

convenience may perhaps induce inordinate use ; but that, as we have said, is a question for the individual, not the public. 2. The injurious habit of inhaling the smoke is more likely to take place with the mild cigarette than with the stronger pipe or cigar. That again is a question for the individual. The asserted increase of cigarette smoking among boys, if true, is an evil, for people of immature age, as well as those of impaired constitution noted above, ought not to smoke at all. But, for the reasons already mentioned, that is no argument for the prohibition of the proper use of the cigarette or any other form of tobacco by the world at large. We have had a great deal too much of this prohibitive legislation, as in a note on Undue Restrictive Legislation, in our issue for June 4th, we have already had occasion to point out, and we are decidedly opposed to any more of it.—*New York Medical Record*, July 30, 1898.

THE COLOR OF NEGRO INFANTS.

Pediatrics for July 1st states, on the authority of Dr. Farabery, that the negro baby at the time of its birth is exactly the same color as its white brother, and it shows signs of color only after an interval usually of several days, but often extending to many weeks. It further adds that an eminent French physician, who studied the subject at a Soudanese village on exhibition in Paris, recorded as the result of his observations that the negro baby comes into the world a tender pink in color ; on the second day it is lilac ; ten days afterward it is the color of tanned leather, and at fifteen days it is chocolate. The coloring matter in the case of the negro lies between the layers of the epidermis. This pigment is semifluid, or in the form of fine granulations ; in the Indian it is red, and in the Mongolian it is yellow. It is influenced not only by sun and climate, but by certain maladies, and the negro changes in tint just as the white person does.

To these observations we may add two other facts—namely, that the least tinge of colored blood, however fair the person otherwise be, shows itself in more or less lividity of the lunula of the nail, and that the scrotum of the male negro is always very dark, though he be in other respects exceptionally fair.—*N. Y. Medical Journal*.

KNEE-JERKS IN DIABETES MELLITUS.

The *Lancet*, July 17, 1897, gives the following statistics :

1. In Manchester among hospital patients suffering from diabetes mellitus, the knee-jerks are lost in from 49 to