

as our people will purchase in twelve. We have, therefore, reached that stage of development when we should vigorously improve every opportunity to widen our market and when it would seem good policy for our government to render every aid to a complete development of the possibilities of foreign trade.

In 1895 our export of shoes reached \$1,000,000. In 1896 they were \$1,500,000. Yet leather exports were \$17,700,000 for the same year. Taking fiscal years ending June 30, in 1898 shoes were over \$1,900,000; in 1899, \$2,711,656; in 1900, \$4,276,656; and for 1901 they reached \$5,526,290, showing a gain of 200 per cent. in the past three years. The exports of leather for the same years, however, are over \$21,000,000 a year.

Our American tanneries make the best leather in the world. They use not only the vast production of the hides in our own country, but last year imported hides and skins to the amount of \$33,000,000, making of leather from the foreign hides and skins alone more than fifty millions. The Englishman, the German, and other foreign manufacturers buy that American leather to take home and manufacture into shoes to compete with us, and, when they take it out of the country, our government pays them for doing it, a bounty, alias rebate of 99 per cent. of the duty that may have been paid on the imported hide, amounting to from 5 to 10 per cent and no way has yet been found for American manufacturers to get like treatment. The result is that a considerable portion of the upper and much of the sole leather made in the United States from imported hides is sold to foreign manufacturers at a lower price than we can buy it, by 5 to 10 per cent.

It may be asked, Why don't you get the rebate of duty paid on the imported leather in exported shoes?

For the reason that there are from fifteen to twenty-five pieces of leather in a shoe, some of which may have been made from imported hide, and others not; and, when once a hide is tanned and cut up into innumerable pieces, and made into a shoe, it is impossible to trace those separate pieces, and prove which are made from foreign hide to the satisfaction of the United States officers.

This hide duty is a serious handicap to the American shoe manufacturer in competition with the foreigner for the export trade. As a revenue duty, it is a failure; for the rapidly increasing rebate, together with the cost of collection, will soon absorb the income, and the opportunities and temptation to fraud in regard to rebate are numerous. It protects the

foreign manufacturer against American, and nobody else. It encourages the tanner of leather for export to buy foreign hides, whenever they can be bought for nearly the same price as the domestic, because he can get his profit in the rebate.

It has resulted in building up the tannery interests of Canada at a corresponding loss to those of the United States. It has increased the cost of footwear, and other products of the hide to the people of the United States, while benefiting none, unless it be the great meat-packing establishments; and it is very doubtful if it benefits them.

The hide duty ought to be repealed, not alone in the interest of the great industry of curing and tanning hides, and fashioning them into the numberless things which are necessities, but in the interest of the consuming public.

THE COCAINE HABIT.

There are lots of ways for people to do bad; to do bad in ways which hurt themselves and hurt other people. The habitual use of cocaine is one of the developments of the time. Liquor and morphine do enough to devitalize the physical and pervert the moral nature, but by accounts cocaine is worse than either. Its discovery as an anesthetic was hailed as a boon, as indeed morphia is. In one of the public places of Boston is a monument to the discoverer of ether, and on it the inscription, "And there shall be no more pain." The sentiment is beautiful, and might well be inscribed on the monuments of the discoverers of the other anesthetics; but while these are invaluable servants of the human race, they are, like fire and water, awful masters. As to the cocaine habit, it is reported as spreading rapidly over the United States, and the Georgia legislature, now in session, is casting about for means of controlling it, for it is represented as very prevalent among both races in that state. It appears that by its habitues it is not swallowed but used by injection, and upon the subject a recent writer says:

"Cocaine injection is, without question, the most dangerous and subtle form of inebriety known. Compared with it, even morphinomania is comparatively harmless. It grows on one with amazing rapidity, and gives little or no warning of the harm it is doing until the evil is accomplished almost beyond recall. With most narcotics you have quick presage of coming evil. Let the average man inject a dose of morphia and he will find the temporary ease followed by excruciating headache, by raw nerves, and by fearsome depression of spirits. But with the cocaine at first there is none of this. Pain is deadened. The things that troubled you seem swept out of your life. You

have a sense of self-satisfaction, of buoyancy, of ease, and of pleasure. In the normal man or woman there is often at first no great reaction, although in this, as in every nerve poison, the effects differ according to individual temperament. But the pleasure passes off very quickly, even more quickly than with opium, and the victim is almost inevitably driven to renew the injection. In many cases from twelve to twenty doses are before long taken in a single day.

The cocaine habit is said to be singularly insidious, stealing upon its victim and fastening him before he is aware that he is in its clutches. It has for some years been a subject of special study in England, where its existence is recognized as not only a new evil, but perhaps the greatest of all of its kind, converting, as it does, honest men into thieves, truthful men into liars, and honorable men into dishonorable—hurrying its victims into imbecility or untimely graves. Happily the habit has not, we think, fixed itself to any extent, if at all, in North Carolina, and it is to be hoped that it never will.—Charlotte Daily Observer, Nov. 10, 1901.

CREMATION.

Editor The Conservative:

In connection with "Items of Interest to Cremationists," contained in The Conservative of the 14th inst., I beg leave to transmit to you the latest copy of a periodical, issued in Berlin twice a month, to-wit: "Die Flamme," devoted to cremation. It appears from the photograph of a modern Crematorium, that the remains of the deceased cannot come into contact with the fuel nor with the flames, and that the incineration is effected solely by atmospheric air, which has been heated up to one thousand degrees of Celsius.

Cremation is therefore nothing else but a quick process to resolve or decompose the remains into the original elements, which is finally accomplished, by changing the body into earth, from which it had been taken or from which it had originated.

Enclosed please find the latest report of the imperial board of health in Berlin, from which it appears that the mortality in the principal cities during September, 1901, shows a percentage of deaths out of 1000 inhabitants as follows, to-wit: Christiania, 11.3; Wiesbaden, 13.1; Frankfort on Main, 13.9; Hanover, 12.7; Berlin, 16.2; Paris, 16.7; London, 15.6; Rome, 17.2; Philadelphia, 16.5; New York, 18.9; Petersburg, 22.9; Warschaw, 28.0; Dublin, 23.4; Moskow, 31.3.

As far as my personal observations go, the cleanest cities in the world show the least mortality and the greatest prosperity, for cleanliness is next to Godliness.

DR. F. RENNER.

Omaha, Neb., Nov. 17, 1901.