

smokers are, with few exceptions, inhalers, while the smoke of a cigar is too strong to be used in this manner.

Dr. Mulhall draws attention to the fact, that the cigarette habit is frequently formed at the age when the nervous system is undergoing its greatest development, and thus causes a great deal of mischief.

It has long been the superstition among the laity, that the cigarette owed its chief danger to the fact of containing opium and other narcotics. The only chemist of high standing who has analyzed the cigarette is Dr. Ledaux, who presented the results of a careful analysis of all the leading brands of American manufacture, before the New York Academy of Medicine. In none did he find the slightest trace of any drug, and nothing but cellulose in the paper, opium and other drugs being too costly, as we all know, to be used for the purpose.

Dr. Ledaux explains that all the well-known symptoms from an over-indulgence in the habit, are due to nicotine poisoning and nothing else.

Dr. Mulhall agrees with the late Sir Morrell Mackenzie, that smoking cannot cause any serious disease of the respiratory tract, a slight hyperæmia or catarrh being the only result noticed after a careful study of the subject. In fact some of the finest operatic singers in the world are confirmed cigarette inhalers.

Summing up the matter, cigarettes are dangerous from the fact of being used at a tender age, from the smoke being inhaled, thus reaching a large mucous surface, with concomitant nicotine poisoning, and not from their containing opium or cannabis indica as was thought, even by medical men.

#### MALIGNANT DISEASE OF THE UTERUS.

In a paper recently read before the New York Academy of Medicine, by Dr. Paul F. Munde, and published in the *Medical Record*, a somewhat peculiar position is taken. His report covers a period of 12 years' gynecological service at Mount Sinai Hospital. He gives the entire number of patients received in the hospital as 4,211, their diseases consisting in part of laceration of the perineum, fistula, cervical laceration and cancer. He refers particularly to the results in lacerated cervix,

claiming that nearly all cases of epithelioma are the result of these lacerations. He most vigorously condemns hysterectomy, both vaginal and abdominal, in the vast majority of cases. He says that out of twenty-six cases of vaginal hysterectomy with three deaths, not one of the patients had remained free from the disease longer than nine months, and in no case had life been prolonged more than two years.

He says: "I do not feel that my own experience justifies me in attempting again to remove a cancerous uterus, unless a thorough, careful examination (if necessary, under anesthesia) has convinced me that the uterus alone is involved and that the parametrium is absolutely free from disease. I do not see the use of subjecting the patient to the danger, discomfort, not to mention expense, of a hysterectomy, whether vaginal or supra-pubic, for the removal of her cancerous uterus, unless there are at least seventy-five chances out of a hundred in her favor for a permanent cure. Acting on this principle, I have refused many an operation which I have good reason to believe has afterwards been performed by others, who could not possibly have had any reasonable expectation of curing the patient. Many cases of cancer of the cervix, in which the patient does not bleed, and has only a comparatively trifling discharge, suffers no pain—in fact, hardly knows that she is afflicted with an incurable disease—many such cases, I repeat, should, I think, be left alone. The disease progresses more slowly, I am sure, if it is not interfered with, and when the disease is at once recognized to be incurable, what is the use of inflicting unnecessary pain and discomfort upon the patient? Simply palliative remedies will in such cases, it is my honest conviction, do much better for the patient than doubtful or hopeless operative proceedings."

Is it possible that Dr. Munde means to say that unless we can promise seventy-five cures out of a hundred, the patient should be permitted to die undisturbed, a result certain to follow such palliative treatment as he speaks of. We do not think he intended to make such a statement. We would operate on such cases if we could promise a 10 per cent. recovery; 10 per cent. cure is better than a 100 per cent. death-rate. We cannot believe that Dr. Munde made the remark, intentionally, as quoted.