

W. D. Howells never uses tobacco except rarely a cigarette where others are smoking.

M. de Fleury denounces smoking without reserve, and declares "that tobacco leads to all crimes." "One begins," he says, "with the cigarette, continues with the pipe, passes on to brandy, then to abstinence, and ends on the scaffold."

Balzac, Goethe, Heine, and Michelet abhorred tobacco.

M. Alexandre Dumas, *father*, says that "tobacco is, with alcohol, the most formidable enemy of intelligence." The elder Dumas never smoked.

Victor Hugo condemns the use of tobacco because "it changes thought into reverie, and to replace thought by reverie is to confound poison with nourishment."

The story is told of the poet Swinburne that searching in vain one day for a room in the Art Club where he could find a clear atmosphere in which to write, he at last exclaimed indignantly: "James the First was a knave, a tyrant, a fool, a liar, a coward; but I love him, I worship him, because he slit the throat of that blackguard Raleigh, who invented this filthy smoking."

PRIVATE RIGHTS AND INSPECTION.—There is scarcely a movement inaugurated in the interest of the public welfare but that there is opposition urged on the grounds of its invasion of "private rights," says the Sanitary News. Such opposition generally comes from those who have no idea of what private rights consist, and who are not conscious of any duty to furnish their individual shares to the welfare of the general public. Whatever exists of private rights in this country must be found in such individual immunities as do not conflict with the public good, or retard general progress. Inspection, in a sanitary sense, means the procurement of intelligent information of existing conditions, in order that proper measures may be employed in providing for the public safety. Sanitary inspectors are selected with regard to their proficiency in matters with which they have to do, and of which the public may be considered ignorant. Conceding for the present that a man has the right to place cheap skin-plumbing in his house, and, with polluted water and contaminated air, poison his family, no one will claim that he has the right to endanger the health and life of his neighbors.

SANITARY TEACHING.—The N. Y. Medical Times says: The greatest obstacle to the correct application of sanitary principles, is either the ignorance or carelessness of those likely to be benefited. Men of general intelligence will allow their farm yards, their cellars, their ponds and drains to be breeders of disease, which may endanger not only their own lives but that of the neighborhood, simply through carelessness, or fear of temporary expense. It is true the health boards have been of inestimable benefit to the community where they are located, but if every physician would constitute himself a health officer in the neighborhood where he resides, pointing out the breeding places of disease, not alone in pond and ditch and swamp, but in the houses and the out-door premises of his patients, he would have a much more satisfactory, if not as lucrative, practice. If the masses of the people possessed that education in sanitary matters which every physician should be prepared to give, the death rate in the rural districts especially would be very much lessened.

STERILIZATION OF WATER.—The conclusions of Charles C. Currier, M. D., in a paper on this subject are as follows, (San. News): Unless extraordinarily resistant, water becomes sterilized if it be at or near the boiling temperature for fifteen minutes. If the same degree of heat be maintained for five minutes, all harmful micro-organisms will have been destroyed. Still less time serves to destroy the disease-producing varieties which are recognized as being liable to occur in water. Thus, merely raising to the boiling point, a clear water containing micro-organisms of malarial disorders, typhoid, cholera, diphtheria, or of suppurative processes, and allowing it to gradually cool, insures the destruction of these germs. They are also destroyed by keeping the water from a quarter to half an hour at a temperature of 70° C. (148½°). When it is desired to destroy every micro-organism that may be present it should be heated for one hour and allowed to cool slowly. Then it may be used for cleansing wounds or for alkaloid solutions which will keep sufficiently if no germs be introduced after the solution has been heated.