

meals have shown that after a short period of increased contractility the motility of the stomach becomes paralyzed for an hour or so; as the subjective feeling of hunger very probably depends on contractions, the relief of hunger by smoking may thus be explained; it is said that dilation of the stomach may thus result."

Those who chew and take snuff may rest in peace. These practices are "attended by so little absorption of nicotine as to be comparatively free from untoward symptoms."

Sir Humphrey is of the opinion that tobacco has ousted alcohol as a sedative and narcotic. There is little doubt, he thinks, that the injurious effects of smoking are materially augmented by, if they are not in part due to, simultaneous alcoholism.

OIL MUST BE MADE TO DISAPPEAR FROM SEA

Representatives from twelve nations attended the recent International Conference on Oil Pollution in Washington to see what can be done to make the oil discharged from vessels vanish from the high seas.

The rapid increase in the number of oil burning ships has rendered the matter of water pollution from the waste oil a matter of world importance, for the discharge, being insoluble in water, is driven ashore by the wind with serious detrimental effects on bathers and fish alike.

All attempts to pass regulations effecting total prohibition of discharge of oil at sea have been abandoned in favor of a system of permanent zoning. Vessels will only be allowed to make such a discharge not less than fifty miles off shore and not farther than 150. Zones can be established by a nation only with the consent of its neighbor nations, which in actual practice means that each country will have to work out its own particular zoning problem.

There was considerable discussion during some of the sessions of the installation of separating machinery that would reclaim fully 40 per cent. of the waste oil, it was said, which could be used over again. Since apparatus of this sort would pay for itself in a few years several delegates strongly advocated this solution of the difficulty. The high initial cost as well as increased tonnage, however, were felt by the majority to be arguments against oil separators.

The rest of the time allotted to the conference was taken up with the problem of enforcement of the regulations just passed, a question of major importance since legal jurisdiction over a vessel out at sea beyond the reach of observation is difficult to maintain.

Twenty million pounds of explosives are used yearly on farms in this country.
