

CIGARETTE SMOKING—ITS INCREASE AND DANGER.

The Americans may be said to have become a nation of cigarette smokers. Time was, not a very great number of years ago, when the consumption of "paper cigars" in the United States was confined almost entirely to the foreign-born portion of our population. To-day more natives than foreigners smoke them. The enormous growth of the industry is readily shown by a comparison of figures. For example, in the fiscal year 1870, tax was paid in the United States on 13,881,417 cigarettes, and in the fiscal year 1880 on 408,708,365—an increase in 10 years of 394,826,948 cigarettes. The following table shows the number on which tax was paid during each of the past 11 fiscal years:

Year	No. Cigarettes
1870	13,881,417
1871	14,930,735
1872	20,601,050
1873	27,088,098
1874	28,718,200
1875	41,397,483
1876	77,430,380
1877	149,009,307
1878	160,189,594
1879	226,278,817
1880	408,708,365
Total	1,189,371,973

The United States now ranks as the heaviest cigarette producer in the world, France coming next. The annual sale of cigarettes in France is estimated at 900,000,000, or about 300,000,000 cigarettes—only about one-quarter of the number consumed in this country. There can be but little doubt that the majority of cigarettes are consumed by boys between the ages of 12 and 18 to 20. Men, as a rule, smoke cigars and pipes. That the inordinate use of tobacco at an early age is hurtful is uncontested. Recent scientific investigations go to prove that smoking, especially cigarette smoking, is very detrimental to youths during the transition period from boyhood to manhood. The stunted forms of many men is as much due to excessive use of tobacco at an early age as to anything else. What cigarette smoking and abstinence drinking combined can accomplish may readily be seen by a visit to any large French town.

HOW TO PREVENT WRINKLES.—There is no such thing as wiping out wrinkles. In men they are often honorable evidence of hard mental labor, in women they are usually the evidence of coming age, although care and suffering have much to do with them. Sometimes fair foreheads are prematurely wrinkled from a nervous habit of raising the eyebrows, and from a too great and a too constant pressure of the pillow on one or both sides of the head while sleeping. And just here comes a fact worth remembering. If the forehead has escaped wrinkles, crow's feet are prematurely seen about the corners of the eyes. We all see these crow's feet in men and women whose brows are smooth and young looking. They are the result of sleeping on the light and left sides. The pressure upon the temple and cheeks leaves wrinkles at the corners and underneath the eyes which disappear in a few hours, but finally becomes so fixed that neither hours nor ablutions will abate them. If girl children were compelled to sleep on their backs and continued the habit when they reach womanhood and afterward, they would arrive at middle life without crow's feet gathering in the neighborhood of the eyes, and in most cases their foreheads would be free from even shallow furrows.

STAMMERING is sometimes organic, caused by hare-lip, cleft palate, lengthened uvula, tumors, or something of the kind. Of course, when this is the case, the cause must be removed. Sometimes it is caused by general weakness, paralysis, rheumatic affections of the muscles of the face, etc., and sometimes it is acquired by habitually imitating a stammerer. Any specific or cure for stammering must be adapted to the special cause which produces the affliction.

SALESWOMEN VS. SALESMEN.

As perhaps you know, dear to the female heart, is the latest style. Even a plain country woman does not wish to be always behind the times; so once in a while, when the crop is good, when the hens lay well, and eggs bring a good price, and turkeys are high, I venture to your grand city for an outing.

I go down to some of the big stores, and how is it? Do the clerks stare at me? Do they make game of my hat? Are they quite shocked at my dress? If they are they don't say so. They hop and skip and jump about, they pull down and unfold and spread out, as if I were Mrs. Nob Hill herself.

But just go up stairs with me into some of the rooms where ladies are employed. As I open the noiseless door on the heavy carpets, they look up. One glance is sufficient. From the country! They see it at once. They read it in every article I wear. Very well. I stand a few moments waiting, then some one saunters up to learn what I want. Perhaps it is a cloak. I explain that I wish such and such a style. "Really that is quite out of date. We do not keep them now. No one wears them; these are so much more stylish," and she slips into a garment, and walks up and down before the long mirror that you may see how well she looks in it. Quite true, but I wouldn't. If still I insist in my preference, she finds one of that kind; I can take it or leave it; she is not going to pull over a lot of cloaks to please an old woman from the country.

Foolish girl! Do you not know that such a one is more apt to purchase? Do you not know that because of the shortness of her stay she must not waste her hours in simply looking; but that she really wishes he or she called for? Do you not know that if you would succeed you must make your services of value to your employer?

So I turn away, and find another cloak store, where the clerks are men. They find out what I want. At once they fall in with my ideas. They praise that particular style, and if it don't fit, if the sleeves are too short or too long, if there is too much trimming, or not enough, they find another and another, until I am suited.

Oh, girls, girls! When will you learn that if you would have business opportunities open to you that you must fit yourself for them? Do not complain that men take the places which belong to you. When employers find that you can make more sales than men can, you will surely have the opportunity.—*Mrs. R. in Rural Press.*

THE EFFECTS OF WORRY.—That the effects of worry are more to be dreaded than those of simple hard work is evident from noting the classes of persons who suffer most from the effects of mental overstrain. The case-book of the physician shows that it is the speculator, the betting man, the railway manager, the great merchant, the superintendent of large manufacturing or commercial works, who most frequently exhibits the symptoms of cerebral exhaustion. Mental cares accompanied with suppressed emotion, occupations liable to great vicissitudes of fortune, and those which involve the bearing on the mind of a multiplicity of intricate details, eventually break down the lives of the strongest. In estimating what may be called the staying powers of different minds under hard work, it is always necessary to take early training into account. A young man cast suddenly into a position involving great care and responsibility, will break down in circumstances in which, had he been gradually habituated to the position, he would have performed its duties without difficulty. It is probably for this reason that the professional classes generally suffer less from the effects of overstrain than others. They have a long course of preliminary training, and their work comes on them by degrees; therefore, when it does come in excessive quantity, it finds them prepared for it. Those, on the other hand, who suddenly vault into a position requiring severe mental toil, generally die before their time.

NEW INVENTIONS.

We publish descriptions of the following new inventions, obtained through Dewey & Co. Mining and Scientific Press Patent Agency, San Francisco:

HORSE-HOLDING ATTACHMENT FOR VEHICLES.

Robt. E. Shannon, S. F. This invention particularly appertains to that class of horse-checking devices operated by gear wheels attached to the hub of the vehicle. The usual running gear of a vehicle is employed. Under the body and running its length between the axles is a shaft terminating in its rear end in a bevel-pinion which meshes with another bevel-pinion on a rod. The rod is fastened in appropriate braces, which permit of its turning to the rear axle. Its outer end is provided with a bevel-pinion which meshes with cogs on the inner side of the hub of the wheel. When the vehicle stops the lines are thrown into a slot in the top of the upright standard. The stirrup is pressed forward, which action pushes the rear boxing sufficiently to throw the bevel-pinion and cogs upon the wheel in gear. If the horse moves forward, the rod turns, which turns the shaft, pushing the feathers or ratchets in the shaft into operation with a loosely running gear wheel, thereby winding up the lines and checking the horse.

SIDE-HILL HEADER WAGON.—W. Taynton & W. J. Derickson, Clayton, Cal.

This header wagon consists in certain connections and attachments by which they are adapted for use on side-hills, and are so arranged by means of peculiarly constructed gearing under the bed of the wagon, and operating on curved bolsters, that the bed of the wagon may always be kept on a level without reference to the angle which the wheels may take on side-hills, the center of gravity being always kept in such a position as to prevent danger of overturning, even with top-heavy loads.

WINDMILL.—E. Foskett, San Jose, Cal.

This windmill consists in the employment of a vertically oscillating beam, which is balanced upon the upper end of a vertical rotating post or standard, and is provided at one end with a rudder which holds it in line with the wind, while the other end supports a frame containing a series of vanes. In combination with this apparatus is a novel device by which the vanes have their angle changed at the end of each stroke, so as to produce a return stroke, and a regulating device by which the angle of the vanes may be adjusted to suit the strength of the wind.

GUN FOR KILLING VERMIN.—J. S. Woolsey, Gilroy, Cal.

The tube or barrel of this gun is provided with a leg whereby the gun is set upright in the ground at the mouth of the squirrel hole. When the gun is placed at the entrance of a hole, the animal, in coming toward it, will cause the gun to be discharged by touching a rod which is connected with the trigger.

A GOOD clock oil is made as follows: Take olive oil and dissolve it in boiling alcohol, and add it drop by drop until it is no longer taken into solution. Upon cooling it will let fall crystals, and leave a considerable portion still fluid. The fluid part is to be poured off, filtered through a piece of white blotting-paper, and may be used in this form, or the alcohol may be distilled off for fresh processes, and the pure lubricating oil which remains is very suitable for oiling watches, clocks, or other delicate machinery. This will not oxidize or gum up, even when exposed to great cold. Or take neatfoot oil and drop into it some lead shavings in order to neutralize the acid contained in the oil. Let this stand for a considerable time (the longer the better). Oil thus prepared never corrodes or thickens.