

Births and Deaths

So many people think that reporting births and deaths is of no consequence, and sorry to relate there are a few doctors who have this same attitude. There is another portion of our population that does not think about it at all. This article should be of interest to both of these classes of our people.

The reporting of births, deaths, cases of sickness and marriages make up what is called Vital Statistics, and is often spoken of as the bookkeeping of the human family. No business can be carried on successfully without accurate bookkeeping. No state, county, or community can be successful unless there is accurate bookkeeping of its citizens.

This bookkeeping must be complete and accurate in order to be able to check up our assets and liabilities, and to be able to put a finger on the place where the loss is occurring. Securing statistical data relative to the human family is a mark of civilization, which shows that the state is interested in its citizens, and desires to make a record of the three greatest events in a citizen's life namely his birth, marriage, and death. If by careful and complete reports of births and deaths we find that we have a large number of births but also a very great number of infant deaths, we immediately know there is something wrong somewhere, and this knowledge will lead us to the place where the trouble is and the remedy can then be applied.

Not one penny should be spent in a county for welfare or health work until the Vital Statistics of the county are complete and accurate, then we have something definite to start on. We have laws and some machinery for collecting these valuable and important figures, but these laws are not obeyed. We should be as ruthless in enforcing the Vital Statistics laws as we are in enforcing the correct bookkeeping of all institutions both public and private, and if we find that we are having a human deficit, let the people know it and the cause of it.

Loss to State and County

Infant mortality is based on the number of deaths of infants under one year of age in relation to the births. For an example—there are 1000 births in a county and 60 deaths of infants under one year of age. This would give a rate of 60 deaths per 1000 births, a rather low rate at this time, but suppose there were only 500 of these births reported then the rate would be 120, a very high infant death rate. This would give any state or county a black eye as far as the outside world is concerned. If all births and deaths are

not reported, the bookkeeping of human lives is falsified and untrue, and those responsible for this situation should be dealt with severely.

The Doctors Loss

If the doctor does not report his cases of sickness, he is charged with a high mortality rate, for example: There should be about 10 cases of typhoid fever to every death. In 1924 in North Carolina there were reported 1,318 cases of typhoid fever and 275 deaths—very near one death to every 5 cases. We would judge by this that typhoid cases are not reported or that our doctors were not successful in treatment of typhoid fever. So in their own defense, of their reputation, doctors should report every case of sickness that the law requires him to report.

Loss to the Individual

The neglect of registering a birth means in all probability the following thirteen losses to the individual and possibly other losses:

- As evidence to prove the age and legitimacy of heirs.
- As proof of age to determine the validity of a contract entered into by an alleged minor.
- As evidence to establish age and proof of citizenship and decent in order to vote.
- As evidence to establish the right of admission to the professions and to many public offices.
- As evidence of legal age to marry.
- As evidence to prove the claims of widows and orphans under the widows' and orphans' pension law.
- As evidence to determine the liability of parents for debts of a minor.
- As evidence in the administration of estates, the settlement of insurance and pensions.
- As evidence to prove the irresponsibility of children under legal age for crime and misdemeanor, and various other matters in the criminal code.
- As evidence in the enforcement of law relating to education and to child labor.
- As evidence to determine the relations of guardians and wards.
- As proof of citizenship in order to obtain a passport.
- As evidence in the claim for exemption from or the right to jury and military service.

Death Registration

The uses of death registration are economic, social, and legal. That it assists in detection and prevention of crime is obvious. In the settlement of life insurance, soldiers' compensation and property inheritance it is invaluable—also used as the basis of genealogical study—invaluable in studying disease—also in suppressing epidemics and outbreaks of communicable diseases.

When a person dies the account

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is closed, and the books should show how, when, and where the account was closed, and if Vital Statistics account is correct every debit and credit must appear.

Press Want Ads Always Bring Results

THE PASSING OF THE P. D. R.

Time was, back in the days swains took their lasses buggy-riding and parlors were used for courting purposes, when the P. D. R. enjoyed its heyday.

On every railway train you gazed upon its sallow visage, and in hotel lobbies it lay as a snare for unwary feet. On mountain trails you met it, balanced from the shoulder on the end of a stout stick.

And in those good old days none were ashamed to call it friend.

But pride came into the land.

And the P. D. R. ain't what it used to be.

But hold! Is it possible that there is one present who does not know the P. D. R.? Wonders never cease! Then, unenlightened reader, lend us thine ear. The P. D. R. is a certain cheap grade of suitcase, largely constructed of pasteboard and oilcloth, which was once very popular through this neck of the woods.

The initials P. D. R. mean—PLEASE DON'T RAIN!

But the P. D. R. is about gone—and Steve Porter has put in something infinitely better for the person who needs Suitcases, Traveling Bags or Trunks.

For his is the famous COOK LINE—a line of GUARANTEED LUGGAGE.

These Suitcases and Bags are BUILT TO LAST; you can turn them over to the express man without the least worry; and a rain cloud gives you no anxiety. If you ask for SOLID LEATHER LUGGAGE you get it here, and the VALUE is governed by the price. They are cheapest in the end, for they last a life time.

My Trunks are the same quality. They are built to survive the very roughest handling. And they look what they are—CLASS.

And listen to this little whisper. If you MUST have a P. D. R. I've got a few of them, too, at \$1.25 and \$1.50 a throw. We aim to please 'em all.

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