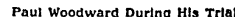
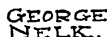


Three Degenerate Cigarette fiends Swell the Epidemic of Murders Committed Within the Last few Months



GEORGE MELK.

The Amount of Impurity Contained in a Single Cigarette is Equal to that Contained in a Dozen Strong Havana Cigars

Woodward in His Cell

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. PULITZER 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 GERMAN-TOWN, 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 halibut he hanged himself was the fiendish, longing vapor of the cloud which he had long before strangled out his intellect and now came in the guise of the hangman's nose to strangle out his wretched physical life. Neik awaits a like fate, but whatever his punishment is to be, there will hang over him, too, at the close of the saddest chapter of the demon-rage picture which robbed him and the others of the God-given power of thought.

Trio of Olgarotto, 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.

Young, Woodward and Nelk simply stand as the symbols of human wreck for which the deadly cigarette is too often responsible. It is clearly that every cigarette fiend does not commit murder, but many hundreds of them—idle, ne'er-do-well young fellows like this degraded trio—are daily crowding the reformatories, jails and houses of correction throughout the whole United States. Other hundreds, who have not as yet reached the reformatory stage of their careers, are to be seen nightly prowling aimlessly about the tenderloins of great cities or loafing on street corners, inhaling the poisonous fumes of cheap cigarettes.

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 the influence of his character. It is generally, he was of sound mind, but he is now no excuse for the ghastly butchery he has perpetrated; yet the medical diagnosis showed incontrovertibly that the entire foundation of his brain had been undermined by nicotine. When a man has committed a crime, and he is now 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 question of his character is a very important one. He had a young not been a cigarette fiend the character 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 gallows' 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 was taken from him. 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.

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

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 8 per cent. The best and strongest Havana tobacco is said to hold as low as 1½ 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 1-16th of a grain taken internally immediately caused symptoms of poisoning, the subject going through a stage of extreme excitation, followed by headache, vertigo, weakness and general depression. Larger doses up to 1-16th 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 known antidote.

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 it is not inhaled. Drawn into the lungs this percentage of nicotine, whether it be large or small, is absorbed into the blood stream as an accumulative poison. Nicotine assimilated in this manner, 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 to the lungs, causing every tissue and nerve of the body. In the case of chronic nicotine poisoning we see the man whose hands tremble, whose talk is disconnected, who never appears to have any steadfast purpose in life—his memory is failing, his digestion is poor, his appetite, 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 drug, death may result. The use of tobacco in paper used for cigarette wrappers, but the different 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 paper, and the use of tobacco and the cheap opiate 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, he will find that the results will be an amazing revelation. The law in Pennsylvania prohibiting the sale of cigarettes to boys under sixteen was framed on the advice and experience of police officers who knew that nicotine was in its deadly stage when it had reached the age of maturity. Youth is particularly susceptible to the effects of nicotine poisoning, and the few scattered records of boys who have been arrested for crime will show that these boys were addicted to the cigarette habit in an inordinate degree. Hundreds of these, stunted in intellect and hope, are in the hands of the State in the reform institutions. They are the boys from among whose ranks will some day be recruited the Hooper Youngs, the Paul Woodwards and the George Nelson, small dwarfs in whom all the worst of man's strength has been destroyed by the poison nicotine.