

THE REVIEW

Entered as Second-Class Matter.
M. T. LAMBY, Editor and Publisher.
Friday, September 7, 1906.

Are Suicides Rare?

The unusual number of suicides that have been reported recently has led at least one thoughtful student to assert that suicide generally results from insanity. To sustain the assertion it is pointed out that insanity is increasing as the number of those who take their lives increases. In New York alone there were 443 cases of suicide in seven months. The reasons given for attempted suicide in many instances are so silly that lack of mental balance seems to be proved by that fact alone. One man kills himself because he has toothache; another who intended to take his life desisted because the water was too cold; Josiah B. Riddle of Jefferson City, Mo., killed himself because he was too fat; Irene Bogins of Atlantic City took her life because she had a new lavender dress to be buried in; George H. Smith of New York believed himself too old at forty-five; Representative Adams of Pennsylvania killed himself because he had lost money and killed himself with only his salary of \$5,000 a year.

Toothache can certainly be cured, excessive weight can be reduced, lavender dresses may look well without a coffin setting, and \$5,000 a year, even in these times, will sustain a moderate man fairly well.

The truth probably is that suicide is the proof of hitherto unsuspected insanity in the vast majority of cases. When a man has encountered some terrible calamity, his weariness of life is understandable, but it is with such an accompaniment, the insanity hypothesis is encouraged by the fact that insanity and suicide have increased simultaneously. There are more than twice as many hospitals for the insane as there were thirteen years ago, and most of them are full. The number of inmates has grown from 45,000 in 1870 to 77,000 in 1880 and 120,000 on Dec. 31, 1903. The number of insane in hospitals per 100,000 population increased from 81.6 in 1870 to 182.2 in 1903. Whoever finds in American life the causes that are crowding the insanity hospitals will doubtless have explained the wide prevalence of self destruction.

Standing in a pulpit, from which he had been invited to preach, a western clergyman turned dramatically to the regular pastor of the church, who sat upon the platform, and said: "I have waited long for this opportunity, and now I am here to denounce you as the destroyer of my home. You turned my home as a friend. Then you won the love of my wife. I denounce you here as a traitor. Do you hear me? A traitor!" Such scenes in a theater are common. The whole spirit of the affair was theatrical. What does it portend—that churchgoers demand the theatrical, or simply that the clergyman, who worked up the scene, should have been an actor rather than a preacher?

Publicly as a cure all has had another demonstration. A Trenton (N. J.) young man of seventeen became engaged to a maiden of equally tender age. The young man's father heard of it, and he didn't like it. He didn't have a scene with his son, but sent an advertisement to the local paper calling the attention of the public to the fact that his son was but seventeen years old and that he could not marry until he was twenty-one. It worked as all good ads do. When the young lady read the announcement she said she would not marry the young man now or at any other time.

This is an observing Kentucky girl's opinion of Paris and Parisians: "The Parisians I did not consider so much at all. The city itself was really disappointing; the shops not any better than our own, and things really higher, I thought. The women are not beautiful, to my way of thinking, although they dress prettily. And I certainly think that the way the people stared at us and talked of us and followed us about as if we were THE big name in maintaining spectacles of an almost extinct species was very rude and gave us a very disagreeable impression of 'gay Paris.'"

The motor eye is the latest development that the medical profession has to deal with. It appears that those who are continually rushing through the country on a motor car cause the eye to take a too rapid impression of the things it encounters and that this affects the mechanism of the eye. Nature did not prepare us for the conditions of modern times, and while it is adapting itself to them many unforeseen circumstances must occur.

An attractive young woman who boarded at a prominent New York hotel, to the extent of \$100, left a battered suit case with a rusty flat iron in it when she departed. The hotel keeper was not satisfied. He said he was not making a collection of feminine articles of defense.

This Prosperous Era.

That these are remarkably prosperous times in the United States is apparent to everybody. Statisticians have been presenting figures and basing arguments upon them in all parts of the country. Many are satisfied to take what the prosperous times bring and to give no thought to the reason. Others want to know the causes. Carl Snyder in an article in Moody's Magazine, entitled "The Amazing Prosperity of the United States," goes into the question exhaustively. He points out that for the last five years we have had phenomenal crops in corn, hay, cotton, wheat and oats. The total value of these five crops for the last five years of the last century amounted to \$9,000,000,000. The returns for these same crops for the first five years of the new century were above \$14,000,000,000, a sheer advance of more than 55 per cent. With no noteworthy increase of effort the land of fortune passed to the credit amount of the nation an extra allowance of \$5,000,000,000—\$1,000,000,000 per year for these five crops alone. He estimates that other farm products would amount to as much more. Therefore, the supporting population of the country received on an average \$2,000,000,000 per year more for its labors, through these five years, than what might be regarded as its normal return.

As officially computed by the department at Washington, the farm values for these five crops for the last year reached \$12,909,000,000. That was double the computed value for 1895 or 1896. In other words, for every \$100 which the farmer of 1895 or 1896 had to live on, to buy with, to spend, he had very near to \$200 in 1905.

The aggregate values for all farm products for the year were estimated by the department at above \$3,000,000,000. It would probably be difficult to show that ever before in history has farming received so high a return as in the last year. It is quite certain that it has never known, in this country at least, so long a period of profitable prices with a bountiful yield. It is perhaps no exaggeration to say that in consequence of these five years without precedent, the American farmer is in a position of greater economic independence, not to say opulence, than has ever before been known to the tiller of the soil in the whole history of the race.

These are very satisfactory figures. They are nice to contemplate. Everybody is glad to know that the farmers, who are the backbone of our country, are better off than they ever were before. Everybody would be glad to be assured that the same remarkable prosperity that has been vouchsafed for the last five years will continue indefinitely. Good crops, however, have not always followed year after year. This is the first time in this country that five have followed one another in succession. Possibly things are going to be different and prosperous years are going to continue and hard times never come again. It is pretty safe to say, however, that those of the number whose returns from their labors have been doubled, who have considered these five years as unusual years and have kept their expenses little in excess of what they have been in normal years and allowed their surplus to accumulate, have shown the better judgment. There is a safe position whether this amazingly prosperous era shall be permanent or temporary.

Hope Hall, the home for ex-convicts established by Mrs. Harrington Booth on Long Island, cared for 2,800 discharged prisoners from the time it was inaugurated in 1899 to the present year. The conduct of only two prisoners was so bad during their stay in the colony as to cause re-arrest, and only 5 per cent for whom employment was found reverted to evil ways. This seems to establish the fact that the cause of the average convict's falling after his release from prison is not in himself, but in the attitude that society assumes toward him.

Gross earnings of the railroads in the United States during the first week in August amounted to \$7,094,915, an increase of 11.7 per cent over the figures of the preceding year. If the railroads can increase earnings at this rate on capitalizations well known to be liberal, if not excessive, the demands being made in different sections of the country for lower rates of fare are not so unreasonable as the corporation managers would have the world believe.

The annual report of the British chamber of commerce in Paris shows intense competition between Great Britain and Germany for French trade. The increase in German exports to France amounted in 1905 to \$1,046,711, or practically the same as the British increase, which was \$7,130,070.

Mr. Bryan's daughter's play is pronounced a success. The American people generally will share Mr. Bryan's fatherly satisfaction.

With thives operating in automobiles and auto boats the rich have additional causes to bewail their lot.

Husbands and How to Train Them.

Here are some well considered suggestions which, if followed, it is said, will make any married woman's life one glad sweet song.

Husbands, like other wild animals, must be trained as soon as they are caught.

One of the first rules in training is to be careful about their diet.

While a husband is still comparatively new it is best not to show him too frequently to your relations. He may become restive and refuse to perform his prior stunts or to answer your aunt's questions.

Encourage your husband to argue. It decreases his power of resistance, and you can do exactly as you please afterwards.

In any disagreement show your husband that he has been the aggressor. Make counter accusations to bring it home to him that he is a brute and that you are an angel.

Flavor your admiration of him with criticism. He will value the latter more than the former.

Encourage your husband to attend his club, never invite him to yours. Women should only invite each other's husbands to their clubs. It is not decent to parade domestic felicity.

Remember that cheerfulness is more attractive than mere goodness. Any woman can be good, but few can be genuinely cheerful.

With a little tact a well trained husband will be proud to settle his wife's bridge bills.

It is part of a man's lack of logic to expect his wife to dress better than his best friend's wife on half the money. Correct this impression immediately. Always dress up to your trousers. It will make your husband live up to the hourglass.

Finally, remember that the lips are mightier than the tongue in matrimonial differences and that to disobey beautifully is better than to obey dutifully.

Against High Buildings.

William F. Durbin, president of the United States National bank and vice president of the State Saving and Commercial bank of San Francisco, who has made a study of the effect of high buildings, wishes to have them limited in the new San Francisco.

He says that the elevator shafts of a tall steel building when on fire operate as a furnace, and the current of air caused thereby is such that a fireman cannot keep his feet. In the Baltimore fire the firemen were not able to stand within 200 feet of the tall steel buildings, and no water was thrown on them at all. Most of the skyscrapers were destroyed in twenty minutes from the time they took fire. This is testimony before the engineers' society of western Pennsylvania. The experience of Baltimore led to a limitation in the height of buildings to 175 feet, as appears from an article in the Craftsman Magazine. The principal European cities—London, Berlin, Paris and Vienna—restrict the height of buildings to less than 100 feet. Boston and Washington have also adopted height limits. Ernest Flagg, a New York architect, believes that ten stories should be the limit, and he figures that buildings higher than that have not paid well financially. Mr. Flavelle, a San Francisco architect, is of the same opinion. Excessively tall buildings are "pirates of air and sunshine." They are injurious to the owners of neighboring property. They also disfigure a city because they lead to great irregularity in the sky line. From the standpoint of a fire hazard, Mr. Durbin thinks, the city would be justified in limiting all buildings to a height of twelve stories. The vanity or greed of owners of choice corners is opposed to such limitations, but the welfare of all other people and the protection of the city seem to demand the limitation.

Too much wit in the family is disturbing. It is all right for one party to a marriage contract to be brilliant, but when both sides there is apt to be incompatibility. Oliver Herford, poet and artist, married Margaret Regan, poet and wit. They said bright things to each other for a little over a year and then began traveling separate paths. Their friends fear that it will be difficult to bring them together again because their verbal shots were so deftly constructed they are unforgettable.

Excursion Tickets to County Fair at Belyiders, Ill.

Via the North-Western Line, will be sold at reduced rates Sept. 3 to 7, inclusive. Apply to agents of Chicago & North-Western N.Y.

Do you want Hay?

If you do, now is your chance. I have for sale sixty tons of choice timothy hay which was cut in season and put up without rain.

A. W. LANDWER, Barrington, Ill.

For Sale.

Corn and oats. Corn, 50 cents a bushel; oats, 35 cents a bushel for the best quality.

JOHN BALMES, Cuba, Ill. R.F.D. Barrington Route No. 1.

Do You Wish to Become a Writer?

It is much more difficult for a author to get recognition now than it was twenty years ago, because so many more people can write well than was the case then.

The competition both in literature and journalism is so great that only the youth or girl who delights in literary composition as in nothing else should undertake to become a writer. Sometimes the person with the writing gift discovers himself or herself; sometimes the discovery is made by a friend or acquaintance. In either case, however, faithful practice, study and unending aspiration and grit are necessary before the aim is accomplished.

Have you the aspiration to be a successful writer for the press? First thing, make your English perfect as to spelling, grammar, punctuation and capitals. Life is quite too short these days for editors and proofreaders to correct mechanical errors in composition. Next, there is the same everlasting old rule—write, lay your work aside for awhile, then go over it carefully and strike out every word that can be omitted without marring your thought. This gives your statement sharpness and force, like an arrow speeding to its mark.

It is best to avoid expressions, quotations, saws and sayings that people who are too lazy to think have been putting into print since the middle ages. Probably just after the San Francisco earthquake nine out of every ten newspapers told us that the city was going to "rise, phoenix-like, from its ashes." It is high time that poor old phoenix bird had a rest, along with the mother-in-law joke and the expressions "women fainted" and "women became hysterical." Steer always away from phrases others have used before you. If you can't do that, you are not meant for a writer.

The one who aims to get a good style must study modern masters of composition—study but don't imitate them. One of the noblest masters of modern English is Robert Louis Stevenson.

There is a difference between journalism and literature that must be kept in mind. The brilliant, bustling, up to date journalist is seldom literary. If you must write, choose which you will have—journalism with its roar and whirl and fascination of work under white heat pressure of literature and solitude and quiet, with time to think out your scheme and polish your composition.

In newspapers striking and taking local features are most acceptable, especially if illustrated with photographs or sketches. The person who can draw well counts to an illustrator's get employment almost certainly. The best way is to do some of your finest work as a sample and take it to editors. Think out a list of subjects for future articles and submit these as suggestions for special features. Often a beginner has struck paying work in that way.

In the field of literature there is now good demand among magazine editors for first class short stories.

It is calculated that there is \$12,500,000,000 on deposit and available in the various banks of this country. It is a well known fact that the total amount of money in this country is only a little over \$2,500,000,000. Carl Snyder in Moody's Magazine says that, as a matter of fact, if there were a universal run over the country and the banks in their turn could lay their hands upon every bit of legal money in the United States they could not pay their depositors 20 cents on the dollar. This shows to what extent business is done on credit.

Discussion has again been started as to which is the better season—summer or winter. This question will never be settled to the satisfaction of everybody. The man who favors winter argues that it is impossible to mitigate the extreme heat, while it is comparatively easy to get the best of cold. The only real happy man is he who takes both seasons philosophically.

Voters in states where nominations can be made at the primaries can only blame themselves if machine men get the offices. Will they, however, take advantage of their opportunities? Most of the troubles of this country come from the fact that voters generally do not interest themselves in politics. The change of a law or two will hardly change this fact.

Mrs. Mary Morelo of Jersey City was sent to an asylum as a result of smoking 100 cigarettes a day. This is a valuable pointer for women who have acquired the smoking habit. Just the proper number of cigarettes per day for a real lady has not been established, so far as we know, but it would seem that 100 were too many.

General Von-Bar-Ish-ek, mayor of Warsaw, who was shot by a terrorist, certainly carried weight in his name. Think of what his youth must have been!

The 371 John Smiths in Chicago suggest many possibilities in the mixing of mail.

Cement Sidewalks

are our special line of business and those parties for whom we have done work can testify as to the durability of the sidewalks, while our competitors are wondering how on earth we can quote such low prices and yet furnish the Best material. If you need a sidewalk let us figure with you.

Braham & Homuth

BARRINGTON, ILL.



You've no idea the amount of work it will save you. Try it.

SHAME ON YOU

If you let your women folk sizzle over a coal range or wood stove these hot summer days.

We will connect free

Your gas range or water heater if you will put in your application for service and meter.

NOW...IT'S UP TO YOU

Northwestern Gas Light & Coke Co. EVANSTON, ILL.

McAVOY'S MALT MARROW

FOR SALE BY THE BOTTLE OR DOZEN

BY GEO. FOREMAN BARRINGTON, ILL.