SUICIDE EPIDEMIC SWEEPING GERMANY

Economic Depression Given as the Cause.

Berlin.-A grim and mysterious epidenic of suicides is sweeping Germany array of the leading dailies now carry a regular section tucked away in an obscure corner of the paper and bearing the caption : "Die Selbstmord-Epiocane"-the epidemic of self-destruc tion. In this the daily list of suicides is given, many of them receiving only a line. The more sensational cases get a short notice of ten to twenty tines. One has the impression that many cases are not reported at all, or, at least, not published. Epidemics grow through imitation, and this the authorities wish to avoid.

The causes of the abnormal rate of suicides in present-day Germany are, no doubt, the widespread economic depression, the increased tempo of modern life, the depletion of nerve force through the war and the tremendous financial and personal losses the war brought about, the shaken condition of the social structure, and a general fear of life which has evertaken thousands. All these factors are angment ed. in the case of the German, by his tendency to brood, to ponder the riddies of existence, to regard life and its trials and problems from the angle of some particular philosophy of Weltanechauung.

Where Pessimism Lingers.

When the man's philosophy goes to pieces upon the rocks of experience, the man himself often goes to pieces likewise, and the unfortunate human creature is driven to the last positive act of which he is capable the act of self-annihilation. It is also often in the nature of a "grand gesture"at one blow he destroys the whole vis ible and palpable world-for himself.

Suicide has at times even a romantic tinge in Germany sentimental rem sants from the days of Goethe's "Sor rows of Werther," of philosophical pessimism from the works of Schopenbauer or Von Hartmann. In no other country are young lovers so prone to end their lives if parental permission to marry is not forthcoming. In no other country is the proportion of child suicides so great. These cases of juvenile self-destruction mania usually arise from fear of punishment at home or at school, fear of disgrace, or morbid conceptions of honor connected with failure to pass examinations at

But it is not only the poor, the dis traught, the lovelorn or the inexpe rienced who lay violent hands upon themselves in the German republic The list of prominent, well-to-do, apparently happy people who have recently ended their lives in Germany is appalling. To mention but a few cases there is Paul Cassirer, the art dealer, husband of the famous German actress Tilla Durieux, who shot himself in the lawyer's office, whither he had gone with his wife and daughter to arrange a divorce settlement : "Blumen Rothe." a famous florist of Berlin, whose body was found, long after he had vanished. under pines in the forest of Grune-

Plunged Into Ice Cavern. There is also the mystery of the

death of Jurievskala, a beautiful and celebrated star of the National opera at Berlin, in private life Frau Bremer who went to Zermatt, in Switzerland, some months ago and threw herself into the ice-bound ravine under the lofty "Devil's bridge," apparently without the slightest cause, her body coming to light a few weeks ago after the melting of the ice. There is the case of Carl Hau, once a well-known law ver, who had been accused of murdering his mother-in-law and sentenced to life imprisonment twenty years ago He was recently pardoned and began writing and publishing his prison memoirs in a big Berlin dally. The state attorney of Wurttemberg reopened proceedings against him. Han fled the country to Italy and threw himself into the sea from a train.

Strange tragedies are of daily occurrence. Day after day the newspaper reader is confronted with such little notices as this: "Suicide of an Aged Married Couple." And then the sordid, inevitable details-the cause for the grim act, often described by one word "nahrungssorgen." food wor

Cards Amundsen Mailed 13 Years Ago, Delivered

Chicago.-As Capt. Roald Amundsen swept over the northern roof of the earth recently a sack of mail. from Finland reached Chicago, bearing postcards mailed on his polar ship. the Fram, thirteen years ago.

Stanley G. Swanberg, Wilmette, received one of the cards. It was sent to him by a friend, who has been dead eight years, and started on its journey in Colon harbor in the Canal zone December 4, 1913. Swanberg explained that the card was one of a number Amundsen gave visitors to his ship. It bore the printed note: "Will be carried across the polar sea and afterward conveyed by post to the ad-

The cards bore two postal stamps marked in polar latitude, but nothing further to indicate their history.

Movies Help

Paris.-Movies are keeping French women away from the saloons. pictures and improved housing, thinks former Labbe of the Academy of Medicine, are doing more than any I BE else to decrease alcoholism in the country.

MUCH BLINDNESS IS PREVENTABLI

Proper Workshop Conditio. of importance.

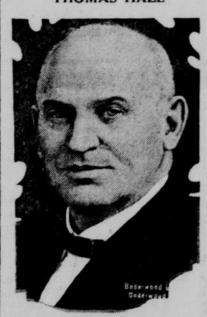
St. Louis,-"Half of all blindness i devenuelt of declared Dr. Park Lewis name in opintladimologist of Buffajo. N. 1., and vice president of the Na cional Committee for the Prevention of Elinquess, in an address before the chamber of commerce here. "This is so." Doctor Lewis said, "despite the important reductions in both the frequency and severity of some of the principal causes of blindness resulting from the organized and nation-wide campaign for the prevention of blindness which is now in its eleventh year. he total amount of blindness and half sight, however, is growing proportionately less."

Speaking on the economic necessity for conservation of vision, Doctor Lew is pointed out that the cost of educating a blind child is at least ten times that of educating a normal-sighted child. As further evidence of the heavy cost to industry resulting from accidents and diseases affecting the eyes, he declared that in New York state alone close to \$1,000,000 is paid as compensation for eye injuries in a year and that almost an equal amount is paid by the employers of Pennsyl vania each vear.

"In considering the economic phase of the subject," Doctor Lewis said, "we are not thinking of the frightful loss to the man in the moral suffering which he incurs, in the dependency which necessarily follows from the loss of his own self-efficiency, neither are we considering that long line of related losses which enter into the question.

"There is not a loss suffered by any individual member of a community. Doctor Lewis added, "that is not in some degree shared by every other member. I think, then, that it would be agreed that in industry today, it is a matter only of forethought and business acumen to so plan each factory and workshop that the greatest returns are produced with a minimum of loss, that the most serious loss that can be sustained is the irreparable injury of the most valuable implement in the shop, the workman, that the average workman is apt to be careless of his own interests and he needs to be guided in preserving them, that the loss when sustained is a triple onefirst and most serious to the man himself who is thereby handicapped for the remainder of his life, and who, if he works, must thereafter work at reduced pay; second, to the employer who has to pay the price either through insurance or otherwise or he may lose the services of a valued and skilled workman, and third, to the

THOMAS HALL



An especially posed portrait of Rep resentative Thomas Hall, Republican of North Dakota. He is a member of Finds Movies Offer the house committee on agriculture.

Sound Waves in Water Used to Fight Disease

Baltimore, Md.-Dr. R. W. Wood, professor of experimental physics at Johns Hopkins university, makes public the results so far attained in the experiments conducted on the estate of Alfred L. Loomis, a New York banker, at Tuxedo, N. Y., with treatment of diseases by high-frequency

Loomis assisted in the experiments. The possibility of applying the discovery to medicine is described as being found in the fact that circulation is greatly stimulated in any part of the body which is thrust into water in which the sound waves have been

sound waves sent through water. Mr.

introduced. Doctor Wood said that while the experiments had not gone far enough for him to claim that cures might be accomplished, it had been found that circulation could be tremendously stimulated and that a method for stimulating circulation without injury was valuable to medicine.

Indian Relics Sold to

Museum at New York Los Angeles.-Purchase by the Museum of American Indians, New York city, of the A. R. Sanger collectic of relics of Indian civilization in southern California was announced by Prof. M. R. Harrington of New York. The collection, described by Professor Harrington as the most complete in existence, consists of 1,350 stone implements, shell ornaments, beads, skele tons and other archeologica! specimens unearthed on Catalina and other channel islands and assembled here.

TINY GERM SPREADS

the Gills.

Washington.-There are fish epi demics as well as human epiden es Really serious ones day to a tiny para site rejoicing in the made ichthyoph thirius mu tifilius have occurred from time to time in France, Germany, Holhand and in various parts of the United States. This parasite attacks fresh water fish, both in their natural en vironment and in aquaria with a resulting loss running into hundreds of

In a recent paper II, F. Prytherch of the United States bureau of fisher ies describes various methods of controlling this disease in batcheries fist farms and all places where fish are kept in artificial confidement. To make clear how the problem can be attacked, he says, it is first necessary to understand something of the life history of the parasite.

"Polks Dots" Are Symptoms

The young ichthyophthirius, according to Mr. Prytherch, goes through a free swimming stage during which It wanders around through the water in search of a host. On coming in contact with a fish it burrows into some unscaled part, especially preferring the gills or fins. Once embedded in the fish's skin it grows rapidly from the nourishment it absorbs from the tissues and soon shows on the outside as a small white spot. Badly infected fish are covered with these "polks dots" all over their bodies.

In a few days this white body leaves he fish and sinks to the bottom, where t shorey undergoes a transformation into a hard-shelled reproductive cyst. When reproduction is complete the yst wall bursts and releases hundreds of young parasites of the free-swim-

Mr. Protherch states: "There are we general methods for treating the lisease first, by killing the parasites viile they are attached to the fish. and second, by destroying them after hey leave the fish and are free-swimuing in the water. The first general nethod can be used to hold the disease n check, but will not completely wipe it out.

Alum Sulphate Helps.

The logical time to begin treatment. he continues, is when the first symptoms of the disease appear and the whole fight in controlling the disease should be directed against reinfection.

Direct application of alum sulphate has been found most efficacious in ridding the fish of the parasites. The healing action of the alum leaves the "patient" in a less weakened condition than any of the various other chemicals tried so far for this pur

The second method which attacks the adult parasite after it has left the fish is more successful and should be utilized, says Mr. Prytherch, wherever possible. It consists simply in placing the fish in swiftly running water where the parasites will be carried away before reproduction can take place. The overflow should be arried off both at the top and the bottom to take care of any that do not fall directly to the bottom. Ipfected fish, in warm weather, it is stated, may be cured in this way in a week or ten days and further epidemics prevented by quarantining new stock in running water. In some instances swiftly-flowing streams may be fenced off and used for this purpose by leaving the fish in the inclosure until cured.

Tadpoles and goldfish kept in tanks with fishes subject to this disease have been found extremely helpful in keeping it down, since they prey on the parasites for food

Field for Organist

New York.-Modern organists have found their greatest opportunity for development in a place where a few years ago it was least expected to exist-the American motion picture thester-says Dr. Melchiorre Mauro-Cottone, concert organist and composer,

Many of the finest organs in the world are in the cinema palaces and the men who play them, in Doctor Cottone's opinion, reach larger audiences than they have ever had before.

"There was a time," he said, "when it was thought the organ was not very adaptable to the motion picture theater. But we now know how false this opinion was. The organ is most elastic. even more so than the orchestra. and in playing for the screen we can witch instantly from one theme to another

Nothing more develops the improvisation of an organist. Here we also play all types of music. In the church, our range is narrow and there is little need of improvisation."

Heat in One Peanut Can Type 1,000 Words

Princeton, N. J.-One then sand words may be written on a typewriter with the expenditure of heat contained in a single peanut, Prof. Andrew Hunter of the University of Calfornia said. The amount of heat given off by persons in various occupations during a day he estimates as: No work, 1,430 calories; tailor, 2,700 calories; carpenter, 3,500; and lumberman, 5,500.

Diminutive Parasite Attacks First Passage Is Full of New Adventures.

> Washington. - Increased facilities for crossing the Atlantic at reason able cost, prosperity at home, and cheap money abroad are combining to send a larger army of American tourists to Europe this summer than any, probably, that has ever invaded the Old World in a like period. Many of these travelers, familiar enough with their pullmans and river steam ers, will find conditions on an ocean liner disconcertingly strange. A bulletin from the Washington headquarters of the National Geographic so clety introduces the "ocean tenderfoot" to this new environment in which he will be confined from five to ten days.

"Getting off is an exciting matter." says the bulletin. "and the temptation is to spend the last hour or so near the gangplanks, chatting with your own friends and watching the milling throng of travelers and wellwishers in holiday spirit. If you are wise, however, you will invest say 20 minutes of this time for your own future comfort. Take a turn around the promenade deck and select the neighborhood in which you would like to have your deck chair. You will not find distinguishing numbers on the chairs, but where you would least expect them-on the celling MADAM Z. C. SNOWDEN. Scientific

Selecting a Steamer Chair.

"You probably will want your chair on the starboard (or right) side going Europe and on the port (or left) side returning, for those are the sunny sides. Having decided on the location you desire and noticed the neighboring numbers, look up the deck steward and try to persuade him to allot you a chair somewhere in the neighborhood. There will be a fee. of course, for the chair and a steamer rug. If you are traveling with friends you will wish to make this a joint arrangement so as not to be separated.

Watch the bulletin boards. These are the town criers and newspapers on shipboard. There are little daily papers, too, on the larger liners. Usually there will be a bulletin board in the main companionway at the promenade deck level, another outside the dining saloon and a third, perhaps, in the smoking room.

"Your seat in the dining saloon is usually arranged for, unless otherwise announced, at the first meal after sailing.

"Cheerful bugle blasts order your life on many of the big liners, but you must learn what they mean or they will lead you hopelessly astray. The blast in the reasonably early morning. say at eight o'clock, ship's time, means either of two things: If you are an early riser and are taking a prebreakfast walk on deck, it is a signal that your food is ready. If you are a late sleeper (and an ocean voyage is the chance of a lifetime for laziness) it means that you can take forty winks and still be in time for a late

"If you hear a bugle blast at about 10:30 pay no attention to it. It is not for you and your fellow passengers, but for the ship's crew. It signifies that the captain is making an unexpected inspection of some part of his domain.

Hot Broth Unheralded. "Having made the acquaintance of

the breakfast bugle, the 'ocean tenderfoot' might well think the 10:30 hagle call connected in some way with the hot broth that appears about this time for those in deck chairs. But this comes quite unheralded-a mere detall in carrying out the ship management's evident intention to keep the passengers continually busy with food. The food schedule on a big liner runs something like this: Breakfast, 8 to 10: hot broth, 10:30 or 11: luncheon, 1 to 2:30; after-luncheon coffee, 2 to 3. afternoon tes and cakes 4 to 5. dinner 7:30 to 9: after-dinner coffee 8:30 to 9:30: sandwiches in the smoking room, 10 to 11,

"The second bugle for passengers blows at one o'clock and means that luncheon is then ready. At 7 p. m. the bugle sounds again. But do not rush to the dining saloon. It is simply a signal that it is time to dress for dinner! At 7:30 the bugler quite outdoes himself in the cheeriness of his call to the chief prandial occasion of the day.

"The only other major signal of the day on shipboard is the blowing of the whistle exactly at noon, ship's time. On the larger liners, at least, the whistle is heard at no other time unless there is a dense fog. The whistle is blown for a double purpose at noon; to signal the time and to test the whistle itself.

"You must watch your time carefully on shipboard. On the trip to Europe you will lose five hours, What the loss is each twenty-four hours depends on the speed. On the fastest liners it amounts to an hour a day.

"Don't fancy you can stand at the rail and see the traffic of the Seven Seas go by on your way to Europe. The day of crowded steamer lanes is no more. Now two tracks are 'staked out' in the ocean for ships: one eastbound and one westbound. On one of its most recent voyages to Europe the huge Majestic was seemingly almost as isolated as Columbus' little fleet. It sighted a tramp steamer the second day out from New York. There was no additional visual evidence that ther ships sail the Atlantic until the ig vessel approached the English bennel only a few miles from her

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