

**THE USE OF TOBACCO, AND
THE EVILS, PHYSICAL, MENTAL,
MORAL, AND SOCIAL,
RESULTING THEREFROM**

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The Use of Tobacco, and the Evils, Physical, Mental, Moral, and Social, resulting therefrom by
John H. Griscom

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THE EVILS OF TOBACCO.

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BY
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THE USE OF TOBACCO

AND

ITS EVILS.

The effects of Tobacco upon the physiological organs and functions are as clearly manifest and understood as those of any other medicinal substance. It has long been included as an article of the *Materia Medica*, and is as well known to possess properties available for the treatment of certain diseases, as is Opium, Ipecacuanha, Digitalis, Belladonna, Camphor, or any other.

Like most other medicinal vegetables, its peculiar powers are dependent upon a special ingredient, which is capable of being extracted in a separate and distinct form, and which, in its natural state, is distributed through the whole structure of the plant. This ingredient is in the form of a Volatile Oil, obtainable by distillation at a high temperature, and in which the peculiar properties

of the plant are nearly all concentrated. It is known by the name of *Nicotine*, and is remarkable for an unusual combination of properties. In its separate and pure form, it has been demonstrated to be a *virulent poison*, when administered internally, acting as rapidly as Prussic acid or strychnine. A single drop of the oil injected into the body of a cat by Sir Benjamin Brodie, caused its death in five minutes; and double that quantity administered in the same manner to a dog was followed by the same result. An instance occurred in Brussels, in 1846, of a homicide produced in a few minutes by a small quantity of nicotine being forced into the mouth of the victim.*

A single drop applied to the tongue of a cat will cause convulsions, and in two minutes, death. More recently, a simple decoction of 12 grains of the plant itself, in six ounces of water, used as an enema, proved fatal to a human adult (Brit. and Foreign Med. Review, Vol. XII., p. 562). Sir Astley Cooper and Sir Charles Bell have also related cases of mortality resulting from the same cause.

Another illustration of the poisonous effects of

* It was proved that the criminal, known as Count Bocarmé, had prepared a small quantity of the oil by the distillation of tobacco, and forced it into the mouth of his brother-in-law, 30 years old, causing his death in a few minutes.

the plant itself very recently occurred in Staffordshire, England. A coroner's inquest was held on the body of a respectable grocer, aged 29, who had been drinking, and put into his mouth the greater portion of half an ounce of tobacco. He would not remove it from his mouth, and he became insensible, falling suddenly, and apparently swallowing a portion of the tobacco. He died in three days, and the verdict was according to this evidence.

Another demonstration of its fatal influence has very recently occurred in Ohio, reported by Dr. W. J. Tyrell. He was called to see a sprightly little girl who, three weeks previously, had her upper lip burned and bruised by falling upon a cooking stove. On the day before his visit she had been as well as usual all the forenoon, but in the afternoon her mother had decided to heal the sore; for which purpose she emptied the ashes from her pipe, then with her finger wiped the oil from the bowl, and applied it to the lip. The effect was violent convulsions, resulting in death within twenty-four hours.

Like all other substances possessed of these active properties in their pure form, this ingredient, when applied to the animal structure in its diluted form, by smoking and chewing tobacco, exhibits