Suicides in New York City : during the eleven years ending Dec. 31, 1880, showing the sex, age, color, nativity, means used for self-destruction, and the season of the year when committed, together with a comparison of the deaths by suicide in two hundred and forty-seven American and foreign cities, in the year 1880, obtained from official sources, and the proportion of suicides to the population of New York City from the year 1804 to 1880, inclusive / by John T. Nagle.

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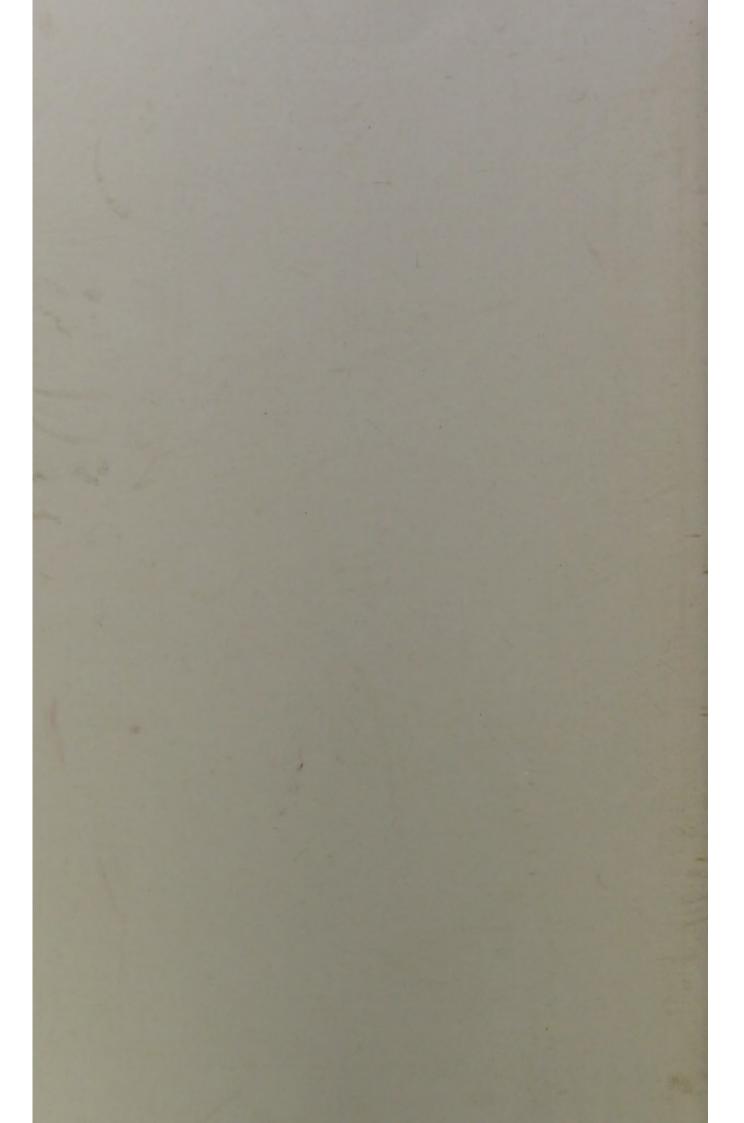
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DURING THE ELEVEN YEARS ENDING DEC. 31, 1880,

SHOWING THE SEX, AGE, COLOR, NATIVITY, MEANS USED FOR SELF-DESTRUCTION, AND THE SEASON OF THE YEAR WHEN COMMITTED;

TOGETHER WITH

A COMPARISON OF THE DEATHS BY SUICIDE IN TWO HUNDRED AND FORTY-SEVEN AMERICAN AND FOREIGN CITIES, IN THE YEAR 1880, OBTAINED FROM OFFICIAL SOURCES, AND THE PROPORTION OF SUICIDES TO THE POPULATION OF NEW YORK CITY FROM THE YEAR 1804 TO 1880, INCLUSIVE.

BY

JOHN T. NAGLE, M.D.

NEW YORK, N.Y.

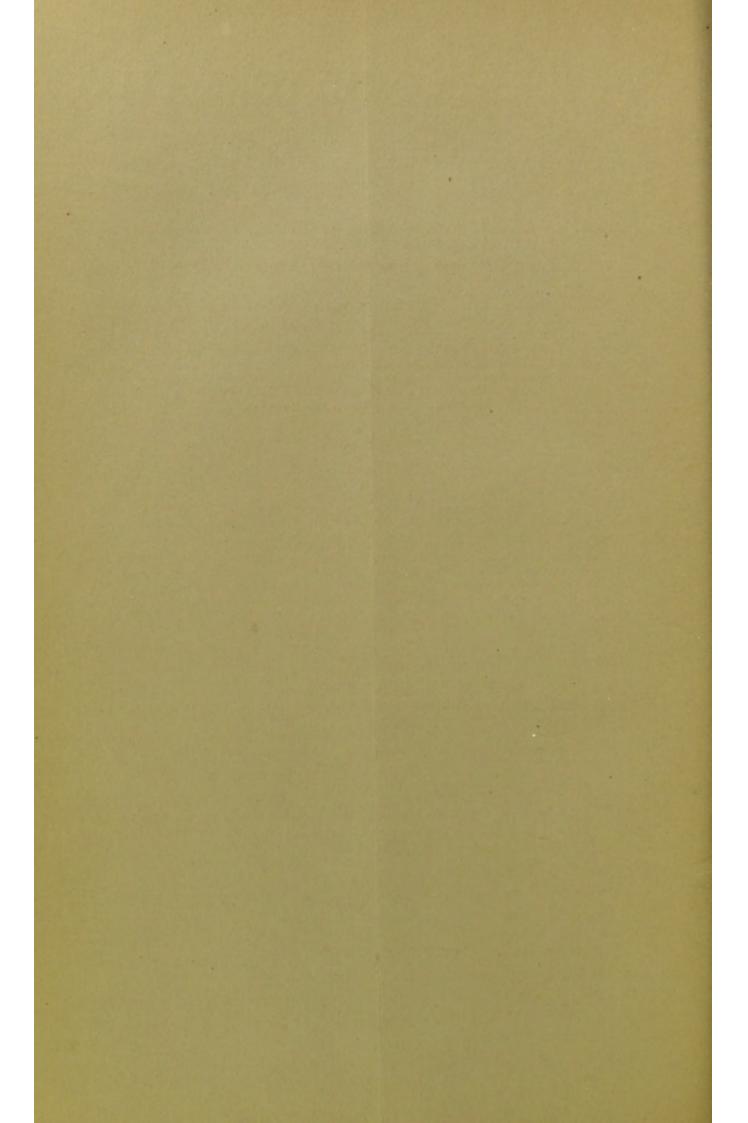
Member of the American Public Health Association, New York County Medical Society, New York Public Health Association, Membre Adherent Congrès International d'Hygiene de Paris, Membre Correspondant Etranger de la Societé Royale de Médecine Publique de Belgique, Membre Correspondant Etranger de la Societé de Médecine Publique et d'Hygiene Professionelle de Paris, etc., etc., etc.

READ BEFORE THE AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION, AT SAVANNAH, GA., NOVEMBER 30, 1881.

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1882.



During the Eleven Years ending December 31, 1880, showing the Sex, Age, Color, Nativity, Means used for Self-destruction, and the Season of the Year when committed, together with a Comparison of the Deaths by Suicide in Two Hundred and Forty-seven American and Foreign Cities in the year 1880, obtained from Official Sources, and the Proportion of Suicides to the Population of New York City from the year 1804 to 1880, inclusive.

BY JOHN T. NAGLE, M. D.,

New York, N. Y.

ALTHOUGH the word suicide is defined as "the act of taking one's life committed by a person of years of discretion and of sound mind," and although it is asserted that in a legal sense "the taking of one's life as the result of an insane delusion or impulse is not suicide," it may be necessary to explain to those who view the accompanying tables, that this interpretation is not strictly adhered to in them, and that the tables of suicide include all deaths of persons who have taken their own lives, unless such deaths were clearly proven to be accidental. This, I think, is the popular understanding of the word suicide, although it may not be an accurate one. Some of the cases that are tabulated as deaths by suicide may not appear clearly as such, and may not have been intentional, yet the fact that there was a knowledge that the action would be attended by danger to life induces me to place them among the suicidal deaths. I may mention as an instance of the uncertainty of classification the two deaths from abortion. It is reasonable to suppose that the two women who used instruments for the purpose of producing abortion did not intend to kill themselves, and that their deaths were accidental. Yet the well-known risk that attended the operation, and the bungling manner in which it was performed, producing death almost instantly thereafter, justify their inclusion among the suicides.

It is very difficult in a majority of cases of self-destruction to determine whether there was an insane impulse or delusion prompting it. In fact, there is no apparent cause for the commission of this act assigned or ascertained in a number of cases; nor is any mental or physical ailment apparent or noticed prior to the death of the person. In a majority of the cases, however, the causes of the suicide can be traced to abnormal physical or mental conditions, disappointments of various kinds, intemperance, business reverses, family differences, etc.

If we may form an opinion from the occupations of the decedents who

died by their own hands, the great majority of them were in the humble walks of life, and consequently possessed the education of their class.

There seems to be a diversity of opinion in regard to the causes or motives which impel people to commit suicide. Some writers attribute it to a certain kind of climate, others assert that in the fall of the year suicides are most prevalent in this country, others think that persons of certain religious beliefs rarely commit suicide, others think that no sane person would commit suicide, and others state that the natives of certain countries rarely commit suicide by certain means. All these statements do not appear to be well verified, or borne out by the statistics herewith submitted of self-murder in New York City. It is, however, reasonable to believe that some of the causes assigned have more influence upon the natives of one country than of another. This is possibly due to national habits and customs. There is no apparent reason why the Germans, who as a class are wealthier and more prosperous than the Irish, should so largely exceed the latter in suicides, unless it be the Teutonic national temperament. The Irish show a lesser number of suicides in proportion to their population than any of the other foreign born inhabitants of this city. Whether this be due to temperament, or to their habitual struggles with adversity and the vicissitudes of life in their own country, is problematical. In my opinion, the temperament, national characteristics, peculiarities, and customs of people have more influence on the causes of suicide than religion has. Home-sickness, which is stated as a probable cause by a writer on this subject, can hardly be admitted as a reason for self-murder by Germans or Irishmen, as there are not probably more than nine cities in Germany with larger German populations, and but one city in Ireland with a larger Irish population, than the city of New York. There can be no reason, consequently, why the natives of these countries should not feel as much at home in this city as they would elsewhere.

It is important to notice the disproportion between suicides of males and suicides of females. The number of males who committed suicide during the past eleven years was 1,193, while the number of females was but 328. The statistics show that suicide was much more prevalent among males than among females, and that during this period the proportion of suicides among males was 3.64 to every one among females, notwithstanding the female population is larger than the male.

The figures giving the proportion of suicidal deaths to the total population of this city since the year 1804 do not show that there was any epidemic of suicide in this city within this period, although some writers claim that there have been epidemics of suicide in foreign countries. The highest yearly rate of suicide in New York city during the past seventy-seven years was in 1805, when there was one suicide to every 3,017 inhabitants, and the lowest proportionate number was in 1864, when there was one suicide to 23,827 inhabitants. In 1874 the suicides were one in every 5,515 inhabitants. This was the largest proportion of suicides to the population since the year 1834, as will be seen by the following table, which gives the yearly comparison for the period stated : —

Table Showing the Proportion of Suicides in New York City to the Estimated or Enumerated Population since the Year 1804.

In 1804 there was one suicide in every 7,486 of the population. In 1805 there was one suicide in every 3,017 of the population. In 1806 there was one suicide in every 5,468 of the population. In 1807 there was one suicide in every 5,351 of the population. In 1808 there was one suicide in every 11,150 of the population. In 1809 there was one suicide in every 15,461 of the population. In 1810 there was one suicide in every 12,046 of the population. In 1811 there was one suicide in every 11,012 of the population. In 1812 there was one suicide in every 20,367 of the population. In 1813 there was one suicide in every 9,507 of the population. In 1814 there was one suicide in every 17,884 of the population. In 1815 there was one suicide in every 22,007 of the population. In 1816 there was one suicide in every 7,518 of the population. In 1817 there was one suicide in every 6,417 of the population. In 1818 there was one suicide in every 4,926 of the population. In 1819 there was one suicide in every 4,480 of the population. In 1820 there was one suicide in every 8,247 of the population. In 1821 there was one suicide in every 8,224 of the population. In 1822 there was one suicide in every 10,729 of the population. In 1823 there was one suicide in every 8,127 of the population. In 1824 there was one suicide in every 8,171 of the population. In 1825 there was one suicide in every 11,653 of the population. In 1826 there was one suicide in every 5,898 of the population. In 1827 there was one suicide in every 7,779 of the population. In 1828 there was one suicide in every 5,838 of the population. In 1829 there was one suicide in every 5,899 of the population. In 1830 there was one suicide in every 6,986 of the population. In 1831 there was one suicide in every 9,287 of the population. In 1832 there was one suicide in every 7,745 of the population. In 1833 there was one suicide in every 7,854 of the population. In 1834 there was one suicide in every 3,474 of the population. In 1835 there was one suicide in every 8,884 of the population. In 1836 there was one suicide in every 8,141 of the population. In 1837 there was one suicide in every 6,659 of the population. In 1838 there was one suicide in every 6,760 of the population. In 1839 there was one suicide in every 6,704 of the population. In 1840 there was one suicide in every 11,168 of the population. In 1841 there was one suicide in every 9,794 of the population. In 1842 there was one suicide in every 10,705 of the population. In 1843 there was one suicide in every 19,135 of the population. In 1844 there were no suicides stated. In 1845 there was one suicide in every 20,706 of the population. In 1846 there was one suicide in every 21,720 of the population. In 1847 there was one suicide in every 14,209 of the population. In 1848 there was one suicide in every 13,970 of the population. In 1849 there was one suicide in every 14,150 of the population. In 1850 there was one suicide in every 16,630 of the population. In 1851 there was one suicide in every 16,040 of the population. In 1852 there was one suicide in every 15,437 of the population. In 1853 there was one suicide in every 10,803 of the population. In 1854 there was one suicide in every 10,759 of the population. In 1855 there was one suicide in every 10,509 of the population. In 1856 there was one suicide in every 11,200 of the population.

In 1857 there was one suicide in every 10,059 of the population. In 1858 there was one suicide in every 10,054 of the population. In 1859 there was one suicide in every 13,997 of the population. In 1860 there was one suicide in every 12,994 of the population. In 1861 there was one suicide in every 18,599 of the population. In 1862 there was one suicide in every 19,333 of the population. In 1863 there was one suicide in every 17,233 of the population. In 1864 there was one suicide in every 23,827 of the population. In 1865 there was one suicide in every 20,746 of the population. In 1866 there was one suicide in every 16,391 of the population. In 1867 there was one suicide in every 10,454 of the population. In 1868 there was one suicide in every 9,319 of the population. In 1869 there was one suicide in every 9,095 of the population. In 1870 there was one suicide in every 9,329 of the population. In 1871 there was one suicide in every 8,374 of the population. In 1872 there was one suicide in every 6,716 of the population. In 1873 there was one suicide in every 8,303 of the population. In 1874 there was one suicide in every 5,515 of the population. In 1875 there was one suicide in every 6,721 of the population. In 1876 there was one suicide in every 7,037 of the population. In 1877 there was one suicide in every 7,225 of the population. In 1878 there was one suicide in every 7,629 of the population. In 1879 there was one suicide in every 9,381 of the population. In 1880 there was one suicide in every 7,938 of the population.

The table showing the ages of suicides for the past eleven years presents some interesting features. It shows that during this period there were twelve suicides of boys and three of girls, whose ages ranged from ten to fifteen years, and that one man and two women aged from eighty to eightyfive committed suicide.

The oldest person who committed suicide during this period was a woman of German birth, aged ninety-one years and four months, for eleven years a resident of this city, who took her own life by severing the vessels of her arm with a razor. The greatest number of suicides among males were between the ages of thirty-five and forty years; among females between the ages of thirty and thirty-five years. The accompanying table will show the age and sex of suicides for each of the past eleven years.

Total.	Female.	22	50	33	36	4	33	36	25	26	17	33	328
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os years.	Female.	H			N	64	64	H		I	F	I	11
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From 50 to	Male.	7	9	IO	ŝ	x.5	14	17	9	61	10	5	114
So Years.	Female.	4	4	n	10	3	3	en	m	13	61	**	34
From 45 to	Male.	II	6	12	4	18	14	00	IO	01	00	15	611
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From 40 to	Male.	7	7	12	14	20	18	13	6	IO	6	II	130
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From 35 to	.əlaM	15	0I	13	13	38	17	15	IO	17	10	30	168
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From 30 to	Male.	ŝ	Ħ	33	12	14	15	16	18	12	18	17	160
30 Acars.	Female.	4	+	~	ei	ŝ	*	*	5	H	5	4	39
From 25 to	Male.	1	12	6	15	15	(IO	00	16	7	15	01	136
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From 20 to	Male.	1/3	13	1	5	00	15	ŝ	IS	00	2	H	TO4
and 20 year	Female.		н	61	**	+	61	64	m	m		m	61
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Years.								-			2		
X		1870 .	1871 ·	1872 .	1873 ·	1874 ·	1875 ·	1876 .	. 778 I	1878 .	1879 ·	1880 .	Total.

Age and Sex of Suicides in New York City during the Eleven Years ending December 31, 1880.

5

There is nothing to indicate that the climate of this city has any influence upon suicide. The deaths from this cause vary yearly in regard to frequency. In one year they are most numerous in the first quarter; in another year they are most numerous in the second quarter; while in other years their number may be greatest in the third or fourth quarter.

The summary of deaths from this cause in the past eleven years is as follows : ---

First Quarter .									341
Second Quarter									417
Third Quarter .	•						. *		412
Fourth Quarter	•	•	•	•	•				351

The second quarter, therefore, shows the highest, and the first quarter the lowest number of suicides. During these eleven years, however, there were but seventy-six more deaths in the highest than in the lowest quarter.

Mortality from Suicides by Quarters in New York City during each Year for the past Eleven Years, showing the Sex and Condition by Years for the same Period.

Warm	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Total	S	ex. Condition stated			ated.
Year.		uarter. Quarter.		Quarter.	for Year.	Male.	Female.	Single.	Mar- ried.	Wid-
1870	23	22	33	23	101	79	22	26	49	13
1871	22	29	33	30	114	85	29	42	53	11
1872	33	34	45	27	144	III	33	50	69	17
1873	29	33	28	28	118	82	36	38	59	13
1874	55	28	52	45	180	140	40	55	88	15
1875	30	56	41	28	155	123	32	21	74	10
1876	33	46	41	30	I 50	114	36	31	86	16
1877	23	44	38	43	148	123	25	51	. 70	10
1878	33	29	41	39	142	116	26	42	83	9
1879	29	40	23	25	117	100	17	40	51	II
1880	26	56	37	33	152	120	32	34	77	12
Total Suicides	341	417	412	351	1,521	1,193	328	430	7 59	137

The means used for self-destruction during the above period are shown for years and quarters in the subjoined table. There are very slight discrepancies in a few of the totals in this table when compared with the table giving the causes by nationalities in detail. These discrepancies are occasioned by a double means of suicide, such as shooting or stabbing one's self, and jumping from windows, etc., etc. Such double means appear as single in the table.

Deaths by Suicide in New York City during the Eleven Years ending December 31st, 1880, by Years and Quarters.

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⁴ Including two deaths from the effects of immersion.

² Including two deaths from Gun-Shot wounds and Hanging.

7

The population of the city of New York in 1875 was 1,041,886. Of this number 1,026,632 were white and 15,254 colored; 506,922 were males and 534,964 females; 595,843 were natives of the United States and 446,043 natives of foreign countries. Of the native population (including the colored people) 199,862 were twenty years old and upwards. Of the foreign white population (the nativity and ages of the foreign colored population are not given in the census) 399,440 were twenty years old and upwards. The average annual rate of suicide during the past eleven years was 16.74 to every 100,000 of the native population twenty years old and upwards. During the same period the rate was 26.24 to every 100,000 of the foreign population of the same ages. There were 1,518¹ deaths by suicide among the white, and three ² among the colored population.

Table showing Rate of Suicides per 100,000 of the Total Population by Nativities, also the Rate in Native and Foreign Population, and in Males and Females Twenty Years Old and upward for Eleven Years, ending December 31, 1880.

Nativity of Suicides.	Population New York State (Census 1875).	Suicides for Eleven Years.	Annual Average.	Average Rate of Sui- cides per 100,000 In- habitants.
Austria	2,678	6	.55	20.54
Belgium	478	6	.55	115.06
British America.	4,985	15	1.36	27.28
Bohemia	3,133	IO	10.	29.05
China	157	I	.09	57.32
Denmark	798	5	.45	56.39
England	26,913	82	7.45	27.68
France	9,432	47	4.27	45.27
Germany	165,012	626	56.91	34-49
Holland	1,167	6	.55	47.13
Ireland	199,084	213	19.33	9.71
Italy	6,507	10	.91	
Norway	527	3	.27	51 23
Poland	5,809	12	.09	18.76
Portugal	93	I	.09	96.77
Russia	2,099	3	.27	12.86
Scotland	7,635	, 20	1.82	23.84
South America	293	38	.27	92.15
Sweden	1,870	8	.73	39.04
Switzerland	2,244	19	1.73	77.09
Spain	474	3	.27	56.92
United States	595,843	368	33-45	5.61
Unknown, or not stated	1,255	44	4.00	318.72
Wales	667	I	.09	13.49
Cuba	1,677	8	.73	43.53
Population twenty years old and upwards.				
Native (including all the colored)	199,862	368	33-45	16.74
Foreign (white)	399,440	1,153	104.82	26.24
Males	289,579	1,193	108.45	37.45
Females	309,723	328	29.82	9.63
Population 1880 { White	1,186,144	1,518	-	-
Colored ³	20,433	3	-	-

¹ Including one Chinaman who poisoned himself with opium.

² Two colored men leaped from heights, and one colored woman poisoned herself.

⁸ Including 747 Chinese, 18 Japanese, and 44 Indians.

Suicide is therefore less frequent among the colored people than among the whites. The table of nativities of the 1,521 persons who committed suicide during the past eleven years shows the rate of suicide to every 100,000 of the natives of the various countries represented in the population of New York City. The New York State census of 1875 has been used. In this table the natives of Belgium show the highest annual proportion of suicides to their population. During the eleven years six Belgians committed suicide out of a total Belgian population resident in this city in 1875 of only 478. The annual average number of suicides of this nationality was therefore 0.55, making the enormous annual rate of 115.06 suicides to the 100,000. The Irish show the lowest annual rate of suicide of any of the foreign born population - 9.71 to the 100,000. The other countries show the following annual average rates to the 100,000 of population, viz.: Austria, 20.54 ; British America, 27.28 ; Bohemia, 29.05 ; China, 57.32 ; Denmark, 56.39; England, 27.68; France, 45.27; Germany, 34.49; Holland, 47.13; Italy, 13.98; Norway, 51.23; Poland, 18.76; Portugal, 96.77; Russia, 12.86; Scotland, 23.84; South America, 92.15; Sweden, 39.04; Switzerland, 77.09; Spain, 56.92; Wales, 13.49; Cuba, 43.53; and the United States, 5.61, as the preceding table will show.

Probably as interesting a table as is presented is that showing the nativity of the 1.521 persons who took their own lives in this city during the past eleven years, and the means used by each. In this table some novel and curious means for ending one's life will be shown, as well as the relative frequency or rarity of suicide by the different methods stated. Among some of the rare or painful means used for self-destruction are the following: one person, a native of the United States, butted his head against the bars of his cell; one person, a native of Ireland, butted his head against a wall. A German beat his heat with an oil-stone ; another German beat his head with a paving-stone; another German forced his head through the railing of an iron bedstead; another German jumped into a water tank; another of the same nationality jumped from a railroad train. A Scotchman jumped into machinery. Two Germans hanged and then shot themselves. Two Germans jumped into the river, were rescued, and died from the effects of the immersion. Four persons, an Englishman, a Pole, a Swede, and an American, placed themselves before railroad trains. Three persons, of whom two were of Irish and one of Swiss birth, strangled themselves with bandages or straps. One Englishman thrust his head through a pane of glass. One native of the United States inhaled ether, and one Frenchman inhaled charcoal gas. Three persons, one of German, one of American, and one of unknown birth, inhaled illuminating gas. Three natives of Germany ate phosphorus matches. Three other Germans took rat poison. One American, aged thirty-eight, a prominent merchant of this city, took his life by shooting himself and exploding a hand grenade, and was shot by five cartridges; his father, aged sixty-one, was killed at the same time by the explosion. One Englishman stabbed himself and then jumped from a window. The most common means of committing suicide was by poison, which caused the death of 503 persons during the eleven years. Paris green was

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Sweden.	
Scotland.	1111 **********************************
Russia.	1111 ^H 11N111111111111111111111111111111
Portugal.	
Poland.	111118181818111418181111111111111
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Italy.	1111H111N11101111111111111111111
Ireland.	11 H 1 8 0 1 8 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 4 1 4 1 4 1 H H H H H H H
Holland.	
Cermany.	111+554+245+1+84111+514+61+84411444
France.	
England.	111100010141111114141141411184141848
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Denmark.	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
China.	
British America.	HIIIH HIIIHIIIIIIIIIIIII
Belgium.	1 1 1 1 ^{H H} 1 ^Q 1 1 1 f 1 ^H 1 1 1 1 1 ^H 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
Bohemia.	1 1 1 1 1 4 1 4 1 4 1 4 1 4 1 4 1 4 4 1 4 4 1 4
Austria.	111111111111111001111100111111111111111
Total Deaths.	ини 1744 1744 1744 1744 1744 1744 1744 174
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Table of Deaths by Suicide in the City of New York, showing Means used for Self-destruction and Nativities for Eleven Years ending December 31, 1880.

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¹ One of these deaths was occasioned by a pistol-shot wound, followed by the explosion of a hand-grenade, by a native of the United States.

II

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the most common of the poisons, and caused 200 deaths, the preparations of opium following with 139 deaths. Pistol and gun-shot wounds caused 399 deaths; hanging, 239; cuts and stabs (cutting throat, arteries, etc., with razors), 175; leaps from heights, windows, etc., 82, and drowning, 101.

The frequency of suicide by poison and the facility with which poison could be obtained, induced the State to pass a law regulating the sale of poisons. This law caused the passage of section fifteen of the Sanitary Code of the Health Department in regard to the sale of poisons, and also of a resolution of the Board of Health directing the Sanitary Superintendent to enforce it. The law regulating the sale of poisons, and the rules of the Board of Health in regard to it, are here submitted ; but as it seems impossible to enforce the provisions of the law, there is little difficulty experienced in obtaining poisons, and hence the frequency of suicide by this means. There is no law for the prevention of the sale of fire-arms, and any person who has the means can purchase them, the only restriction being the city ordinance forbidding the carrying of concealed weapons without a permit. In order to prevent or decrease suicides by poison and fire-arms, it will be necessary to restrict the sale by imposing severe penalties. In regard to the other means used for committing suicide, remedial measures will easily suggest themselves.

Page 588 of the Report of the Board of Health for 1873 contains the following : ---

POISONS.

TO DRUGGISTS, DEALERS IN PAINTS, AND OTHERS.

Whereas, The sale of Paris green is now very general, and suicides by persons with this material have become alarmingly frequent,

Resolved, "That the Sanitary Superintendent be, and that he is hereby directed to enforce section 15 of the Sanitary Code, and to cause a printed notice of the same, and of the State Law with regard to the sale of poisons, to be served upon all persons who keep this and other poisonous materials for sale."

SANITARY CODE.

SEC. 15. That no poisonous medicine, decoction, or substance shall be held for sale or sold, except for lawful purposes and with proper motives, and by persons competent to give the proper directions and precautions as to the use thereof; nor shall any bottle, box, parcel, or receptacle thereof be delivered to any person unless the same is marked "poison," nor to any person whom the party delivering the same has reason to think intends it for any illegal or improper use or purpose.

STATE LAW REGULATING THE SALE OF POISONS.

SEC. 7. It shall be unlawful for any person, from and after June 1, 1872, to retail any poison enumerated in schedules A and B, as follows, to wit: —

Schedule A. — Arsenic and its preparations, corrosive sublimate, white precipitate, red precipitate, biniodide of mercury, cyanide of potassium, hydrocyanic acid, strychnia, and all other poisonous vegetable alkaloids and their salts, essential oil of bitter almonds, opium and its preparations, except paregoric and other preparations of opium containing less than two grains to the ounce.

Schedule B. - Aconite, belladonna, colchicum, conium, nux-vomica, henbane, savin, ergot, cottonroot, cantharides, creosote, digitalis and their pharmaceutical preparations, croton-oil, chloroform, chloral hydrate, sulphate of zinc, mineral acids, carbolic acid, and oxalic acid, without distinctly labeling the bottle, box, vessel, or paper in which the said poison is contained, and also the outside wrapper or cover, with the name of the article, the word "poison," and the name and place of business of the seller ; nor shall it be lawful for any person to sell or deliver any poison enumerated in said schedules A and B unless, upon due inquiry, it be found that the purchaser is aware of its poisonous character, and represents that it is to be used for a legitimate purpose. Nor shall it be lawful for any registered pharmacist to sell any poisons included in schedule A, without, before delivering the same to the purchaser, causing an entry to be made, in a book kept for that purpose, stating the date of sale, the name and address of the purchaser, the name and quality of the poison sold, the purpose for which it is represented by the purchaser to be required, and the name of the dispenser; such book to be always open for inspection by the proper authorities, and to be preserved for reference for at least five years. The provisions of this section shall not apply to the dispensing of poisons in not unusual quantities or doses upon the prescriptions of practitioners of medicine.

In all cases of death by violence in New York City the coroner is required to hold an inquest, and no body can be buried until a certificate of death is filed with the Board of Health, and a permit for burial obtained. By this means all the deaths by suicide are known. In regard to the returns in a number of the cities submitted for comparison, I cannot state their methods of obtaining these returns, whether they are complete or not, or whether all deaths from self-murder are included in their interpretation of the word suicide. The table which enables me to give the comparative statistics of suicide in two hundred and seventeen foreign and thirty American cities during the year 1880, has been compiled from official sources in response to requests made to American consuls and health officers and registrars of foreign cities, and to boards of health, health officers, city clerks, and registrars of American cities; and to these gentlemen I offer my grateful acknowledgments. I forwarded over six hundred requests to cities which contain ten thousand inhabitants or more, and received replies from three hundred and eleven. Several of these cities, however, failed to give the deaths by suicide, although other causes of death are stated. The cities that have responded I shall enumerate by countries, viz.: twenty-two returns of English and Welsh cities were received, but five of which stated suicides ; one Tasmanian city stated no suicides ; two Italian cities had suicides stated; of two Canadian cities one had suicides stated; one Indian city had suicides stated ; of one hundred and forty-seven German cities one hundred and forty-five had suicides stated ; of thirty-four Belgian cities nineteen had suicides stated ; one French city had suicides stated ; of two Danish cities one had suicides stated; of fifteen Swiss cities all had suicides stated; one Austrian city had suicide stated; two Dutch cities had suicide stated ; two Spanish cities had suicide stated ; one Norwegian city had suicide stated ; one Bohemian city had suicide stated ; one Hawaiian city had suicide stated; one Russian city had suicide stated; one Cuban city had no suicide stated ; sixteen Irish cities had no suicide stated ; one South American city had suicide stated ; seven of eight Scotch cities had suicide stated ; one Swedish city had suicide stated ; two Australian cities had suicide stated ; seven of eight British South American cities had suicide stated ; thirty of forty-eight American cities (United States) had suicide stated. Among the American cities with population ranging between 12,000 and 503,298, which did not give the deaths by suicide, were Chicago, Ill., St. Louis, Mo., Cincinnati and Cleveland, Ohio, Albany, N. Y., Allegheny, Pa., Charleston, S. C., Wilmington, Del., Memphis, Tenn., Erie, Pa., and Augusta, Ga.

Of the cities with a population of more than 10,000 which responded and forwarded returns, the highest death-rate from suicide to the 100,000 inhabitants, in Germany was at Gera, with 92.01; in Scotland, Paisley, 6.12; in Sweden, Stockholm, 19.08; in Belgium, Omarganow, 65.41; in Spain, Madrid, 16.97; Australia, Melbourne, 16.73; Holland, Amsterdam, 7.14; Canada, Toronto, 3.59; Austria, Vienna, 31.67; Bohemia, Prague, 36.53; Norway, Christiania, 3.30; England, Newcastle-on-Tyne, 10.04; Wales, Merthyr Tydvil, 4.12; Italy, Bologna, 13.70; South America, Buenos Ayres, 4.43; Switzerland, Chaux de Fonds, 53.69; Russia, Odessa, 14.63; France, Havre, 23; India, Calcutta, 13.50; British Guiana, S. A., Upper Demerara River, 43.39; Hawaiian Islands, Honolulu, 42.51; United States of America, San Francisco, Cal., 37.65.

The table which shows the statistics of suicide in cities, I think, will strengthen my surmise that national traits, etc., have more influence on suicide than religion. In some Catholic and Protestant countries and cities the suicides vary considerably. In Catholic Spain they seem to be less than in Catholic Belgium, and in Protestant Germany they are much higher than in Protestant England and Scotland, as the returns indicate. Catholic Vienna had more suicides in proportion to its population than Protestant Berlin, and Catholic Paris had more suicides than Protestant London, and exceeded the total number that took place in Catholic Spain. Equally favorable comparisons can be made with other Catholic and Protestant cities.

Number of Deaths by Suicide in 100,000 of the Population of American and Foreign Cities for the Year 1880.

City.	Country or State.	Population Estimated or Enumerated.	Number of Suicides.	Number of Suicides per 100,000 Inhabitants
Philadelphia Brooklyn	New York Pennsylvania New York Massachusetts Massachusetts Massachusetts Massachusetts Maryland Connecticut Utah Virginia New York Massachusetts District of Columbia Illinois Connecticut New York New Jersey Indiana Pennsylvania	1,206,577 846,980 566,689 49,006 13,600 21,213 332,190 11,298 20,768 65,000 54,817 10,938 177,638 15,716 62,882 33,923 19,000 104,862 233,700 187,950 75,074 156,381 38,677	152 68 31 1 2 18 2 2 1 3 1 8 2 2 1 3 1 8 2 5 5 1 2 88 17 4 15 7	11111111111111111111111111111111111111
Milwaukee	Wisconsin Georgia Nebraska Pennsylvania . Vermont Massachusetts .	33,248 30,000 43,280	15 3 6 4 3 40	9.02 20.00 9.24 26.39 11.03

AMERICAN CITIES.

¹ Including Jersey City and Hoboken.

Thirty American cities Suicide stated.

FOREIGN CITIES.

	City	<i>.</i>				Country or State.	Population Estimated or Enumerated.	Number of Suicides.	Number of Suicides per 100,000 Inhabitants
Calcutta Berlin Breslau Frankfort Antwerp Havre Copenhagen Dresden Basel Elberfeld Vienna Newcastle-on Tyne Bologne Bolton Catania Stuttgart Crefeld						India Germany Germany Belgium France Denmark Germany Switzerland Germany England Italy England Italy Germany Germany Germany Germany Germany	93,530 726,105 3,769,395 149,366 124,014 105,400 92,670 106,000 73,000	58 308 101 43 23 23 70 87 14 22 230 352 15 17 5 9 41 10 33	13.50 27.44 37.06 31.43 12.99 23.00 29.75 39.51 22.80 23.52 31.67 9.34 10.04 13.70 4.74 9.71 38.68 13.69 33.40
Leipzig Odessa Geneva, with subu	rbs			•	•	Germany Russia Switzerland	147,276	84 27 26	57-04 14.63 38.21

Number of Deaths by Suicide in 100,000 of the Population of American and Foreign Cities for the Year 1880 — continued.

City.	Country or State.	Population Estimated or Enumerated.	Number of Suicides.	Number of Suicides per 100,000 Inhabitants.
Zürich, with suburbs	Switzerland	75,152	24	31.93
Bern	Switzerland	43,749	18	41.14
Lausanne	Switzerland	30,026	15	49-95
Chaux-de-fonds	Switzerland	22,350	12	53.69
St. Gallen	Switzerland	21,239	9	42.37
Luzern	Switzerland	17,711	\ <u>6</u> 8	33-87
Neuchâtel	Switzerland	15,516	2	51.55
Schaffhausen	Switzerland	13,419	4	34.09
Fribourg	Switzerland	11,519	3	26.04
Biel	Switzerland	11,476	5	43.57
Herisau	Switzerland	11,025	3	27.21
Locle	Switzerland	10,461	4	38.23
Munich	Germany	228,000	38	16.66
Rotterdam	Holland	152,517	10 12	6.55 4.43
Buenos Ayres	Argentine Republic Germany	270,708	192	44.88
Hamburg (State)	Germany	427,793	17	16.27
Magdeburg	Germany	97,259	55	56-55
Halle a. S	Germany	71,505	23	32.10
Frankfurt a. O	Germany	50,600	25	49.40
Görlitz	Germany	48,000	28	58.33
Potsdam	Germany	48,346	20	41.37
Spandau	Germany · ·	28,902	11 6	38.06 20.91
Charlettenburg a. H	Germany	28,685	11	36.13
Charlottenburg	Germany	27,273	10	36.67
Guben	Germany	25,871	11	42.52
Kottbus	Germany	25,584	12	46.90
Dessau	Germany	23,266	8	34-38
Zeitz	Germany	18,268	7	38.32
Prenzlau,	Germany	16,930	3	17.72 6.30
Burg	Germany	15,867	I	28.49
Hannover	Germany	122,846	35 32	28.52
Bremen	Germany	91,049	36	39.54
Altona	Germany	72,573	30	41.34
Münster	Germany	40,429	9	22.26
Osnabrück	Germany	32,819	3	9.14
Bielefeld	Germany	30,519	4	13.10
Hildesheim	Germany	25,887 18,808	2 6	31.90
Celle	Germany	and a second	10	52.50
Lüneburg	Germany	20,577	8	38.88
Oldenburg	Germany	19,075	5	26.21
Minden	Germany	17,868	7	39-17
Minden	Germany	144,735	12	: 8.29
Barmen	Germany	95,951	20	20.84
Düsseldorf	Germany		IO	5.83
Aachen . <td>Germany</td> <td>85,720 66,546</td> <td>5</td> <td>25.54</td>	Germany	85,720 66,546	5	25.54
Dortmund	Germany	56,957	10	17.56
Duishurg	Germany.	and the second se	15	35.35
Duisburg	Germany		3	8.02
Kohlenz	Germany	the second se	7	22.90
Bonn	Germany	31,510	3	9.52 5.98
Bochum	Germany		2 3	9.98
Remscheid	Germany · ·	30,043	6	22.81
Hagen	Germany	24,201	I	4-13
Trier			I	4.76
Viewan	Germany	20,587	4	19.42
Viersen			4	18.68
Viersen	Germany			
Viersen . </td <td>Germany</td> <td>20,796</td> <td>1. 7</td> <td>33.66</td>	Germany	20,796	1. 7	33.66
Viersen . </td <td>Germany</td> <td>20,796 20,300</td> <td>7 2</td> <td>9.85</td>	Germany	20,796 20,300	7 2	9.85
Viersen	Germany Germany Germany	20,796 20,300 18,502	1. 7	

FOREIGN CITIES - Continued.

Number of Deaths by Suicide in 100,000 of the Population of American and Foreign Cities for the Year 1880 — continued.

City.	Country or State.	Population Estimated or Enumerated.	Number of Suicides.	Number of Suicides per 100,000 Inhabitants.
Mülheim a. d. R	Germany Germany Germany	22,148 16,800 61,322	5 1 13	22.57 5.95 21.20
Karlsruhe	Germany Germany Germany	53,465 50,000 50,238	15 11 14	28.05 22.00 27.86
Metz · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Germany Germany Germany Germany	52,867 49,000 36,380	7 13 8	13.24 26.53 21.99
Pforzheim	Germany Germany Germany	28,601 24,037 26,093	58 8 6	17.48 33.21 30.66
Kaiserslautern	Germany Germany Germany	24,421 26,500 23,041 19,035	1 8 9	24.57 3.77 34.72 47.28
Baden-Baden	Germany Germany Germany	11,927 140,932 108,549	3 59 32	25.15 41.87 29.48
Stettin . </td <td>Germany Germany</td> <td>91,755 50,250 43,956</td> <td>26 10 14</td> <td>28.33 19.90 31.85</td>	Germany Germany	91,755 50,250 43,956	26 10 14	28.33 19.90 31.85
Elbing	Germany Germany Germany	36,982 35,683 30,146	17 15 6 10	45-97 42.04 19.90
Stralsund Flensburg	Germany Germany Germany	29,494 31,331 21,828 20,618	12 6 8	33.90 38.30 27.48 38.80
Memel	Germany Germany Germany	20,209 21,394 21,479	6 - 4 7	29.69 18.69 32.59
Insterburg Grawdenz Posen	Germany Germany Germany Germany	19,904 18,840 17,344	13 3 8	65.31 15.92 46.12
Liegnitz Bromberg Landsberg a. W.	Germany Germany Germany	64,547 37,168 33,618 23,558	11 13 12 6	17.04 34.98 35.69
Neisse	Germany Germany Germany	22,136 22,812 20,516	9 4 3	25 47 40.66 17 53 14 62
Gross-Glogan Ratibor Brieg Augsburg	Germany Germany	18,629 18,233 17,232	7 · 3 5	37.58 16.45 29.01
Regensburg Ulm Fürth	Germany Germany Germany Germany	62,000 34,504 32,800	19 5 16 6	30.65 14.32 48.78
Cannstadt	Germany Germany Germany	31,064 24,516 20,758 16,205	7 8 13	19.31 28.55 38.53 80.22
Erlangen Chemnitz Kassel	Germany . Germany . Germany .	16,609 14,876 95,135	5 9 21	30.10 60.50 22.07
Erfurt Würzburg Zwickau	Germany Germany Germany Germany	58,293 53,272 51,024	20 24 8 6	34.31 45.05 15.68
Halberstadt Bamberg	Germany Germany Germany	34,998 35,250 31,258 29,622	0 19 14 7	17.14 53.90 44.79 23.63
Freiberg i. S Gotha Altenburg	Germany	25,992 25,547 26,425	14 11 15	53.87 43.06 56.76
Glauchau Meerane	Germany Germany Germany	26,240 21,355 22,234	19 9 5	72.41 42.14 22.49

FOREIGN CITIES - Continued.

Number of Deaths by Suicide in 100,000 of the Population of American and Foreign Cities for the Year 1880 — continued.

City.	Country or State.	Population Estimated or Enumerated.	Number of Suicides.	Number of Suicides pe 100,000 Inhabitants
Gera	Germany	27,169	25	92.01
Mühlhausen i. Th	Germany	23,350	11	47-10
Zittau	Germany	22,473	12	53-39
Bayreuth	Germany	22,027	13	59.01
Hof	Germany	20,991	6	28.58
Crimmitschau	Germany	19,000	58	26.31
Weimar	Germany	20,130 18,602	9	39-74 48-38
Söttingen	Germany	19,942	6	30.09
Aschersleben	Germany	19,379	8	41.28
Omedlinburg	Germany	18,406	13	70.63
Weissenfels	Germany	19,648	II	55.98
Eisenach · · · · · · ·	Germany	18,788	5	26.61
Naumburg a. S	Germany	17,927	13	72.51
Coburg	Germany	15,790	6	37.99
Glasgow	Scotland	589,598	14	2.37
Edinburgh	Scotland	229,839	78	3.05
Dundee	Scotland	155,075 103,408	2	1.93
Greenock	Scotland	79,353	I	1.26
Paisley	Scotland	49,005	3	6.12
Leith	Scotland	58,479	3	5-13
Stockholm	Sweden	162,436	32	19.07
Brussels	Belgium · ·	177,086	43	24.28
Ghent	Belgium	130,671	28	21.44
liége	Belgium	128,300	18	14.03
Bruges	Belgium · · ·	48,498	6	12.37
Malines	Belgium · ·	41,328	7	16.94 24.78
Verviers	Belgium	40,362 36,160	6	16.59
Louvain	Belgium	34,096	3	
Fournai	Belgium	27,455	57	25.49
Seraing	Belgium	27,237	ó	
Mons.	Belgium	26,025	II	42.22
Alost	Belgium	21,780	I	4-59
lumet	Belgium · ·	21,265	I	4.70
Borgerhout	Belgium · · ·	20,800	4	19.23
Gilly	Belgium · ·	18,168	2	11.01
Lockeren	Belgium · · ·	17,669	I	5.66
Charleroi	Belgium · ·	17,539	3	5.85
Roulers	Belgium · · · ·	17,082	5	29.35
Lierre · · · · · · · ·	Belgium · · ·	16,949	J	5.90
Ypres	Belgium	16,299	I	6.14
Renaix	Belgium	14,325	I	6.99
Hasselt	Belgium	12,477	I	8.01
Duaregnon	Belgium	12,230	8	65.90
Wasmes	Belgium	12,044	2	16.60
La Louvière	Belgium · · ·	10,636	I I	9.40
Eecloo	Belgium · ·	10,570	T	9.46 9.81
Dour	Belgium · · ·	10,135	ò	-
Nivelles	Belgium Victoria, Australia	280,836	47	16.74
Christiania	Norway .	118,000	4	3.38
Prague, Bohemia	Austrian Empire .	156,000	57	36.54
Coronto	Canada	83,410	3	3.60
Merthyr Tydfil	Wales	48,500	2	4.12
Merthyr Tydfil	England	171,727	2	5.25
Madrid	Spain	395,980	67	16-92
Gibraltar	Spain	18,014	2	11.10 7.14
Amsterdam	Holland	322,000	23	5.51
Liverpool	England	544,056	30 68	9.06
New South Wates	Australia Demerara	750,742 34,819 1	4	11.49
Georgetown Essequibo, West Coast	Demerara	22,647	2	8.83
Essemption Islands and River	Demerara	13,328	2 .	15 00
	a set a s	23,741	3	12.63

FOREIGN CITIES - Continued.

1 Estimated from 1880.

Number of Deaths by Suicide in 100,000 of the Population of American and Foreign Cities for the Year 1880 — continued.

City.	Country or State.	Population Estimated or Enumerated.	Number of Suicides.	Number of Suicides per 100,000 Inhabitants.
Upper Demerara River East Bank Demerara River East Coast Demerara East Coast Demerara East Coast Berbice, Canje and Corentyne Coast Honolulu	Demerara Demerara Demerara Demerara British Guiana . Hawaiian Islands .	11,522 13,501 32,008 13,047 253,0601 14,114	5 4 1 25 6	43.39 29.63 7.66 9.88 42.51

FOREIGN CITIES - Continued.

¹ Population 1871.

² Fifteen from hanging; five from poison; two from cuts and stabs; one from drowning; and two from other causes.

