

SOME CIGARET FIGURES.

The "hopeless handicap" which cigaret smoking puts on our youth impels Mr. C. W. Baines to ask in the Philadelphia Sunday School Times whether it is not "about time that our Sunday school leaders were beginning to sound the warning" against this habit. With its "attendant evils, the saloon and vice," he says, it is "sapping the mental and moral stamina of America's young men, gnawing at the very vitals of their physical well being." Teachers throuth the country, we read, recognize in the cigaret "the school's dealiest foe, and confess without reservation that they find it practically impossible to educate a cigaret-smoking boy." Nor has the writer any toleration for the statement, "as fallacious as it is prevalent," that while cigarets may be harmful to boys, they do not injure young men. He cites from the records of Harvard University the fact that "for fifty years not one tobacco user has stood at the head of his class, altho five out of six (83 per cent) Harvard students use the weed." On the whole, according to the writer, cigarets hurt in some way "every one who smokes them," and he is dismayed to find the habit on the increase, as one may judge from the government report which shows that in 1913 "we consumed the amazing number of 14,530,486,200" cigarets, "an increase of 2,186,633,708 over the previous 'banner cigaret year.'"

"This means that we smoked 39,809,551 'coffin-nails' each day. The money value of our 1913 cigaret crop was no less a sum than \$72,781,626. To take care of this rapid increase in the number of cigarets consumed last year, a conservative estimate is that it must have required that at least 1,500 American boys fell victims to the devastating cigaret-smoking habit each day of the year. Not only so, but it is unquestionably true that the habit is annually sending to the saloons at

least 100,000 (one in five) of these boys to keep up the grind of the 'gin-mills,' to be turned into drunkards and bums, who will populate our jails, mistreat their wives, neglect their children, and disgrace their homes and parents a few years hence. Dr. Dennis of Cornell Medical School says: "The tendency to beer drinking is greatly strengthened by cigaret smoking, because this habit becomes almost constant, causing a dryness of the throat and fauces, and hence irritating the throat."

Another baleful effect of cigaret smokning, we are told, that it leads "more of our boys to the police and juvenile courts than all other habits combined," and we read of a city magistrate who says: "Out of 300 boys brought before me charged with various crimes, 295 were cigaret smokers." Yet even granting that not every boy who smokes cigarets becomes a criminal, the writer goes on to say, every such boy suffers costly impairment of efficiency. As for the college man who smokes, compared with the non-smoker, we read as follows of an assemblage of 201 students:

"These 201 college students were divided into three groups: Habitual smokers, 41 students, 20.4 per cent; occasional smokers, 52 students, 25.9 per cent; Non-smokers, 108 students, 53.7 per cent.

"Note that more than one-half of the men who pursued their studies to the point of entering college were non-smokers. (Non-smokers enter college about one year younger than smokers.)

"Of the total college enrollment, 31 students were either dropt or required to take an extra year to complete the prescribed course of study. Of these 31 men the habitaual smokers (20.4 per cent) supplied 16 students, or 51.6 per cent; the occasional smokers (25.9 per cent) supplied eight students, or 25.8 per cent; the non-smokers (52.7 per cent) supplied seven students, or 22.6 per cent.

"While the smokers constituted but 46.3 per cent of the student body, they supplied more than 77 per cent of the dull students of the institution. Many of them lost a year before entering college, and then required an extra year to complete the course. Smokers leave college about two years older than non-smokers.

"In this college 41 men ere classed as athletes, as follows: Habitual smokers, nine men; occasional smokers, 15 men; non-smokers, 17 men.

"The smokers supplied 24 athletes in all, or 58 per cent of the athletes—25.9 per cent of their enrollment. The non-smokers furnished 17 men out of their enrollment of 108. While less than 16 per cent of the non-smokers were athletes, yet they won nearly one-half, or 41.9 per cent of all athletic honors."—Literary Digest.

BESIDE THE SLAIN.

Here in this leafy place,
Quiet he lies,
Cold, with his sightless face
Turned to the skies;
'Tis but another dead;
All you can say is said.

Carry his body hence;
Kings must have slaves;
Kings climb to eminence
Over dead men's graves.
So this man's eye is dim;
Throw the earth over him.

Ah, if beside the dead
Slumbered the pain!
Ah! if the hearts that bled
Slept with the slain!
If the grief died. But no—
Death will not have it so!

—Austin Dobson.

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