

ment, when lo! and behold, the whole flotilla appears as if by magic in front of Cadiz! There were no American ships anywhere that it went, so of course no fighting could be done; and doing no fighting it was useless to spend money in floating around among the dreary wastes of the sea, ergo there was no place like home.

It is all suggestive of an early collapse. One hard, decisive blow struck in Cuba will surely place the situation in such a shape that intervention will be completely out of the question and a direct pressure by the powers upon Spain to compel her to cease the unequal struggle be the next thing in order. If that nation persists in her fatuous disregard of the manifest hopelessness of her cause and stolidly goes ahead with a contest which can only mean more men slain, more treasure squandered and more places laid waste and forfeited for the time being if not altogether, then indeed should Spain be taken in hand by her European neighbors and compelled to withdraw while still she has something left to continue existence with. So far she has not scored one point. In every case where issue has been joined she has been the loser; all the prizes—twenty or more—have come to us, and nothing in the nature of a benefit of that or any other kind, has gone to Spain, and all the men that have been killed or seriously wounded have been on her side. It is time to call a halt and thus escape complete dismemberment.

#### ADVANTAGES OF CYCLING.

A contributor to the May number of the New England Medical Monthly, in discussing bicycling arrives at the conclusion that its influence upon the mental state of the rider is much more important than its physical results. He points out that congenial companionship, and ever changing scene, a delightful sense of autopropulsion, are some of the common mental accomplishments of cycling which have to be taken into account when an attempt is made to estimate the value of this form of exercise. In fact, in cycling the actual use of the muscles may almost be regarded as an incident subordinate to the many agreeable mental impressions.

He further believes that any injurious results that may attend the exercise are due to improperly constructed saddles and not to cycling itself. It would seem, then, that in order to derive benefit from the wheel it must be constructed with proper regard to the anatomy of the human body and be used for mental improvement. The rider whose sole purpose is to have everybody in the rear and increase the distance between himself and companions as much as possible, necessarily misses the "congenial companionship" and the beauties of the "ever-changing" scene.

#### SPEAKING OF PEACE.

The suggestion of the members of the diplomatic corps in Washington that the European powers exert their influence at Madrid for the purpose of securing peace should find ready response in the various capitals, and particularly at Paris. France is greatly interested in the welfare of her impecunious neighbor. The greater part of the four per cent debt of Spain, said to amount to \$1,300,000,000 is held in France. With Spain deprived of her revenue from the colonies and torn by internal strife, there is no prospect of either capital or interest being paid.

French bondholders have had some experience in the past. At the conclusion of the war from 1868 to 1878, fol-

lowed by the civil war in Spain, the debt of the country had accumulated until it reached about \$2,600,000,000. The result was that it was "scaled down," so that in 1884 it was just one half as large as it was in 1881, most of the loss falling on the French people. Spain's debt is again so large that her creditors have been fearful of another "scaling down" process and that would certainly follow a war with the United States of considerable duration. France particularly must be interested in a peace that will speedily end the struggle and leave Spain some colonies.

Whether it would be practical for the United States to withdraw at this juncture is another question. The nation is fired with a noble desire to end a barbarous rule in this hemisphere and before this is accomplished peace cannot be permanent. Then there is an indemnity due and it is not easy to see how bankrupt Spain is going to satisfy even the most reasonable demands. Nobody in this country wants to see a destructive war prolonged; America desires peace, but when the sword once is drawn, it will not again be sheathed until peace is established upon so solid a foundation that it can remain undisturbed for a long time. The causes that have led to the present situation must be removed.

#### THE CIGARETTE HABIT.

The present war with Spain conveys many important lessons, and among these, incidentally, is one regarding the smoking of cigarettes, which should be impressed on the mind of every youthful patriot. The medical examinations of volunteers eager to glorify the country have proved that an overwhelming number of victims of the poisonous weed, in fact, 90 per cent. are physically unfit for military service, and it follows that they are equally unfit for other positions in life where physical or mental excellence is required for success. The facts are set forth in the following Associated Press dispatch:

"Washington, May 11.—The large number of rejections of volunteers has caused much comment in the army medical corps. However, the physicians who have conducted the examinations say that outside of the ranks of cigarette smokers there are even fewer rejections than there were in the days of the Civil War. Among habitual users of the cigarettes the rejections are about ninety per cent. Dr. Benjamin King, of Philadelphia, who acted as an examining surgeon during 1861-63, in New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Illinois, says that the average rejections during those years did not exceed thirteen per cent. He attributes the large increase almost entirely to the cigarette habit. 'I have been inspecting the papers in a number of cases under the present recruiting act,' said Dr. King, 'and I observe that most of the men who failed to pass the medical examination have weak hearts or lack the vitality necessary to make a good soldier.'

"I had expected that the percentage of rejections would be greater now than in 1861, but I did not dream that it would be almost three times as great. The examining physicians with whom I have talked have generally told me that the excess of rejections is due to the large number of young men applying for enlistment who have become victims of the cigarette habit."

Outside the ranks of cigarette smokers, it seems the physical development of the male portion of the nation has made encouraging progress since 1861, the rejections now being fewer than in those days, which is all the more remarkable because medical

science now is better prepared to throw its searchlight through the human system than it was then; but among those addicted to the cigarette habit, the condition is lamentable. Weak hearts and lack of vitality are prevalent, and so universal is the suicidal vice that the rejections all in all are three times as many as at the beginning of the Civil War. Here is a lesson, indeed, to a great nation.

Of late years, we believe, even the ladies of the upper strata of society have taken to the innocent looking little tubes as a pastime. What will the result be, if Americans, men and women, are to become slaves to tobacco? How many years will it take to reduce a great nation to the physical and moral level occupied by Spaniards today? Let the history of Spain, once a mighty kingdom, give the answer.

The Philadelphia Record says a physician of the city of brotherly love, has a plan for the mitigation of the sufferings of soldiers wounded by the small caliber bullets. These pass through a man's body with such velocity that the victim does not realize what has happened, unless a bone is struck. The Physician proposes to attach a small wad of antiseptic cotton to the rear of the bullet, covered by the shell of the cartridge. As the bullet passes through a person the wad will, he says, antisepticize the wound and prevent consequent suppuration. It may be possible so nicely to adjust the adhesion of the wad to the bullet that as the missile passes out it will leave the wad to plug the hole and stop the bleeding. To send medical treatment along with each death-dealing bullet would indeed be an act of mercy and a triumph of science.

An Italian paper makes the remark that the entire United Kingdom is at this moment attentively following the last days of one of the most glorious veterans of political warfare. A malady that does not spare has taken possession of a marvelous organism, and the present period is for William Ewart Gladstone as the sunset of a magnificent summer's day. What inward satisfaction it must bring the venerable statesman to know that in his hour of struggle the tender sympathy, not only of friends, but also of former adversaries, accompanies every pulsation of the heart. What a lesson for public men to witness the true grandeur and serenity of the close of a career which has been devoted, not to petty egotism, but to what was believed to be the truest interests of liberty, justice, and humanity.

It is recalled that if the Philippines are captured and held, the condition of affairs will be similar to that in 1846-47, when we had military possession of upper California. In 1847 the President authorized the United States commander there to exercise the belligerent rights of a conqueror, to form a civil government for the conquered country and to impose duties on imports and tonnage as military contributions for the support of our government.

An English admiral is quoted as saying of Commodore Dewey's victory that "it may be bad for the world, for assuredly the American navy will never accept a subordinate place after this exhibition of what it can do." That ought to be good for the world instead of bad. There is not a naval power that has not greater respect for the United States now than it felt a month ago. That will keep some of them in check for a long time to come.

Arizona, it is said, was first to muster in a complement of soldiers for the present war. That fact ought to be a strong argument in favor of statehood.