

have an average of \$637 of deposits, several having over \$800 of deposits to each \$100 of capital, and one of them, over \$900.

Another group of 4 banks whose paid-up capital runs from \$2,000,000 to \$2,500,000 have an aggregate capital of \$16,467,000 and deposits \$100,850,000, which shows an average of \$612 deposits to each \$100 of capital. In this group we have two banks who each have over \$900 of deposits for \$100 of capital.

A third group of 7 banks whose paid-up capital ranges from \$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000, have an aggregate capital of \$8,871,000, and deposits, \$51,200,000, which gives an average of \$588 deposits to each \$100 of capital. Although the average of this group is a smaller amount than that of the two others, which include large banks, there is one bank whose deposits average \$1,236 for each \$100 of capital, which is the highest proportion in the entire list.

Taking the same groups, we get the following averages of their ratio of current loans and discounts to capital which are placed alongside the deposit figures for comparison:

GROUPS.	Amount of circulation to each \$100 of capital.	Amount of deposits to each \$100 of capital.	Amount of discounts to each \$100 of capital.
Group 1, 10 banks, Capital, 3 to 14 millions.	\$69.9	\$637	\$514
Group 2, 7 banks, Capital, 2 to 2½ million.	83.0	612	571
Group 3, 7 banks, Capital, 1 to 1½ millions.	89.6	588	630

So far as circulation goes, there will be a gradual rise from this time onward to the early part of November when the percentages of the two lesser groups will be close upon 100, and the whole average will probably be 90 per cent. or over.

To those who interest themselves in studying the relative conditions of banks of various degrees of magnitude, as judged by the proportion of their capital to their reserve fund, circulation, deposits and loans, the above data and the annexed table of statistics will have special value.

SUICIDE QUESTIONS AND STATISTICS.

Amongst the questions which have been made the subject of scientific enquiry by life assurance must be named that of suicide. In earlier years this lugubrious subject was never discussed from any standpoint, medical, social, or actuarial. It was the custom to mutilate and dishonour the body of a suicide with terrible brutality, the intent being, presumably, to strike terror into the minds of any who were contemplating this crime and so preventing its commission.

In ancient times it was not at all uncommon for even the most distinguished citizens to commit suicide. History records several notable instances of this in pagan times when the sacredness of human life was not recognized.

Since life insurance become so general the life companies have been compelled to adopt special precautions against suffering loss from policy-holders ending their own life by a criminal act, not infrequently, it is believed, with the deliberate intention of robbing an insurance company.

The whole basis of life insurance is undermined by this terrible double crime. The contract between a life insurance company and a policy-holder implies that his life will be continued in the ordinary course until ended by accident, or sickness. The medical examination of an applicant for life assurance implies that the prospect of life as revealed by such examination constitutes an essential element in the contract embodied in the policy. Were it possible to diagnose the mind of an applicant and were such search to reveal a latent tendency, or discover a half-formed resolution to commit suicide, the application would be peremptorily declined. This being impossible, the life companies have to run the risk of being defrauded by a policy-holder's ending his life in order to secure the premature payment to his heirs of the amount of his policy.

The stipulations which life companies have adopted for their protection against this risk are various, but, however strictly worded, they are liable to be set aside, when a dispute arises by the too general habit of juries of giving a verdict against an insurance company which is defending itself against fraud.

From the tabulated statistics published in the "Spectator" by Mr. Frederick L. Hoffman, it is too manifest that, as he says, "there is an increasing propensity to self-murder among the population of the United States," as appears from the average number of suicides having risen from 12.0 per 100,000 of population in 1890 to 16.0 in 1900, and to 19.5 in 1904. We are disposed to attribute some portion of this deplorable increase to the greater care now taken in compiling statistics than was customary in former years. But a rise from 12 per 100,000 to 19.5; an increase of over 60 per cent., in 14 years can hardly be accounted for by the theory of imperfect records in the earlier year.

"It is a question," says Mr. Hoffman, "and a problem for the psychologist and student of human society to answer, why this tendency towards self-murder should persist under present day conditions of exceptional prosperity, material well-being and widely diffused wealth among the masses."

We fear the idea underlying the above remarks is wholly unsound. Present day conditions of prosperity, material well-being, diffused wealth are no antidote to the morbid impulses which inspire self-murder. Those conditions rather stimulate those impulses by creating desires, ambitions, and tastes which destroy the contentment and trust in Providence which confer the moral health and strength which are infallible safeguards against suicidal im-