

ed the rope at school, a few days before, five hundred times. Think of five hundred rushes of blood upon the little heart in quick succession! No wonder I had to make the terrific of death, 'Emboli, or clot in the heart, caused by overheat and jumping straight up five hundred times.'"

Not only does this practice throw a great and sometimes killing strain upon the heart, but it often causes serious injury to the joints of the knees and hips and to the spine. The muscular and nervous exhaustion, due to long continued jumping, must also be injurious.

#### EFFECTS OF SMOKING ON THE HEART.

Some years ago (*Gazette Obstetricale*) M. Decaisne drew attention to the fact that tobacco-smoking often causes an intermittent pulse. Out of eighty-one great smokers examined, twenty-three presented an intermittent pulse, independent of any cardiac lesion. This intermittency disappeared when the habit of smoking was abandoned. He also studied the effects of smoking on children from nine to fifteen years of age, and found that it undoubtedly caused palpitation, intermittent pulse, and chloroanæmia. The children, furthermore, became dull, lazy, and predisposed to the use of alcoholic drinks. Recently he reported to the *Societe d'hygiene* the results of his observations on the effects of smoking on women. Since 1865 he has met with and observed forty-three female smokers. Most of them suffered from disturbances of menstruation and digestion, and presented very marked intermittency of the pulse without any lesion of the heart. He gave detailed accounts of these eight cases, in which all treatment directed against the inter-

mittency proved utterly useless, while the suppression of tobacco was invariably followed by improvement, and very often by complete disappearance of the phenomenon.

#### STRANGE CAUSES OF DEATH.

The proceedings of the Medical Society of the County of Kings, Brooklyn, N. Y., "proliferates" the following:

A special committee, in a report on medical matters to the Supreme Lodge, Knights of Honor, say "that among the certificates of death we found a death recorded as caused by 'organic duodenum of the heart,' a peculiar form of cardiac disease of which your committee have no knowledge; one caused by 'dysphagia, on account of closing the glottis,' and we are left to conjecture whether or no it was done voluntarily, by due process of law, or a dispensation of providence; another was caused by 'congestion of the brain and falling from a building'; the primary cause of death we are unable to determine; another, in a little more than three months after initiation, died of the following onslaught of maladies: 'inflammation of neck of the bladder, acute bronchitis, pleuro-pneumonia, inflammation of the left ear, nephritic trouble and functional cerebral trouble.' 'Trouble' enough to kill an entire Lodge."

#### DRUNKENNESS AND SUICIDES.

From statistics collected by a director of an asylum for drunkards in Germany (*Med. Times and Gaz.*), the number of suicides has lately increased in every country in Europe except Norway. In Norway there has been an average of nine per cent. fewer cases of suicides during the last ten years than in any preceding ten years—a fact which the German writer attributes to the