

WHEN SUICIDE FAILS

Self-Destruction Seldom Attempted a Second Time.

Interesting Observations of a Chicago Policeman Who Has Had Extensive Experience in This Particular Line.

In the opinion of Sergt. Hastings, of the Chicago detective bureau, the will to commit suicide is a good deal like the disposition to commit murder, says the Tribune of that city. One man may think he wants to die, may go just to the sticking point, and then back out; another in the same mood may shoot himself or jump into the water, and, escaping, decide that he has enough of it; or the person of another type, once making up his mind to die, dies if three or four attempts are made necessary.

Sergt. Hastings, who has been registering for the police department the suicides and the attempts at suicide which take place in Chicago, is skeptical of certain attempts at self-destruction.

"The type of person who tries to kill himself," said the sergeant, "has his inspiration in the fact that he is full of drink, has lost his money, perhaps, is discouraged, and is afraid to go home. Such a fellow most frequently bunts up the lake or the river and jumps in. If he is pulled out and drained, he's most likely to let it go at that. Dying wasn't as easy as he thought and the cold water has sobered him."

"Women frequently may be suspected of making a show of suicide for the effect it may have on a husband who isn't doing just to suit her. By attempting to kill herself she may scare him into behaving himself; or if she has lost hope of that, she knows that she can create sympathy for herself and make it uncomfortable for him."

"Every little while, however, some man or woman commits suicide, and afterward it develops that the person had tried it perhaps three or four times before. In such cases the person is 'off' in general. A person of this kind usually has 'moods,' and whenever one of these moods strikes him his friends and relatives have learned to look out for him."

"There are so many causes for suicide, however, and so many persons of different temperaments attempt it that figures and speculation can prove nothing. One can say only that when a person of a certain decision of character goes after his own life he's just as likely to get himself as he would be if he started out to kill somebody else."

"As a general observation it may be said that young men and women at a sentimental age are about as likely to succeed at self-destruction as are persons much older and more worldly-wise. Gas has been noted as unusually common in attempts made by elderly men and women, while the young and sentimental seem to prefer the revolver or carbolic acid."

"Without knowing," said a physician, "I should guess that no person who ever tried to kill himself with carbolic acid and failed would ever resort a second time to that agent. It is a horrible death—a death in which the victim retains consciousness almost to the last and yet suffers indescribable agonies."

"It is quite possible that the physical pains of an attempt at suicide discourage many despondent ones from another trial at crossing the Styx. At the same time I should say that a removal of the itching cause of the first attempt would be a much more logical reason."

EMERALDS ADVANCE IN VALUE

Prices of the Gems Go Up and Mines Long Idle Are About to Resume Operation.

Columbia's emerald mines, which have not been worked since the eighteenth century, are to be reopened and operated by a company of American and British capitalists. The mines, in the Chivor district, are practically in the same condition as they were in 1792, when they were closed by order of the king of Spain because their operation was no longer profitable, owing to the low price of emeralds, says a London paper.

Columbia is a rich country and has many valuable deposits of gold, silver and precious stones, but on account of the scarcity of labor the aborigines do most of the work in the mines, and they use only the rudest implements of wood and stone. The great difficulty that confronts a prospector in Columbia is the method of transportation. The country is the most mountainous in the world, and the only means of sending freight to the coast is by pack mules and by boat on the great rivers, which is most difficult and expensive.

"The diamond is no longer the most expensive gem," said an old miner. "As regards monetary value, it is far surpassed by the ruby and the emerald, and even the pearl is rated higher. The emerald is at present the most fashionable stone, and brings good prices. An emerald of medium size and purity that may have cost about \$50 a few years ago cannot be had today for less than \$250. Recently an emerald of three carats was sold for \$375, while one of six carats brought \$4,000. A diamond of exactly the same size costs about \$1,000. It must not be assumed, however, that diamonds are depreciating in value. Other stones, and especially emeralds, simply have risen in price of late in a surprising manner."

SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

Gold prospectors in Alaska say they can go farther and accomplish more hard work on rice and bacon than on any other ration.

The remains of gigantic human beings have been found in some caves near Grimandi, the property of the prince of Monaco.

Oil fuel is now successfully used on four steamers of the Hamburg company run in the eastern trade, and especially built for this fuel.

The famines in the interior of Russia are coincident with a decline in the humidity, due in great measure to the destruction of forests.

In Humboldt and Mendocino counties, Cal., there are 66 sawmills at work upon the famous redwood forests, which are gradually disappearing, the value of the output for the year 1900 being nearly \$5,000,000.

Among the articles of American manufacture which are still holding their own in Europe are typewriters, office furniture, Kodak-camera supplies, cash-registers, time-recorders, harvesting machinery, dental instruments and supplies, sewing machines.

The invasion of England by American capital and energy is shown once more in Heathfield, Sussex, where Americans have found and are utilizing a supply of natural gas. The railroad station and a hotel are already lighted by this gas, which will soon be used throughout the village.

DECADENCE OF SADDLE-BAGS.

The Handy Carriers of Old Are Not Often Seen in These Days of Good Roads.

"The old-time saddle bags used by country doctors have two arch enemies in the drug store and good roads," said the man from Texas, according to the New York Times. "There are not nearly so many saddle bags used nowadays as there were 25 years ago. They are one of the commodities that the increase in the country's population is gradually driving out of existence."

"Why, I can remember that when I was a youngster there was a common thing for a doctor to have his patients scattered over a circuit of 40 miles or more. Often there would not be a drug store in all that region, and the only remedies at hand were the medicines carried in hand-carrying cases. This was the condition throughout the greater part of the entire country. Now, however, villages have multiplied, and each has added that keystone of modern civilization, the corner drug store, where all the inhabitants of the neighborhood except those that are exceedingly rural take their prescriptions and have compounded the tonics that cure their ills."

"Good roads are hardly less important as a factor in the decadence of saddle bags. The time was when it was impossible for a doctor to drive over the well-nigh impassable sloughs called public roads, and saddle bags were a necessity. Now the condition of the highways makes it possible for a man to visit most of his patients in a buggy, in which case the hand medicine chest is substituted for the old-fashioned saddle bags."

"There are more saddle bags used in Missouri and Texas today than any other states in the union. In many sections of those commonwealths physicians still travel great distances, but I suppose the time is not far off when saddle bags will become a back number, even in those sparsely settled districts."

"So far as the practitioner is concerned, this change in fashion is to be regretted, for a doctor who has never ridden across country with saddle bags flapping at his horse's sides has never tasted admiration in its highest form. To the farm people who stare after him with open-mouthed awe and wonder as he dashes past he is the apotheosis of human accomplishments, and the pleasure he derives from such adoration is totally unknown to the doctor who cures people without the aid of saddle bags."

WOMAN WITH QUEER JOB.

Los Angeles Female Detective Takes Medicine Prescribed by Unlicensed Doctors.

Chief among the witnesses in a recent police court case was a woman who has about the queerest job in the world. She makes her living, not by doctoring people, but by being doctored, says a Los Angeles report.

She is a female detective hired by the Los Angeles Medical society to go around to doctors suspected of practicing without licenses and get them to prescribe for her purported ills.

She has been treated for everything she ever had a suspicion of several times, and has now started in on some fancy ailments of which she had heard rumors.

Miss Brooks—this is her name—is a very pretty woman and very demure. She is the last person on the face of the earth who would be taken for a female sleuth.

Her latest exploit was to visit the office of a certain "doctor" with a woman friend, and tell him that she had rheumatism in the left shoulder. Had she ever been treated by electricity, was what Dr. Macrae wanted to know.

No, Miss Brooks had not, but she had heard that electricity was very good for rheumatism.

She made an appointment with him, and came again in a day or so, with her friend, bared her shoulder, and got a shivering shock added to her singular medical history.

BORROWED FINERY.

Silverware and Fancy Ornaments Hired for Weddings.

An Extensive Business Done by Dealers in Lending Wedding Presents, Cakes and Even Bridal Garments.

A silversmith observes that he makes more money by loaning articles than in the legitimate way of business. All kinds of silver and fancy ornaments are borrowed to make a grand show in the present-room. Many articles still in his shop have realized their value over and over again, and are yet in condition for further service, says a New York exchange.

For instance, a silver teapot of antique design has been out over 30 times and is good as new; teaspoons, carvers, marble clocks, etc., are in constant demand, and as the goods are merely on show for a few days they come back unimpaired.

Speaking of a recent wedding which caused some sensation in the particular locality, the silversmith said: "A description of the wedding gifts occupied half a column of newspaper print, one-third of the articles being borrowed from my establishment. Others were from different houses and most likely a dozen or so were really presents. I saw the lot tastefully arranged about the room, the borrowed ones ticketed with names of imaginary donors. Quite a crowd had gathered to see the wedding presents, which made a brave array. I warrant many of the young lady admirers felt envious at the particular good fortune of the bride. How they would enjoy themselves if they knew the source from which the most handsome articles had been derived!"

This is not an exceptional case, the loaning of wedding presents having become quite a trade. Then there is the wedding cake. Few brides are so humble that they cannot obtain some sort of cake for the occasion; but the grand cake, the huge confection with its lofty ornaments and orange wreaths, its cupid and silver leaves, is the one that is borrowed.

Cakes of the massive order may be loaned, which possibly are not cakes at all. Nothing is there genuine about them save the icing and the sugar cupid. One bridecake has graced the breakfast tables of all sorts and conditions of brides, having been on the rounds for over two years, and with a little touching up, seems as fresh and delectable as ever.

The "cake" is simply a round of cork, eight inches deep and about the size of a small cheese. This is enameled white and thinly iced, piles of ornaments crowning it; foliage and flowers embellish the sides—altogether a magnificent article for purposes of show. As the fee for its temporary possession is some few shillings, it proves a very profitable property. Genuine cakes are sometimes hired merely for table ornamentation. When these have lost their freshness they are cut up by the confectioner for sale by the pound.

Where a dummy cake is used there is always a small one to distribute amongst the guests, otherwise the handsome sham would be regarded with suspicion. A certain confectioner has generally three or four imposing property cakes on hand. When a good order is given for sweets and pastry for the wedding feast, a sham bridecake may be lent free to ornament the festive board.

Very rich-looking shams are even made of paper—body, sugar-work and flowers as well. So carefully turned out are they that closer inspection than is generally granted a bridecake is necessary to discover the deception. The paper productions are cheap and are to be purchased—no hired. A few shillings, it is said, will buy a beautiful imitation of a ten-guinea cake. America is responsible for their introduction.

Actual bridal gowns and veils may be borrowed—an economical proceeding for brides who cannot afford a big sum on a dress that is intended for a few hours' wear.

Swirl bridesmaids, who bring their own elaborate dresses, are also willing to be hired. Their presence amongst strangers is sure to elicit wonder and admiration, which is exactly what those who like a showy wedding desire.

Latest in the Way of "Ads."

Advertising by wireless electricity is something new and interesting. A contrivance for this purpose has just been invented which consists of a box containing a transmitter and a frame which holds a coherer and a revolving set of advertisements. The idea is to place the frame in hotels and other public places, and to set up the box containing the transmitter at the other end of the room. By placing a penny in a slot in the box and pressing a Morse key the electric waves are projected at the advertisements, and at once revolve, and at once reveal "Winkinson's Winkles for Weary Waiters," or some other popular remedy.—London Express.

Prayer Books in Jack Pots.

The ladies of Arensburg are passionate card players. Since they are not allowed to play at the local clubs, they make up games at their friends' houses and gamble all day through. As soon as the cash funds run short they take to various articles, mostly toilet belongings. Thus one lost to another her corset, one lost a bonnet, a third some lace and perfumes, and they go even as far as losing their prayer books.—London Mail.

INHERITED PRACTICE.

How Young Doctors Step Into the Shoes of Old Practitioners.

May Fall Heir to Lucrative Practice or Any Odium That Attaches to Predecessor in His Location.

One of the elements that enter largely into the success of a young doctor is the selecting of an office in a house that has been previously occupied by an older physician.

"When I started in business 30 years ago," said an old physician speaking on the subject, relates the New York Times, "this principle was instilled into my mind by one of our professors, and my own observation has convinced me that it is a good one. It is a fact that no matter what our circumstances or station, most of us are slaves to habit, especially in the matter of medical treatment, and when the people in a block become accustomed to associating a certain house with a doctor, that is where they will go when they find themselves in need of his services."

"The fact that the doctor is a youngster who has stepped suddenly into the shoes of an old practitioner who may have been located there for years does not alter the situation. The great majority of the floating population of New York have no regular doctor, and when their physical organization gets so badly out of kilter as to require attention, they decide bluntly upon the one with whose sign they are the most familiar. Here is where the young fellow profits by living in a house that has been the abode of a doctor for so long that everybody in the neighborhood knows just where to put his finger on him. The man himself may be a total stranger, but the fact that there is a doctor at No. 126, for instance, is a part of the block's tradition, and consequently it is at No. 126 that the neighbors seek relief from their aches and pains."

"Of course, it behooves the young doctor to give some thought to the character of his predecessor. I was so unwise as to neglect this precaution. It took me several months to discover my mistake, but when I did find out that I had been laboring on the wrong tack all the time I speedily broke camp and moved into more favorable quarters. When I look back upon the circumstances from this distance of time, they seem very funny. The man who had occupied my back parlor just prior to my own tenancy was a constant tipple. Indeed, so steadily did he irrigate his inner man that he didn't know what a prescription looked like half the time, much less being able to write one. Because of this chronic disability, for which he was noted up and down the street by the visits of his patients were like those of angels."

"The house had been advertised for so long as the office of 'that doctor who is always drunk' that when I took possession I straightway inherited the odium attached to his name; and even though I was well-nigh a teetotaler, you couldn't have hired anybody thereabout to allow me to diagnose a disease."

"I know of another case where a man's whole career was shaped by this same thoughtlessness. Like me, he had failed to consider the character and reputation of the late tenant of the house where he decided to locate. Fortunately, he was hampered by none of the evil reports that curtailed my usefulness, but he suffered almost as much, in the beginning, from another cause. Great responsibility, with which he had unwittingly saddled himself, was the source of his anxiety. The man whom he succeeded had been a very successful specialist, and had by no process of reasoning could my friend convince the populace that he was not an expert in the same diseases. In fact, he didn't spend much time in trying to convince them. I believe he did, indeed, put up a few arguments to the first person who called for treatment, but since he knew almost as much about that ailment as any other, he tackled the case with the assurance of a practical hand."

"His first experiment turned out so well that he felt justified in persevering on that line. Accordingly he abandoned the intended role of general practitioner and followed in the footsteps of his predecessor. As a result of that happy chance in selecting a location he is now, and has been for years, a specialist whose word is law among his associates."

"It would be well for all young doctors to consider this phase of the question before settling down to practice. Of course, it is not always possible to secure offices that have been recently vacated by good doctors, but the opportunities are by no means rare, and the young man who avails himself of one of them will find the road that he has to travel smoothed out a little."

Lightning on the Safety Rope.

It has been the custom lately to fasten wire ropes and chains at perilous places on the Alps to assist climbers. Some of these are to be seen on the upper tower of the Matterhorn, where the climbing is most dangerous. But last summer's experiences have indicated an unforeseen peril arising in unsettled weather from the wires and chains themselves. A number of tourists were severely shocked and stunned by charges of electricity passing through the safety guards, which act as lightning conductors. Anyone who has been on the Matterhorn can easily understand how a shock of that kind, experienced at certain points, might without being severe enough in itself to produce fatal effects, cause a terrible disaster.—Youth's Companion.

PUNGENT PARAGRAPHS.

Judge Stubbs created Munnery like the Albanians does April.

"Kates—How awkward everything looks that Bertha puts on!" Blith "Yes, she always dresses becomingly."—Boston Transcript.

Buzzer—"Simpkins has a smart dog." Blith—"What does he do?" Buzzer—"He doesn't do anything that Simpkins tells him—that's what I mean when I say he's smart."—Ohio State Journal.

An imitation—"I will make you regret this day!" he hissed through his clenched teeth as he left the room. I laughed to myself, for I was not deceived. He was not a real villain. He did not turn on his heel.—Judge.

"The last time I played football I remember my face got so knocked about—wasn't like a face at all in fact—I thought it never would get better." She—"And did it?" I mean—er—of course, I see it didn't—er—er—I mean— Punch.

Real Fun—Lieut. Lovett (sentimentally)—"I've come to say 'good-by.' I've been ordered to the Philippines." Miss Giddy—"How jolly! It'll be so interesting now to read the list of the killed and wounded."—Philadelphia Press.

As Others See Them—Old Gotrocks—"Do you know that you have been publicly referred to as 'the idle son of a successful banker?'" Gotrocks, Jr.—"And are you aware, sir, that you are known in our best circles as the father of the champion amateur baseball pitcher?"—N. Y. Journal.

A-CURIOUS SPECTACLE.

Traveler in Tibet Describes His Experience Under a Cascade of Mud and Stones.

Waterfalls are plentiful, but a "mud fall" is less common. In "Mount Omi and Beyond, A Record of Travel on the Tibetan Border," Mr. Archibald Little describes such a fall, upon which he came and under which he had to pass in his travels.

"A sort of recess in the mountainside, apparently scooped out by the river, was filled by a huge whirlpool, into which from above came a steady fall of rocks. For at the back of the recess a mud fall tumbled over the cliff, here, perhaps, a thousand feet high, bringing down with it a constant stream of rocks, which bounded over the narrow footway and thence down the lower slope with a splash into the boiling river."

"We sat down on the rock at the bottom and watched the spectacle. We had been told beforehand of all sorts of impossible dangers, especially since the heavy rains, but we were not prepared for running the gauntlet of such a cannonade as this. Never having seen anything of the kind in our previous experience of mountain countries, we should much have liked to climb up the mountainside, had that been possible, and investigate the source of this extraordinary stream, which flowed on with a steady persistence that fascinated our gaze. But unfortunately we could not afford to loiter by the way and miss our daily stages."

"Presently some coolies came along, and we watched with intense interest how they would pass the fall. The path was not a foot wide, and in fact was only retained as a path at all by the traffic over it, by which a way was trodden in the shaly slope as fast as it dribbled away. A big rock lined the inside of the track on one side of the fall, and under the lee of this the men crouched. They watched for an exceptionally heavy shower, and when this was over made a bolt for it. This maneuver was repeated by each individual, and he was greeted by the laughter of his companions as he successfully ran the gauntlet. The stones were all angular, and varied in size from that of a walnut to that of a pumpkin, while the great height from which they fell rendered them doubly dangerous."

"We sat for nearly an hour watching before we made up our minds to venture, and I should certainly not then have had the courage to do so had we not seen the natives pass with impunity. We went on at last and stood under the sheltering rock at the very edge of this novel cascade. The muddy, stone-laden stream made a loud, rattling, grating noise as it carried the smaller stones along with it; the larger fragments came bounding down in huge leaps as they crashed by. Waiting for a bigger mass than usual to go by, we made the run, and all got safely over."

"It was literally a rock cascade, for there was very little water in the stream, and that quite shallow. "Our pony jumped across without any difficulty, but an invaluable watch dog got panic-stricken when he felt the ground moving beneath his feet, and crouched down. I was behind, and was able to catch him up and save him from death."

Human Heart a Century Old.

In the church of Val de Grace, Paris, to the left of the altar is a vault where the Carmelites used to go to pray. There on tables of marble were arranged hearts of silver and gold. These enclosed the veritable hearts of nuns of noble blood, of kings and princesses, whose bodies reposed in the tombs of St. Denis. During the revolution these silver and gold reliquary cases were converted into a monument. During some repairs at the church recently one of these heart reliquaries was found and through a crack in it the human heart that it contained was visible. It was but a poor-looking thing, much like a lump of starch. On the case itself, half effaced, the inscription: "Sister Williams," was deciphered.—Chicago Chronicle.

HABITS AND HEALTH.

Mannerisms That Have a Tendency to Shorten Life.

Many Apparently Harmless Practices That Grow and Master the Un- thinking to the Extent of Serious Injury.

One's health may be seriously impaired, one's life may even be shortened by permitting little mannerisms to grow into fixed habits. There are a score of such mannerisms which are likely to do one serious injury, says the New York Herald.

Such apparently harmless practices as blinking the eyes rapidly, moistening the lips with the tongue, picking the teeth, scratching one's head, or breathing through the mouth when carried to excess become very bad habits.

Take, for instance, the common "trick" of moistening the lips with the tongue. If you make a habit of this you will make your lips drier and drier, and render the nerves of their extremely sensitive. Eventually you will contract permanently cracked lips, which besides being painful and annoying are likely to produce cancer. If this disease be hereditary you run a good chance of getting it.

Why any man should blow his nose when he does not want to is a mystery, but hundreds of people, especially elderly ones, have the habit. It is extremely bad for the nasal nerves and membranes. If done constantly when in health it will, sooner or later, produce chronic nasal catarrh.

If you find yourself blinking your eyes rapidly without any cause, stop it at once, or it will grow into an incurable habit, that will make your eyesight fail comparatively early in life.

Natural blinking is necessary to clear and moisten the eye. The average number of natural blinks is about 20 per minute. But a nervous blinker will get in something like a couple of hundred in a minute in bad cases. The result of this is a big development of the eyelid muscles. It besides involves counter irritation, which acts on the optic nerve, and renders the sight daily more weak and irritable.

Once contract this habit, and you will find you cannot bear a strong light or read small type, and the eyes will get worse and worse. The cure consists in keeping the eyes shut for at least ten minutes in every hour, and bathing the lids in warm water.

It is unwise to breathe through your mouth. If you do you will get the lower half of your lungs full almost entirely into disuse. They are not filled if you breathe through your mouth, and the lungs will be weakened and left an easy prey to maladies of the chest. The system will besides be fed by only about half the oxygen it requires. Thousands of people contract this dangerous habit, which really is a life shortener.

If you sleep with your mouth open you will get about half the benefit of a night's rest. This is frequently the cause of that "tired feeling" on waking in the morning. If there be any epidemic floating about you double your chances of catching it, and halve your chances of recovering, as you weaken the lungs.

Never pick the teeth. It will make a difference of years in the life of your teeth, and send you to the dentist before your time. The habit, even after meals will sooner or later start the enamel of the teeth and cause decay. Some people contract a perpetual habit of picking the teeth when they have nothing else to do. This will pit a good sound set of teeth on the road to decay at least six or seven years before they ought to go. You will lose your sleep, pay a dozen dentist's bills, and then wish you had left toothpicks alone. Brush your teeth, instead, with a good powder after every meal, if possible.

Why Americans Think Queaker.

The American people can think quicker and more to the point than any other people in the world. This statement was made recently in a New York newspaper, but the reason given was wide of the mark. The American people read in the aggregate ten times more than any other people. The American boy gets his inspiration, his energetic disposition, his ambition, his keen snap-shot judgment and his quick wit largely from his reading—and very largely from his newspaper reading. The poise and culture and refinement and solidity come later in life from the reading of books and magazines and from contact with men and things. It is the American newspaper which sets the initial pace. Push and pluck are contagious, and more germs are hatched in the average American newspaper office than anywhere else.—Bookworld Bulletin.

The Lost Thing.

The professor of chemistry in a certain college asked a student the other day: "Now, suppose you were called to a patient who had swallowed a heavy dose of oxalic acid, what would you administer?"

"I would administer the sacrament," replied the student, who is studying for the ministry and takes chemistry only because it is obligatory.—N. Y. Tribune.

Loss of Fishers.

"No, sir!" exclaimed the drummer. "No house in the country, I'm proud to say, has more men and women pushing its line of goods than ours!"

"What do you sell?" asked the man with the chin whiskers. "Baby carriages."—Syracuse Herald.

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