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REPLY

TO THE

Statement of the Manufacturers in opposition

TO THE

PROPOSED ACT

Regulating the Manufacture of Cigars

IN

Tenement-houses.



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TO THE STATEMENT OF MANUFACTURERS IN OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED
ACT REGULATING THE MANUFACTURE OF CIGARS
IN TENEMENT HOUSES.

The statement by the manufacturers that the cigar makers now employed in tenement-house shops prefer this system of work, and are opposed to the bill designed to abolish the same, that the shopkeepers in the neighborhood of the tenement-houses want the continuance of this system, and that the owners of tenement-houses generally—an important class of taxpayers—want the system continued, and oppose the bill, even if it were correct, would not be of controlling importance upon the consideration of this bill. If it is true that this system is a nuisance, that it brings about sickness, and moral and physical degradation to the workmen employed in it, if the houses in the neighborhood are reduced in value on account of their contiguity to this nuisance, if the system can be condemned on either of these grounds, then it should be broken up, and the bill be passed, notwithstanding the alleged opposition to the bill, notwithstanding even the further alleged objection that the trade “would go to New Jersey.” If the “trade” is an unqualified nuisance, it ought to go to —. But, in fact, all these assertions and the predictions of the manufacturers are without the slightest foundation. Thousands of cigar makers employed in tenement-shops have braved the displeasure of their “bosses,” and have participated in the demonstrations in favor of this bill.

As to shopkeepers and tenement-house owners, resolutions have been laid before us, passed by the various associations who are composed of these classes of our citizens who dwell right in the neighborhood, and these resolutions are positive protests against the audacious assertions of the manufacturers.

The great mass-meeting at Cooper Institute on February 27 was held under the auspices of the Central Committee of the House-Owners Societies and by the Cigar Makers' Societies. It is an unwarranted pretence on the part of the manufacturers that the opposition to the bill is made in the interest of the workmen, or the shop-keepers or the house-owners. The opposition is confined to the tenement house, cigar manufacturers, not the entire body of cigar manufacturers in New York City, comprising about two thousand firms, but only a small fraction thereof—some thirty firms, all told—who want to turn out goods “cheap,” and who are enabled by means of the tenement-house system to undersell their competitors.

It is a fact that the well-known firm of Straiton & Storm, and other highly respectable firms who were at one time engaged in tenement-house cigar manufacturing, withdrew from this line of business, not because they found it unprofitable, but because they found it an improper, immoral business, oppressive and degrading to the employees, a sort of slavery, humiliating to the slaves (the employees), and discreditable to the slaveholders (the employers). This small body come before us, assume the mask of philanthropists, who only want to see to it that *poor workmen are not interfered with in their opportunity of earning wages.*

They threaten dire vengeance to the agricultural interest of the State, the retail and tenement-house property of the city if their trade is interfered with. From their statement, it would seem that the prosperity of the whole city depended upon the fact that the trade in low grades of cigars is retained in New York City, and they say that New York City cannot retain the trade unless the tenement-house system is continued. The fact is, the trade in low grades of cigars was in the city long before the tenement-house system was introduced; that it will continue there as long as New York manufacturers retain a superior reputation, and as long as New York remains a superior market for tobacco and all other articles which are required in the manufacture of cigars. The only influence which this bill will have

upon the manufacturer, (and ought to have), is that it will take away the unreasonable profit which the manufacturer gains by *letting the workman pay him the rent for the factory.*

The tenement-house system is an evil, it is a public evil, to remedy which, the Legislature has the power and duty.

OBJECTIONS TO THE TENEMENT HOUSE SYSTEM.

ECONOMIC OBJECTIONS.

Whatever the origin of the system was, as now carried on it consists of this, that the manufacturer rents a large tenement-house, and then employs cigar makers to live in the house and make cigars there. He exacts a high rent for his apartments, which is deducted from the wages. The "boss" furnishes the material, and from 25 to 95 pounds of tobacco are continuously stored in the workmen's apartments—mostly small and dingy—generally consisting only of "room and bedroom," and these are filled with air impregnated with the emanations of the tobacco. Wages for the class of work which is made in these tenement shops are very low, and in order to earn enough to sustain life, the whole family has to work from early morning till late at night, Sundays and holidays. The children grow up without education or schooling, the laws designed to prevent the employment of children before the 14th year [Chap. 421, Laws of 1874; Chap. 372, Laws of 1875) cannot be enforced, the children grow up in the nauseating atmosphere of tobacco emanations, working day and night with their parents, and the policy of the State to secure education and healthful development of the body during the age of tender youth is set at naught.

As a further element of economic objection to the system can be mentioned the undoubted fact that the tenement-house shops contaminate their neighborhood. Tobacco stench permeates the whole house, and extends to the adjoining houses, the refuse from tobacco is strewn about, and the tenement-houses adjoining the tenement-shops are shunned by respectable tenants who love cleanliness. A further important objection to the

system on economic grounds, is the humiliating dependence from the employer to which the laborer is subjected. A laborer employed in a factory may leave it whenever he finds work which suits him better; and again, if the employer dismisses him, all he loses is his employment. Different is the situation of the tenement-house worker. The manufacturer is his "boss" and his landlord. If the laborer loses his employment, he loses his home at the same time, and if he wants to change his residence he cannot do so without giving up his employment. Some of the manufacturers understand it very well, to make use of their double relation to their employes. If the "boss" is dissatisfied with the workman, the landlord puts the tenant out, or gives him other poorer apartments, or increases the rent. If the landlord does not like the tenant, the "boss" can avenge him on the workman.

The tenement-house system contains the worst feature of that species of slavery which was practiced in some States under the guise of "the truck system," which has been condemned by every economist who wrote upon the subject, which the Legislatures of almost every State in which it has made its appearance has declared a misdemeanor, and which, if tolerated, would undoubtedly reduce our free citizen-laborer to a state of absolute serfdom. Yet the advocates of the truck system—that is, the rich and powerful corporations who profited by it—used precisely the same ingenious argument which the learned counsel for the cigar manufacturers used in the statement submitted to our consideration. Says the manufacturers' counsel:

"The manufacturer, hiring a number of houses, can do better for his workmen in the matter of rent than the workmen can do for themselves, if hiring separate apartments from the landlord. In the one case the landlord can afford to lease at wholesale to one *responsible* tenant cheaper than he can on the other hand, to single tenants, who are wholly irresponsible, and who, besides, are a source of expense in dispossessing, when they fail to pay the rent.

The powerful money corporations said we can buy victuals and the necessaries for our workmen at wholesale much cheaper than they can buy these for themselves, and we can deliver these to them at our store unadulterated, cheaper and better than our employees can buy their goods when they want them; we propose to sell them without profit, &c., &c. But what has experience proved these philanthropic arguments and promises to mean? Nothing less than by means of this system the laborer

becomes a slave, a chattel of the employing corporations, and the sovereign powers of the States in which this "philanthropy" had made its appearance, has crushed it out with fines and penalties.

HYGIENIC OBJECTIONS.

Great stress is laid by the manufacturers in their statement upon the report of the sanitary inspectors of the New York Health Department, made upon the subject of tenement-house cigar work in 1874.

This report the manufacturers claim as conclusive in favor of the tenement-house system, yet even this report contains this significant admission:

"What are the effects upon the non-workers, the children and infants, of exposure to the emanations of tobacco? A categorical answer to this question could only be given after a very long, searching and patient investigation, and the proper sifting of a large accumulation of statistics."

"For it is undeniable, that the number of children in the families of tobacco-workers is surprisingly small. In the 66 families, of which one of us took notes, as above-mentioned, there were only 70 children, or an average of a little over one to each married couple. And in the 148 families visited by the other, there were only 234 children, making an average of 1.58-100 to each married couple. When one considers the swarms of children that usually grow up in tenement-houses in the families of the laboring and artisan classes, paucity of offspring in a particular class becomes significant. In connection with the observations which were recorded in a report by one of us to the Board of Health last year upon cigar factories, might it not reasonably be considered this fact is corroborative of views therein expressed with regard to the effect of tobacco upon the vigor of the reproductive system."

Since this report was written six years have passed, and the effect of exposure to the emanations of tobacco on children and infants, and on adult males and females, has been investigated, and statistics upon the subject were collected and sifted and, the result is known to the scientific world. Dr. WILLARD PARKER, in the letter annexed to this statement pronounces the judgment of the medical science upon the effect of this system on the health of workmen and their families.

Dr. Tracy, one of the authors of the report annexed to the manufacturers' statement published last year, the result of his further researches, and an extract of his essay is in the appen-

dix. Other eminent physicians and statesmen have investigated the same subject in other countries, and the result of their work is collected in Kraus and Pickler's Medical Lexicon, an extract from which will be found in the Appendix. Physicians of experience in the City of New York, whose practice is within the very locality where tenement cigar shops are, have added their testimony as to the effect of this system on the adult and growing population. And the unanimous verdict of the scientists and physicians is, *that the tenement system means sickness to the workmen, unintermittent disease to the women and death to their offspring.*

THE MANUFACTURERS' OBJECTIONS TO THE BILL.

It is claimed that the bill is inconsistent because it exempts the apartments connected with a retail store from its operations. This is no inconsistency, the exemption is necessary in order to confine the cure to the evil. Cigars were made in the stores, and in the rear of stores where cigars were sold from time immemorial. No wholesale manufacture is carried on there, low grade cigars are not exclusively made, and generally it is the owner of the store who works in the rear of the shop, and is not the dwelling apartment of the family.

Another objection to the bill, which the manufacturers make, is that it does not embrace the whole State. But the answer to this is obvious. The evil being local, the remedy proposed is also local only.

A most important objection to the bill which the counsel of the manufacturers insinuates is, that the bill designs to interfere with private rights, and that it violates the constitution. This objection is not distinctly taken, and it would be very difficult for the opponents of the bill to SPECIFY any provision of the constitution which the proposed law advocates.

We have the absolute authority to regulate the manufacture of, and traffic in tobacco, and we can prescribe to what use property subject to the police authority of the State shall be put to, and there is no provision of the constitution which prohibits us from passing this bill if we determine there is a public necessity for it.

The authority of the Legislature to pass such laws has been used and recognized since the very foundation of the State. The courts have sanctioned this authority, and in the recent case

of Bertholp vs. O'Reilly, 74 New York Reports, 509, the Court of Appeals, has reaffirmed this proposition in most emphatic terms.

Not only is it our right, but it is a most important duty on our part to investigate public evils, and to remove their causes. If, as in this case, we find that a state of facts exist from which sickness, oppression and demoralization ensues, that the present generation and generations to come, have to suffer from this system, it is our duty to suppress it promptly.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

EDWARD GROSSE,

Member of Assembly, 10th Assembly District, New York City.

EXTRACT OF ENCYCLOPOEDIA OF STATE HYGENIE.

(*Kraus & Pichler, Vol. IV. p. 261.*)

By reason of the irritation caused by the acrid tobacco dust, and often on account of not keeping the genitals in a perfectly clean state, as well as on account of the bleuorrhœus of the uterus and the vagina, vegetations upon the genitals of women will frequently appear. They manifest themselves, according to the experience of Prof. Zeissl, as polypic or cellular formations consisting of connecting tissues, covered with more or less epidermis, and attaching epigenetically to the skin or mucous membrane. Kostial and Prof. Peters of Prague have also observed these vegetations, without further complications upon pregnant working women and even upon women in confinement.

Atrophy of the mammaries is a common complaint with women working in tobacco factories.

During the first six months 72 per cent. of the newly entering working women sicken from congestions of the brain, diseases of the nerves, precordial anguish, palpitation of the heart, anæmia, inflammation of the connecting tissues, general debility, insomnia, and loss of appetite.

Professor Schneider of Vienna has shown in these cases nicotine in the urine.

These symptoms are ascribed partly to the overcrowding of the rooms, partly to the poisoning by the air containing nicotin. Although one gets used to the influence of the tobacco odor, yet older working women show a yellow and white rim upon the gums, *caries* of the teeth, &c. According to Kostial's observations in the tobacco factories at Fuerstenfeld and Iglau, *caries* of the teeth appears frequently, he is, however, unable to say for certain whether this can be ascribed to the influence of the nicotin. Older working women exhibit often a white edge of the gums, dirty precipitates upon the teeth and tongue, and yellow complexion of the skin, which symptoms Erlenmeyer also points out upon smokers.

The constitution of cigar makers is by no means strong, which, however, seems to be caused in connection with other matters, which are not exclusively connected with this line of factory work. The manner of working, probably the continuous sitting posture at work, has a detrimental influence upon the muscles of the thorax, and causes deformities, and superinduces stoppages in the abdomen. Kostial says (*Wochenblatt d. k. k. Gesellschaft d. Aerzte in W.* 1868, No. 37): The working woman, especially one who enters in her youth, shows a special posture of the body; the continual sitting employment necessitates the curving of the body to the front; the growth of the thorax is retarded; curvatures of the spine are frequently formed by reason of the bones not being completely constituted; and almost every woman is lopsided on account of the almost continual manipulations of the right hand, its muscles being more developed than those of the much weaker left. Very frequently the new born babies of these working women sicken. The stooping and sitting occupation causes, by reason of the continual pressure of the abdominal press upon the uterus during pregnancy, interference with circulation, and therefore, without visible causes, premature contraction of the uterus, rupture of the decidua vessels in the first, severance of the placenta in the last-months of pregnancy (abortion and premature delivery), as well as congestions and hyperæmia of the brain and spinal marrow in the fœtus, and the continual inhalation of the nicotin even poisoning of the same.

The much surer cause of the sickening of the children, however, arises from the fact that the women mostly resume their work 3, 4 or six weeks after confinement, and by reason of the

INTOXICATION OF THEIR MILK, which accumulates during the 5 or 6 working hours, injure the tender organizations; hence most deaths occur from 2 to 4 months. Very frequently the children are taken with convulsions. Strong as well as tender babies, who previously were always healthy are so affected. The child has very little desire for the breast, even refusing to take it; it is subject to restless sleep, connected with moaning, and all at once, after being nursed with the milk, which has accumulated for hours and is saturated with nicotin, the disease appears so suddenly and intensely that it takes a fatal course without exception.

The sanitary precautions in tobacco factories, according to the instructive experience of Kostial, should consist in the following: Working women should not be accepted before the 15th year, they should move in the fresh air at least one hour after accomplishing their day's labor, so as to exhale the injurious substance; the workshops should be well ventilated, and kept very clean; the working woman after her labor is done should wash her hands and rinse her mouth; cleanliness, when possible, should be extended to the clothes, which should be sufficiently consistent, especially in winter, so as to counterbalance the sudden change of temperature upon leaving the workshops into the cold atmosphere; the workshops should be regularly heated to 10 degrees (R.) before working hours, since, although the atmosphere will be tempered by the animal heat, which is always emitted through breathing in large crowds congregating in closed rooms, this heat is injurious to the person, and is predicated upon the loss of animal power. The young working woman should never enter the factory with an empty stomach, since in that case she is most liable to cramps and algor, especially to diarrhea on account of the influence of the air, saturated with nicotin; women should not enter factories before the lapse of 6 weeks after their confinement, in their own and their children's interest. It is better to wean babies, and feed them with Liebig's baby soup—a simple substitute for mammary milk—so that they should not sicken and die by reason of intoxication with nicotin.

EXTRACT OF BUCK'S HYGIENE AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

Vol. II, p. 42.

By DR. TRACY.

That the occupation bears hardly upon the female sex is the universal observation. According to Kostial, out of 100 female cigar makers from 12 to 16 years of age, 72 fall sick within six months after beginning work.

They suffer from headaches, precordial anguish, palpitation, anemia, lassitude, insomnia, feverishness, and anorexia.

These are symptoms mainly of chlorannaemia, and Layet does not hesitate to attribute them to the effect of premature labor and the bad sanitary condition of their homes.

Kostial states that abortions are frequent among the women employed in tobacco factories, on account of the death of the fœtus, and Rulf has discovered nicotin in the amniotic fluid.

Heurtaux, Bondet, and Schneider have found this alkaloid in the urine, and Kostial affirms that the milk of nursing women has a strange odor of tobacco, although the presence of nicotin cannot be chemically demonstrated.

It has appeared to me, from observations made in cigar-factories and in dispensary practice, that sexual development is decidedly retarded in young girls who enter the factories before the sexual evolution has begun, and in an investigation made by Dr. N. B. Emerson and myself on the condition of the cigar-makers who worked at their trade at home in crowded tenements, we were very much surprised at the smallness of the families.

In the 124 families of which one of us took notes there were only 136 children, or an average of 1.09 to each couple, and in the 201 families visited by the other there were only 329 children, making an average of 1.63 to each married couple.

When we consider the swarms of children that usually grow up in tenement-houses, in the families of the laboring and artisan classes, the paucity of offspring in a particular class becomes significant.

The following are the figures we obtained:

No. houses visited.	No. of families.	No. of persons	Average to each family.
18	124	414	3.33
23	201	805	4.
	No. children.		Average to family.
	136		1.09
	329		1.63

One family was found in which there were seven children. This being so remarkable an exception to the general rule, the family history was inquired into, and it was ascertained that the parents had only worked at cigar-making four years, having previously been farmers, and having had the greater portion of their progeny while engaged in the latter occupation.

The cause of this lack of fecundity among cigar-makers was not investigated. The observations of Heurtaux and Kostial on the presence of nicotin in the fluids of the body suggest that it may be due to frequent miscarriages.

It would seem, then, that no special preventive measures are necessary in tobacco-factories, excepting perhaps to forbid the employment of children under puberty, and possibly of all females."

EVIDENCE.

New York, February 26, 1880.

While it is a physician's duty always to use his best endeavors to heal disease, it is his *highest* aim so to teach men and live as to *prevent* disease.

As a means to that end we would most heartily endorse the movement now being made to obtain legislation to prohibit the manufacture of cigars in the rooms of our tenement-houses.

The atmosphere of such rooms cannot fail to become *thoroughly poisoned* by the tobacco, and therefore most deleterious to the health of those who not only work, but sleep and live in it. We regard the movement as of vital sanitary importance, and hope that necessary legislative action will be taken.

DR. WILLARD PARKER,
41 E. 12th Street.

DR. LUDWIG BORRY,
39 7th Street.

DR. JOSEPH WIENER,
308 Second Ave.

FRANCIS SERR, M. D.,
Physician of the German Dispensary,
N. Y. City.

I, J. R. GRANGET, M. D., of the city of New York, and graduate of the University of the City of New York, having attended in different institutions over 14,000 children, do hereby certify that the continued inhalations of tobacco dust, and more especially in young children living in the tenement-house factories cause first indigestion, which produces emaciation and general debility, causing serious nervous disorders. It irritates and influences the mucus membranes of nose, mouth and bronchial tubes, causing diseases which are difficult to treat successfully while under its influences, laying the corner-stone of consumption. It gives rise to a very troublesome form of ophthalmia and nervous derangement of the heart. It is my opinion that the manufactory should be in a building separate from that used as a dwelling, and that by so doing there is no doubt that a great deal of suffering and sickness will be prevented.

J. R. GRANGET, M. D.

360 E. Fourth St., New York City.

Subscribed and sworn
to before me, this
16th day of Febr'y,
1880.

CHAS. GOLDZIER,
Notary Public,
New York.

NEW YORK, February 3, 1880.

HON. EDWARD GROSSE:

Dear Sir:

I have carefully read a proposed act, entitled "An act to improve the public health in the city of New York, and the city of Brooklyn, by regulating the manufacturing of cigars in tenement-houses of said cities."

I have had much experience in practicing among cigar-makers and their families, and have found reason to believe that the practice of manufacturing cigars in apartments used also as residence is detrimental to the health of all occupants.

I am, respectfully yours,

N. S. ROBERTS, M. D.

218 E. B'way.

HON. EDWARD GROSSE,

Member of Assembly.

The undersigned is a regular physician, and has for a great number of years practiced in the very districts of New York city where the manufacturing of cigars in tenement-houses is especially prevailing. Microscopical investigations and diseases arising from inhalation of dust (Pneumono koniosis) being specialties of mine, I consider myself fully competent to speak as an expert on the question whether the manufacturing of cigars in rooms which at the same time are used for dwelling purposes is an evil whose abolition would improve the public health.

I most emphatically condemn said practice and say that it continually instils poison into thousands of persons, ruins their health, and shortens their life in an unusual proportion.

The diseases which said practice especially engenders are 1, bronchial catarrh; 2, emphysem of the lungs; 3, pneumonia; 4, chronic inflammation of the lungs; 5, cirrhosis of the lungs; 6, phthisis (consumption); 7, various diseases of the nervous system.

I have observed and treated a great many cigars maker suffering from the above diseases. When any cigar maker has contracted such a disease, it is almost impossible to cure him, unless he moves to some room which is not filled with tobacco dust and not impregnated with tobacco odor. It is, however, extremely difficult for a physician to cause such sick persons to leave their rooms—nay, it is even usually a hard task to prevent the other members of the family from working during the sickness of their relative. They live from hand to mouth, and, of course, stopping work, means for them deprivation from the dire necessities of life. Not long ago I treated the wife of a cigar maker, residing in No. 191 Eldridge Street, who suffered from bronchitis. I commanded the husband to stop work. He hesitatingly yielded. After a while the woman began to recover; but as soon as she ceased coughing, the husband resumed work, and the consequence was that the woman had a relapse. Even while the husband did not work, and the woman therefore did not inhale tobacco dust, she emitted large quantities of brownish slime. During all this time the husband had to pay rent to his employer, though he did not earn anything from him.

I have read the report of Inspectors Tracy and Emerson to the Board of Health, have examined it thoroughly, and feel constrained to say that it does not describe the facts as they really are. Every honest physician who practices among cigar makers working in tenement-houses will agree with me when I say that said inspectors must have at least been deceived by the manufacturers. The rooms visited by them had evidently been fixed up for the occasion. But aside from this important circumstance, the observations of the inspectors were not at all correct. When speaking of the average air space allotted to each person in a room, which I consider to be by far insufficient, they forgot to state that the air in said rooms is impure, that in cold weather ventilation is prevented, because the opening of the windows would necessitate a greater outlay for fuel, that the impure air must be inhaled day and night, while in the factory it is inhaled for but ten hours a day, and that children and women are likewise compelled to constantly inhale the nicotinic atmosphere.

As to the cleanliness of the rooms of cigar makers, the inspectors' report does not at all agree with my personal experience. When I enter the room of such a cigar maker, I usually do not know where to put my hat and overcoat, if I will not put them upon a layer of tobacco dust, and my lung and nose I would rather leave in the street. Very often the rooms are so crowded with boxes that a man finds it difficult to move from the window to the door. The meals are usually served on the same table on which the cigars are manufactured, and not unfrequently I saw children and adult persons sleep on said table.

When the inspectors said that they found in said tenement-houses quite as many rosy and plump children as in other tenement-houses, they either said something which they knew not to be true, or they have been the victims of deceitful manufacturers. It is a well-known fact that there is a great paucity of offspring among cigar makers, that they have very few children, and that these are usually puny and sickly. I have also a great practice among the Italians on the west side of the city—a class of laborers who come from a mild clime, who are even worse fed and not better housed than the tenement-house cigar makers, and yet said Italiens are much less subjected to lung, throat and nerve diseases, have a much stronger procreative power, and their numerous children are by far healthier, than those of the tenement-house cigar makers.

In regard to your bill I am of opinion that its passage will be a great benefit to our community. The State very properly regulates the sale of poison by law; it should undoubtedly also protect the working people from infecting their dwelling rooms with poison. The cigar tenement-house system injures thousand of persons, and benefits nobody, save about thirty avaricious employers.

Very Respectfully,

J. HOFFMANN, M. D.,
116 Second Avenue, N. Y.

NEW YORK, 1st of February, 1880.

To Hon. EDWARD GROSSE,
Member of the Assembly.

Dear Sir:

In answer to your invitation of the 29th ult. I have to say that I fully agree with your ideas in regard to the pernicious influence of the manufacture of cigars in tenement-houses. In case your bill becomes a law, a great sanitary evil, while it may not be fully eradicated, will at least be rendered harmless in its most serious effects. That the system is a crying evil, which ought to be immediately abolished, is admitted by all who are acquainted with the system, especially by physicians, who are most competent to judge in this case.

The tenement-house system, which forces the laborer to inhale an atmosphere pregnant with tobacco dust—no matter whether he is working or resting—is, above all other things, the cause of the unhealthy condition of the laborer and his family, the high death-rate, and especially pulmonary consumption and tuberculosis, so frequently met with in that class of laborers. Wherever the father manufactures cigars at home he is eagerly assisted by his wife and children, and all whose misfortune it may be to share his abode of misery. No time at all, or at least not nearly sufficient time, is devoted to the performance of household duties, the care of children, and the preparation of nutritious food. The unavoidable consequences are: rooms and children teeming with filth, and meals composed of very little meat and cheese, but a great deal of lager-bier, which, while they satisfy momentarily, they do not nourish the body.

But besides this evil, on account of the existence of which thousands of laborer's lives are sacrificed annually, the cigar which is manufactured in houses in which there are children suffering from scarlet fever, small-pox, and tiphtheria, surely becomes, in my opinion, the carrier of the infectious poisons into the family of the consumer. I myself have seen how, in a house where there were 2 or 3 small-pox patients, cigars were still being made even in the same room, until the Board of Health interfered and put an end to the nuisance. I have come across women only a few days after confinement, and while still in bed, and suffering from diphtheria, from which they had only partially recovered, busy with the manufacture of cigars.

The abolition of such an evil is simply a duty of humanity. The opinion that a reform of the present system would injure the laborer is unreasonable. Should the proposed reform, become law, as every human man ought to wish and hope for, the laborer will not receive a less share of work to perform because no less cigars will be smoked thereafter than heretofore, but the employer will be forced to let the laborer work under conditions worthy of a human being.

In striving to attain this end, every man of honor ought to aid you.

Respectfully, yours,

Dr. F. A. MULLER,

110 First Street,

N. Y. City.

NEW YORK, February 20, 1880.

There can be only one answer for the physician to the question of cigar-making in tenement-houses as practiced in New York city; and that is, that it is detrimental to the health of all the occupants of such factory houses. The atmosphere of tenement-houses not used as cigar factories is, as a general rule detrimental to the health of its occupants, how much more so must it be when used as a cigar factory? There an average of 4 to 5 persons living in a small room and bedroom, and are compelled to inhale the dust of the tobacco from one end of the year to the other. Cigar making is conducive to lung diseases, under the best of surroundings, from the inhalation of tobacco dust. In factories the workmen and women are likewise compelled to inhale the dust, but it is only for 9 or 10 hours daily during work-days only. They sleep at least in an atmosphere not contaminat-

ed with the tobacco dust. In my practice among the families of tenement-house cigar makers I find more diseases of the throat and lung than otherwise. The mortality in said houses is about 20% more than among my other tenement-house patients. From a social and moral standpoint a great many arguments might be brought forth against the tenement-house work, but I will leave that to others better able to handle those questions.

WILLIAM BALSER, M. D.,
218 E. 13th Street.

HON. EDWARD GROSSE :

Dear Sir!

I have read the proposed Act to regulate the manufacture of cigars in tenement-houses of this city and Brooklyn.

I am in hearty sympathy with the act, and hope it will become a law. For years I have had a large practice among cigar makers, and have constantly observed the baneful influences of tobacco business as carried on in dwellings.

Catarrhal and pulmonary affections are greatly aggravated by tobacco dust, consequent upon cigar making. In the heated term we have observed the great mortality of children in these houses from cholera infantum and other intestinal complaints.

The practice is suicidal to the business itself, and degrading to the employees—men, women and children.

I see no reasonable argument in its favor, but a long list of sins against it, and its abatement should be speedy and at once.

I remain, sir,

Very respectfully, &c.,

IRA M. LANG, M. D.

294 East Broadway.

NEW YORK, February, 1880.

The common and prevailing habit in many parts of this city, of using rooms in which they live, for business purposes on the part of very many of our citizens—especially the storage of tobacco, the manufacture of cigars, and parents as well as children are engaged in the same in closely confined rooms, where they eat, sleep, and constantly are breathing an impure air—cannot be too highly condemned, and I endorse most fully any legislative action whereby the same may be prohibited.

DR. R. A. BARRY,

233 East 13th Street, bet. 2d and 3d Aves.

NEW YORK, February 27, 1880.

If the question is to be considered from the standpoint of the physician, then there is nothing more injurious to health, nothing more in conflict with the sanitary laws of the civilized world, than the manufacture of cigars in tenement-houses. The Board of Health of this city, who years ago took an opposite standpoint on the subject, deserves to be censured in the severest manner. The most superfluous observer must admit that the influence of the continuous inhalation of tobacco dust is dangerous to health.

The system of work, as conducted at present, results in the loss of many lives, and it is the duty of every physician to urge upon the authorities to take the necessary steps which will remedy the evil. The physician performs the same duty as the press, in promoting every movement calculated to benefit humanity.

As a rule, with very few exceptions, the family life in these tenement-houses is an unhappy one. They are completely demoralized, because they do not know the difference between the workshop and the dwelling.

Is there any possibility, that under these circumstances the children can be educated?

I hope that success will crown the efforts of this movement, and in this country of liberty, the workman should not be reduced to the same slavery to which he has been subjected in Germany and Bohemia.

I remain, very respectfully,

C. SCHOENEMAN, M. D.,

123 Second avenue.

HON. EDWARD GROSSE, Member of Assembly :

In answer to your enquiry as to the effects of tenement-house cigar manufacturing, I would beg leave to state that in my opinion it is in the highest degree prejudicial to those concerned in that occupation so carried on, tending to produce lung and throat troubles of an exceedingly intractable character beside functional heart and nervous affections. This opinion I have on the personal experience with the wives and children of patients of an insane asylum, with which I was at one time connected; [1874, 1878.]

Very respectfully,

JAMES G. KIERNAN,

Late Vice-President of the N. Y. Neurological Society.

NEW YORK, February, 1880.

I consider that the poisonous and noxious odors and dust of tobacco, especially of the inferior kind, such as is commonly used in tenement-houses, to convert into cigars, is injurious to the whole respiratory tract, and as the mucous membrane of the nose, throat, pharynx, larynx, trachea, and bronchial tubes of the lung, and gives rise to incurable complaints of the throat and lungs, as well as catarrh of the head. When it is considered that in some instances as many as twenty families reside in one house, each family occupying a small room and bedroom, and such families consisting of at least two persons, and often of as many as 10 and even 14, and that every member of that family, female as well as male, from the child who is 9 or 10 years old—and who must, at that early age, “strip” tobacco—to the old grandmother and grandfather, and that they work all day, and a great part of the night, it is readily seen how deleterious such labor and atmosphere necessarily must be. When one contemplates that young infants who nurse at their mother’s breast are forced to inhale the deathly fumes of the most vile tobacco, which would make an adult sick were he to smoke it, until he became thoroughly “saturated” with the nicotine contained therein, it is truly shocking.

Very sincerely yours,

M. J. B. MESSEMER, M. D.

Surgeon 5th Regt. Inf. N. G. S. N. Y., and Physician for Internal and Nervous Diseases of the Mount Sinai Hospital.

City and County of New York, ss.

Geo. C. Stiebeling, being duly sworn says: That he is a graduate of the University of Marburg in Germany and a member of the county Medical Society of New York County; that he is a practicing physician in the city of New York, and has been such during the last 25 years. That his practice is largely among the tenement house population of the 10th, 11th and 17th Wards of said city. That he has a thorough knowledge of the sanitary condition of said tenement houses and their inhabitants. That he has read the Report of Sanitary Inspectors Nath’l B. Emerson, M. D., and Roger S. Tracy, M. D., to the Health Department of the city of New York about certain factories and tenement houses in which cigars were manufactured at the time when said report was published, and that he had

then already condemned in a public print the opinions expressed by said Sanitary Inspectors as being mostly false and incorrect, and that in the course of late years by experience he has been convinced more and more of the truth of his condemnatory verdict. That the sanitary condition is even in the best of them not a good one, but is the worst in those of said houses in which the manufacture of cigars is carried on in rooms which are at the same time used for dwelling purposes. That mortality and morbidity among the inhabitants of said last mentioned tenement-houses is by far greater than among the inhabitants of tenement-houses which are used for dwelling purposes only. That the prohibition of the manufacture of cigars in tenement-houses would in deponent's opinion, be one of the greatest benefits which the Legislature could bestow on the city of New York, and that he sincerely hopes that in the interest of many thousands of cigar makers, who by comparatively a few men are subjected to the degrading influences of the tenement-house system, the Legislature will enact Assembly Bill No. 111.

GEORGE C. STIEBELING, M. D.

Sworn to before me this 7th }
day of February, 1880. }

HENRY WEHLE,
Commissioner of Deeds,
New York City.

— — — — —
NEW YORK, February 25, 1880.

I find from my experience among patients who are in the tobacco trade almost daily evidence of Nicotinism; of course where a number of people are huddled together daily breathing the evaporations and germs of the tobacco leaf, and also of their neighbors, it must be very productive of sickness.

Very respectfully,

J. GOODMAN, M. D.,
220 W. 35th Street.

— — — — —
NEW YORK, February 25, 1880.

My opinion in the case of persons living and sleeping in the apartments where cigars are manufactured, is that it is injurious to health.

THOMAS C. FINNELL, M. D.
132 West Houston Street.

NEW YORK, February 20, 1880.

This is to certify that I consider the dust arising from the manufacture of cigars according to the tenement-house system highly injurious to health when carried on in houses which are used for living purposes, and especially when so many as twenty families carry on the business in one house ; where there are a number of persons crowded in one or two rooms, tobacco dust added to bad ventilation is highly injurious to health, and is apt to produce chronic diseases. Yours,

DR. T. F. GOODWIN,
111 E. 86th Street.

NEW YORK, February 26, 1880.

I have frequently witnessed the manufacture of cigars in tenement dwellings that served at the same time for habitations of large families, and do not hesitate to pronounce it a practice that cannot but bring with it, from a sanitary point of view, very injurious consequences, more especially to children.

GEO. M. SCHWEIG, M. D.,
331 E. 52d Street.

NEW YORK, February 25, 1880.

To whomsoever concerned:

The subject of the deleterious influences of cigar manufacture in the confined apartments of tenement houses is one which has attracted almost universal attention and discussion, particularly, among the medical profession, and the unfortunates subjected to the apparent necessity of such a vocation. It is undoubtedly most unwholesome and jeopardizing to the health and wellbeing of all, who are surrounded by its influences.

The manufacture of tobacco and cigars should be confined to factories expressly arranged for the work, and withdrawn from all domestic households.

The vicissitudes and embarrassments of tenement-house livelihood, under the most favorable circumstances, are unwholesome, and all other deleterious influences should be avoided for safety.

Respectfully,

DR. WALTER M. FLEMMING,
64 West 36th Street.

NEW YORK, February 20, 1880.

That overcrowding in tenement-houses is deleterious to health, all, whether laymen or physicians, are forced to admit; but, if added to this, as prevails in our tenements occupied by workers in tobacco, the inhalation of dust-laden air, and the presence of noxious and ill-smelling gases, these baneful influences must necessarily be greatly increased. The remedy for these evils is of course the stoppage of the cause, the doing away with such tenements used for such purposes.

E. SANDERS, M. D.,

10 E. 80th Street.

REPORT OF A BENEVOLENT SOCIETY ON THE EFFECT OF THE TENEMENT-
HOUSE SYSTEM.

The New York Cigar Maker's Society, an incorporated body of 700 cigar makers and other citizens formerly employed in the cigar trade, has caused an investigation among its members, for the purpose of ascertaining the state of physical health among those employed in the Tenement-House Factories. The condition of those who changed their former occupation, and those who are still working in the cigar trade, but have not become yet victims of the system of tenement labor, ought to be compared with the persons employed in tenement-factories in order to arrive at an intelligent understanding of the question.

A principal cause of this investigation was the painful fact that sickness and mortality have increased to such an extent that the very existence of the Society was at stake, if no means could be found to check the evil.

The Committee on Investigation ascertained that the health of those members who abandoned the trade of cigar making, and those who worked in legitimate and proper factories and stores, could be favorably compared with the general health and mortality of the city, as shown by the tables of vital statistics, published by the Board of Health.

The physical condition of those members doomed to work, sleep, and live with their families in a small room and bedroom, half filled with tobacco of the lowest grade, has grown from bad to worse. The dust filling the room, caused by preparing dry tobacco for the purpose of turning it into cigars, and the space needed for the moulds and machinery, have added largely to the unhealthy influences with which the inhabitants are surrounded.

A careful investigation of the sick list developed the fact that *an additional amount of 40 per cent.* of the funds set aside to support the sick and bury the dead has to be paid for those members working in tenement-house factories.

The only means to check this evil, and save the Society from total destruction, and perpetuate the blessings of this support to coming generations, is a restriction of this system of work, as intended by the bill now before the Legislature, entitled "An Act to improve the public health in the City of New York and the City of Brooklyn, by regulating the manufacture of cigars in the tenement-houses of said cities."

This Society, which supports the men only, and in case of death buries the women, could take no evidence from the books as to the influence of the fumes and dust of tobacco upon the children. The report of the Committee of Investigation, however, shows that they found the germ of sickness impressed upon nearly all such little ones who for any length of time have been surrounded by this baneful and poisonous influences.

At a meeting of the House Owners Association of the 10th, 11th, and 17th Wards, held at Concordia Hall, on the 5th day of February, 1880, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, an experience of many years has proven that the manufacture of cigars in tenement-houses is a source of sickness and annoyance to the workman and tenants, and their families who occupy said houses; and also to neighboring houses,

WHEREAS, the tenement-house system, so called, tends to deprive the workmen who may be compelled by necessity to occupy apartments in the tenement-houses of the liberty to choose houses for themselves and their families according to their tastes and desires;

WHEREAS, the said system has the tendency to reduce to the smallest minimum the home comfort of the workmen, so that workmen who under ordinary circumstances would occupy with their families suits of rooms, a floor or half a floor, in an ordinary tenement-house, now occupy only room and bedroom or other limited apartments in a "tenement cigar factory;" Be it therefore,

RESOLVED, That the tenement-house cigar factories are vicious and injurious to the whole body politic, and especially dangerous

to the health, comfort, and enjoyment of full liberty of the cigar makers who are compelled by necessity to work therein, and also injurious to the house owners and taxpayers;

RESOLVED, That the bill introduced in the Assembly by the Hon. Edward Grosse, representative of the 10th Assembly District, for the suppression of these "tenement-house factories," is a public necessity, and also required to protect the interests of this Association, and we earnestly beseech the Legislature to pass the same;

RESOLVED, That copies of these resolutions be sent to the Hon. Edward Grosse, member of Assembly for the 10th District, and also to the other members of the Legislature.

CHARLES WELTZ, Chairman.

FREDERICK STAEBLE, Secretary.

NEW YORK CITY, January 31, 1880.

Hon. E. GROSSE, Assembly Chamber,
Albany, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

I heartily approve of your bill against the cigar tenement-house system. I know from my own personal observation the effects of this system to be highly injurious to the health and morals of the wives and children of the workingmen compelled to work in said houses. In all my wanderings in said houses, and they were numerous, I have not seen one healthy person who had been subjected to said system for any length of time. The system very soon shows its injurious effects upon the health of any person who is compelled to live and sleep in rooms where cigars are manufactured. I sincerely hope that your efforts to abolish such system, at least to the extent of your bill, will succeed, because it is my firm conviction that the enactment of the bill will be beneficial to many thousands of workingmen, and especially to their wives and children, and thereby will bring about a great improvement on the east side of the city.

If I were not confined to my room by sickness, I would be very glad to debate the subject before the Committee.

I am, sir, very Respectfully,

Your obedient servant.

CHAS. ERNEST BERGER,

Minister of the Gospel,

late Chaplain U. S. A.

312 Sixth Street.

At a meeting of the German-American Citizens Association of the 10th Assembly District of the city of New York, held on the 7th day of February, 1880, the following resolutions were passed:

WHEREAS, the Honorable Edward Grosse, the representative of this District, in the Assembly of the State of New York, has introduced in the Assembly a bill designed to suppress the manufacturing of cigars in tenement-houses in New York and Brooklyn;

WHEREAS, a large proportion of these tenement-house cigar factories are situated in this district, and are known to be an unmitigated nuisance, injurious to the health of the workmen and their families, who may be compelled by necessity to work therein, and who have invariably to pay excessive rent for the unhealthy apartments which they occupy, annoying to their tenants and neighboring houses, degrading to the community, and dangerous to the liberties of the workingman.

RESOLVED, That in calling the attention of the Legislature to this public nuisance and dangerous evil, our representative has faithfully performed his duty to his constituents; that we demand of him the continuance of his efforts to rid our people of the obnoxious nuisance; that we beseech the Legislature to institute a full inquiry into this subject; that such inquiry will satisfy the Legislature that justice, public morals, public interest, and public policy require that the said bill should become law.

EDWARD J. TAMSEN, Chairman.

LOUIS FINKE, Secretary.

To the Honorable, the Assembly of the State of New York.

At the last regular meeting of the Taxpayer's Central Committee of New York City, held February 16th, 1880, at their rooms, No. 340 Third Avenue, New York, the following resolution was discussed and adopted, and the undersigned directed to submit the same to your Honorable Body for consideration.

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill No. 76 (iii) entitled "An act to improve public health in the city of New York and the city of Brooklyn, by regulating the manufacturing of cigars in the tenement-houses of said cities," in substance provides that no tobacco shall be prepared or cigars made in any of the tenement-houses in said cities, and

WHEREAS, in New York city there are numerous dwellings or tenement-houses in which reside many families who devote

themselves exclusively to the preparation of tobacco and manufacturing cigars therein, and

WHEREAS, this mode of manufacturing cigars is very objectionable in that, that it tends to prevent children from obtaining proper schooling, and is deleterious to health, because the whole family are constantly surrounded by tobacco, and in its flavors day and night are likely to become diseased; and the smell of the tobacco impregnates the walls, furniture, etc., of the rooms, thus generating all manner of contagious and other diseases; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Taxpayer's Central Committee of New York city heartily endorse the provisions of said bill, and respectfully petition your Honorable Body to take favorable action upon the same, and we request its early passage.

Dated New York City, February 23d, 1880.

Respectfully,

WM. F. PITSHKE,
Cor. Secretary.

CHAS. J. NEHRBAS,
President.
GEO. KOPLIK, Secretary.

The following letter was addressed to the mass-meeting held at Cooper Institute, February 27, 1880:

MURRAY HILL, February 26, 1880.

MY DEAR SIR:

I regret that it will not be in my power to be present at your meeting this evening, to express my strong sympathy in the objects, which seem to me worthy of all success.

Yours truly,

PARKE GODWIN,

19 East 37th Street.

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