

THE CIGARETTE CURSE.—During the discussion of the bill mentioned by us (Am. Analyst), last week as having been passed by the Michigan Legislature prohibiting the sale of cigarettes to minors, the Superintendent of Schools in Lansing, in co-operation with the Woman's Club of that city, sent out circular letters to all the prominent educators of the State—persons whose daily contact with the young would enable them to observe the extent and effects of the tobacco habit. Between two and three hundred replies were received, and two-thirds of them—notably those from the cities and larger towns—reported a startling increase in the use of cigarettes by youths. In answer to the question, “Can you cite instances of serious disease or failure in school work caused by the use of cigarettes?” nearly all replies noted serious failure in the work, and many gave answers similar to the following: “One young man seriously dwarfed physically.” “One boy in this school only eleven years old is almost an idiot from the use of tobacco and beer.” “One boy recently lost two weeks’ work from throat trouble caused by the use of tobacco.” Another reports two very serious cases where the whole nervous system was seriously deranged. The expressions “Lost his mind from the use of tobacco,” “A total wreck,” occur frequently in the testimony of the teachers. One prominent superintendent wrote: “The death of two boys formerly in my school is to be attributed to this villainous habit, and at least half a dozen others have impaired their physical and mental growth fully one-half.” In answer to a question relative to the evil effects of the habit noted upon health, progress in study, and morals, the general drift of the replies states that it intensifies nervous diseases, causes diseases of the throat, brain, heart, ears and eyes, epilepsy and fits and muscular debility, stunts the growth of body and mind, and leads to failure of memory. As to its effect on progress in study, all are agreed in having noted incapacity, lack of animation, and inability to do successful work, and that it is directly antagonistic to morality. It is gratifying to call attention to the fact that the States of Massachusetts, Illinois, Maryland, Nebraska, New Jersey, and New Hampshire have all enacted laws similar to the Michigan bill.

CARRY YOUR OWN SOAP.—“Among travelling men,” said a physician recently, “at least one in fifty has a skin disease of a more or less serious nature, and its cause

may often be traced to hotel soap. Every person who has had occasion to be a hotel guest, no matter where, is familiar with the much-worn cake of soap that lies in wait for him on the washstand, sometimes in a not over-clean soap dish, and frequently glued to the cover of the stand, according to the whim of the chambermaid. You haven't the slightest idea in the world who used the soap last, and very few persons ever gave the matter a thought. It would be an easy-going individual and one singularly indifferent to considerations of cleanliness, who would for a moment think of using a towel that might have been used by the previous occupant of a room at a hotel, but the instances are rare where the same guest will hesitate to use the soap he finds in the room. [When you forget to take it with you, as we have forgotten sometimes, wash and rinse well the piece in the hotel before using it.—Editor: H. J.]

REMARKABLE RESULTS OF SANITATION.—Von Pettenkofer recently drew attention to the remarkable diminution of typhoid fever mortality which at once ensued in Munich upon the completion of the drainage of that city. His statistics and conclusions awakened such general attention, that Professor von Ziemssen has been induced to supplement them by an examination of the typhoid morbidity of Munich from 1866 to 1887, in order to compare it with the typhoid mortality. The former is thus approximately estimated. The records of the Munich hospitals as regards the typhoid mortality, if the expression may be allowed, go back to the year 1866, and, as with all infectious diseases, there is a fairly constant ratio between the morbidity and mortality, the latter being about a third of the former, as shown by the hospital records. Hence the number of deaths from typhoid in the whole city has only to be multiplied by three to give the number of cases. This has been shown to be true in some cities—for example, Dresden. But the compulsory notification of infectious diseases first took place in Munich only last year, when the number of typhoid cases was 202; and the experience of one year being insufficient, the above mode of estimation is better. Now the hospital morbidity from typhoid in Munich from the year 1866 onwards to 1880 is as follows:

1866.....	816	1874.....	656
1867.....	207	1875.....	537
1868.....	323	1876.....	338
1869.....	636	1877.....	723
1870.....	754	1878.....	493
1871.....	396	1879.....	853
1872.....	1,097	1880.....	492
1873.....	610		