AN
INAUGURAL DISSERTATION,
on
The Use of Tobacco
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The Tobacco plant is indigenous to America, but may be cultivated in all temperate climates. Its use as a luxury originated among the aboriginals of this continent, from whose example it has been extended to almost every nation of the earth.

Why this self-sacrificing and uncommunicating practice should have received such unparalleled patronage is a mystery, which neither the records of history, nor the ingenuity of the imaginations have been able to elucidate.

Yet it is a subject of great interest, and one that should claim seriously the consideration of every individual who engages in this loathsome and degrading
practice. For where on the annals of either ancient or modern history can there be found a parallel to this almost universally followed debauch; spreading like the winds it is accepted alike in the wigwams of the savage and palaces of the affluence; disseminating its devastating effects everywhere, disqualifying its subjects for the enjoyment of the blessings of life, and rendering them unfit guests for the most exalted of God's creations; by blunting the acuteness of their perceptive faculties,circumscribing and contracting their intellectual capacities; and inflicts incurable disease upon themselves and degeneracy upon their posterity.

Examine the savage ancestry of the rise of Tobacco: Search diligently for the
benefit arising from its use and this weigh the misery and death which it has entailed upon Islam's posterity and I am persuaded that the introduction of the use of Tobacco may with propriety be stated as the second fall of man.

Tobacco is poisonous and foreign to the animal economy, an alien to the moral attributes of man, and degenerating in its circumscription as well as in its most unbounded influences; and for these reasons as well as from past experience I am thoroughly convinced that its place is upon the lists of Therapeutical agents and as such should only be used. And could every worshipper of the demonical idol be properly informed upon this vital and undeniably important subject, I should not
be wanting in testimony to sustain me in the above assertions.

But it is to be deeply regretted that the veil of ignorance rendered opaque by the shadows of fashion and the mist of depravity is still floating immovably over the intellectual eyes of many of the unfortunate subjects of this tyrannous habit and nothing but unceasing efforts on the part of those who see and know its destructive tendencies can redeem the world from that truly appalling and degenerate state into which it must sink if the use of Tobacco as a luxury be not abandoned.

Tobacco, when taken in a concentrated form is a deadly poison extinguishing the flame of life with almost as much promptness and energy as does Phlogiston.
and will it for a moment be contended that man is not violating the immutable laws of nature when he is voluntarily pouring into his system an infusion of that in which the God of nature has stored away for his own wise purposes a positive and active antidote to life?

Our ears are daily and almost hourly saluted by the invocations of those who are devotedly their time, talents, and influence in endeavoring to expunge from among men the use of Alcohol, while its kindred poison, Tobacco, which is found in the hands and mouths of almost every individual, combining in a more concentrated form all the poisonous properties of Alcohol, is suffered to pass on without ever being branded with the stigma of
murder, or without one appeal or admonition, to the participant to desist from this ruinous and paralyzing practice.

When taken in an overdose, tobacco produces a state of collapse, which is soon followed by death. The symptoms are nausea and pro vomiting, palor of the surface, pulse weak and fluttering, features sunken and unnatural, cold clammy perspiration, with hiccup and death beginning at the heart.

But unfortunately these symptoms do not follow its size when taken in smaller quantities; if such were the fact, its size would have long since been abandoned, and thousands of useless lives would be annually saved.

Physicians exempt from the melancholy
task of so often beholding without the means of realizing its insidious but destructive effects.

When used as a luxury, or in small doses, tobacco acts as a stimulant and narcotic; but because it is used in small quantities, often repeated, and the system seems to submit passively to its invasion, we are not to conclude that it is not destroying vitality; for it may require months and even years to manifest its effects upon the system, but they will be exhibited for the laws of nature have been violated, and the annexed penalty must, and will be inflicted, which will be in proportion to the extent of the violation.

Tobacco may produce disease; first, by its stimulating and narcotic
effects upon the brain and nervous system generally. Secondly, by vitiating the
blood and the secretions in consequence of its absorption, thirdly, by its local
stimulation and depletion.

When tobacco is taken into the
system by one unaccustomed to its use
great disturbance of the whole system
immediately follows. The brain being
entirely free from its narcotic influence
seems indignant at the presence of a
substance so foreign and irritating to
the demands of the animal economy; and
instantly the whole nervous system is
aroused to repel the invasion of
this deadly foe. But the nervous sys-
tem being incessantly stimulated and
poisoned by tobacco, its energies are
soon exhaused and overwhelmed. it
sinks at the invader's feet. But by a sympathetic law, the diaphragm is brought into action, and respiratory muscular effort asserts itself, and thus as a last resort nature endeavors to expel from her province the depressing agent. If by this act the Tobsaco is expelled, reaction soon comes on and the physiological action of all the parts, are again established; but by a repetition of this process hypnotic principle is manifested from the brain, and the sensibilities of the whole nervous system are blunted, and thus tolerance of its presence is established.

Now we behold in the first invasion of Tobasco the most exalted morbid excitement, followed immediately by morbid debility, the tendency of which is directly towards the extinction of life.
Here we have positively a disease possessing two stages; that of excitement and that of depression, produced wholly by the use of Tobacco, and running parallel in every respect, save that of duration, with that morbid excitement and succeeding debility of the vascular system, which are always so prominent in febrile attacks from whatever cause produced. But the habit once formed, the system soon learns to become accustomed to its presence, and an actual demand for its use is set up in order to sustain that excited action, which the use of Tobacco has created. Then each additional portion only more deeply narcotizes the brain and renders it more insensible to the demands of the system, and at the same time the
nervous system by its stimulating effects is
excited in all of its portion functions, and
thus imparting undue action to the vascular
and glandular systems, causing them to
perform their functions in an exaggerated
and unnatural manner; and this ex-
alted action of the whole system is nothing
less than disease, for it is a departure from
a physiological condition of the system.
But this excitement may give rise to
other diseases, for it is a law of physiology
that in proportion to the rapidity with
which the functions of a part are performed,
is its liability to inflammation, and the
functions of all the organs of the whole
system being increased, and at the
same time deprived, in a great degree
of the protecting powers of the brain, in
consequence of its deeply narcized condition.
we at once see how easily inflammation may occur either in an acute or chronic form and this inflammation may occur not only in the vascular, glandular and muscular systems but the nervous tissue itself may become its seat giving rise to scramblings of that structure. Should this softening occur in a branch of the nervous system, paralysis of the parts to which the nerve was distributed would be the result. if it were situated in the spinal cord, the paralysis would be of a more general character, and if in the brain insanity and death would result.

But should local inflammation not supervene during the stage of excitement, then the nervous system would suffer; this narcotic stimulus until its vital energies were exhausted and its susceptibilities
impaired which would be manifested by all those symptoms by which we recognize a broken down state of the constitution, such as general torpidity of the glandular system, predisposition to either mental or physical excitation, Hypochondriac, Dyspepsia, Palpitations of the Heart, Asthma, Night-mare, and premature death. By the superintention of local inflammation, or Dropsy, Phthisis Pulmoni, or sudden collapse of the nervous system.

Tobacco, though slow in its progress is certain in its results, for as we have already seen that through the medium of the nervous system it is capable of curtailing longevity, by undermining the constitution, and thus offering the door of the system for the reception of disease, and also of producing disease itself both of a functional and organic nature.
And should life not be destroyed by one of these acts, yet the subject is left a moving image of misery for the mind which predominates over the wreck of that once athletic, and uncommonly promising constitution. It is now wrapped in regret and despondency, only awaiting the arrival of death to relieve it of that prematurely disorganized body, which is now unequal to its office and consequently a fit subject only for the grave.

Syrup is also taken up by the absorbents and conveyed into the circulation, rendering the blood vitiated, and irritating to all the parts with which it comes in contact, and in this way gives rise to a general state of morbid excitement, which will result in febrile action, and thus run parallel with a superabundance accumulation of vitiated bile, as an excitant of
fever. The solids being built up, and sustained by this circulating blood, tobacco is necessarily deposited in them by imbibition and by this process the natural and healthy nourishment of the parts is succeeded by a compensatory, for which the system has no demand, and from which it must suffer materially.

Tobacco also impoverishes the system, blood and debilitates the system by impairing digestion and assimilation, and at the same time keeps up a constant drain through the medium of the highly-exciited salivary glands.

The office of the salivary secretions is to mix up with the food during mastication and facilitates that process as well as that of digestion by lubricating the part, and also acts digestion by properly preparing the food for the immediate and easy action of the gastric juice of the stomach.
Now it is evident that if this important fluid be constantly drained off in the form of an infusion of Tobacco, that the food is improperly masticated, and presented to the stomach a dry and unrotating mass upon which the gastric juice cannot fully dispel its solvent power. The food is then either ejected by regurgitation or sent on to the intestines a half digested and wandering mass from which they cannot extract a sufficient amount of nourishment to satisfy the demands of the system. And here we see plainly that the continued use of Tobacco may not only prove a predisposing, but an exciting cause of Dysepsia, with all of its concomitant hosts of evils. But let us return to the salivary glands, they are constantly excited to the utmost extent, made to work incessantly.
and the products of their labor instead of returning into the system, and fulfilling their office as nature requires are constantly cut off with the essence of Tobacco; and as we know that the materials of every secretion of the body is furnished by the blood, we at once conceive how great must be its loss from this constant drain.

The blood, being constantly poisoned, by the direct absorption of Tobacco and cut off from its nourishment being paired digestion, and at the same time sustaining a powerful drain, is it not evident that this depressing agent acting upon the constitution in all these ways would be sufficient to awaken the slumbering seeds of consumption, and also prove a predisposing cause to idiopathic diseases? We will next examine the figures with which Tobacco comes
immediately in contact during the
process of chewing. Its stimulating qualities
are plainly manifested by the sudden
congestion and ultimate inflammation of
the mucous membrane of the mouth and
pharynx which so often follow its pro-
tracted use. If this inflammation
which is generally of a chronic form con-
itself strictly to the mucous membrane
of the pharynx little inconvenience will
probably arise, save that of a troublesome
hawking and spitting of a tough mucous
or mucopurulent secretion. But when
we remember that this mucous membrane
is continuous with that of the whole ali-
mentary tract, and also that of the
lungs we at once conceive how readily
this may become a complicated and
dangerous affection.
It may extend itself into the stomach, giving rise to chronic gastritis and all the phenomena and suffering of dyspepsia, or the irritation in the fauces may also by sympathy be transmitted to the lower portion of the rectum and there develop itself in that most horripilating and obstinate form of disease, Hemorrhoid, or the inflammation may extend from the Pharynx into the Larynx, and destroy by ulceration the vocal chords the Epiglottic cartilage and give rise to a serous effusion into the subcellular tissues of the chink of the Glottis, and death by suffocation, or continuing downwards it may involve the mucous membrane of the Bronchial Tubes, the air passages, and even the air cells of the lungs, and thus give rise to a most fatal form of Bronchitis.
Having traced Tobacco through the several channels by which it may enter, and destroy the animal economy and finding it fully competent to accomplish that object, I again repeat that it is poisonous and foreign to the system and as such should be found only upon the list of Therapeutic agents; and administered only by the hands of the intelligent Physician.