

SIFTING THE FACTS AS TO THE INSANE

More Persons Mentally Unsound
in Institutions Than Ever, Says
American Medicine

THEY ALSO LIVE LONGER

Experts Believe, However, That Increase Is Only Apparent—Insane Types Now Widely Recognized—More Rational Treatment.

Philadelphia, Pa.—Is insanity increasing or decreasing? The reports are so contradictory, says American Medicine, that it is difficult, if not impossible, to sum up the evidence. One enthusiastic physician, the publication continues, "has predicted the time when the majority of our population will be insane, but all these articles have remarkably little basis in fact."

"One fact is certain—the number of insane in confinement has been steadily increasing for many decades, both here and in Europe—not only the actual numbers, but relatively to population. In the opinion of quite a few of the statisticians, this does not necessarily indicate an increase of insanity, but is fully accounted for by the fact that a very large number are now in confinement who formerly were not considered insane, but merely eccentric, and who remained at large unless they committed crimes when they went to prison or the gallows."

"The longevity of the insane has greatly increased, and in the opinion of a few observers, this factor is of itself sufficient to account for the increase of the asylum population. It is offset by the increased number of cures, but such incurable types were often not removed to an asylum, so that the offset is not probably very large."

"More rational treatment and proper feeding have preserved enormous numbers of cases. In consequence, the rate of increase was but mere temporary phenomenon and is being rejected by the commissions in Lunacy for England and Wales, and a steady decline, so that it is safe to predict a time within a decade or two when there will be no relative increase in the asylum population, and the admissions will be equivalent to the cures and deaths by a small amount proportional to the increase of population."

In some places insanity is said to be markedly decreasing, and this conclusion is based on the number of yearly admissions per thousand of population. Nevertheless this factor of decrease may be an indication that the former unrecognized cases are about cleaned up, and that we are now at a point where only the newly developed cases are taken into account to solve, and the proper remedy clear from the date is insanity seems just about as often as it ever did—no more and no less. Formerly the cases were short-lived, from human treatment, but now it is evident that many years in asylums, which was increasing for this reason, but which would cease to increase when the population ceases its increase."

PEOPLE OF PITCAIRN ISLAND.

Colony Now Number 150, Most of Whom Are Females.
London, England.—A new colony of people has been received from Pitcairn Island. The bark Whidder, which was intercepted by Pitcairn Islanders who sailed twenty miles in a boat to meet the bark and obtain the latest news from the outside world.

The Islanders informed Captain Blackstock that the population numbered 150, nearly all of whom are females. All aged and remarkably healthy and appeared contented with their lot. The oldest inhabitant is ninety-one years of age. He is a grandson of Fletcher Christian, who was leader of the mutineers of the boat which first settled the island in 1790.

DEFEND SMALL FAMILIES.

Lady Warwick Denounces Woman Who Populates World Recklessly.
London, England.—The Countess of Warwick justified the small families of today, when she presided at the Antislavery League and attacked the poverty of children to women's increasing enlightenment.

Lady Warwick declared that where, as formerly a woman thought nothing of bringing fifteen children into the world, today her intelligence forbids her to have so many children without the means of educating them and equipping them adequately for the struggle of life. The small family of today, Lady Warwick regards as a distinct step upward.

A woman who populates the world recklessly, said Lady Warwick, is a social nuisance.

Handshake Was Fatal.
Belgrade.—An Albanian youth named Braghimovich, who is a stranger to the customs of civilization arrived in Belgrade and shot a acquaintance immediately after an introduction, having mistaken an attempt to shake hands for an attempt to snatch the weapons in his belt.

THE MCKINLEY LILY.

Flower Preserved In Jar Shows Likeness to Dead President.

Alameda county, one of the counties that border on the Bay of San Francisco, has a great variety of products, of which it has for several years maintained an interesting exhibition in the rooms of the Chamber of Commerce at Oakland, its chief city. The work of preparing the flowers, fruits and vegetables for exhibition is in the hands of W. D. Nichols, who according to St. Nicholas, has a process by which he is able to preserve them for a long time without losing their form or color.

One of the exhibits is what is known as the McKinley lily. A large lily was placed in a glass jar with the preserving fluid, and after several weeks its petals began to drop a little. A visitor noticed the resemblance to the features of the late President of the United States, William McKinley, when looked at from a particular point of view, and the flower has since been called the McKinley lily. Every effort is being made to keep it in existence in its present state as long as possible, as it has proved a great attraction and object of interest to visitors.

The Shah's Highway.

"We think we have the worst roads in the world. It is true we have some bad ones, but most of our highways, compared with those of Persia, would be as a paved street to a ploughed field."

You would think that the keeping of the "Shah's Highway" would be one of the first cares of a state. Yet so little attention has been given to the subject by the Persian government that there are not a dozen good wagon roads throughout the whole country. The caravan routes, are, except in a very few cases, merely trails. Not only are the wagon roads bad as well as scarce, but it is an astonishing fact that, although Persia is one of the oldest of civilized states, a country comprising an area of 533,000 square miles, and a population of 15,000,000, she has but six miles of railway. Though the states of the Western Hemisphere have a civilization less than one-tenth as old, there is not one of them with which, in this respect, Persia does not suffer by comparison.

Food for Giants.

Archdeacon Spink recently addressed a weekly club in England, after watching the kids in an exhibition of gymnastic stunts, and he should like to recommend the eating of oatmeal as a preparation for them. "I had four brothers," he said, "and all of them were tall. My father had fourteen brothers and sisters ranging from six feet to six feet eight inches—all brought up on Scotch oatmeal porridge." This may be a valuable suggestion for the heads of large families who are trying to solve the high cost of living problem. They should know, however, that the breakfast foods of today are not the Scotch oatmeal that built the giant Scottish family.

No Two and a Half Cent Pieces.

Some people are never content to let well enough alone. Some fellows want the United States to issue a new and a half cent piece to meet various, quick change stunts that would "save the Nation \$100,000,000 a year," so he says. After thinking till every hair of Tip's head was turned silver gray, Tip holds to the persuasion that we had best hold on to the plain one hundred plain cents to the plain system as founded by George. Even as it is, poor Tip gets humiliated and short-changed whenever he is off on a tip in the New York office.

Increase of News Space.

Seven New York daily papers used 121-14 columns in their report of the Jeffries-Johnson fight at Reno. The same papers nearly half a century ago told the entire story of the fight of Gettysburg in 25-28 columns. The facilities for gathering and printing news have increased since the war, but not to the extent these figures indicate. The papers gave all the details of the brutal pig-slaughter, and the news of the execution of a good many more wanted them. Can we be willing to admit it.

London's Apprentices.

The Lord Mayor of London is trying to revive the old system of apprenticeship, and while he shows he knows what he is talking about when he says that many boys are ruined by the lack of some trade, still many parents say that after making great sacrifices to keep their boys four or five years learning a trade, they find that once the boys have served their time, their masters have no further employment for them.

Bad Company.

How do men feel whose whole lives have many men's lives are like, schemes, and they keep them when they are alone? Daily in life I watch men whose every smile is an artifice and every wink an hypocrisy. Both such a fellow wear a mask in his own privacy, and to his own conscience—thackeray.

Danger of the Gun Wad.

A Virginia newspaper sixty years ago, before the days of shells, advised against any plan for carrying a loaded gun muzzle downward on horseback or on foot, as very dangerous, since the paper wad and shot or ball might slip down away from the charge and burst the gun, tearing off an arm when fired.

LIFE IN THE WEST WIND

Prof. Moore Discovers the Secret of the "Indomitable American" Can Spirit.

Washington, D. C.—Prof. Willis L. Moore, Chief of the Weather Bureau in an interview said to a correspondent: "It is well known to meteorologists that easterly winds either blow closely to the earth or have an upward component of motion. They, therefore, gather the humidity, dust, disease and other bacteria, and as a rule they are warm and humid. All of these conditions make them feel like the wind which animal life is overcast and rendered susceptible to the germs which the winds themselves carry and disseminate."

The converse is true of the northwest winds. They come from above, with a downward component of motion that bears a definite relation to the velocity. They come from the region where the air is dry, pure and highly electrified and where ozone exists in comparatively large quantities. The cool, pure air of the northwest wind is therefore an invigorating air. It stimulates man and all other animal life. It brings physical energy and mental buoyancy in its mighty breath.

"I have not the data before me, but I am morally certain that if the mortality statistics of the various hospitals were studied it would be found that more people die under the influence of the east than of the west winds."

"As the greater number of the storms of the northern hemisphere originate on the American continent we have a greater atmospheric activity and the northwest winds a greater force."

"This may have a marked effect as one of the important environments that have to do with the character of the race that is not coming to be known as 'American.' It has fertility of thought and energy of body. May it not be that the climate has much to do with the developing of the indomitable spirit that is now reaching out for the mastery of the earth?"

DON'T MOPE OR WHINE.

"Physical Exercise a Factor to Happiness," Declares Miss Bush.

Boston, Mass.—Miss Thorda Bush, who coached both men and women athletic experts throughout the country by scoring 92 out of a possible 100 points in the mid-winter meet of the Radcliffe College girls, explains her success as follows: "In winning 92 1/2 points out of a 100 total there is really nothing unusual. Any girl who takes to athletics and devotes herself to them in the true spirit can succeed in just such an achievement. It is all in your enthusiasm, and application."

"I have never been interested in the so-called fashionable, and ultra-fashionable doings, which concern so many women. The day of moping, of sitting still and whining for things, of believing that some chosen man will bring us the things which we desire, including health, are long past."

"I believe that every woman should join some sort of a club, in which physical exercise is a factor. Many women will be shocked at the thought of running, and the more strenuous of indoor sports, but that in reality is a great feminine mistake."

"We must have good health, strength and character of minds if we are to gain happiness. Today there are still too many college girls who neglect the athletic side of the life, with the result that when they have graduated into the stress of life's work they find that they have not a sufficient physical foundation of strength to withstand the work-day strain."

Delirium for Work, Not Money the Mania.

"The mass of the American people have engineered a mania for work, crowding out all other ideas and tending to exploitation of all sorts, unscrupulous waste of forests, of our health, and lastly exploitation of the child. It is not the desire for wealth which animates them, but a delirium for work," declared Dr. Felix Adler, chairman of the National Child Labor Committee, in his address at the sixth annual conference on child labor.

METEOR WEIGHED MANY TONS.

Impact with Earth Causes Vibrations Like an Earthquake.
Grand Forks, N. D.—A meteor, measuring sixty-five inches in diameter and weighing many tons, burst itself six feet in the earth near Carling ton.

For a full minute before it struck the meteor illuminated the entire surrounding country, and its impact with the earth proved vibrations like those from an earthquake. The meteor remained hot for twenty-four hours after it struck the earth. It now has the appearance of a dull red ore.

Buried Miner Lived on Bark.

Negaunee, Mich.—Buried 600 feet beneath the earth's surface for seven days, Frank Consello, a miner, said: "I had given up all hope when I heard the sound of picks and shovels not far away. I knew now I would be rescued alive. There was plenty of water, but no food, and I was forced to chew the bark from timbers."

OLDEST RECORD OF NOAH'S FLOOD

Nippur Clay Tablet of 2000 B. C. Tells Story Very Like the Later Bible Narrative

DR. HILPRECHT IS DISCOVERER

Tablet Is Among Fruits of 1899 Babylonian Expedition Preserved at University of Pennsylvania—New Proof of the Deluge.

Philadelphia, Prof. Herman V. Hilprecht of the Department of Archaeology of the University of Pennsylvania has found among the tablets from the "Temple Library" of Nippur, a remarkable fragment containing a portion of the "Babylonian Deluge Story," this being, he says, the oldest extant reference to that event in writing, antedating the Bible narrative of the deluge by at least 1,000. The first announcement of this discovery was made by Prof. Hilprecht at the Acon Club, when he gave a full account of the tablet and its translation and discussed its bearing on the other known cuneiform and other inscriptions referring to the deluge.

The following is Dr. Hilprecht's translation of the deluge tablet which was among the fragments unearthed by the 1899 expedition to Nippur.

(The confines of Heaven and Earth)

I will impose.
A deluge I will make and it shall sweep away all men together; (But thou seek) life before the deluge cometh forth.)

(For once all living beings) as many as there are, I will bring overthrow, destruction, annihilation.

Build a great ship like its structure. It shall be a houseboat carrying what has been sowed of life, with a strong deck cover (it.)

(The ship) which thou shalt make (into it bring) the beasts of the field, the birds of Heaven.

(And the creeping things, two of everything) instead of a number.

Number, and the family, and...

The words inclosed in brackets in the translation are not found in the Cuneiform text, but have been supplemented by Prof. Hilprecht according to the context.

The fragment bearing the inscription is of unbroken clay, and measures 2 3/4 inches at its greatest width, 2 3/8 inches at its greatest length, and is seven-eighths of an inch thick. It is dark brown in color, and was originally inscribed on two sides, but one side is now broken off, and the other side, however, a few characters preserved on the right edge, forming the ends of three overlapping lines from the missing side.

Prof. Hilprecht concludes that in its complete form the tablet must have been about 7 by 10 inches, and contained from 130 and 136 lines altogether. It bears no date, but from internal evidences, from the fragments by other scribes, unpublished fragments, and from the position in which it was found, Prof. Hilprecht believes that it was written some time between 2137 and 2095 B. C.

Prof. Hilprecht explained the text as a portion of the divine command to the Babylonian Noah, Utnapishtim, to construct a ship and to save life from the all-devouring flood. In order to understand its unique value, however, it is important, he said, to know something of the corresponding passages from the known fragments of the Cuneiform deluge story, and from the Biblical narrative.

There are three of the Cuneiform fragments, two versions from Nineveh, dating from about 60 B. C., and an early Babylonian fragment in J. Pierpont Morgan's collection. A comparison of these aids of the Biblical passages with the newly discovered Nippur version has brought out the significant fact that the Nippur version differs fundamentally from the two Nineveh versions, and agrees most remarkably with the Biblical story in very essential details, both as to contents and language.

The "Layard" deluge tablet in the British Museum, one of those dating from 650 B. C., agreed with the details of the Biblical narrative in only a few particulars. It was a pagan story of a deity who, on the advice of a council of the gods, who decided to destroy mankind. One of the gods was moved to save his protégé—the Noah of the story, and sent a dream of warning on which this Noah acted. This god excused his betrayal of the plan to the other deities by the explanation that he had not told—he had only "whispered through the mat"—that is, through the wall of the house on the other side, when his protégé slept, and to whom this dream was thus conveyed.

Moreover, Prof. Hilprecht observed in particular that this agreement affects that very old and important story of the Old Testament in which part of the oldest traditions of Israel, and that it must have entered Canaan at the time when Abraham left his home on the Euphrates and moved westward.

Cave-Dwellers in Wales.

Cave-dwellers still survive among us here and there, and there is living at Llandudno an aged woman known colloquially as Miriam's Ogo. She is ninety-three years of age and till quite lately lived in a cave on the side of the Great Orme. Three siblings and brought up a family of thirteen children, one of whom is the stalwart "hewman" of the Llandudno lifeboat. Miriam's husband—also a cave-man—made himself a pair of wings out of feathers for the purpose of getting up and down the face of the cliff; but his clever efforts in aviation led at last to a serious accident—Gardiner Western Mail.

Lots of Turkeys

Approximately 1,000,000 dressed turkeys, it is estimated, were consumed in New York City in Thanksgiving Day feasts. The finest turkeys this year came from Maryland and Virginia. Kentucky sent the biggest turkey to the White House; it weighed forty pounds.

The battleship Wyoming, according to records tabulated in the navy department, leads our fleet in results in target practice. The Arkansas is second, and the Rhode Island third.



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