

The dangerous age ... H. C. Apgar. Elizabeth. N. J. [1938].

THE DANGEROUS AGE

What is the Dangerous Age? When is age dangerous? Being only a self-appointed philosopher, I would not know and can therefore only discuss some phases of the subject. Albert Schopenhauer, the great German Philosopher has said that age is dangerous somewhere around 40 or 45 or at that period of life when the passions begin to diminish. By that, I assume, he means the passion for Wealth, Power, Beauty, Display, etc.

Well, at 40 or 45 life is half over. What's the use worrying about the Old Boys? Why not give the Young Ones a chance? If the Old Boys want to take one last fling at life before getting out their rheumatism and night caps, why not let them? They only want to play a little. They won't do anybody any harm. They bruise easily and heal quick. Easily satisfied and soon on their quiet way to the grave.

But it is the young fellows who are thirsty for knowledge and experience. They want to know what this morbid phase of existence is all about and the best way to go through with it. To tell a young man that the dangerous age is 40 or 45, doesn't mean a thing to him. To his mind, that is so far off that it isn't worth worrying about. To the young man between the age of 15 and 23, he never expects to get that old. It's so far off he can't conceive of it. Nevertheless, he is thirsty for knowledge, especially for the purpose of checking up on and imitating the old boys and, in the event he should happen to arrive at the age of 40 or 45, he will be prepared for it.

Instead of the dangerous age being 40 or 45, isn't it 15 to 23? At that period the best of life is just ahead. The best of life is from 40 on, for the reason that at that period we have a much better idea of what life is all about. We like to stand on the side lines and watch the parade of Youth go by. The so-called funny antics and alleged originality of Youth is very interesting, if not always amusing or educational.

After all is said and done, 15 to 23, IS the dangerous age whether we are willing to admit it or not. This is the age when the passions run Hot & Cold; Fast & Furious; — when we don't care what happens so long as something happens. When a day seems like a week and a week like a month and through it all nothing seems to happen. Boredom reigns supreme.

At the age of 15 to 23, Youth's greatest desire is to give himself that extra lift we hear so much about and so he resorts to stimulants. If there is any one time in the life of a man when stimulants should NOT be resorted to, it is between the age of 15 and 23. This is the formative age. This is the age at which the twig is bent and it determines the way the tree will go.

The effect of stimulants upon the Body, Mind and Nerves is too well known to require reiteration here. It is sufficient to say that no amount of reforming will ever wipe out the harm done by use of stimulants between the age of 15 and 23. By cessation,, the progress of the harm has been stopped, but it is impossible to wipe out the harm already done.

Stimulating habits usually start quite innocently in the home by feeding Boys and Girls, under the age of 15, Tea & Coffee. After the age of 15, or when puberty sets in, the transition to Tobacco and the greater desire for a stimulant is made easy by the earlier habit of Coffee & Tea. From Tobacco to Beer is an easy leap, as the stimulant in Beer is greater than in Tobacco and from Beer to Booze is still another rung in the ladder of this kind of success and from Booze to Narcotics is the climax. After this, Disgrace, Dishonor and the embalming fluid.

Let's cut out the reforming business, pretense and sham. Let's lay our cards on the table before Youth and he will be glad to accept all the information the Old Boys can give him and then march on to a better civilization. Youth has a habit of eventually becoming an Old Timer. By helping himself, he automatically helps the Old Timers, so why not be prepared for it. Here is one way of informing Youth of his responsibility to himself and civilization. LET'S TRY IT?

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EVOLUTION OF STIMULANTS

AGE CAUSE (habit) POISONS Gum Var. Chemicals 5 to 15 Coffee Caffeine Tea Tannin
Tobacco Nicotine 16 to 25 Beer Part Alcohol Booze Mostly Alcohol 26 on Narcotics Opium,
Heroin, etc.