

The Finance Committee are making their appeal entirely at their own personal expense, and, what is more, are giving up their time.

We really think the association merits at the hands of the trade a general support from all parts of the United Kingdom. It also merits the substantial support of our wealthy manufacturers. From £600 to £700 is sufficient to endow a pension, and there are some amongst us who write a cheque for that amount daily. If, say, our Irish friends would found a 'Tom Gallaher' pension, a spirit of emulation might be developed, which would bring much gold to the association's coffers.

But joking apart—and we are not quite joking—Mr. Jas. Quinton, the honorary collector to the association, will receive any subscriptions or donations at 17, Finsbury Pavement, London, E.C.

THE 'LANCET'S' REPORT.

WE reprint from the *Lancet* a report on Egyptian cigarettes made to that journal by its Analytical Sanitary Commission. Five well-known brands have been examined, and they are all reported to be made of genuine tobacco, free from foreign substances.* The Commissioners advise smokers it is safer to avoid Salook tobacco, lest their throats may be affected by its use; but their analyses do not enable them to assert or deny the presence of Salook in the cigarettes they examined. It is satisfactory that the charge made against cigarette manufacturers in Egypt, of adding an injurious foreign substance, has been disproved, and, in fact, we may well believe that the more important manufactories in Cairo and Alexandria are conducted with as much care as our best English factories. We pointed this out in a recent article, when we recommended the selection of the productions of manufacturers of repute, either in Egypt or England, in preference to cheaper rubbish.

No doubt the stir that has been made will have a beneficial effect on all cigarette manufacturers, as they will be led to avoid those species of tobacco the smoking of which is positively harmful.

We note that the stamp of imitation gold on the cigarette paper is alluded to by the Commissioners, but they say that the presence of copper in this form is without significance.

MR. E. L. ARNOLD ON BRITISH TOBACCO.

In the 'Nineteenth Century' for October, Mr. Edwin Lester Arnold writes hopefully on the subject of 'The future of English tobacco.' His conclusion is that 'in spite of recent condemnations,' the cultivation of tobacco in this country is not only 'a possibility, but, more than that, a certainty of the future.' We do not quite agree with Mr. Arnold, and we submit that the obstacles in the way of success are rather formidable. There are reasons, says Mr. Arnold, under three headings which pessimists may urge against the likelihood, and the expediency, if attainable, of this result. The first of these is the unsuitableness of our climate, with resultant difficulties of cultivation and manufacture; the second is the loss of national revenue and the discarding of some £9,000,000 of hard cash, a sum which no Chancellor of the Exchequer likes to lop at one blow from our yearly income; and, lastly, the thin small voice of conscience as embodied by the Anti-tobacco League, and some pricks of sensitiveness as to whether we are wise, from a public point of view, in cheapening the rough material and bringing it to the doors of our consumers, and especially those humble consumers

* From the description of the analyses we may fairly presume that the investigation was thorough, and that had there been present but the smallest quantity of opium or an 'unclassified alkaloid,' it could not have escaped detection.

who would unquestionably most suffer or gain by the new industry and its results. To every one of these the writer thinks a satisfactory answer can be given 'with a resultant argument that the time is now here when the Government should lift its embargo from a great industry, and cease to regard this delightful plant—the gift of the gods to high-strung humanity—as the Upas-tree of agriculture.' If it were probable, argues Mr. Arnold, that the tobacco plant in any of its varieties would not obtain robust maturity in these islands, 'we should at once capitulate to the views of the anti-smokers, and concede the fact that the cultivation was not advisable on English soil.' Mr. Arnold by historical reference proves that in years gone past tobacco was cultivated in this country, and even in Ireland and Scotland, and what can be done in the last century can, he thinks, be done now. We do not deny it. Recent experiments, he stoutly maintains, establish the feasibility of the experiment. He then shows that if it succeeded there need be no loss of revenue to the country. In Belgium, he shows, 'whence we are destined to learn many hints, the authorities make a very good thing of tobacco, and exact a tax of two centimes on every standing plant ready for harvesting—after making a liberal deduction for a worthless one—which fills their coffers, and is in itself eloquent of the profits of the plant; since it could not be borne by any other European crop of like nature. Elsewhere 'over seas,' in Holland, Hungary, Germany, and France, the process of taxation is slightly different, the whole out-turn of a harvest, with military despotism, being gathered into municipal warehouses, the officials receiving it and returning to the growers a fixed more or less liberal price. This arrangement would assuredly not commend itself to the independent proclivities of the British yeoman. For his benefit there might be three practical courses, as lately suggested by Lord Harris in the House of Lords. Of these, the first was the Belgian one of a cess upon the standing crop, his lordship suggesting some difficulties here on account of the varying number of plants per acre. The next plan might be an ordinary agricultural acreage tax, which would simply fine a man according to the extent of land he registered his intention of devoting to tobacco. Against this (and drawbacks in such considerations are always of importance) it must be remembered that, as the profits of tobacco are very large, the capitation would have to be so also; the cottar might be utterly unable—our peasantry are, alas! nothing like so frugal as their European neighbours—to lay down the required tax without pawning himself and his household, and tempting the hazard of the die upon one cast in a way which no social economist should encourage for a moment. Another method of saving the £9,000,000 to the government would probably be in a tax on the commercial article equitable to growers and satisfactory to financiers. All this is very well—on paper.

NINTH ANNUAL DISTRIBUTION ISSUE OF 'TOBACCO.'

For the ninth time we propose to circulate freely amongst non-subscribers a copy of the December issue of this journal. We hope that this will be the means of inducing many who do not now do so to take in *Tobacco* regularly. We shall be very pleased to send an extra copy or two of the December number to any of our old subscribers who will be good enough to show them to their friends.

SALES BY AUCTION.—At Messrs. Grant, Chambers and Co.'s public sale, on October 18, the greater part of 334 bales Japan leaf was sold at prices from 3½d. to 7d.; country damaged ditto, 2½d.; 83 bales Java from 4d. to 7d.; country damaged ditto, 2½d.; 2 bales Turkey, 3½d.; 166 bales Mexican leaf, 4d. to 2s. 5d.; 40 serons Palmyra leaf, 6½d. to 9d.; 15 bales Havana leaf, 2d. to 3½d.; 12 hhds. Ohio, 4½d. to 5d.; 5 cases stripped seed, 6d.

In due time we reached our destination, and, after we had breakfasted, my friend rather surprised me by stating that he was off to Kimberley.

'But I thought you were going to return to Durban with me?' I answered.

'Such was my intention,' he replied; 'but I have received word to go to Kimberley, so I'm sorry, my boy, but we must part here.'

I saw him off by the Kimberley coach, and I turned my face homewards to Durban, where, after settling up the details of my trip, and finding that if I had sold about ten tons more tobacco I might have cleared the expenses of the journey, I settled down to making up 1 oz. packets of bird's eye, in which mild occupation we 'travellers in the tropics' justify our existence when at home and under the eye of the boss.

A few months passed away, when, one night being out for a walk, I was suddenly overcome by a big thirst, and, going into our leading hotel for a modest drink, judge of my astonishment on seeing my old German friend sitting at the bar surrounded by companions, with whom he was drinking champagne.

'Hallo!' I thought, 'he seems in form; I wonder what he's been up to?' Approaching, I was at once recognised, and, after the first greetings were over, was invited to drink with him, to which I, nothing loth, consented. In the intervals of conversation I ventured to hint that he seemed to be having a good time of it, 'by which, I suppose, I may guess that you have had a good trip this time?'

'Trip, be hanged!' he answered; 'I've given that sort of thing up; the next trip I'm going to take is a pleasure one to the old country. I've been a bit lucky in a gold speculation, and now I mean to enjoy myself; and, by the way he called for champagne, he seemed to be going about it pretty expensively.'

Well, to make a long story short, after we had spent a very pleasant evening, we parted with a promise on my part to dine with him next night. But I didn't! for the very next morning, a friend who was present on the previous evening came into the store, and, whilst I sat as one petrified, he told me how the German had entertained the company when I had left with an account of how he had got the better of me in the Transvaal.

It appeared that the Dutchman, imagining his farm to be a gold-bearing property had given him the refusal of the floating of it, whilst I, unable to understand a word of what they were talking about, was laying in the very next room. He had accepted the proposals, and had there and then jotted down in his pocket-book the heads of an agreement between them. Hurrying off to Kimberley, with the help of some speculators, he in a very short time managed to float a company for £60,000 in shares, which were at that moment selling freely at goodness only knows what premium.

I was crushed! and for the rest of that day my feelings were decidedly suicidally inclined. Time has softened the blow a little, and I have felt better since I heard the other day that the German is drinking himself to death.

And now, Mr. Editor, for my moral—but it seems so obvious, that there is scarce need for me to draw it; but for fear that there should be any travellers as obtuse as myself—and it is soothing to my feelings to think that perhaps there are some—I will give them the benefit of it, and it is this: when on the road try to be conversant with the language of the people amongst whom you travel, and never think that you are qualified to 'work' the globe from China to Peru because you are able to get round an hotel-keeper with, 'mine's a large bottle of Bass; what's yours?'

I am, yours truly,
VICTOR ROBINSON.

Durban, Natal,
South Africa.

THE Levant cigarette manufactory have been awarded the only gold medal for cigarettes at the Brussels Exhibition, 1888.

A TOBACCO HUNGRY INDIAN.—In the Indian territory you never meet an Indian on the road in the Indian nations, but your native quietly and suddenly emerges from the tall grass or brush of the wayside, stands on the highway in front of you and says, 'How?' You tell him you are well, and he says, 'Whisky.' When he is informed that you are out of that drug, he puts to you the single word, interrogatively, 'Bacco?' You hand him your plug, expecting him to cut off a small corner, and in a second the whole plug disappears between his molars in his capacious mouth. My Indian host, who spoke fair English, advised me to cut the remaining plugs I had into small pieces, and give only one piece at a time. Six different times between Muskogee and Ocmulgee, in the Creek country, at places a quarter of a mile apart, did the same Indian spring out of the grass on the road in front of me and greet me with a friendly 'How?' He had cut a circuit in the grass each time to come out ahead of me, and he used slight disguises of dress, thinking that I did not recognise him as the man who got the first chunk of tobacco. But I made him run about eight miles for about a plug and a half of tobacco.—G. A. Schmidt, in *Globe-Democrat*.

REPORT OF THE LANCET ANALYTICAL SANITARY COMMISSION ON EGYPTIAN CIGARETTES.

FOR some time past stories have been in circulation in regard to the noxious effects produced by the smoking of Egyptian cigarettes. These have been intensified by a letter which lately appeared in a morning contemporary, under the signature 'Medicus,' and by the correspondence which followed upon it. The authority of 'Medicus' was promptly impeached by the officers of the hospital from which his letter was dated. The interesting letter from our Cairo correspondent, which we printed on September 29, showed the utter improbability of some of the statements made, not only by 'Medicus,' but by several writers who followed him. Nevertheless, the practice of cigarette-smoking has increased so much of late, and cigarettes imported from Egypt have become so popular, that we thought it right to undertake an experimental inquiry into the matter. We therefore purchased from London tradesmen cigarettes of five well-known brands, and submitted them all to most careful analysis. We think that the samples selected may be regarded as fairly representative.

The charges brought against imported Egyptian, as distinguished from other foreign cigarettes, and from cigarettes made in England, are mainly these: 1. That they contain opium, or some other foreign and deleterious substance. (In the epistle of 'Medicus,' he asserted that he had found in foreign cigarettes 'a large proportion of opium, and an unclassified alkaloid.') 2. That the paper used in the manufacture contains arsenic, or copper, or chlorine. 3. That the tobacco consists in part of the Smyrna variety known as 'Solouk,' or 'Aya Solouk,' which is coarser, stronger, and more irritating to the throat than genuine Turkish. 4. That in consequence of one or more of the above defects, Egyptian cigarettes are apt to produce malignant throat diseases.

Our experiments were directed to the solution of the first two of these questions, and as far as they went they were conclusive. They were conducted as follows; and the results were in every case identical. 1. The tobacco was examined under the microscope with the greatest care. In no case was any trace of foreign leaf or foreign substance discovered. 2. The tobacco was exhausted with dilute acetic acid, and the filtered extract treated with lead acetate. The precipitate was decomposed by hydrogen sulphide and again filtered. The concentrated filtrate gave no colour with ferric chloride, showing the absence of meconic acid; it contained, of course, much malic acid. The liquid filtered from the lead precipitate was freed from lead by hydrogen sulphide, and from nicotine by the ether method, and was then tested for morphine in the ordinary manner. Not a trace was detected. In other experiments the nicotine was removed by distillation in a current of steam. No alkaloid remained behind. 3. The paper of the cigarettes was next examined. No arsenic could be found, even by tests of the utmost delicacy. We do not say that arsenic was absent, but we are able to assert with confidence that a dozen of the cigarettes did not contain as much as 1/1000th of a grain of the poison.

With regard to copper the case was different. We found a minute trace of the metal in all the papers. There is nothing remarkable in this. Copper is often found in the ash of paper, and in this case its presence is easily accounted for. Each cigarette had a metallic label upon it, and the metal which had been used was the ordinary copper alloy. The fine powder of imitation gold is easily disseminated, and probably the trace of copper found in the paper, even when the label had been cut off, was due to this source. The presence of copper is of no real significance, for its quantity is very small, and the metal is not volatile; but the force of prejudice is strong, and we should advise manufacturers to avoid in future the use of this material.

As to the absurd suggestion of chlorine being present in the paper, it is only necessary to say that not a trace was contained in any of the samples we examined.

It only remains to be said that the cement used in closing the cigarettes was in every case starch, as was shown by the iodine test. To this no possible objection can be made.

Having disposed, by the unerring method of analysis, of all other charges against Egyptian cigarettes, we must consider the very important allegation that the throat irritation so often complained of is due to the admixture of the Salouk tobacco of

Smyrna.* Analysis does not help us here, but we have made careful inquiries from persons of experience, and have convinced ourselves that our Cairo correspondent has given a correct account of the Egyptian cigarette industry. It is admitted on all hands that the Smyrna leaf, or, at any rate, the tobacco known as Salouk, is not only cheaper, but is more pungent and irritating to the throat than genuine Turkish tobacco. The flavour of Salouk is peculiar, and to some is agreeable; critical cigarette smokers detect it at once. But it seems evident that continued use of it is attended with risk, and that the slightest sign of throat irritation should warn the smoker to change his cigarette, if not to abandon it. There appears to be nothing akin to adulteration in the Egyptian cigarettes of the best makers. All is a question of the selection, or, as wine merchants would call it, the blending of the tobaccos. The alleged addition of opium is not only most improbable, in view of the very high price of the drug, but is disproved by chemical analysis.

Summing up the results of our investigation, we report as follows:

The Egyptian cigarettes which we have examined are made from genuine tobacco. No foreign substance, and particularly no opium or 'unclassified alkaloid' (whatever that may mean), is added. The paper and the cement are pure, the only possible objection being the trace of copper we found in the ash, which is probably due to the metallic lettering. Some proportion of Smyrna tobacco is commonly incorporated with the Turkish, which is always used. If this Smyrna or Salouk tobacco is present in excessive quantities, the throats of some persons, if not of all, will be affected injuriously. It is probably safer to avoid it. Doubtless there are smokers who enjoy the Salouk flavour, as there are coffee-drinkers who like an admixture of chicory. The smoker must select his cigarette for himself; and we trust that in this case, as in so many others, the forewarned will be forearmed. Let it be remembered that tobacco, to say nothing of opium, is not grown in Egypt. The Egyptian manufacturers select and blend their leaves, and, to judge from the popularity of the cigarettes, they do so with great skill. In future they will probably be more careful in the use of Salouk, as every motive urges them to retain and extend their trade. Physicians will do good service by watching the effects upon their patients of cigarette-smoking. If they find that the change from Egyptian to Turkish or English cigarettes removes unpleasant throat symptoms, there will soon be a definite condemnation of Salouk tobacco.

TOBACCO TRADE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION.

A SPECIAL general meeting of the subscribers and donors to this Association was held on October 11 at the offices, 31, Moorgate Street, E.C., for the purpose of electing four pensioners.

Mr. Peter Brachi presided, and the following gentlemen were present: Messrs. John Hunter, A. Chalmers, A. Pringle, G. J. Freeman, Jas. Quinton, J. Siemssen, F. Faulkner, G. W. Brangwin, W. H. Yerbury, W. Klingenstein, and George Chambers, hon. sec.

The Chairman said that they had met together in conformity with their rules, and they were about to elect four pensioners from their eligible candidates. Four pensions had become vacant by deaths since the last annual meeting, and they proposed to partly provide funds for them by taking £100 from their annual subscriptions. There would now be left but little surplus from their subscriptions, and this would be the more apparent in future years, when their income would be reduced by $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. through the alteration of the interest on the Government Stocks in which their funds were invested. Another item he would mention was that there were eight candidates for four vacancies. The question was how were they to provide for the four that could not be elected. As they knew, it had been proposed to appeal to the public; but their worthy President, Mr. J. S. Gilliat, M.P., said that he could not until the trade had helped themselves a little more. It was therefore considered advisable to make an effort to get new subscribers, and to induce old subscribers to increase their subscriptions.

In reply to a subscriber, the Chairman said the Association was at the present no worse off; but next year they would lose

$\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. interest, and in fourteen years a further $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. would be taken from them.

Mr. Siemssen said that in all undertakings, and particularly those of the character of their Association, there was a going forward or a falling off. Unless great efforts were made to increase their receipts from subscriptions, they would be unable to grant any new pensions for at least some time. He asked them if they did not think they obtained a very inadequate support from the London tobaccoists and the clerks. There were only 110 tobaccoists who subscribed in London, and a similar number of clerks. Yet these were the people who mostly benefited by the Association. He hoped that the efforts now being made by the financial committee to form local committees would prove successful. The committee had been in communication with gentlemen in Liverpool, Newcastle, Birmingham, and Woolwich on this subject.

Mr. Geo. Chambers said that Mr. Hignett, who was one of the gentlemen written to, had promised to consider the matter, and discuss it when he was next in town.

Mr. Pringle said that hitherto the Association had not appealed for small subscriptions, and he thought something might be done by following in the footsteps of the National Life-boat Association, who placed collecting-boxes all over the country, and by this means obtained a large sum.

Mr. Chalmers said he had suggested such a step some time ago; but the matter having been referred to committee, he had heard nothing more about it.

Mr. Yerbury said that he should strongly object to put such a box in his shop.

Mr. Quinton, whose opinion was asked on the subject, said he thought it would be derogatory to the retail trade.

Mr. Hunter made a suggestion that large firms who embraced several subscribers to the Association in their establishment should save the collector's time by giving him a cheque for the subscription due from their employes, and then collect it when paying their wages. By such a course the collector's work would be much simplified.

Mr. Quinton thought many regular subscribers might be obtained if firms would pay the first year's subscription for their employes.

The question was discussed of allowing the candidate with the highest number of votes to be placed on the pension-list without election when a death occurred, and Mr. Chalmers agreed to bring the matter forward at the next meeting.

At the closing of the poll, the votes were counted by the scrutineers, Messrs. Brangwin and Freeman, with the following result:

Votes.	Elected.	Votes.	Non-elected.
701	Isabella Humphreys.	166	Robert Tutching.
391	Charles Creighton.	76	John Fleming.
354	George Baker.	39	Josiah Scudder.
236	Robert Stacey.	16	Harriett Eicke.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman, proposed by Mr. Geo. Chambers and seconded by Mr. W. Klingenstein, concluded the business.

CHANGES.

THE partnership existing between Messrs. William Lunt and Thomas Smith, under the style of Lunt, Smith and Co., has been dissolved by mutual consent, and the business will be continued by Mr. William Lunt, as William Lunt and Co.

MR. T. E. JONES, tobacco manufacturer, Aberavon, is one of the six candidates for the four vacancies on the Council board.

HAHNEL'S CIGAR-MACHINE is fully described in *Invention* for October 20, and a great future is predicted for it. The machine is obtaining greater and more general interest, and it cannot be long ere our cigar manufacturers will find themselves compelled to yield to its undoubted merits.

THE LATE MR. WM. S. SMITH.—An appeal is now being made to the trade to make some little provision for the widow of the late Mr. Wm. S. Smith (recently a partner in the firm of G. Kuschke and Co.), who died last December under most painful circumstances. Mr. Thos. Brankston is treasurer, Mr. George Chambers, secretary, and the committee comprises Messrs. F. Faulkner, C. Lambert, C. J. Bremner, G. W. Brangwin, and J. C. McDonogh.

evil is patent to all, and the effect is only too real, surely some remedy for this deplorable state of things might be carried out in a manner at once satisfactory and beneficial to all; and it is only natural to suppose, now that things have come to such a pass, that even the originators of this 'cutting' trade would be willing to come to terms. I would suggest to the Manchester tobaccoists, through your valuable medium, that an association similar to the one at work in Birmingham and other towns should be organized, and for them to work hand in hand to endeavour to put a stop to this 'I-can't-make-a-living-and-you-shan't' kind of business, and to produce a better answer than the one usually given to the above question.

Yours, etc.,
'MANCUNIAN.'

SMOKING AND THROAT DISEASES.

TO THE EDITOR OF 'TOBACCO.'

DEAR SIR,

Your readers are, without doubt, greatly interested in the controversies in the various daily journals concerning Turkish and Egyptian cigarettes, and as we are manufacturers of these goods, we feel justified in offering a few remarks upon the subject.

Assertions have been made that opium is prevalent in imported Egyptian cigarettes, which have taken their effect on the public, to the serious injury of the trade.

There is not the slightest foundation for such mischievous statements, as such a course would ruin the sale of the particular brands which were known to contain this ingredient, there being nothing more obnoxious to the average Englishman than opium.

Turkish tobacco possesses a beautiful aroma and flavour, and any reason for destroying this by the addition of opium passes our comprehension.

In the same category of absurdity may be classed a correspondent's statement that a tobacco, Aya Solouk by name—which, by the way, is one of the most valuable and expensive of Turkish tobaccos, possessing a remarkably fine aroma—had been conclusively proved to be the cause of throat diseases, being characterized as a 'subtle irritant.'

We refute this allegation; and also his statement that Aya Solouk is used exclusively in Egyptian cigarettes, and not in Turkish.

Aya Solouk is used quite as extensively in the manufacture of Turkish cigarettes as it is in Egyptian—in fact, the tobacco altogether used in the manufacture of these two differently named cigarettes is exactly the same.

It is pretty generally known that the term 'Egyptian' is synonymous with the style of packing and preparation for sale: Egyptian cigarettes being sold in packets and tins, and Turkish in cardboard boxes.

Of late years the demand for Egyptian cigarettes has greatly increased, smokers preferring them, for some indefinite reason, to the Turkish article, and people who purchase high-price cigarettes invariably desire them in the Egyptian form.

A cigarette is the least injurious form tobacco is made into, as it does not contain one tenth the nicotine a pipe or cigar does, and it is far pleasanter to smoke.

It is a pity cigarettes of popular brands should be forsworn because senseless statements are allowed to appear in the newspapers concerning them, and we hope smokers of the cigarettes we have attempted to vindicate will have no hesitation in continuing their use.

Trusting we have not encroached too much upon your valuable space,

We remain,
Yours faithfully,
N. PROCOPIDES AND CO.

SUNDAY TRADING.—'Tobacconist' writes as follows: 'I notice in a recent issue of the *East Anglian Daily Times* a letter signed by Mr. W. P. Crossley, tobacconist, Ipswich, relating to Sunday closing.' Mr. Crossley must forget that if tobacconists were to close on Sundays those who require tobacco and cigars would be able to obtain the same in any public-house. The smaller-class tobacconists cannot afford to drive their customers away, solely because certain members of the trade envy the small amount of business done by them on Sunday. When public-houses close on Sundays it will be quite time to complain of tobacconists not doing so.'

INQUIRIES AND REPLIES.

INQUIRIES.

46. Will you inform me where I can obtain Russian cigarettes bearing a crown and eagle mark?—C. S.

47. We will be obliged if you can give us the address of a firm from whom we can buy 'Indian' cigars *in bond*, and also those of any people who buy job stuff in this way.—A. and W. M.

48. Please let me know the maker of 'Triumphia' cigars.—S. M.

49. Where can we buy 'Bright' cavendish in 5's and 12's in 20 lb. caddies in bond, at about 9d. a lb.?—A. and W. M.

50. Can you give me the name of the makers of a cigar called 'El Simbolo'?—J. W.

51. Can you inform me the name of the makers of the 'Burbaby' cigar?—W. H.

52. I beg to ask you if you will kindly recommend me to a wholesale house for the sale of tobaccos and cigars by the several different makers. I have recently added the tobacconist's trade to my already established hairdressing business, and I have given my orders to—(we will not give name: Ed. T.); but they have not been sufficiently attentive to them, and mistakes have occurred each time I ordered, so I think about changing; but only being a novice in the trade, I do not know the different wholesale houses.—D. C.

53. Will you kindly recommend me a good house for tobacconists' fancy goods, pipes, etc.?—A. J. B.

54. Will you let me know the importers of a small Manila cigar to sell at 1d.? I think they are in bundles of 12 or 20.—J. R. P.

55. Can you tell me where I can buy a cigar called 'Caravellas'?—W. B.

56. We are in want of some cigarette steps for window to show cigarettes on, and should be glad if you can inform us where we can get them made.—B. and Co.

REPLIES.

38. The Cigarette Manufacturing Syndicate, 5, Cromford Court, Manchester, will show you their machines at work.

43. Messrs. Melbourne, Hart and Co., 19, Basinghall Street, E.C., write they will supply 'Pyramid' cigarettes.

45. Mr. W. H. Vince, 25, Spring Grove Terrace, Burley Fields, Leeds; Mr. Adolph Strauss, 42, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.; or Messrs. Fiolet and Audebert, 30, Wilson Street, Finsbury, London, E.C.

47. Try our advertisers, Messrs. F. Schaeffer and Co., 28, Watling Street, E.C.; Carter and Son, Masham, Yorks; and Havill and Co., 1, Gresham Buildings, E.C.

49. Messrs. Grant, Chambers and Co., 37, Fenchurch Street, E.C., can supply this, but the price you quote is too low.

52 and 53. It is rather an invidious task to pick out firms to suit you. As you are so inexperienced, it will be wisest to place yourself in the hands of old-established firms who have a reputation to maintain. We think there is not one of our advertisers in this issue who would not treat you fairly.

54. Probably Messrs. Davis, Samuel and Co., 108, Fenchurch Street, E.C.

SMOKING ROSE-LEAVES.—A correspondent writes: 'After wearing rather a choice rose all one day, I placed it for some unaccountable reason in a side-pocket of my coat before going to bed. I did not notice it until several days afterwards, when the leaves had got detached from the stem and become quite brown. I thought at first that they were portions of a crumpled cigar, but I soon found out that they were rose-leaves. They were just limp enough to allow of their being cut up into smokable proportions, and with them I filled an old wooden pipe, and puffed away to my heart's content. I had a most enjoyable smoke, and I found the aromatic flavour particularly agreeable. Of course, as my pipe was thoroughly impregnated with nicotine, the flavour was composite, so to speak; but that from the rose leaves most assuredly predominated. I have concluded from this experiment that a mixture of rose and tobacco leaves might become a marketable commodity. Whether the rose-leaves smoked entirely by themselves and in a perfectly new pipe would prove as agreeable as they are with the flavour of the nicotine combined I cannot say, but probably some of your readers may throw some light on the subject.'