

The report goes to show that a number of druggists, contrary to law, sell morphine, opium, and cocaine at exorbitant prices. The custom for having resorts where the habitués betake themselves is growing.

There are so many who live strenuous lives, are on the verge of despair, and who lead single and solitary lives that they resort to these "dens." This condition is one of the prices that civilization brings with it.

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### A FINE OR AN OPERATION.

Mose medical men in Toronto know that children are sent home with notes that they have enlarged tonsils, or adenoids, or both. Now, the parents or guardians, not being doctors, do not know any better and generally have the operations required. In some cases they consult their family physician, who may think that an operation is called for, or that the child had better be left alone.

This sort of thing can be carried too far and will tend to drag the medical inspection of public school children into contempt. We do not wish to be understood as saying anything against medical inspection, which we urged in the first place and have steadily supported since, but we contend for common sense and moderation.

We understand that Dr. Struthers has stated that enlarged tonsils must be removed. This is backed up by the Commissioner of the Juvenile Court, who threatens parents who object with a fine of \$500. This is going altogether too far and public opinion will not tolerate it. A leading newspaper said the other day on this subject:

"The status of a minor in the case of swollen tonsils should be considered as a part of the question of parental rights and parental responsibilities. At what age may a boy or girl reject the decision of a majority of the medical profession? Professional status and professional authority may also be considered. The chances of winning or losing in law and in the treatment of diseases are matters for professional opinion. But whether chances be taken in the courts or on the operating table should be matters for the clients and patients to decide. It may not be wise to put unlimited authority in the hands of a profession financially interested in the multiplying of operations, however honorable and unselfish the record of that profession may be."

We hope to hear of no more such statements regarding the removal of tonsils. The man or woman has a right to choose whether an operation shall be done or not. Likewise, parents have a right to say what shall be done to the throats of their children.