

LITERARY DIGEST

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MARIJUANA MENACE

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THE dangerous narcotic drug marijuana grows wild in almost every state in the Union and therefore is easily obtainable. Not only does it grow in the countryside, but along the roadsides and in the vacant lots of our cities as well. In many cities its presence was first discovered when health officials surveyed vacant lots in a drive to destroy ragweed and other noxious plants. Because it grows in so many different places, it has become the cheapest of all drugs.

It is estimated the Narcotic Bureau of the New York Police Department in 1936 alone destroyed almost 40,000 pounds of marijuana plants, found growing within the city limits. Because of its rapidly increasing use, marijuana demands a price as high as \$60 a pound.

While city officials have destroyed hundreds of thousands of plants, those parasitic criminals who traffic in the drug plant the seed in open lots, where it grows without the need of cultivation. Then, under cover of darkness, the weed is harvested, dried and its leaves made into cigarettes. These cigarettes are sometimes called reefers and are also known as "goof butts," "muggles," "tea," or "gage." They are bootlegged at prices ranging from 5 to 50 cents.

The drug is considered more dangerous than cocaine or opium, neither of which will grow in this country.

While medical men and scientists have disagreed as to the properties of marijuana and some have been inclined to minimize its harmfulness, records offer ample evidence that it has a disastrous effect on many of its users.

Marijuana is the same as Indian hemp, hashish, or cannabis. Marijuana is the Mexican term. The plant was known to the Greeks as *nepenthe*. Its use in Egypt has been common since ancient times and has continued down to the present. The natives of the Malay Peninsula while under its effect have been known to engage in violent and bloody deeds with complete disregard for their personal safety.—*Clarence V. Beck, Attorney General of Kansas*