

THAT WICKED HABIT

A DRUMMER'S VIEWS OF SMOKING AND ONE OF HIS STORIES.

He Can Tell All About a Man From the Way He Smokes a Cigar—A Banker Who Escaped Ruin Because of the Sociability in the Smoking Habit.

"You can tell a good deal about a man by the way he smokes a cigar," said a traveling man in a philosophical mood at one of the hotels the other day. "And it goes without saying that you can also tell something of his disposition by the brand he generally smokes. For instance, you see him coming out from the dining room after regaling the physical man with the delicacies of a first class menu. He sits on the cool side of the building, draws a long black cigar from his pocket and bites about half an inch off from one end, sets the other to blazing and is soon puffing great clouds of smoke that ring and curl all around him. If he pulls at it furiously, I always think he doesn't know how to enjoy a good cigar. He will probably smoke two cigars while another man is enjoying one. In that event, it is generally a mild weed that he prefers. At any rate, it is an indication of his nervous temperament. Such a man is never happy unless he is in the midst of constant change. He is impulsive and even hot tempered. If you want to sell him any goods, it should be policy on your part not to cross him if you can avoid it.

"Then there is the other fellow who methodically takes his knife out of his pocket while he continues talking to his companion and slowly trims the end of his favorite brand, returns his knife to his pocket and settles back in his chair for a quiet smoke. Putting the cigar into his mouth, he generally chews the end of it for five minutes before the lighting operation is performed. And when he puffs, you would hardly know it. The delicate white ash hides the fire, and the thin line of smoke is hardly visible as it curls lazily upward. Yet he never has to relight his cigar. Such a man is introspective, cool in an emergency, logical in his thinking and just the opposite in temper to the one I previously described. If anything startling should turn up, he would never appear surprised. If he gets beat in a game of high five, he never shows his chagrin. And I venture to say that if his life purpose were thwarted—and he has one—very few people would ever know it. He would suffer like the Spartan boy with the fox concealed under his coat and gnawing out his vitals. Some would say this is all bosh, but I fancy there is something in it." And the man relapsed into silence again for a moment while he watched the blue rings wafted away by the cool breeze that is so graceful on a hot August day.

"Speaking of the wicked habit of smoking," he continued after a minute, "I know a man who conscientiously declares that it is not so. He says that if he didn't know how to enjoy a good cigar he would have been a poor man today. That sounds a little strange, doesn't it? Well, this is how it happened, as the story teller says. He was seated in front of the Southern hotel, St. Louis, one day. He was a traveling man and had lit his after dinner cigar. A gruff looking gentleman was seated next to him. He was smoking too. They sat there in silence for several minutes, perhaps a half hour. Finally the drummer was aroused from his reflections by hearing an expression from his neighbor's lips which Noah Webster never invented. He was going through his pockets for a match. The drummer politely tendered him one from his neat little matchbox and handed him a cigar, too, adding that he had better take a fresh one. From that they fell to talking, first about cigars. The gruff gent warmed up at once and wanted to know where the drummer got such a choice cigar. It happened to be a first class brand which the latter had picked up in the south. From that the two fell into quite a pleasant conversation. The drummer left town that evening. But they met by chance several times after that, and gradually a warm friendship sprang up between them.

"Years afterward the traveling man was engaged in the banking business. Of course the only way a drummer ever becomes a banker is by the timely death of a rich relative. Well, he still retained the friendship of his St. Louis acquaintance and often heard from him by letter. The drummer was prosperous until his bank, like many others in 1898, was drained with a terrific run. It seemed as though he must fail unless he had a few thousand dollars to tide over the next day. As he sat thinking the matter over in the cool air of his front yard a man came strolling through the front gate. It was his friend. Of course he asked the banker what made him look so pale, and the story came out little by little. The next day the bank had unlimited capital to back it and was soon on a solid footing. It was all through that cigar smoked several years before, so the ex-drummer said. Now, my wife would say that was no argument for such a filthy habit, and that her husband had never had any such fabulous experience. That's the way with people who won't reason about these things, isn't it?" And the traveling man pulled out two fresh cigars from his pocket and left one behind as he went hurriedly to settle up his bill in time to catch a train.—Omaha World-Herald.

Dew in the British Isles.

It is estimated that the total annual deposit of dew on the British Isles amounts to something like five inches, or about one-seventh of the total amount received from the atmosphere. This means 29,161,887,855 tons of dew a year.

Crickets sing much more sharply just before a rain than at other times. In old English houses this circumstance has been frequently remarked, and the cricket's cry is heard with attention as foretelling the changes in the weather.

EFFECT OF HEAT.

The Human System Can Become Used to a High Temperature.

No one can tell how high a temperature man can endure until he is subjected to the trial. The effect of an intensely heated atmosphere in causing death has been but little studied. "Some years since," says Dr. Taylor, the eminent jurist, "I was consulted in one case in which the captain of a steam vessel was charged with manslaughter for causing a man to be lashed within a short distance of the stovehole of the furnace. The man died in a few hours, apparently from the effects of his exposure. Yet the engine rooms of steamers in the tropics have been observed to have a temperature as high as 140, and engineers after a time become habituated to this excessive heat without appearing to suffer materially in health. In certain manufacturing factories the body appears to acquire a power by habit of resisting these high temperatures. Still, it has been proved that many suffer severely.

"In a report on the employment of children (London) it is stated that in a glass manufactory a thermometer held close to a boy's head stood at 130 degrees, and as the inspector stood near to observe the instrument his hat actually melted out of shape. Another boy had his hair singed by the heat and said that his clothes were sometimes singed, too, while a third worked in a temperature no less than 150 degrees. Amid this tremendous heat they carry on work which requires their constant attention. They are incessantly in motion."

In the Turkish baths higher temperatures than this have been noted, but there is reason to believe that serious symptoms have been occasionally produced in persons unaccustomed to them, and that in one or two cases death has resulted. All sudden changes from a low to a high temperature are liable to cause death in aged persons or in those who are suffering from organic diseases. In attempting to breathe air heated to temperatures varying from 180 to 200 degrees there is a sense of suffocation, with a feeling of dizziness and other symptoms indicative of an effect on the brain, and the circulation is enormously quickened. An inquest was held on the body of a stoker of an ocean steamship. He had been by trade a grocer and was not accustomed to excessive heat. While occupied before the engine furnace he was observed to fall suddenly on the floor in a state of insensibility. When carried on deck, it was found he was dead. All that was discovered on a postmortem examination was an effusion of serum into the ventricles of the brain. It has now become one of the recognized causes of death in this country. In some cases a person may sink and die from exhaustion or symptoms of cerebral disturbance may continue for some time and the case ultimately prove fatal.

Death from sunstroke, when it is not immediately fatal, is preceded by some well marked symptoms, such as weakness, giddiness, headache, disturbance, flushing of the face, followed by oppression and difficulty of breathing, and in some cases stupor, passing into profound coma. The skin is dry and hot, and the heat of the body is much greater than natural.

Walk slowly and don't fret, and you will not experience anything of that sort.—Philadelphia Times.

PUMICE STONE.

Thirty Merchants Are Engaged in the Trade on the Island of Lipari.

Pumice, as is well known, is of volcanic origin, being a trachytic lava which has been rendered light by the escape of gases when in a molten state. It is found on most of the shores of the Tyrrhenian sea and elsewhere, but is at present almost exclusively obtained from the little island of Lipari. Most of the volcanoes of Lipari have ejected pumaceous rocks, but the best stone is all the product of one mountain, Monte Chirica, nearly 2,000 feet in height, with its two accessory craters. The district in which the pumice is excavated covers an area of three square miles. It has been calculated that about 1,000 hands are engaged in this industry, 600 of whom are employed in extricating the mineral.

Pumice is brought to the surface in large blocks or in baskets and is carried thus either to the neighboring village or to the seashore to be taken there in boats. The supply is said to be practically inexhaustible. Pumice is used not merely for scouring and cleansing purposes, but also for polishing in numerous trades, hence the fact that the powdered pumice exported exceeds in weight the block pumice. Between 20 and 30 merchants are engaged in the pumice trade on the island.—London News.

It's Hard to Get Into the Army.

The tabulation of the enlistments in the United States army for July shows unmistakably the care with which recruits are now accepted. Captain Palmer, in charge of the Chicago recruiting station, enlisted only 27 men out of 485 who applied for enlistment—an acceptance of 1 in 17. The army standard has been raised from time to time until it is more difficult to enter it as a private for the small payment of \$14 a month than it is to secure admission into any other department of the government. A good physique without a good moral character debars an applicant. The total enlistments during the month were 430 and the rejections were 2,922.—Chicago Tribune.

The Plot That Failed.

"Did you try that scheme of ringing a bell on Johnson when he was in the middle of his speech?"

"Yes, and it failed. Johnson was a street car conductor at one time."

"Wall!"

"I made the mistake of ringing twice, and he took it as a compliment; thought it was a signal for him to go ahead."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

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