

Study of Suicide Causes

POVERTY NOT THE LEADING REASON FOR SELF-DESTRUCTION.

Statistics Drawn by a Charity Organization After Investigating Forty-three Cases of Attempted Suicide—Mental Derangement Is the Chief Cause.

That poverty plays a small part in leading persons to attempt suicide, and that mental derangement, either temporary or permanent, is the chief reason, is the opinion advanced by Orlando F. Lewis, of the Joint Application Bureau of the Charity Organization Society, which recently made a special study of forty-three such cases as reported at Bellevue Hospital. Mr. Lewis suggests that there may be a wide field for charitable work in visiting persons who report themselves in need of counsel and advice.

The result of the investigation is given by Mr. Lewis in the current issue of Charities. The arrangement made with the Bellevue authorities was that the bureau should be notified when a person who had attempted suicide was brought to the hospital ward. The observations were conducted between April 21 and September 17 last. As to how it was done Mr. Lewis says:

"The physician in charge of the ward was first consulted by the visitor, the method of self-destruction learned, with such other data as the hospital authorities had secured. If the physical condition of the patient permitted an interview was held, the patient being approached from the standpoint of a friendly visitor. While assistance from the bureau was always offered, no probing into the patient's life was done and few details were asked, on account of the patient's general physical and mental condition. Emphasis was laid upon the fact that the visitor was there as a friend in a time of need. As a rule the patients expressed gratitude for this interest, and often said they would be glad to call at the bureau after their discharge. In practically all cases the name and address of the bureau were left with the patient or the keeper of the ward. The visitor became well known to the authorities in charge of the prison wards; the nurses and keepers showed a personal interest in the cases, assuring the visitor that upon the patient's dismissal they would advise him or her to call at the bureau."

In spite of this invitation, Mr. Lewis says, not one of the forty-three persons applied at the bureau after discharge.

"A reasonable explanation," says Mr. Lewis, "seems to be that the majority of the patients were from the self-supporting class. Almost never, so far as the visitor could ascertain, were the patients from the class known as 'down and out.'"

"It was impossible to learn whether all the forty-three persons had friends or relatives who could help them, but in fourteen or fifteen instances where friends or relatives were visited, it is stated, these persons said they could care for the patient. As to the causes discovered, Mr. Lewis says:

"Destitution seemed to play a very small part in leading persons to attempt suicide. In only two cases was the attempt directly traced to poverty; in four cases the patient had been out of work or employment, but this was not of itself a direct cause of the attempt. Melancholia, temporary aberration, hysteria, more or less violent insanity and alcoholism seemed to cause the attempts in thirteen cases; excessive jealousy in three cases. In five cases the patients claimed that the attempt was accidental; in one case somnambulism was given as cause; one woman was driven to attempt self-destruction by her husband's loose life; illness caused two attempts; four women confessed that their immoral life had become too shameful and difficult to bear.

"Poison seemed to be the favorite method, perhaps because easily obtained and supposedly quick in its action. Thirteen persons sought to end their lives in this manner. Ten persons were reported to have tried gas poisoning, but in several instances it was claimed that the cause had been accidental, the gas being blown out by the opening of a door or window while the person was asleep. Six persons attempted suicide by submersion, four by shooting, four by cutting throat, head or wrists; three jumped from windows, one threw himself in front of a street car, and in two cases the method of attempt was unknown."

Out of the forty-three cases eleven stayed but one day in Bellevue, six but two days and the remainder from three days to several weeks. Seventeen were sent to court and the bureau lost track of them; five went back to work, six were sent home, two were put in the psychopathic ward and the rest were still at Bellevue when the investigation was closed. Not one of the forty-three made the statement that he had attempted suicide because he had sought work for a long time and failed. In regard to the results shown Mr. Lewis says:

"This effort to render aid to would-be suicides suggests that a much more extended study of would-be suicides in the various private and public hospitals of the city could well be undertaken. While certain conclusions are suggested by the present investigation, the results are not of a nature to justify a final opinion. Tentatively we may feel that poverty plays little direct part in causing attempts at suicide. Would-be suicides

give a distinct impression of not wanting advice or aid from a charitable society after leaving the hospital.

"The attempts at suicide reported from Bellevue seem largely due to mental derangement, temporary or permanent, in which alcohol plays a prominent part. When there are relatives or friends in the city they seem ready to aid the patient on leaving the hospital. The causes leading up to attempted suicide do not seem such that a charitable society can generally become cognizant of them."

Mr. Lewis suggests that there may be another way of trying to reach people who want to do away with themselves in addition to the plan now being tried by the Salvation Army's anti-suicide bureau. His suggestion is that there may be, in addition to treatment by a special bureau before the attempt and treatment after the attempt, still another kind of treatment by societies; namely, that of visiting all persons who notify such societies that they need counsel, sympathy and advice.

"Charity," says the article, "may, in a speedy response to such requests, aid in preventing not only poverty but self-destruction."

Superintendent Armstrong, of Bellevue, in commenting on the facts disclosed, says that while the conclusion that poverty plays but little part seemed to be justified, he was not prepared to say that attempts at self-destruction were largely due to mental derangement.

"I think that you are correct," he says, "that the causes that lead to attempts at suicide are not such generally that a charitable society is likely to be cognizant of them. Still, I can see, in the cases given, that certain suicides should be reached before they come to that frame of mind that makes them believe that there is nothing further in life."—New York Sun.

SHIPPING EGGS BY MILLIONS.

From All Over the Country They Go to New York.

The four million residents of this city would be helpless if the produce and provision dealers did not transport the continent and the railroads did not bring fresh, fish and fowl and the products of the grain field and the orchard.

At breakfast at an uptown hotel a wholesale grocer of Pittsburg, who understood something of the problems of food supply, said to his companion that he wondered where all the eggs that are eaten in New York come from. Here is the answer:

When the December chill leaves the hens of Kentucky and Tennessee, Arkansas and Texas get busy, their industry continuing throughout January and February. The spring, traveling north in March and April, stir the hens in Southern Illinois, Iowa and Nebraska, and in July and August Wisconsin, Minnesota and the Dakotas send us eggs. Every day or perhaps two or three days a week the farm and the henry send baskets of eggs to the country storekeeper, who pays for them in money or merchandise, packs them in cases and sells them to the shipper in one or another of the large receiving markets.

Here the cases are loaded compactly in refrigerator cars, in which by carload and often by trainload they move to the great industrial and commercial centers. They do not all come to New York. Even Chicago has to have eggs, to say nothing of other places, but from this interior and Western region, from Texas on the south to the Dakotas on the north, there came to New York in 1906 4,086,151 cases, containing about 126,670,681 dozens, or 1,520,048,172 eggs. Eggs come to New York from Jersey, from up-State farms and from Long Island, but in quantities that are negligible when compared with those from the interior.

Every housekeeper knows what she pays the grocer for eggs, but she does not know that the price she pays a dozen during the season of shipment seldom exceeds by more than five cents the price received by the Western farmer who takes them to the country store. During times of scarcity the price may run up to ten or twenty cents a dozen higher than the farmer receives. The rate of transportation does not change. The railroads receive thirty cents a case for bringing eggs in refrigerator cars from Indiana and Illinois and sixty cents a case from Texas and Minnesota. That is, the railroads bring eggs a thousand miles to New York for a cent or a cent and a half a dozen and 2000 miles or so for about two cents and a half a dozen. The transportation charge that is paid the railroads has no bearing whatever on the retail price in New York. If the railroads performed their service gratis the consumer in all probability would pay just as much for his eggs. The average price at wholesale in 1906 was nine cents a dozen, and the total valuation of the eggs received in Greater New York, both for domestic consumption and for export, was \$24,067,439.

From May to July, the season during which the greatest number of hens are industrious, vastly more eggs come to New York than the population consumes. The surplus is placed in cold storage for use in the late autumn and the early winter.—New York Sun.

An inquest was held recently in London on a woman who died from blood poisoning caused by the infection of a "chapped" hand.



A Southern View.

We have said but little recently, on the subject of good roads, not from lack of interest, but owing to other reasons. We expect, in the future, to urge the matter and shall be glad to see the time when every county in the State has a system of good roads, over which a team can haul a load, and by that we mean as much as two horses-ought to pull.

There is one objection to real good roads, which should be considered before we get them. That is the fact that in the present condition of Florida roads, farmers have but little trouble with automobiles. It is also a fact that in many places, at the North, they have become such a serious nuisance that people in the rural districts dare not trust their wives and children to drive over the roads alone. Even where the law requires an automobile to stop on signal, so as to allow horses to pass quietly, the law is frequently violated and serious accidents are caused. Before we tax ourselves to make good roads, we should see to it that we have a law which will give the farmers at least equal rights on the roads with the autos. It will require careful study to draw up a bill which, when made into a law, will do the work.

We do not mean to drive the automobiles from the road, but to require them to respect the rights of others. It is no answer to say that most of those who run the machines will be careful to do this, without a special law. It is true that most of them will do so. It is also true that few people will steal, yet we must have a law to control the few who have no regard for the rights of others. So in the case of the autos, we must be prepared for those who are reckless of others' rights.

Another thing in respect to good roads. We have no objection to the levying of a special tax for that purpose, but we want it guarded by restrictions which will prevent boards of county commissioners from taking the tax of a whole county and spending it on one or two favored sections.

The expense of making such roads might be greatly reduced by authorizing each county to work its own convicts on the roads, both in making and repairing. Such a law would be better for all concerned, and the convicts would be more likely to receive proper treatment than when leased to any set of men whose interest it was to get all the work possible out of a given number of men, regardless of conditions. We hope that such a law will be passed at the next session of the Florida Legislature.—Florida Agriculturist.

Dusty Roads of Olden Times.

As to the antiquity of the dust problem, it is interesting to note that there are lines referring to the nuisance in Sheridan's "School for Scandal" (1777), which says: "As Lady Betty Curriple was taking the dust in Hyde Park," and again some forty or fifty years later, in 1820-40, the dust was so bad on the Bath road between Maidenhead and Windsor that landowners who had houses adjacent to the road in that district, including the Lord Montagu of that day, who owned Ditton Park, made constant references to it in their letters and diaries. They described the clouds of dust raised by the coaches galloping or cantering between the stages, and there were no motor cars then.

If more evidence of the dusty state of the roads in olden times is required, one need only look at the pumps which remain along many of the main roads out of London, such as the Bath road, the Great North road, the Portsmouth road, all showing evidences of the dusty nature of these highways in the "good old days." Some people have recently declared that these pumps were used for watering horses, but this is obviously incorrect, as it would not be necessary to erect pumps at distances of half a mile apart for this purpose. In addition, the coaches traveled regular stages, and the idea that they would stop at places between their halts to give their horses water is of course absurd. Every generation is apt to think that the evils with which it has to deal are peculiar to its own time, but a careful study of history shows that most of the so-called modern evils are only modern in form and are really old evils, and as regards dust this is especially true.—Pall Mall Gazette.

The Father of West Point.

To George Washington must be given the credit of causing the first steps to be taken toward the founding of a national military academy. In 1794, while serving his second term as President, Washington succeeded in having Congress create the grade of cadet in the army. West Point was chosen as the best army post at which cadets could be trained, for the reason that it was then the most important station of the artilleryists and engineers. The cadets of those days did not pass entrance examinations, and the standard of proficiency in studies did not amount to the tenth part of what is exacted nowadays. A smattering of engineering, mathematics and artillery practice was all that was deemed necessary.—From H. Irving Hancock's "Our Hundred-Year-Old Military Academy," in St. Nicholas.



Richest Woman in the World.

Senora Creel, wife of the new Ambassador from Mexico, is the richest woman in the Diplomatic Corps. Many years ago her husband gave her title to numerous gold prospects in the State of Chihuahua, and only recently have these been developed. It is estimated that there is already in sight \$200,000,000 in her mines, and her income is enormous. Senora Creel, according to this account, is not only the richest woman in the Diplomatic Corps in Washington, but she is probably the richest woman in her own right in the world, at least potentially.—Washington Herald.

Overwork is Waste.

Overstrained faculties can never bring out the best results. Overwork is always a waste of time; and, though it may not seem so at first, eventually the sad truth is always manifested. To cut off needed recreation, to curtail the hours of sleep, to postpone a holiday indefinitely, to refuse to take rest and ease and change, under the impression that thus time is saved, is always a short-sighted policy and often a fatal mistake. The time arrives when the poor, abused faculties take their revenge and refuse to serve altogether, or do so in so feeble a fashion as to show their deterioration.—McCall's Magazine.

The Invalid Crawl.

Alas! Somebody in England with nothing better to do has invented a new walk and it is being taken up here. At the start of practice a girl must tie weights to the bottom of her skirt. In walking she must appear to be so weary that she scarcely can drag one foot after another. Her steps must be long and creepy, without the slightest hint of energy. Thus walks Queen Alexandra, who adds a slight limp, as she has been lame since infancy. It is hinted the languid movements were designed to hide that defect. Gowns must be of stuff that gives a clinging effect; then the slow, long step, with a bending of the neck at every stride, will be the most effective.—Philadelphia Telegraph.

Massage For Colic.

In European Russia there are 26,000,000 mothers, of whom two-fifths belong to the peasant or working classes. Among these latter there is a common treatment for colic in the child.

When the pain begins the child is laid on its back and the stomach covered with a thin coating of any household oil accessible. The mother then takes the palm of her hand and softly rubs this oil into the skin. She gives the palm a circular twist in doing the work and does not cease until all the skin of the stomach and bowels is hot. When this condition is reached she binds a warm flannel cloth about the stomach, restores the child's night-clothes and tucks it into bed. It is said to be usually asleep long before the cloth is bound about it.

In the United States this method of curing colic has been developed into a cure for appendicitis without use of the knife.—New Orleans Picayune.

Only One "Platform Dresser."

Woman suffrage is a failure, asserts a prominent modiste, for a woman who votes must speak and a woman who speaks must sit on a platform, and there is only one woman who knows how to do that and display her dresses properly. Members of women's clubs to whom has been denied the distinction of sitting on a platform may take heart at this, and those who rule with the gavel must resign if they believe the assertions of the modiste. The only woman who has been able to dress correctly for the platform, asserts this arbiter, is Mrs. Donald McLean, who presided at the D. A. R. in Washington. On the opening night she wore a gown of lavender, which was long enough to serve the purpose of a floor sweeper. Her lavender toque had three drooping plumes and broad purple streamers that fell under her waist. She carried a huge bunch of violets.—New York Press.

Are Girls Good-Natured?

Cynthia Westover Alden, writing for the Ladies' Home Journal, discusses the question, "Are Girls as Good-Natured as Boys?" and quoting several instances which appear to indicate that girls are more selfish than boys.

"There was one school where I asked the boys about being good-natured and one replied: 'If you've got two sleds, why, you'll hunt around and find a boy that hasn't any sled.' I then tried the little girls and asked them if they had six dollies and found a little girl who had none, what they would do. No answer until I repeated the question several times, when a timid hand came up and a very small voice said: 'Keep 'em.'"

I have often wondered if selfishness in woman is not a weakness of the "weaker sex." I am not inclined to believe that all girls are naturally selfish any more than that all boys are good-natured.

Children are just what their parents make them, either good or bad, kind or unkind, selfish or unselfish. The little boy who would have given

away one of his sleds had been blessed with parents who made him understand that beautiful precept about giving. The selfish little girl of careless parents, perhaps, had observed and been taught, most likely, that one must get what one can and let the other person take care of himself.

It is the mother's most important duty to teach the little ones to love one another. Little boys and girls are naturally loving and unselfish and are only led into other paths by unthoughtful parents.

If the little girls are not as good-natured as boys the proper training of kind and loving parents will make them so.—Zelma Travers, in the Pittsburg Dispatch.

Woman's Right in Hopi Lands.

Hopi Land comes very close to being a woman-governed country, for the status of woman in this little republic has as much freedom and dignity as it possessed ages ago in other tribes governed as communes. Hopi society is based upon the "gens," that is, upon the tie of blood relationship. It is a society of equals where help is extended and received in the true communal spirit. How long this will last now that the touch of civilization threatens to fall upon them, can easily be guessed. Among the Hopi the women are excellent specimens of primitive humanity. The young women are well formed and strong, and of irreproachable character. They own the houses as well as build them, and all family property belongs to the woman, who is acknowledged as the head of the household. Inheritance, therefore, is always through the mother, and descent is reckoned through the female line. In spite of the liberty and importance enjoyed by the Hopi women, their reserve and modesty is surprising. They are as quiet and shy as if their lives had been passed in the utmost seclusion and subjection to the dominance of man.

Their whole lives are devoted to the care of their children, and the matrimonial customs of the Hopi are of a grade which, if generally understood, might make civilized lawmakers and writers of civilized customs stop and think. It is marriage from the viewpoint of the woman, not of the man. It is a striking example of the principal effect of woman rule, and it must be admitted that it is dominated by the highest order of purity as well as of common sense.—"The Pueblos of the Painted Desert," in the Craftsman.



Over soft frocks will be worn brief little jackets of silk or satin without sleeves.

All the frocks that come from the great Paquin are short-waisted. Shoulders universally slope.

Delightful frocks are being made of cream-color Shantung silk with stripes of chestnut brown.

Enameled buckles in plaid colorings are new. They look well on ribbon belts for the shirtwaist suit.

The best choice of belt for an all-white shirtwaist dress is of white embroidered linen with mother-of-pearl buckle.

Afternoon frocks in opalescent taffetas seem likely to play a prominent part in the coming season, the taffetas being of the softest and most supple mousseline variety.

There is nothing prettier for applied skirt trimmings of silk, ribbon or chiffon than the Greek key border, its outline to be done in pleatings rather than with a flat surface.

A touch of white on the suit is almost essential to properly enliven it. Charming for this use are the collar and cuff sets that may be adjusted readily, serving for several coats.

A new lace-edged shield is designed for use in shirtwaists and thin gowns. By its trimming it cleverly disguises the sharp, hard edge that is so ugly when seen through light fabrics. This in no way interferes with laundering as the lace used is a substantial durable thread.

The leading color in all shop windows is apricot—the shades ranging about a deep apricot yellow, which is tinged with a soft reddish hue, and some of the dull nasturtium tints it is quite impossible to describe, as it is a mingling of red, brown and yellow in one color. It is dull rather than bright, rich though not vivid.

English in Siam.

The proprietors of a Siamese newspaper have distributed handbills containing the following notice:

"The news of English we tell the latest. Write in perfectly style and most earliest. Do a murder, give commit, we hear of and tell it. Do a mighty chief die, we publish it, and in borders of ombre. Staff has each one been colled, and write like the Kipling and the Dickens. We circle every town and extortionate not for advertisements. Buy it. Tell each of you its greatness for good. Ready on Friday, Number first."—The Bangkok Times.

FAMOUS LOTTERY ENDS ITS CAREER

Honduras Company's Promoters Plead Guilty in Alabama.

34 PAY FINES OF \$284,000

Agree to Surrender All Books and Paraphernalia, and This Means That the Gambling Enterprise Has Come to an End.

Mobile, Ala.—With the imposition of fines, aggregating \$284,000, in the Federal Court here, upon thirty-four persons, the Honduras National Lottery Company, which the United States Government has for fifteen years been pursuing, passed out of existence. The penalization of the principals in the company and their agents, and an order confiscating certain property of the company situated in this country, marks the end of a stupendous and highly profitable gambling venture, in which all the chances were taken by the patrons. The company gathered in about \$4,000,000 a year, retained forty-five per cent., and divided the remainder among the prize-winners in the scheme.

The action against the lottery promoters was taken in the court for the Southern District of Alabama, before Judge Toulmin, and resulted in the entering of wholesale pleas of guilty, the charge being conspiracy to cause the interstate carriage of lottery advertisements. In pleading guilty, the defendants agreed to surrender for destruction all lottery books, plates and other paraphernalia, and, also, to dispose of the printing establishment of the company at Wilmington, Del., known as the John M. Rogers Press, where the lottery tickets have for years been printed.

Fines of \$10,000 each were assessed against Dave Hennen Morris and Alfred Hennen Morris, of New Orleans and New York City; W. C. Henderson, of Brooklyn, was fined \$5000; Harry W. Henderson, of Brooklyn, was fined \$2500; Oscar Hauger, of Hoboken, \$1500, while fines ranging from \$10,000 to \$500 were assessed against the following: William H. Parkhouse, James Rea, G. W. Bredow, William P. Johnston, Louis C. Graham, Edward L. Pinac, Frank L. Howard, Albert Baldwin, Sr., Chapman Hyams, Paul Conrad, John M. Demarest and Edward J. Demarest, all of New Orleans; John Morris Rogers, Jesse K. Baylis and Lester K. Baylis, of Wilmington; James S. Moire, Chicago; General W. L. Cabell, Dallas; Robert K. Thompson, Mobile; Joseph L. Shaw, Tom Williams and Henry L. Plum, Washington, D. C.; Herman Bruner, St. Louis; Frank E. Johnson, Hartford; A. B. Kaufman, Detroit; Harry J. Schott, Baltimore; Wallace Masterson, Savannah; Francis X. Fitzpatrick and John Hoag.

The Honduras National Lottery Company was originally the Louisiana State Lottery Company, a duly legalized institution under the State Constitution, with a charter running for twenty-five years—to 1894. John A. Morris, of New Orleans, was the dominant factor. At the expiration of the charter the State declined to renew it, although offered \$1,350,000 a year. The company then began business at Puerto Cortez, Honduras, as the Honduras National Lottery Company, having twelve drawing a year—ten for each of which about \$2,000,000 of tickets were sold, and two grand drawings, for each of which double that sum, approximately, was received for the sale of tickets, while the prizes were also doubled.

HAMLIN KILLED IN AUTO.

Millionaire Buffalo Horse Breeder Was Trying to Pass Runabout.

Buffalo, N. Y.—Harry Hamlin, millionaire, clubman, horsebreeder and automobile enthusiast, was instantly killed on the Williamsville road, north of this city. He was riding in his seventy horse power car and was trying to pass a high-power runabout. Both cars were running at a speed said to be in excess of fifty miles an hour. The accident to Hamlin's car occurred when it ran into a horse and buggy.

Hamlin went out riding accompanied by his chauffeur, Peter Minhard, and a workman in his barn, John Hanson. Minhard was driving the car.

BOOST PRICE OF MEAT.

Law Against Diseased Cattle Makes Famine at Packing Centres.

Chicago.—Prices of all kinds of packing products were raised from one to three cents a pound by the wholesale and retail dealers. The packers have protested against purchasing cattle under the new inspection law, which makes it incumbent upon them to permit a post-mortem examination after they buy their animals. They have demanded a better grade of cattle, or that the farmer stand the loss, and the farmers, "to get even," have shut off the supply. As a consequence, the packers have boosted prices.

Temporary Commissions Appointed.

John C. Capers, of South Carolina, has been chosen by President Roosevelt for the post of Commissioner of Internal Revenue ad interim.

200,000 Parade For Pure Wines.

A gigantic demonstration of wine growers was held at Nimes, France, as a protest against the adulteration of wines. Two hundred thousand persons marched in the procession. The day passed without violence.

New Internal Revenue Commissioner.

Pearl Wight, of New Orleans, accepted the Internal Revenue Commission's offer to him by the President, but will not assume the duties of the office until December 1.