

requires. These things were for the protection of those who were not lunatics at all—persons who might be imbecile to a certain extent—to prevent their being shut up from sinister or unworthy motives. Such things had been done, and the laws now put in force had been enacted to prevent them. He trusted they would continue to have the desired salutary effect. The jury would, therefore, say that the defendant was guilty of detaining Mr. Barnes without being properly and legally qualified to do so.

The jury immediately returned a verdict of guilty.

His Lordship, in sentencing the prisoner, said, he must pass such a sentence as would meet the justice of the case; no doubt Mr. Milburn had violated the provisions of the statutes, which he (the learned Judge) considered essential for the protection of lunatics, as well as to prevent such persons as were only in a partial state of mental aberration being treated as lunatics. The family of the patient appeared satisfied with the care and attention which he had received, still he (the defendant) had broken the law. He did not think it necessary to pass a sentence of imprisonment, but such a fine as would be sufficient to teach him and everybody else that the laws must be respected. The sentence was that the defendant pay a fine of £100 to the Queen, and that he be imprisoned till such fine be paid. *His Lordship* immediately added that he had no wish to subject Mr. Milburn to imprisonment if he was not prepared at the moment to pay the fine. If he would enter into recognizances to pay it the next day, or before the Court rose, it would be sufficient.

Mr. Naylor asked to have three days allowed.

His Lordship.—I hope to have finished to-morrow; but I will allow such time as it may take my learned brother to finish the case in the other court.

[On Wednesday morning *his Lordship* had the defendant called, and also the learned Counsel for the prosecution, and said, upon reconsidering the matter, he had resolved to fine Mr. Milburn £50, and require him to enter into recognizances not to repeat the offence. The recognizances were fixed at £300.]—*Ipswich Journal*, August 17th, 1867.

Statistics of Suicide.

The death registers show few, if any, items more remarkable for the constant ratio of their occurrence than the regularity with which suicide counts its victims. In this country, year after year, more than 1,300 men and women, driven to desperation by their own folly or by some overwhelming misfortune, seek refuge from trouble in death: some of these—it is not recorded how many—belong, of course, to the class of irresponsible beings whose deficient mental organization incapacitates them from being safe custodians of their own lives. The statistics of suicide in England, according to the Registrar-General's returns, show that the annual proportion to every million of the population has ranged in the eight years from 1858 to 1865 successively thus:—66, 64, 70, 68, 65, 66, 64, 67. With two exceptions, therefore, the last state of things is worse than the first. No account is kept of the attempts which are frustrated, so that there is nothing beyond surmise to give any clue to the probable movement of the tendency to suicide among us. It is, however, certain that the figures we have quoted above do not fully represent the extent of the crime, inasmuch as some—no one can possibly know how many—of the deaths by drowning and other means must be set down to self-destruction. The extraordinary

regularity with which the same means are employed for the same end is not the least curious feature in these statistics. Hanging has always been the mode most commonly adopted, and 28 out of the ratio of 67 per million suicides of 1865 fall under this head, the proportion having remained almost constant in successive years. Cutting or stabbing and drowning, accounting for an almost equal proportion (12 and 11 out of the 67 per million), come next in the order of frequency; then follow poisoning (7) and gunshot wounds (3), the residue (6) not being specifically described. The ratio of suicides by means of firearms was 3 per million in each one of the eight years, and the other ratios show little or no variation. Dr. Young, in his 'Night Thoughts,' speaks of "Britain, infamous for suicide;" and, judging from a recent comparison in a French statistical journal, we still maintain a very unsatisfactory position as regards some other European states. The ratio of suicides per million of the respective populations in 1864 was 110 in France, 64 in England, 45 in Belgium, 30 in Italy, and 15 in Spain. This must of course be taken *cum grano*, as, notwithstanding the efforts of statistical congresses, international comparisons are still surrounded with great uncertainty.—*Pall-Mall Gazette*.

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(Continued from the 'Journal of Mental Science,' July, 1867.)

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'The Insanity of Pregnancy, Puerperal Insanity, and Insanity of Lactation.' By Dr. J. B. Tuke.
(Reprint from 'Edinburgh Medical Journal'.)

'Trousseau's Clinical Medicine.' Translated and Edited, with Notes and Appendices, by the late P. Victor Bazire, M.D. To be completed in 12 Parts, demy 8vo. Part III.—18. Cerebral Rheumatism; 19. Exophthalmic Gout; 20. Angina Pectoris; 21. Asthma; 22. Hooping Cough; 23. Hydrophobia. London: Hardwicke, 192, Piccadilly.

Arrangements for the continuation of the translation of this valuable work are in progress.

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(Reprinted from the 'British and Foreign Medico-Chirurgical Review,' July, 1867.)