

ST. JOHN MAN DRAWS CONCLUSIONS FROM SUICIDE STATISTICS.

Treatise on the Ethics of Self-Destruction by F. M. Solandres.

"Suicide While Temporarily Insane" No Longer to Be Accepted as the Generally Applicable Verdict, He Says—The Subject Viewed from Many Points in an Interesting Manner.

The swiftly increasing frequency of suicide, nowadays, is undoubtedly responsible for its overlook as a living problem of intense interest.

Just how great a change has taken place within living memory, very little thought appears to have been given.

A few statistics will here serve to illustrate the alarming increase in suicides. Let us commence with France:

Year 1840 to 1849, nine suicides per 100,000 population. Year 1850 to 1859, 10 suicides per 100,000 population. Year 1860 to 1869, 15 suicides per 100,000 population.

Year 1870 to 1879, 17 suicides per 100,000 population. Year 1880 to 1889, 21 suicides per 100,000 population. Year 1890 to 1899, 26 suicides per 100,000 population.

Between the years 1840 and 1870, suicides in France doubled in number. From 1826 to 1880, the proportion of suicides in Belgium amounted to 72 per cent.; France, 41 per cent.; Austria, 28 per cent.; Sweden 72 per cent., and Denmark 35 per cent.

Great Britain, her colonies and the United States, possess a suicide rate of about 70 per million population. Nearly 3,000 in One Year in United Kingdom.

Later, but less complete figures than the above have been compiled from time to time during the interval, each of which has shown a steadily increasing and deplorable increase in self-destruction.

"Why" is the question which instinctively arises from the foregoing, does it not seem rash and thoughtless to conclude that, with few exceptions, the many thousands yearly victims of suicide are impelled to self-destruction by acute paroxysms of suicidal mania?

sweating of brain and body, this incessant anxiety is absolutely essential to the procuring of our daily bread; only that, and not even the price of a few quiet days towards the last. Retrial at a moderate age, on a modest competency is alike beyond the hope and attainment of nine-tenths of humanity.

Is there then so much to live for? "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread till thou return unto the ground." Such was man's primal curse. Yet, as the world grows better, it is strangely true that there are very many who exist in almost unrelieved shadow.

Some there may be who, consulting only their own standard, will deny the possibility of calmly permanent and robust life of every joyful element.

Because we can hear in no justification for condemning as insane the feeble suffering creature of others, nor must we think to gauge the suffering of others by our own.

The continuance of existence seems joy, and under the growing influence of ever present sorrow, is mainly due to three factors: First, the primary instinct of self-preservation, possessed by humanity in common with the lowest created forms of life.

Second is the outcome of the first, viz: an instinctive horror of self-destruction coupled with a fear of death. Last, but not least, the dread of the hereafter.

These three deterrents are rapidly losing their power over sane humanity, the remarkable increase in suicides would seem to convey.

Further, why cowardly to voluntarily end a miserable struggle. Might it not be rather cowardly to continue a struggle one fears the consequence of ending it? Take, for instance, the soliloquy of Hamlet:

"Who would fardels bear To grunt and sweat under a weary life, But that the dread of something after death, The undiscovered country, from whose bourne No traveler returns, puzzles the will, And makes us rather bear those ills we have Than fly to others that we know not of?"

The distinct inference here is that fear of the hereafter withholds the hand of the suicide, "and the native hue of resolution is scalded o'er with the pale cast of thought." Thus, fear being the withholding impulse, it logically follows, from a Shakespearean basis, that suicide is not cowardly, but courageous! And this basis is identical that from which humanity in majority evolves precisely the opposite conclusion.

The lower the intelligence, the stronger the first instinct of self-preservation, that instinct which impels even the drowning man to clutch at a straw; and it will be admitted that narrow religious views are invariably linked to comparatively low intelligence, and consequently, the intensity of the dread of death.

only with broad, ultra-dogma religious convictions, or no religious convictions whatever. The first class give an indignant denial to hell and eternal punishment, and adhere to a rooted conviction in Divine love; the second accept annihilation as "a consummation devoutly to be wished."

Again, it is universally apparent that, with the development of higher civilization, the natural cause of the suicide is less, the rational, the intellectual, the moral basis of law, the supernatural gives place to the natural.

It is interesting to note that, in the case of the Roman Catholic states, suicides at present average about 53 per million of the population, while in Protestant states, the average is 100 per million.

Apparently, there is no remedy; suicide will increase with greater rapidity in the future than in the past. All things point to that conclusion. As years pass, mankind will feel less inclination to submit to life's unquiet handiwork.

The emancipation of female labor into branches formerly the sole prerogative of man, may very rapidly bring about a working of evolution towards the prevention of over-population.

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CANADA'S ELECTRICAL CHIEF TALKS ABOUT THE MARCONI SYSTEM.

Chief Electrician Keely Here, After a Five Months' Cable-laying Expedition.

What He Thinks of the Italian Inventor and Wireless Telegraphy—The Bryan Island Cable a Complete Success, Connecting Cape Breton and the Magdalen.

After spending five months casting about the shores of Eastern Canada from Anticosti to the Bay of Fundy in the important work of cable laying and repairing, D. H. Keely, chief electrician for the Dominion government, is at the Dufferin.

Mr. Keely has been aboard the cable steamship Tyrian since June 17, and the most important work he has accomplished in that time has been the laying of the government cable from St. Lawrence, and from Bryan Island to Anticosti, by which cable communication is established from Health Point, Anticosti, to West Cove, Cape Breton.

So far the cable has proved entirely satisfactory. To say it properly was a feat attended by no small amount of difficulty and hardship due to the lateness of the season and the rough weather and that it is an unqualified success is a matter of congratulation to Mr. Keely, as well as to Captain Thomas O'Leary and Chief Engineer C. E. Stewart, of the Tyrian, to whom Mr. Keely says no small amount of credit is due.

Mr. Keely has a great opinion of the Marconi system of wireless telegraphy, and is pronounced in his views that the most suitable Italian inventor and his associates should not attempt to reach "let them continue themselves," said he, "to working with stations not more than 300 miles apart and they will be successful, but further than that it will be a difficult problem to keep the circuit in proper adjustment. He was not inclined to relegate the old fashioned method to oblivion, but was rather of the opinion that Marconi's invention will eventually be completed as auxiliary to the other and that the successful transaction of "business over sea" by Marconi's plan will stimulate the wireless system.

Weddings in St. John. The residence of James Davis, White street, was the scene of a happy event at an early hour Wednesday morning, the occasion being the marriage of Mr. Davis' youngest daughter, Miss Mary Harrington, to Mr. W. H. O'Neill, of Woodstock. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Dr. Raymond, of St. Mary's church, in the presence of the bride's immediate friends and a very extensive social gathering.

The American Health Improvement Association. The American Health Improvement Association is as yet unknown to most Canadians because its field of usefulness is humanitarian. Its object is to increase the health, vigor and pleasure of its fellow human beings.

ALL DISEASES AND WEAKNESSES OF MEN. From whatever cause arising, and in any stage, cured at the old and famous Peabody Medical Institute, 100, 102 and 104, St. John Street, St. John, N. B.

THE COUNTRY MARKET. Fear Fowl Will Be Scarce at Xmas Time—Market Conditions and Prices.

In the country market this week there is no suggestion yet of the decorations which will announce the festive season of a month hence. The housewives with their baskets come and buy and go, week by week, and the farmers bring their produce, and the routine which now prevails, but, fast approaching Christmas, the season of holiday jollity and good things will be evident in the country market as quickly as anywhere.

Table listing market prices for various goods including Turkey, Pork, Beef, Mutton, Butter, Eggs, etc.

A BOURNE OF SURPRISE. To Physician and Patent Alkali. Dr. Redmond, a specialist in the study and treatment of piles and hemorrhoids, is reported to have discovered a new and effective remedy for these ailments.

Steamers Collide, One Founders. London, Nov. 20.—The Danish steamer Knud, Captain Hansen, from Copenhagen, and the British steamer Swaledale, from Hamburg, collided tonight at the mouth of the Tyne. The Knud foundered immediately and the master and seven of her crew were drowned.

How to Beautify the Complexion. To have a soft, smooth skin, free from eruptions and pimples, the blood must be healthy and pure. Ferronine invigorates enfeebled blood, and cleanses it of all impurities and poisons; it brings color to the lips and cheeks, brilliancy to the eyes, whitens the teeth and sweetens the breath.

Intercolonial Railway. On and after SUNDAY, October 12, 1902, trains will run daily (Sunday excepted), as follows:

Trains Leave St. John. No. 1—Express for Halifax and Campbellton. No. 2—Express for Point du Chene, Halifax and Pictou. No. 3—Express for Sussex. No. 4—Express for Quebec and Montreal. No. 5—Express for Halifax and Sydney.

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Advertisement for Castoria, featuring a bottle illustration and text: "See that the FAC-SIMILE SIGNATURE OF CHAS. H. HITCHCOCK IS ON THE WRAPPER OF EVERY BOTTLE OF CASTORIA."

Advertisement for Five Leading Brands of Canadian Parlor Matches, listing brands like Headlight, Eagle, Victoria, etc.

Advertisement for Don't Go to a Business College, featuring W. J. Osborne, Principal, Fredericton, N. B.

Advertisement for Wanted: Good hustling Agents in every unrepresented district to sell The Daily Telegraph.

Advertisement for Intercolonial Railway, listing train schedules and routes.

Advertisement for Cook's Compound Root Compound, describing its benefits for various ailments.

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