither of us dreaming that it was injurious to her. But for his providential absence this time it would never have occurred to me and we might have lost our darling, for she was wasting sadly. It was acting like a slow poison." It seems to me probable from the above history, says the Editor of the Medical and Surgical Reporter, that the child was confined to the nursery for the first few months, and not with the father when he was smoking, and was thus not affected as early as children often are. With rich people, in cities, the "smoking-room" saves children, infants at least, from early poisoning by tobacco-smoke. But that thousands of infants in the homes of the poor in the small crowded houses of the alleys in cities are sufferers from this cause is quite probable. People with consumption and other exhausting diseases are sometimes greatly nauseated by the odor of tobacco brought into the sick room by a physician much given to the use of tobacco. I have several times heard them speak of its being very offensive to them. As "a word to the wise is sufficient," it seems to me quite proper to call the attention of the profession to this cause of disease, of suffering, and oft-times of premature death.

TOBACCO SMOKE IN MEAT, ETC.—IMPORTANT EXPERIMENTS.—M. Bourrier, an inspector of the slaughter houses of Paris, has lately reported to the *Revue D'Hygiene* the results of some experiments to determine the influence of the fumes of tobacco on food of animal origin. Two kilograms of raw beef were minced and subjected to the fumes of tobacco for some time. When offered to a dog of medium size which had been deprived of food for twelve hours, the dog refused to eat it. Concealed in a piece of bread, it was taken with avidity. At the end of twenty minutes the dog showed uneasiness and abdominal pain, and uttered plaintive cries. The respiration became noisy and embarrassed, the flanks heaved, the tongue hung from the mouth, the alvine evacuations became abundant, and the animal died in horrible convulsions. Various other kinds of meat, raw, broiled, roasted, etc., were used in the experiments, and with results similar, but varying in intensity. It was found that raw meats, and those which are moist and tender, absorbed the tobacco smoke more readily than others, and that strawberries and raspberries readily absorb the smoke from a tobacco pipe. The inference which the author would draw from these experiments is, that food which is subjected to the fumes of tobacco smoke, during the process of preparation in factories or other places, may absorb enough of the tobacco poison to become injurious to the health of consumers.

SANITARY WORK AND ITS RESULTS IN BRUSSELS.—Of late years the city of Brussels has been doing excellent sanitary work, says the official organ of the Maine State Board of Health, and the results have been correspondingly encouraging. From 1868 to 1888 the annual average number of cases of nuisance removed, sanitary improvements made, or premises disinfected, increased from 757 to 2,146, and as the amount of sanitary work increased the general death rate gradually decreased from 29.3 in 1000 population, in 1868 to 22.9 in 1888, and the deaths from zymotic diseases have come down from 4.60 to 1.31 in the same time. The Brussels Sanitary Bureau costs 48,000 francs a year: and if we estimate every life saved at only £40 (200 dollars), this outlay in sanitary administration is equal to an investment bringing in an annual interest of 1,400 per cent.