

often disagree, but on the subject of boys and cigarettes they are unanimous in their condemnation. The numerous anti-tobacco societies of Great Britain furnish very impressive data to show that the habitual use of the cigarette, "especially in the young," produces symptoms of anæmia, palpitation, intermittent pulse and other evidences of heart affections, and interferes with the circulation. The disease of the vision amblyopia is admittedly one of their results. But in an age when scientists find virulent germs in anything and everything, well-developed men need not trouble any more than they falter at the prospect of tea and coffee poisoning. The vast aggregate discovers in reasonable smoking an exhilaration and charm which does something to bring about that peace which all men crave. Hence the universality of smoking. But here we refer only to men. The crucial point is that it should be rejected until the constitution has acquired the stability of manhood. With boys whose systems are in course of development the effect must necessarily be deleterious. Research, indeed, discloses that there are actual bodily changes. The young smokers look older and physiologically speaking, their tissues are actually older, and have deteriorated at an abnormal rate. Sajon's "Annual" records the statement of Dr. Coombes (Louisville), "that the use of cigarettes is particularly injurious, because of the almost universal practice of inhaling the smoke and expiring it through the nose, thus exciting general irritation and inflammation of the respiratory passages."

Athletes admit that cigarettes result in wakefulness and shortness of breath. Altogether the craze loses its alluring tints on investigation. In a work now on sale—"Mad

Humanity," by Dr. L. Forbes Winslow, lecturer on insanity at Charing Cross Hospital—the author stigmatises the cigarette as "one of the curses of the age." He refers to the well-known experiment of a leech dropping dead upon the sip of a cigarette-smoker's blood, and draws a distasteful picture of enervation, hypocondriasis, dwarfish development, tendency to consumption, "suffering lives and early deaths." One death immediately due to the cigarette was that of a boy aged 11 years, who had smoked a dozen or more cigarettes daily for 10 months. It is well attested that early smoking often leads to a craving for liquor. Dr. Ross, M.L.A., who has introduced the Juvenile Smoking Bill into the New South Wales Parliament, writes, "Juvenile smoking, particularly cigarettes, affects the stomach, liver, brain, heart, kidneys and nervous system, leading often to congestion of the lungs; it interferes with the growth and with the development of a sound mind and a healthy constitution." Schoolmasters testify to the clogging effect of cigarette-smoking on boys engaged in study. At the annual conference this year of the Lancashire and Cheshire branch of the British Medical Association, Dr. J. Hilton Thompson demonstrated the presence of carbonic oxide gas in tobacco smoke, and declared that when inhaled from cigarettes it had the same injurious effect on the system as choke-damp in collieries. The fatal result to mice is as popularly known as the leech experiment. In June last, at a public meeting at Sheffield, medical reports laid stress on the prevalency of juvenile smoking, and an appeal was made to young men, as they valued health of body, clearness of intellect, and strength of moral purpose to abstain from the cigarette.