THE EVENING NEWS.

Friday, - - - February 2, 1872.

TO SMOKE OR NOT TO SMOKE.

The use of tobacco is an evil, or it is not an evil. In the enormous and increasing consumption of this plant it has become a question of very great importance what effect upon the general standard of health is produced by it. The agitation of this subject has been increased during the last two years, and pamphlets, essays, and lectures have developed in full strength the arguments for and against tobacco using. As smoking is the most popular and most powerful method by which the stimulant effect of the plant is obtained, it is principally upon this habit that the battle is waged.

We have from time to time presented some of the arguments on both sides of the question, our object being to assist in arriving at truth in so important a matter; and though our confirmed taste for smoking and the natural desire to find it a harmless practice have led us to peruse, with peculiar care, all that has been said in its favor, we avow that neither reading nor experience has convinced us that the general use of tobacco is other than an unmitigated evil.

The *Dublin University Magazine* for September of the present year contains by far the most comprehensive review of the subject that has met our notice, and it is the purpose of this article to place some of the facts, stated in this paper and gleaned from the experience and observation of a very large number of eminent physiologists and pathologists, before the American public in a more prominent manner than they would otherwise appear.

Every page of this remarkable paper is so replete with references that from it might almost be compiled a bibliography of the history, uses, and abuses of "the weed."

The first thing that forces itself upon our attention is the enormous consumption of tobacco. The *Food Journal* states that as much money is spent upon tobacco in England as upon daily bread, yet England undoubtedly consumes less of this narcotic, in proportion to its population, than Germany or the United States. The consumption in England has very nearly doubled in twenty years. The annual consumption in Asia, Europe, America, and Australia, as computed by the eminent German statistician Ausland from the most reliable data obtainable, is not less than 970,000,000 pounds. This affords food for comment, but we will confine ourselves to facts and authorities.

M. Barral, who made the official report on specimens of tobacco exhibited at the Paris Exposition, in his surprise at the footings of his estimates of annual production, remarks: "The enormous figures which have passed before the reader's eye testify to the facility with which people fall into excessive expense for the gratification of a pleasure which has for its principal aim to kill time and to stupefy the mind."

The active principles of tobacco are nicotine, a concrete oil called tobacco camphor, and an empyreumatic oil. The two last are active poisons, but not so deadly as the first, which, according to Taylor, is one of the most virulent poisons known. One drop of it kills a rabbit in three minutes and a half. We need not quote other authorities on this point, as all agree with Taylor as to the character of these substances.

The disease called locomotoratxy, which is a general paralysis of the nerves, is a disease that was unknown forty years ago. Now it has become quite common. Martin ascribes its origin and prevalence to the use of tobbacco.

Dr. Richardson, himself a smoker, says: "Smoking produces disturbances —(*a*) in the blood, causing undue fluidity, and change in the red corpuscles; (*b*) in the stomach, giving rise to debility, nausea, and, in extreme cases, sickness; (*c*) on the heart, producing debility of that organ and irregular action; (*d*) on the organs of sense, causing, in the extreme degree, dilatation of the pupils of the eye, confusion of vision, bright lines, luminous or cobweb specks, and long retention of images on the retina; with other and analogous symptoms affecting the ear, namely, inability clearly to define sounds, and the annoyance of a sharp, ringing sound, like a whistle or a bell; (*e*) on the brain, suspending the waste of that organ, and oppressing it if it be duly nourished, but soothing it if it be exhausted; (*f*) on the nervous filaments and sympathetic or organic nerves, leading to deficient power in them, and to over secretion in those surfaces—glands—over which the nerves exert a controlling force; (*g*) on the mucous membrane of the mouth, causing enlargement and soreness of the tonsils —smoker's sore throat—redness, dryness, and occasionally peeling off of the membrane, and either unnatural firmness and contraction, or sponginess of the gums; (*h*) on the bronchial surface of the lungs when that is already irritable, sustaining the irritation and increasing the cough."

This authority, however, claims that the diseases caused by tobacco are functional, not organic or specific. This does not matter much, except as encouragment to those who desire to recover from ill health resulting from smoking.

M. Decaisne recognizes a functional disease of the heart (narcotism of the heart) as caused by tobacco, distinct symptoms of which were observed by him in twenty-seven out of thirty-eight boys, aged from nine to fifteen, who smoked more or less.

It is a fact well established that before adult age, the use of tobacco produces more serious disturbances than later in life.

M. Beau notices eight cases of *angina pectoris* caused by the use of tobacco.

Professor Lizars records several cases of cancer of the tongue and lips caused by the use of the pipe. The writer has known one such instance, and never wishes to see another of such terrible suffering resulting from a worse than useless habit.

Dr. Taylor says those who suffer from functional disorders are ready "to attribute the derangement to any other cause than the real one."

Experiments made by Dr. Druham, seem to indicate that tobacco poison in an overdose many produce effects which render even small doses dangerous ever after.

Dr. Corson corroborates the opinion of M. Beau as to *angina pectoris*.

But we will make no further citations. If tobacco has any applications useful to mankind, we are satisfied that smoking, chewing, and snuffing are not of them: We may use tobacco to kill the insects which infest our rosebushes and conservatories; but, if we will continue to poison ourselves with it, let us make no pretences about it. We do it to gratify a depraved appetite from which we are irresolute to break loose. Let us neither believe nor pretend to believe that it is a blessing. If tobacco poisons our bodies, let it not also corrupt our morals and make hypocrites of us.—*Scientific American.*

NOTICE.

U. S. LAND OFFICE,
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH,
Jan. 3, 1872.

Complaint having been entered at this Office by Homer Boughton, of Salt Lake County, Utah, against John Lovinskshe for abandoning his Homestead entry No. 712 dated Aug. 20, 1868, upon the South East ¼ of Section Twenty (20), in Township Two (2) South of Range one (1) East, in Salt Lake County, Territory of Utah, with a view to the cancellation of said entry. The said parties are hereby summoned to appear at this Office on the 6th day of February, 1872, at 10 o'clock a. m., to respond and furnish testimony concerning said alleged abandonment, and also John Watson who filed D. S. No. 250 for Lots 3 and 4 and South East ¼ of North West ¼ and North East ¼ of South West ¼ Sec. six (6), S. South 1 East, is hereby notified to appear on the same day and show cause why said filing should not be cancelled.

GEO. R. MAXWELL,
Register.

d31 w6t

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ANGUS M. CANNON,
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General Agent for Utah.

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NOTICE

IS HEREBY GIVEN that I Daniel H. Wells, Mayor of Salt Lake City, U. T., did on the first day of November, 1871, enter in the Land Office at Salt Lake City, U. T., for the several use and benefit of the owners and inhabitants of the city the following described lands, namely: Lots 1 and 2 and S ½ of Sec. 31, S ½ of Sec. 32, T. 1 N. R. 1 E., also E ½ of Sec. 25, the E ½ of S E ¼ and Lots 3 and 4 in Sec. 36, all of Sec. 30, T. 1 S., R. 1 W., also Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, in Sec. 4, all of Sec. 5, T. 2 S., R. 1 W., also E ½ of Sec. 1 and Lot 4 in Sec. 2, T. 2 S., R. 2 W., also all of Sec. 1 and Lots 1 and 2 and the S ½ of N E ¼ and S ½ of S E ¼ of Sec. 2, the N ½ of N E ¼ of Sec. 11 and N ½ of Sec. 12, T. 1 S., R. 1 W., containing in all 2,240 acres and 65 hundredths.

Any person or persons having claims in the above survey of land will file the same with the Clerk of the County Court of Salt Lake County before the 1st day of May, 1872, as prescribed by law.

DANIEL H. WELLS, Mayor.

Salt Lake City, Nov. 24, 1871.

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