

IS THE CIGARETTE RESPONSIBLE FOR CRIME

Three Degenerate Cigarette fiends Swell the Epidemic of Murders Committed Within the Last few Months



Woodward in His Cell



GEORGE NELK.



WILLIAM HOOPER YOUNG.



Paul Woodward During His Trial

IT WOULD seem to be a significant and striking fact that three murders of a shocking and brutal character, each taking place within a successively short space of time, should have been committed by three young men all of whom were slaves to the cigarette.

PAUL WOODWARD LURED THE TWO LITTLE CAMDEN BOYS INTO THE COUNTRY LAST SUMMER AND ADMINISTERED POISONED PIE TO THEM.

WILLIAM HOOPER YOUNG MURDERED MRS. PULTZER IN NEW YORK LAST SEPTEMBER.

GEORGE NELK ACCUSED BY HIS SISTER OF HAVING KILLED HIS MOTHER ON THE 12TH OF LAST FEBRUARY, BY CLEAVING HER HEAD OPEN WITH A HATCHET, IN THEIR HOME IN GERMANTOWN, AND AT THE SAME TIME GUILTY OF A MURDEROUS ASSAULT UPON HERSELF WITH THE SAME WEAPON.

These three men all represent a single type of degeneracy and each was a cigarette fiend. Young has just started to serve a life sentence in the New York State Penitentiary. Cigarettes sent him there. Woodward paid the penalty of his crime upon the gallows a short time ago. The halter that hanged him was the fiendish, leering vapor of the noxious weed which had long before strangled out his intellect and now came in the guise of the hangman's noose to strangle out his wretched physical life. Nelk awaits a like fate, but whatever his punishment is to be, there will hang over him, too, at the end the same mocking impersonation of the demon vapor which robbed him and the others of the God-given power of thought.

Trio of Cigarette Crimes
That these three young men should have com-

mitted parallel crimes within such a short compass of time is merely a coincidence. All dissipated, all shiftless, all rendered mentally and morally corrupt by the deadening influence of impure and poisoned tobacco, it was chance that, in reality, brought them almost simultaneously into the notoriety of crime. But because of this it cannot be said that they alone are guilty of the cigarette habit in its worst form.

Nicotine Debases
Nelk, Woodward and Young were cigarette fiends from early youth. Their ages averaged only a little over twenty-three years. The practice of smoking cigarettes, formed long before

they had matured, clung to them in early manhood, and the debasing effects of the nicotine which kept their nervous systems continually saturated at last accomplished the full overthrow of their intellects.

Hooper Young, according to the medical experts who testified at his trial, will eventually become insane, and through no other cause than excessive indulgence in cigarettes. Legally, he was of sound mind, and there could be no excuse for the ghastly butchery he had perpetrated; yet the medical diagnosis showed incontrovertibly that the entire foundation of his brain had been undermined by nicotine. When he committed the crime, however, he was in full possession of rational powers and he is now paying the penalty of second degree murder with life imprisonment. But laying aside all question of his immediate responsibility, the truth remains that had Young not been a cigarette fiend the chances are he would never have dipped his hands in blood.

The facts that apply to Young are applicable to Woodward and Nelk. As detailed in the pages of The Sunday Inquirer some months ago, Woodward was a degenerate of the lowest type.

Six, eight and ten packs of cigarettes a day vanished with his rapacious appetite for the weed, and he smoked almost to the gallow's edge.

Nelk, the matricide, is a cigarette fiend of the same insatiable stamp as the two before him. A package of cigarettes was in his coat pocket when he was caught; a lighted cigarette was the partial means of his identification and capture in Reading. On the train for Philadelphia his incessant cry to the officers in charge of him was for cigarettes, while during the preliminary hearing at the Central Station and throughout the first days of his imprisonment he made the life of his keepers miserable by whining, imploring, howling and uttering im-

precations in the name of his cherished dope.

Poisoned Tobacco
From numerous sources of authority, representing the most scientific and reliable views, The Inquirer has gathered together all the information available on the subject of cigarettes and just why and how they are injurious to the human system.

In the first place, cigarettes are not made of pure tobacco. There may be exceptions to this rule, but these are only in the expensive brands,

smoked almost exclusively by men who can afford to spend the money. Among this class of men the true cigarette fiend is seldom seen, for the fumes of the fine Oriental cigarette are most appreciated by them in moderate quantities as a soothing climax to a good dinner.

It is the cheap cigarettes which contain harmful tobacco and still more injurious dope in imitation of the genuine Turkish article. Real Turkish cigarettes, such as we seldom or never see in this country, contain a very small percentage of opium, which is not really a menace

to health when smoked at the rate of a cigarette or two a day. The so-called Turkish cigarette does not contain any opium whatever, but it does contain cheap substitutes in the form of deleterious opiates. They are, therefore, harmful for this reason, if for no other.

But the greatest evil done by the cigarette is in the inhaling of the smoke. Ninety-nine out of a hundred cigarette smokers inhale. The deep drawing in of the smoke affords satisfaction of a sedative nature. Then again, a cigarette smokes rapidly and clear when the left lights will go out, but the volatile cigarette burns on to the end of its own accord. Before the smoker is aware of what he is doing he has smoked a full box and the craving thus created is not satisfied until another box and still another have been consumed. Almost unconsciously he lights a fresh weed from the butt of the old until it becomes a habit with him to have a cigarette between his lips at all times.

More Dangerous Than Arsenic
As just stated, all the cheap grades of cigarettes are made from poor tobacco. All tobacco contains nicotine, in a proportion varying from 2 to 10 per cent. The best and strongest Havana tobacco is said to hold as low as 1 1/2 per cent.; the meanest tobacco incorporated into cigarettes has been found on analysis to be impregnated with 9 per cent.

Nicotine is one of the most powerful poisons known—far more so than arsenic or strychnine. A body of scientific men who conducted a course of experiments with nicotine a few years ago published some intensely interesting facts.

A dose of nicotine, weighing only 1-60th of a grain taken internally immediately caused the symptoms of poisoning, the subject going through a stage of extreme excitation, followed by headache, vertigo, weakness and general depression. Larger doses up to 1/100th of a grain caused vomiting, trembling and a lowering of the heart and respiratory action. Doses in larger quantities than this were deemed dangerous as being fatal; there is no reliable knowledge to the contrary.

Nicotine Inhaled Is Dangerous

Cigar smokers who do not inhale are generally accounted pretty safe from the risks of nicotine poisoning; the chronic cigarette smoker who inhales continuously is, on the other hand, sure to become a victim to the practice sooner or later. It has been proven that nicotine leaves a cigar or cigarette in the smoke, that is if not inhaled. Drawn into the lungs the percentage of nicotine, whether it be large or small, is taken up by the blood as an accumulative poison. Nicotine assimilated by the system through the lungs is almost as injurious as if swallowed outright. From the blood it is taken to the heart, causing disorders of that organ and it is then pumped through every tissue and nerve of the body. In the earlier stages of nicotine poisoning we see the man whose hand trembles, whose talk is disconnected, who never appears to have any steadfast purpose in life. In short, the man who is going to the bad. Dyspepsia, loss of appetite and mental decline are the symptoms of a later period, and tetanic convulsions, followed by paralysis and loss of sight, result in a few cases of excessive abuse of the cigarette. A great deal has been said about the paper used for cigarette wrappers, but the drift of opinion in this matter places the evil effects of the wrapper at an insignificantly small proportion. Practically all the injury is derived from the nicotine in the poor grade of tobacco and the cheap opiates used for dope.

If anyone interested in the study of criminals ever attempts to compile statistics which will show the relation of cigarette smoking to crime, the information thus given to the world will be an amazing revelation. The law of Pennsylvania prohibiting the sale of cigarettes to boys under sixteen was framed on the advice and experience of medical experts who knew that nicotine had reached the age of maturity. Youth is particularly susceptible to the effects of nicotine poisoning, and the few scattered records of boy criminals who have exhibited moral depravities show that these boys were addicted to the cigarette habit in an inordinate degree. Hundreds of these, stunted in intellect and hopelessly degraded, can be seen any day in the big reform institutions. They are the boys from among whose ranks will some day be recruited the Hooper Youngs, the Paul Woodwards and the George Nelks, moral dwarfs, in whom all sense of right and wrong has been destroyed by the poison nicotine.

