

AN OFFICIAL STUDY OF DEATH

Curious Information About How and Why People Die.

FACTS FROM A BRITISH BLUE BOOK

Special Advantages and Perils of Different Professions and Trades—Alcohol's Victims Gathered from Special Classes.

I have been studying a book with a dark-blue cover, fresh from the press of Her Majesty's printer, a book that deals with one of the most fascinating of all subjects, "Death." This book contains no moralizing and no theories, it does not teach you how to die, nor advise you how to live, it sticks closely to its business of presenting facts, of showing you how people have been dying in London and England of recent years—to be more precise, in the years 1890, 1891 and 1892. Perhaps never since men began to count mortality statistics, was such a mass of information about dying brought together in so few covers. Much of it is hard reading, for there are tables without end, and pages of percentages worked out neatly to the third decimal place; but, if you dig through this unattractive husk, you come to a kernel of real things, plain conclusions that are of the utmost consequence, matters, in short, of life and death importance to us all.

In this book the dead are classified according to ages, occupations, diseases, districts, etc., until there is not the poorest chimney-sweep nor the loftiest cabinet minister who may not be mentioned, if he looks carefully, some precise statement as to how and why, and when he is apt to die. And it is easy to see that these death statistics made in London and England must apply in the main to other capitals and other countries, where similar conditions exist. It is likely, for instance, that people are dying today in New York very much as they died here in London seven years ago. I should not omit to state that all conclusions in these pages are based upon the deaths of men, for it is men who suffer most trouble even in mortality statistics.

LONGER LIVED BY REGULARITY. One of the first tables shows that men who have some regular habit of living die much more serenely than those who have none. This is especially true between the ages of 20 and 35, when the death rate for occupied men is only one-third that of the unoccupied. Men who are retired from business, or living on private means, but without regularity, die more than twice as often as those who are regular. The tables show that this excessive death rate among the unoccupied is due mainly to diseases of the nervous system and to phthisis, the death rates from the former being seven times and from the latter nearly three times higher than for men with occupation.

ENGLAND'S FIVE LEADING DISEASES. Statistics are given of twenty-four diseases or causes of death, and five of these, viz: phthisis, diseases of the nervous system, diseases of the circulatory system, bronchitis and pneumonia, cause more than half of the entire mortality. Cancer kills more than influenza, while suicide is directly responsible for more deaths than alcoholism. It is noteworthy that in the agricultural districts it is 28 per cent above the average, and still less favorable is the lot of those who live in the industrial regions, the great majority of the deaths being due to phthisis and diseases of the circulatory system. It is worthy of note that in London three times as many deaths result from gout as in either the agricultural or industrial districts. And the mortality from alcoholism in the agricultural districts is only about one-third of what it is in the other two.

MORTALITY IN DIFFERENT TRADES. Passing on rapidly we find that printers die in excess from phthisis and nervous disease, that clockmakers suffer severely from rheumatic fever, while having exceptionally good lungs, that saddlers and harness makers die a mortality rate greatly in excess from phthisis, that the mortality of butchers is remarkably low up to 25, but rather high in subsequent years; that haters die in excess from phthisis, that grocers die at a high mortality from phthisis and alcoholism; that intemperance is decreasing among tailors and suicide among shoemakers, that hairdressers are more subject to heart disease and less subject to lung trouble than ordinary men and that blacksmiths die from accidents only about half as often as the average. Among many other tables are two important ones, showing the effects in mortality statistics of breathing foul air and of breathing clean air, and the first is that as dust of coal dust and the dust of such woods as are used by carpenters and joiners are much less injurious than the dust of cotton, that in a room where the dust of textile fabrics come between the two in point of harmfulness. As to the breathing of foul air, it stands demonstrated that in occupations where this is inevitable, as in printing and etching, the mortality figure from pulmonary diseases are materially increased.

CLEVELAND MOFFETT. Arnold's Bromo Celery Cure headache, 10c, 25c and 50c. All druggists.

Knocks Out Claim for Rebate. CHICAGO, May 2.—The United States circuit court of appeals today decided in favor of General John McCarter, the suit of Denton C. Co. and Messrs. Solomon against General McNulta, as receiver of the Whisky trust. The decree of the circuit court is affirmed. Denton C. Co. brought suit as test case, against the trust for rebates which it was claimed had not been paid. The normal average result was that the circuit court is considered an important verdict for the trust.

Thousands of sufferers from grippe have been restored to health by one Minute Cough Cure. It quickly cures coughs, colds, bronchitis, pneumonia, grippe, asthma and all throat and lung ailments. But it is a remedy, my task grew harder. But it was

schoolmasters. Physicians are better fortified than ordinary men against diseases of the lungs, the chief of these being phthisis, railroad men and hosiery manufacturers. On the other hand, phthisis and pneumonia occur nearly twice their average rate among general laborers. In industrial districts and among tin miners and copper miners, the susceptibility of copper miners here being the more remarkable that they have the highest rates of phthisis, notably those of influenza, diabetes, alcoholism and diseases of the nervous system. To be a copper miner, then, is to have an excellent chance of an early death unless something goes wrong with the lungs. And perhaps this also may be fairly deduced, that for one born with a tendency to lung trouble, the choice of occupation should lie between preaching, tilling the soil, manufacturing hosiery and coal mining.

Looking over other lists I find that chimney sweeps have nearly four times the mortality of ordinary men to contract cancer, that general laborers are the most fortunate in escaping gout; that workers and the miners are most liable to phthisis, that the ordinary citizen of Bright's disease, which is almost never contracted by tall soap manufacturers (here we have the mystery of another disease that strikes oilmen and axle makers show only half the general liability to liver disease; that seven ordinary men die from accidents for every schoolmaster who dies of them; that farmers are practically free from rheumatism, while bookbinders suffer from it cruelly; that coal heavers, porters and laborers seldom die from diabetes, although that disease carries off three times as many glass manufacturers and four times as many hatters as the average calls for. These facts and hundreds like them come forth everywhere from the figures and statistics, let who will account for them.

DANGERS OF SPECIAL CALLINGS. Some conclusions drawn by the statistician in this regard are worthy of attention. "The clergy," he says, "experience more than double the average mortality from diabetes and one-half the rate from average from rheumatic fever." It is true, however, that "in no other occupation in the list is the mortality figure of the whole body of the calling so high as that of the clergy." But the gardeners and farmers come close after them.

Of the legal profession, he says: "Lawyers suffer exceptionally from influenza, cancerous diseases, diseases of the liver, bright's disease and diabetes; their mortality from the malady last named being four times the average." On the other hand, "lawyers suffer less severely than do occupied males in the aggregate from phthisis, heart disease and lung diseases."

Of the medical profession, he says: "The records of 1890-92 confirm those of 1873-82 as to the comparative immunity enjoyed by medical men from phthisis, respiratory diseases and alcoholism. The liability is said to be to death by gout, diabetes, urinary diseases and suicide." "The tendency to the commission of suicide has notably increased among medical men since the earlier period. There surely is something for the sociologist to ponder."

Next we find that the mortality figure of school teachers is one-third less than the average for other occupations. "At ages under 35 it is below even that of clergymen, but at ages from 35 to 45 years school teachers die more rapidly than the average. In common with other professional men schoolmasters and teachers suffer more severely from diseases of the heart, than they do from diseases of the respiratory system, but whereas among the other professions it is heart disease which is numerically the most prevalent cause of death, among schoolmasters phthisis and diseases of the respiratory system are the chief causes."

Of artists, engravers, architects, etc., he says: "The comparative mortality figure in this group is not so high as the average. From alcoholism the mortality figure of artists, etc., is below the average, although they suffer more severely than the average from diseases of the heart, and die more than twice as fast as do occupied males (in the aggregate) from diabetes, but more slowly from phthisis and also more slowly from diseases of the circulatory and respiratory systems."

Of victims of alcoholism. Our friend the statistician has a poor idea of muscians, whom he finds "specially addicted to intemperance. They die more than twice as rapidly as ordinary men from alcoholism, nearly twice as rapidly from phthisis and very much more rapidly from diseases of the liver, heart and lungs." Commercial travelers show a high mortality, considering the large amount of time they spend in the open air. Alcoholism and diseases of the liver are the chief causes of a heightened death rate, which increases as they pass middle life. "Commercial travelers die from diabetes almost as fast as the average, and from cancer of the stomach and bowels almost as fast as the average."

Of the shoekeeping class, which has a low mortality in the aggregate, it may be noted that in excess from phthisis and nervous disease, as fast from gout as other men, that tobacco smokers die twice as fast from diabetes, that publishers, waiters, etc., die three times as fast from phthisis, that grocers are exceptionally free from accident, that fishermen succumb in large numbers to alcoholism and that milk sellers die in great excess from cancer of the stomach and bowels. The best was in fact with a large and responsible promoters; and seated on a bench, in a spot somewhat apart from the busy throng, where they were free from observation, were a young man and a woman engaged in conversation.

"Why, you will have to write it, I suppose." "I write a love story? Impossible! Why, I was never in love in my life. I wouldn't know how to begin the story or end it, nor what to say as I went along. I really have no idea how a woman acts, nor what she says when a man is making love to her. No, Jack, you will have to get some more experienced hand to write your love stories." "Oh, no, Tom. Your experience will only make the story more realistic, as a man who is describing a new sensation always does it better the first time than he will ever be able to afterward. Now, what I propose is this: You are young, handsome and eligible in every way, and I want you to go to Cape May or the Catskills, or some other fashionable resort, where there are plenty of girls to choose from, and play the part of a lover to the lives and most interesting one of the lot if it won't be necessary to really fall in love, you can act it well enough if you try, and then all you've got to do is to write out your experiences, and send in copy for your love story."

An Interrupted Love Story.

By WILL S. GIDLEY

"See here, Tom," exclaimed the editor of the Sketchbook, turning to his assistant, "Society Topics is publishing one of the most powerful serial love stories of the day, and we've got to drop up something in the same line, only a little better, of course, or we shall soon lose all our readers."

"Why, but where are we to get the story?" asked Tom Thornton, looking up from his desk. "Why, you will have to write it, I suppose." "I write a love story? Impossible! Why, I was never in love in my life. I wouldn't know how to begin the story or end it, nor what to say as I went along. I really have no idea how a woman acts, nor what she says when a man is making love to her. No, Jack, you will have to get some more experienced hand to write your love stories."

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"But what is to become of the girl at the end—nor of the story, but of my simulated love-making—when she finds I have been playing a part?" "O, she'll forget you fast enough. True, if you play a woman for that. And, besides, it isn't necessary to use your real name, and then when you come away, you simply drop out of her existence."

"That all sounds very well, Jack, but I don't like the business at all. It seems to me to be an unmanly thing to do, and I think I thought it was absolutely essential to the continued existence of our paper to have this story." "But it isn't," eagerly interrupted Jack Morton. "Society Topics is slashing right into our circulation, and unless we can get a better story than theirs, the Sketchbook will soon have to give up the ghost."

"Well, then, under the circumstances, I suppose I shall have to consent." "Thank you, Tom. You're a trump." "The name of her, I presume? Well, I don't like the character nor the game, but necessity knows no law, and I suppose I'm in for it. When do you want the first installment of copy?" "Soon as it can be had; in two or three weeks at the very latest."

"All right; I guess I can manage it. I'll finish up what I'm working on and then go forth to veni, vidi, vici." Three weeks later the Sketchbook began the publication of a love story which took the reading public by storm. It was so realistic, so unconventional, so unlike the majority of love stories that it attracted universal attention, and never a woman met another, the first question she asked was: "Are you reading 'A Summer Day's Love'?"

"Even the men read it, and talk of it, and when they take time to read a love story it is pretty safe to assume that the story is considerably above the average." The prospect of the Sketchbook began to assume a rosy hue. The circulation went up by bounds and strides that astounded even the senior partner and editor-in-chief. Jack Morton and that worthy sat in his cozy office and watched the orders and new subscriptions piling up on the desk before him a smile of satisfaction, and spread his contentment, and he chuckled softly to himself.

It was a glorious summer afternoon at Cape May. The best was in fact with a large and responsible promoters; and seated on a bench, in a spot somewhat apart from the busy throng, where they were free from observation, were a young man and a woman engaged in conversation. "Why, you will have to write it, I suppose." "I write a love story? Impossible! Why, I was never in love in my life. I wouldn't know how to begin the story or end it, nor what to say as I went along. I really have no idea how a woman acts, nor what she says when a man is making love to her. No, Jack, you will have to get some more experienced hand to write your love stories."

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He could not assist his more distressed comrade, so he devoted his best energies to making good the ground for the latter. Figueroa states that at this stage he could see land, but that was an impossibility, for the reason that the lifeboat was over forty miles out to sea. On February 3 the steamer Leverett dove in sight and picked up the poor fellows. They were given every attention possible and taken to Sydney.

A VETERAN'S REMINISCENCES. Civil War Experiences with Tents of Various Kinds. "When I started out," said a civil war veteran, to the New York Sun, "our regiment had tents furnished by the state, just as many of our equipments besides were in those days at the outset to volunteer regiments, and as I suppose they will be now. These tents were made to hold ten men each. We had five of them on each side of the company street. They had a ridge pole supported by a center pole, forming a sort of great T. The tent was drawn over the ridge pole from which it sloped down to the ground to the outer rim, which was pegged down. The guns were stacked around the center pole. In these tents the men slept, lying like the spokes of a wheel on the ground. They were often blown down in cold weather they would often lie closer together, upon fashion, to keep warm."

"No, I cannot—not yet. Give me time to think," she sobbed, without looking up. "I know I have played the part of a villain. There is no excuse for me. I deserve to lose you; but even if I must say goodbye forever, my last word shall be that I love you."

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Wishes that he should arrive at the Trim place before the young man had been the labor of feeding his faithful bear and making him comfortable for the night. And the father stole his child by force and took her home without hearing her cries for her husband. Trim heard her, however, but too late to prevent the abduction, and hitching up his horse again, he drove at a break-neck speed to the old man's house, where, it is said, he arrived just in time to see his wife being soundly spanked by her irate papa.

Trim drove to the office of the Justice who married them and demanded a warrant for his father-in-law. Then it came out that the bride was under 18 years of age, and the Justice informed the young man that there was no help for him. Last Sunday morning the young couple again disappeared, and as they have not been found the bride's father has caused the arrest of the Justice for performing the marriage.

Wealthy Man Dies in an Attic. CHICAGO, May 2.—William Wares, formerly a member of the Board of Trade, was found dead in an attic room of the Chicago hotel on Clark street today. A post-mortem examination showed that he was suffering from pneumonia. He was 50 years of age and reputed to be worth \$100,000. He owned Barron Lake, a well known Michigan summer resort. Wares was lived for the past year in the little room where he died, seldom seen by his former business friends.

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