

THE POPULAR ENEMY

REGARDLESS of the fact that business men, medical men, scientific men, and Christian men, are sounding the warning that tobacco using is destructive economically, mentally; physically, and morally, there is a terrifying increase. In the face of America's calls for strength, skill, and stamina in these trying day the most subtle of fifth Columnists are highly, advertised, encouraged, and protected in destructive process of slowing up and defeating normal human effort. These foes are den Drink and demon Nicotine.

Flagrant Misrepresentations

The Federal Trade Commission, whose duty it is to protect the gullible from fraudulent advertising, has exposed the methods of tobacco companies whose advertisements are a "farce — inaccurate, incomplete and paid for." The reason so little opposition is offered to the onward march of the cigarette evil is that most of the magazines and periodicals are paid well for advertising space and have no desire to antagonize the tobacco companies.

Hinders Digestion

One company declares that cigarettes are an "aid to digestion," when smokers know that the nausea they produce interferes with digestion. A medical authority says tobacco does not aid digestion. "It does not cure asthma, indigestion or any other disease. It does not do any of the beneficial things it is popularly believed to do. But we know positively that it causes heart disease, diseases of the nerves and mucous membrane, and that it diminishes the possibilities of recovery from any disease."

Heart Disease

A Major in the United States Navy Yard reported that "one fifth of all the boys examined were rejected because of heart disease, which 99 cases out of every 100 come from use of cigarettes."

Throat Irritation

Even the most unscrupulous defenders of tobacco are compelled to admit that smoking irritates the throat. "Smoker's cough," said a doctor to a group of doctors, "is no idle expression but a real disturbance of certain bodily functions." This is the harmful effect on the nervous system. There are 10,000,000 nerve cells in the brain; if all those cells are affected the "disturbance" is likely to be a serious one.

To cover up the throat-irritation evil, the tobacco company announces that the injury is mitigated by using "diethylene glycol" instead of "glycerine" as a moistener. When rivals fall out, the truth comes out. Doctors were employed by competing companies to prove and disprove the claim. They found that possibly 1/177,000 of an ounce less irritation was produced by one brand and that by smoking it the one who smoked 20 cigarettes a day took 1/24 of an ounce less poison into his system in a year. Half a drop of nicotine is sufficient to kill a person.

Contributes to the Insane Population

The late brilliant inventor and scientist, Thomas A. Edison, had this to say about acrolein, one of the 19 poisons in cigarettes: "Acrolein has a violent action on the nerve centers producing degeneration of the cells of the brain, which is quite rapid among boys. Unlike most narcotics this degeneration is permanent and uncontrollable." Edison was not guessing about it nor preaching; he looked at facts from a purely scientific point of view.

We have the statement of a doctor in a California school: "Half the truth has never been told. Cigarette smoking blunts the whole moral nature. It first stimulates and then stupefies the nerves. It gives boys enlargement of the heart, and it sends them to the insane asylum. I have seen, bright boys turned to dunces, and straightforward honest boys made cowards by cigarette smoking."

Harms Athletes

Famous baseball coach declared: "We do everything in our power to discourage the use of cigarettes among our baseball boys, knowing great harm that tobacco has done to those in the habit of using it." A well-known athlete said

publicly that if another champion would 'start smoking, and promise to inhale a couple of packages of cigarettes every day for six months," he would engage to lick him in a few minds. Coming from this prominent athlete it was a blow to tobacco using and caused a sensation. The magazine that took issue with the statement carried a full page of tobacco advertisement.

Injury to the Nation

One would never have believed a few years ago that so many women, old and young, would have fallen victims to the filthy tobacco habit. The ashen colors, the drawn skin, the yellow stains on the fingers, the smell of tobacco smoke, do not add to woman's attractiveness. Reliable doctors declare that the children of tobacco-smoking mothers are exposed to nicotine poisoning. It is a prominent doctor's statement that "women cannot smoke moderately. Among growing girls, particularly those developing mentally and physically, the habit is extremely dangerous." And a United States surgeon general sounded the warning that if women contract the habit the "entire nation will suffer." Every truthful woman will admit that she wishes she "had never begun to smoke," but has become bound and shackled by the costly, filthy, degenerating habit.

A young woman, college graduate, in her statement of "WHY I DO NOT SMOKE" said: "In time nicotine yellows the skin of the face as it does the fingers, causing tired lines, sharp features, a languid, anaemic look, a coarsen voice, and an appearance of premature age." The saying that a woman is as old as she looks might well be changed to "A woman is as old as she smokes"

There Is a Way Out

Sooner or later the tobacco slave finds that his heart, his throat, his digestion, and his nerves are giving him serious and costly trouble and he begins to look for a way out, tries tapering off and abstinence, but his go intentions bite the dust and he gives up in despair to the habit that constantly grows more fixed.

There is, however, certain and lasting help to the one who will turn to God and trust the Blood of Jesus Christ to make him a new creature with all the old habits destroyed. It is the testimony of all who have tried it that "with men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible (Mark 10; 27).

A former smoker tells her experience. Praise God that He looked down into my heart one day, just three years ago, and saw something there that wanted to serve Him although I did not know how, I used to go to shows, drink, and smoke, I smoked, cigarettes- for thirteen years. But praise God that when He saved my soul He removed those sins away. I had no desire for those things after that."

Another person tells of the freedom he found from former enslaving appetites: "When Jesus came into my heart; the devil had to move out. My heart was new, my life was changed. I was a man 62 years old — had smoked and drunk for forty-flue years — used to smoke three packages of cigarettes a day; but when the Lord saved me that was gone."

Our bodies are the temples God has given us in which to serve Him wholly and acceptably. Tobacco undermines physical, moral, and also spiritual strength; therefore no Christian would defile that God-given temple with anything unclean or injurious. God forbids it and pronounces a Severe judgment: "if any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy,' which temple 'ye are" (I Corinthians 3:17).