

for, strange to say, there are fewer suicides among miners whose life is difficult, depressing and dangerous, than among masons and carpenters. Another remarkable fact is that in Russia, where the conditions of life would seem to be harder than in most other countries, the rate is the lowest, being but 27 per million as against 105 in England, 223 in France, and 469 in Saxony. May not the intense religious faith, corrupt as his form of religion may be, of the Russian peasant account for this wonderful difference? May not the same reason account for the fact that in Scotland the rate is 56 as compared with 223 in France? That in the United States as compared with England the proportion is as 10 to 7 and double that as compared with Scotland.

These figures would seem to bear out the theory that moral degeneracy, due to the want of religious training, has more to do with suicide than physical discomfort or mental disquiet. They do not, however, explain why Denmark should have a much higher rate than France, and more than double that of England, and why Saxony should have nearly twice as high a rate as Denmark.

Further investigation is required before we can form any definite conclusion as to the causes of suicide and by what means they may be dealt with. It may be that the subject is one to be dealt with by the psychologist rather than the theologian.

COMMON EMPLOYMENT.

It is rather remarkable that the doctrine of common employment has, in some recent cases, received a very wide application, though the number of cases in which the question can arise has enormously diminished since the Workmen's Compensation Act has been in operation, and must, necessarily, tend to decrease more and more. In *Coldrick v. Partridge, Jones & Co. Limited* (noted, *Law Times*, p. 130), Mr. Justice Bray gave an exhaustive judgment in which he reviewed the authorities and laid down the rule as to common employment in very wide terms,