

parts of the kingdom, should be abated, as something intensely degrading and disgraceful, having no foundation either in sense or morality, as it certainly has none in physiology. Let us hope that we are at the beginning of a great religious and patriotic effort to increase the temperance of every section of the community. Mere patronage will not do it. But we shall have more assistance in this enterprise from the Royal Family than is implied in mere patronage; and not the least glory of the Victorian reign will be the perception of a great social vice by Her Majesty, and the desire personally to help in its removal.—*The Lancet*.

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### TOBACCO IN RELATION TO HEALTH.

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Dr. Richardson, F.R.S., delivered a lecture on this subject before a very large audience at Birmingham on Wednesday evening, the 15th ult. The lecture was delivered in connection with the Laws of Health class of the Midland Institute. After speaking of the introduction of tobacco to Europe, and its enormous consumption at the present time, the lecturer said: The nature of the luxury forms a subject of discussion on which the extremest views prevail. On one side tobacco has been held up as the most harmless of luxuries; and on the other side it has been denounced as the originator not only of mere functional, but of some of the worst forms of organic disease. Following out the researches made by himself, he showed the constituents of tobacco smoke and their results upon the human body, and pointed out the effect exerted by different kinds of tobacco. Speaking of the influence of smoking on the mental faculties, he said: When mental labor is being commenced, indulgence in a pipe produces in most persons a heavy dull condition; but if mental labor be continued for a long time, until exhaustion is felt, then the resort to a pipe gives to some *habitués* a feeling of relief; it soothes, it is said, and gives new impetus to thought. This is the practical experience of almost all smokers, but few men become so habituated to the pipe as to commence well a day of physical or mental work on tobacco. Dr. Richardson carefully discussed the question whether the practice of smoking could be considered, fairly, as a cause of those fatal diseases, consumption, cancer and