

COCAINE FORBIDDEN IN U. S. MAILS.

Government Discovered That Great Quantities Were Sold to Users.

NEGROES FORM HABIT

Pure Food Experts Are on the Track of Medicines Which Contain the Drug.—Use of This "Dope" is Said to Be a Greater Evil Than Whiskey Drinking

Washington, D. C.—Alarmed by the extent to which the cocaine habit has spread in the larger cities of the country the Post Office Department has issued an order denying the use of the mails to cocaine or its derivatives. To do this it was found necessary to extend the provisions of Section 4 of the Postal regulations.

Government reports show that an enormous amount of cocaine is sent through the mails each year, and that this class of matter is steadily growing greater. The crusades waged against the habits in the cities have driven the "druggists" to seek other means of procuring the powder, and the mails have been the innocent channels through which the work of the crusaders has been rendered partially ineffective. Much of the cocaine that has passed through the mails has been in the form of so-called medicines. These "medicines" will also fall under the ban.

The action of the Post Office Department was taken by authority of Congress granted at the last session, when it included a prohibition against the drug in making up the department's appropriation bill. It was said by the Post Office authorities that the order had its genesis in the attempt of certain Southern legislators to have a general order passed prohibiting the sending of intoxicating liquors into prohibition States either through the mails or by common carriers engaged in inter-State trade.

It developed that in the South the habit had fixed itself to an alarming degree on the negroes. The curse of cocaine, in fact, is said to be as great if not a greater menace to the peace of that section of the country than the liquor habit.

The difficulty faced by those who have tried to combat the evil in the South has been the ease with which the drug has hitherto been obtained. While druggists selling the liquor without a physician's prescription have been arrested time and again and frequently convicted, there has been much more cocaine obtained by those addicted to its use than ever was purchased over the counters of drug stores.

Much of the additional supply came directly from the manufacturers to the purchasers through the mails. Being a dry substance and susceptible of packing so that its real nature was readily concealed, it lent itself to mailing.

The great increase in medicines that contain cocaine in great quantities has been a source of uneasiness to the Government. There are a great number of such "remedies" and the Bureau of Chemistry of the Agricultural Department is after them under the Pure Food Law.

The charge has been made that cocaine has even found its way into the public at soda fountains. Dr. H. W. Wiley, Chief of the Bureau of Chemistry, only a short time ago, publicly denounced one such drink. He declared it contained cocaine, and because of his statements its sale at army posts and in the navy was prohibited.

Among the negroes of the cities the use of cocaine has assumed very large proportions. Government agents who have investigated the matter in conjunction with State authorities have discovered that a regularly established trade is pursued in furnishing the drug to its users.

The peddlers as to the drug business what the "boot-leggers" are to the liquor traffic. They carry their stock in trade with them and sell it in unique measure. Instead of giving their customers so many grains for a certain sum, they sell it by the "card." A customer may purchase anywhere from a "deuce" to a "ten" card of "coke," as the drug is known in the vernacular by those who use it. The peddler spreads the powder thinly over the spots on a playing card. His charge depends on the denomination of the card, and is based on the number of spots he has to cover to complete the sale.

The United States is a party to a treaty to stamp out the opium traffic, and for years agitators have insisted that the cocaine traffic should also be attacked. Whether the Government will take any further steps toward combating the transportation of the drug has not yet been considered.

An Extraordinary Condition.

A remarkable condition arose in the Muskogee (Okla.) clearing house the other day. When members of the association met to adjust their bank clearings, it was found that there was \$40,000 in checks in the day's business, and that when settlement was made the accounts of each bank against all other banks balanced to a penny. No bank had to pay a cent to any other.

NO NEW MODES FOR COREANS.

They Are Likely to Rebel if the Japanese Call for Different Clothes.

It is reported that the Japanese propose to force their own style of dress upon the already rebellious Coreans. Such an attempt would probably be followed by a repetition of the serious and in some cases sanguinary results that arose a few years ago out of the Japanese attempt to force the shaving of the Corean topknot.

It seems to be one of the peculiar twists of the Japanese national character that the first yoke they would impose upon a subject people should be in the nature of sumptuary laws. Although free themselves to borrow from outside civilization and adapt to their own purposes all that they feel necessary even down to the plug hat of convention, the Japanese insist whenever they have the chance that those whom they rule shall follow their domestic customs willy nilly.

Now the Corean hates change for change's sake first, and more bitterly will he oppose change when initiated by his implacable enemy from across Tsushima straits. In the matter of his dress the Corean believes that what has been good enough for his ancestors for unnumbered hundreds of years, is good enough for him, even though doctors may explain to him that half the deaths in winter come from the ridiculously inadequate linen lawn dress that he wears.

The present Corean starched skirt and horsehair hat, shaped in the semblance of a fly screen to set on a butter dish, are just what the Chinese of the Ming dynasty used to wear about four hundred years ago. The skirt and bagged trousers of the Corean, man and woman alike, are white, winter and summer. White is the mourning color all over Mongolian territories, and a strange story is told by the Coreans themselves to account for this mourning garb.

It seems that hundreds of years ago there was an epidemic of poisonings among the royal family. Crown princes, royal concubines and heirs of the blood were dying with unpleasant regularity.

Every time there was a death in the royal family all the subjects of the King were forced to wear the mourning color for the space of one year. The ancient Coreans grew so weary of paying respect to royal ghosts that they became living ghosts themselves by donning the mourning white for good and all.

That is the way this dead land of the Orient became peopled with these white spectres that now flit listlessly out of the path of the conquering Japanese, wondering in their dull way when fortune will turn and they will be rid of the little brown pest. The Coreans will probably continue to pay exorbitant taxes to their conquerors, to stand passive while their agrarian and mineral rights are taken from them; but if the men from Japan attempt to trifle with what this spiritless shadow wears on his back or on his head he will suddenly materialize into quivering militant flesh.

The Best Men.

"I can get an English coachman a place twice as quickly as a German or a Yankee coachman," said an employment agent. "Each country, I find, is supposed to turn out one kind of workman of peculiar excellence. Thus England's specialty is the stableman.

"France's specialty is the chauffeur. The cook, too, is a specialty of France.

"Scotland is noted for its engineers, and in the field of sport for its golf coaches.

"The Swiss are considered to be the best watchmakers. It is never any trouble to get a Swiss watchmaker a job.

"The Swedes are the best sail-craft.

"Germans are at a premium as brewery hands.

"Italians are in demand as plaster workers, a trade wherein they wonderfully excel."—Chicago Inter-Ocean.

Vicious California Blackbirds.

Thousands of savage blackbirds infest the city, and in some of the suburbs they are so bold that dogs are kept on the jump avoiding them. men on bicycles are sometimes chased for blocks and pedestrians pecked on the heads if they happen under trees where there are nests. The birds usually fight in pairs.

If a man with a very white hat comes along, they swoop down, beat it with their wings and claw it with the rage of wounded eagles. Frequently they aim their sharp beaks at the victim's eyes and he has difficulty in defending himself. The painful yelping of cornered canines attracts flocks of the birds and then the fur flies.—San Francisco Chronicle.

Where Hippocrates Lectured.

The oldest tree in the world is to be found in the Isle of Cos, on the coast of Asia Minor. It is a platane, under the shade of which Hippocrates, the father of medicine, lectured to his pupils. Now as the tree at that time must have seen many years, the tree, it would seem, is considerably over 2,500 years old. The trunk has a circumference of 32 1/2 feet and it still bears a leaf, but decay is apparent and two of the principal limbs have to be supported by brick pillars.—London Globe.

THE CARE OF LINEN

HINTS ON HOW TO PROLONG ITS USEFULNESS.

Like Everything Else It Requires a Rest Occasionally—Will Keep Longer and Look Better if this Rule is Followed.

Few housekeepers realize that all linen in constant use will keep longer if it is allowed to "rest" at times. This same principle holds good with garments and various toilet articles. Take for example the pair followed by a woman whose house linen is limited, and who likes to make it last. She has a family of three and keeps out eight sheets each week. As soiled ones come in fresh from the laundry she places them always at the bottom of the pile, so in this way the same sheet is not used two weeks in succession, but is sure of a fortnight if not three weeks' "rest." In a store closet she keeps two other piles of eight, and every two months the sets of sheets that have been in use are put into the store place, another set being put into the cupboard for weekly use. The arrangement takes very little time and it is more than worth while in the saving of linen. Pillow cases and towels she manages in the same way, only the quantity of the latter is greater. Her table linen is used for six months and then put away for a year.

Luxurious as it may sound to have such a quantity of linen, the gathering of it is inexpensive, for the woman buys a sheet or table cover occasionally and puts it away, thus keeping her store in condition. At the same time pieces wear out so slowly that there is never much loss to be made good at one time, and the pocketbook is saved accordingly.

Linen sheets like others wear first in the centre, and it repays to slit them down the middle to get the edges in the place. This is done by tearing them in two lengthwise. The selvages are then overhanded together with very fine cotton, that a big seam shall not be made, and when the raw edges are hemmed. The life of a sheet is greatly prolonged if this is done in time.

Tooth and nail brushes should always be had in sets of two, if not three, because bristles fall usually because of having become soft from constant wetting. Therefore if they are thoroughly dried fairly often their usefulness is prolonged.

For example, a woman who keeps two tooth brushes in use at the same time, using one every other day, will find that the two will last longer than two others would if one was worn out before beginning on the second. All tooth brushes should hang when not in use, to allow the moisture to run off.

Shoes last much longer if they are rested for a month, the leather being well oiled when put away. Underclothes like house linen, endure longer by the rotation method.

Care of the Feet.

Women do not realize the importance of changing the shoes often in caring for the welfare of the feet. Many business women will wear the same shoes day after day, until they are thrown away, too old to wear.

Shoes, like everything else, need a rest, and if women would have at least two pairs and alternate from one to the other from day to day, the feet would be kept in much better condition and the shoes would outlast three pairs of shoes that are never changed.

Shoes need to be aired thoroughly every day, and if they are put on day after day without proper airing and drying, they will become hard and unhealthy to wear.

After a long walk it is necessary to change the shoes. The feet are tired and sore and need a change. The feet should be bathed directly after the walk in warm water and pure soap and then bathed with either alcohol or hot vinegar in the water.

It will soothe tired, aching feet, if soft slippers are put on after the heavy walking shoes. The house shoes should be soft and the heels should be lower than the walking shoe.

The Diligent Worker.

To be diligent is to be praiseworthy. The diligent worker never hurries, and always gets satisfaction out of her work.

She never slackens pace in her labors unless there is some difficulty in her path that she is forced to surmount.

She is quick in debating a question and reaches a conclusion in a reasonable length of time.

Ever ready to facilitate her mode of working, she finds the easiest way out of difficulties and in this manner good work is noted by her superiors and she wins their highest esteem.

In line of promotion it is the diligent worker that comes first. She looked upon by her fellow-workers as a model and all pattern after her.

To be diligent is to be quite worth while.

Weigh and Measure.

Most culinary failures come from the habit of guessing. Weigh everything that is to be weighed and measure carefully all other ingredients. Do this, even if you have made the article repeatedly, and you will be spared unpleasant surprises in spoiled dishes at important moments.

HATS OF ANCIENT TIMES.

The Panama and Other Seemingly Modern Headgear Dates Back.

The high hat, has, in fact, a forerunner in even more ancient history. The Egyptians, clear back before the strawless brick scandal, wore a high cupola-shaped affair as a sign of royal authority. I believe the thing was queered later, says a Broadway hatter in an interview in the New York Tribune, and came to be worn by the contractors and section bosses on the royal pyramids. The Romans finished their toppers off in a point, I believe, and the priests had some sort of freak skull cap with a point like a spear-head. Things got mixed up a little in the reign of the lamented Charles the One in England, when the hot-pollotish put on the steeple hat, high and narrow, with broad brim and no decoration, and left the aristocratic Cavaliers to wear the low, broad crowns with feathers in them, sort of a prototype of the beribboned Panama here.

Fact is, near as I can dope it out, all the wonders are lineal descendants of something that happened to our forbears brain cages. The Panama, for instance, and its poor relative, the plain straw, date back to the Century before Christ in Egypt. From there it migrated to Morocco, then to Spain, and on to these United States. Caps are almost as old as craniums. The Egyptians had 'em and so did the Greeks. The old 18th and early 19th century cocked hat, which is in imminent danger of walking the earth again soon, had a forerun in Ancient Greece.

The cap sprung direct from the turban, which itself was the only child and heir of the fillet, the Adam among hats, which was a simple band used to keep the locks of ancient man out of his eyes while he made sausage meat of his neighbor. That was before tensorial artists had decorated the corners with striped poles and when a shampoo would have been considered a sign of degeneracy. Some will have it though, that the wig was the original progenitor of the hat family. Anyhow, the human specimen who followed along after the cave man used to make himself beautiful by sticking flowers and feathers in his hair. Then the institution of marriage was invented and men began to lose their hair. Consequently, they had to have wigs to stick the feathers in. You hear how that hats cause baldness. According to this other line of dope, baldness caused hats.

Then history did another return engagement. After old Cromwell got his in England they reverted partly to the pre-hat period, shaved their heads and put on wigs. Then they wore hats only occasionally, and that merely for show.

Pearls Are a Disease.

Pearls have been lately studied by zoologists, and their true history made known. They are a disease, caused, like so many other diseases, by an infecting parasite. They are found much as we see them in jewelry, as little lustrous spheres imbedded in the soft bodies of mussels, oysters and even some kinds of whelks, but they are not found in the shellfish like crabs and lobsters, called crustacea. Pink pearls are found in some kinds of pink-shelled whelks. A pearl-mussel or pearl-oyster has a pearly lining to its shell, which is always being laid down layer by layer by the surface of the mussel's or oyster's body, where it rests in contact with the shell, which consequently increases in thickness. If a gram of sand or a little fish gets in between the shell and the soft body of its maker, it rapidly is coated over with a layer of pearl, and so a pearly boss or lump is produced projecting on the inner face of the shell, and forming part of it. These are called "blister pearls," and are very beautiful, though of little value since they are not complete all round, but merely knobs of the general "mother-of-pearl" surface. These blister pearls can be produced artificially by introducing a hard body between the shell and the living oyster or mussel.—Weekly Telegraph.

His Old College Chums.

A conductor sent a new brakeman to put some tramps off a train; they were riding in a box-car. The brakeman dropped into the car and said, "Where are you fellows going?" "To Atchison." "Well, you can't go to Atchison on this train, so get off." "You get," came the reply, and as the new brakeman was looking into the business end of a gun he took the advice given him and "got." He went back to the caboose and the conductor asked him if he had put the fellows off. "No," he answered, "I did not have the heart to put them off. They want to go to Atchison, and, besides, they are old schoolmates of mine." The conductor used some very strong language and then said he would put them off himself. He went over to the car and met with the same experience as the brakeman. When he got back to the caboose the brakeman said, "Well, did you put them off?" "Now, they're schoolmates of mine, too."—Wellington (Kan.) News.

For Lovers Correspondence.

A disappearing paper has now been devised for lovers correspondence. It is steeped in sulphuric acid and after a certain time it crumples into dust.

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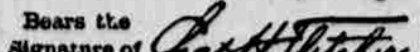
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