

to dodge the legal issue by appropriating the money for the purchase of real estate, which was to be donated on the bonus, but the effort at evasion proved a dismal failure.

At this time it may be regarded as pertinent to remark that, no matter what the clamor may be under temporary excitement or enthusiasm, it is bad business for a representative body to attempt to divert public funds from their legitimate uses. When the copper plant boom was on, a courageous City Council would have stood on the corporation's clearly defined legal rights, and notwithstanding the criticisms that might have been offered by persons who scoff at law and moral principle, would have been backed by the solid people of the community. Then when the excitement died away, and calm judgment controlled, the members of the governing body would have been held in esteem for their manliness, instead of being in a situation to evoke an opposite feeling.

This experience, however, may not be without its lesson of usefulness; and should another occasion arise when, by arguments of expediency and of a specious character, it may be sought to lead municipal solons from the path of duty with the public funds, the past may prove a source of strength in resisting the unlawful demand. The copper plant bonus incident is a good illustration of the folly of engaging in deceptive practices, those connected with the affair having led to failure to realize the special good results which many persons claimed would follow the locating of the plant here.

### A GREAT MORAL EVIL.

Apropos of the coming great international exposition in France in 1900, and incidentally the great fairs held in this country and elsewhere, a recent publication in *Le Figaro*, Paris, presents some interesting questions for the consideration of moralists. The writer is Jules Lemaitre, and he takes the position that these great bazars are not only nuisances in the cities where they are held, but are morally baneful to the country at large. Whatever have been the benefits of these fairs in the manner of conducting them in years ago, he insists that these are heavily outweighed by the evils precipitated under the modern system. In support of his claim he points out that in recent times every great exposition is followed by a diminution of public modesty, and leaves as legacies a great variety of proceedings, unknown in public life before, as direct incitements to debauchery.

Lemaitre passes by with brief reference the way a world's fair allows and covers up heavy speculations, how it unchains advertisement and puffery, and a universal furore for public pleasures. He points out that the crowd demands more and more excitement, and becomes incapable of any other kind of amusement; then he directs his attention to the moral, or rather immoral, influence of this tendency, declaring as a recognized fact by those well acquainted with such affairs, that a world's exposition "is the ruin of thousands of young girls; every exposition has as a

consequence a considerable development of prostitution, and a little later the diminution of its victims; hence arises a crisis that adds its effects to the others."

It is beyond dispute that the French writer has a formidable array of facts with which to maintain his position. His proposition that world's fairs should be abandoned by the nations because their degrading tendency outstrips all the good accomplished, may be open to discussion, and even refutation from some points of view. But his assertion that they are strongly effective as a means of destroying virtue is too well recognized to be safely contradicted. The pulpit and press in this and other countries have realized this fact, and when such exhibitions have been in progress have contained especial warnings to young people against evil associations and influences to be met there. The article in *Le Figaro*, from its striking character and the attention it is receiving, may be a means of having the world's fair as a great moral evil thoughtfully considered, and possibly an improvement may result. Certainly it is not to be expected that such bazars will be abandoned, for the public does not seem to tire of them, and no sooner is one closed than another is on the tapis, dates now being fixed for several in the next half decade.

### TALKS TO BOYS.

#### V.—TOBACCO AND THE BONES, KIDNEYS, DIGESTION, ETC.

Examining the human body, it is found that the baneful influence of the tobacco habit extends to every part—the membranes, muscles, nerves and bones alike are injuriously affected. In the dwarfing of the bone, for instance, is strong reason for the objection urged to the use of tobacco by boys. The effect of the drug, like that of alcohol, in preventing the proper development of the bone structure of the human frame, is so apparent that even those who seek to excuse its use by adults condemn it in persons who have not attained to maturity. The boy who begins early to smoke cigars or cigarettes is sure to be dwarfed in mind and morals thereby; he is almost equally certain to be dwarfed in body, for in the case of young smokers the bones seldom develop properly. The important functions of the red marrow of the bones in producing blood corpuscles is seriously interfered with by the poisonous influence of tobacco—the same agency which destroys the red blood corpuscles themselves. It is clear that any agent which paralyzes the blood-making organs of the body, or impairs their activity, must be destructive to all living cells; and its influence, injurious to every cell and tissue, is therefore detrimental to the framework of "the house we live in."

The skin and the kidneys are two of the great eliminating organs of the body, and in that capacity carry off, when they are in a healthy condition, a large proportion of the poisonous and waste substances that collect in the workings of the various parts of the human machine. When the action

of the skin is checked, extra labor devolves on the kidneys, often resulting in inflammation or other serious trouble. Tobacco has a ready effect upon the skin, frequently taking hold thereof to the extent that the coloring matter is affected, and we behold the tawny covering of the habitual tobacco user. Note the appearance, around the mouth, nose, eyes, and ears, of many boys who smoke or chew, for the blotches and discoloration of the cuticle in the gradual development towards covering the entire body.

The readiness with which tobacco poison is absorbed by the skin was first specially noted to the case of an English sailor, who made an attempt to smuggle some of the weed by storing a quantity of it about his body. In a short time he was taken so violently ill that he almost lost his life. If a cigar be unrolled and moistened, and then applied over the stomach of a child, it will quickly produce sickness and vomiting which might end in death. In the earlier days, when tobacco was believed to possess medicinal qualities, medical men have applied it to the heads of children in diseases of the scalp, and have injected an infusion into the bowels, with the result that death quickly ensued. Soldiers who have understood the effect of the drug on their skins have placed pieces of dampened plug tobacco in their armpits, thus causing severe sickness by which they might escape from duty. The application of tobacco is a last resort in cases of lockjaw, and then its benefit comes only through use as an outward poultice to induce nausea and vomiting, in the hope that the jaws may be moved by the violent disturbance.

Of late there has been an alarming increase of that terrible affection of the kidneys, "Bright's disease." Frequently kidney complaints, because of comparatively painless progress, proceed so far before being recognized that they are beyond the reach of medical skill. This knowledge should cause persons to be all the more careful regarding substances that may affect these important organs. Recent scientific observations go to show that the tobacco habit is a frequent cause of serious disorders of the kidneys. "Bright's disease" of these organs has been traced directly to the use of tobacco. Of course the weed is not the only cause of that grave malady; but the increase in the use of tobacco and the increase in the number of cases of that disease suggest a direct relation between the two.

The tobacco habit is so general that the evils resulting from it are easily overlooked, or are ascribed to some other than the real cause. As the healthful operations of the skin are hindered, throwing additional labor on the kidneys, and as the blood and membranes are overcharged with poison, it is inevitable that the kidneys should suffer in a special manner in their effort to remove the poison from the system. People often note the odor of tobacco which hangs on the breath of the user. Commenting on this, Dr. Kellogg says: "This condition is due to the fact that the kidneys have become diseased, so that they are unable to remove the nicotine from the