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Death

It is difficult to think of anything of more importance to us than death. Yet to what subject have we brought so little attention, so little thought, so many superstitions! It is owing to our strange reluctance to approach the problem of death as we approach other problems that we know so little of it, that our knowledge of what it is and what it means has made so little progress. But in spite of popular apathy, a handful of daring pioneer souls among the scientists have devoted such investigations as have resulted in a noticeable gain over the former times.

It is to them, to such hardy adventurers of the intellect as Smythe, James, Maeterlinck, Lodge and others, that thoughtful persons no longer look upon death as a cosmic accident, as a hated interloper from without, or as a fiendish ogre casting fears about by his supernatural terrorisms. Death is a part of the scheme of things, as natural and beautiful as birth.

More than this, we are coming to think of death as an instrument in the hands of life, serving in the interest of joy and progress. If there were no death, the most prolific species would monopolize the earth: one generation would dominate the race forever. Death is the gateway through which fresh blood, fresh life, fresh ideas come into existence. Were it not for death, there would be no change. The world would grow gray with monotony.

Whatever death may be, and we ponder its mystery often during this season, it is as natural as life, as little to be feared; and the healthy person enters into its portals as nonchalantly as to sleep. "It is nothing to die," as the aged Jean Valjean says, "though it is terrible not to have died."

Questions

"Lefty Louis," "Whitey Lewis," "Dago Frank" and "Gyp the Blood" are the four youthful gunmen who will be executed next week for their alleged murder of Herman Rosenthal, the New York gambler. Winthrop D. Lane has made thorough investigations of the careers and antecedents of these four young criminals and published his findings in a recent issue of the "Survey." The facts upturned by his probe are of such interest and significance as to deserve the careful attention of those everywhere who take the duties and responsibilities of citizenship to heart.

"Lefty Louis" is the son of a respectable and well-to-do Jew officially connected with the synagogue. Until six, he was under the constant surveillance of his father who was a strict disciplinarian. At that time, he had an attack of measles which left him in such condition as to lead the doctor to order him kept in the open air. The only open air available to "Lefty's" family was the street, so his parents were compelled to send him there in order to save his life. In a short time, the hitherto well behaved child be-

came a street fiend, practicing the petty crimes so common among the gamins of the lower East Side of New York. After growing older he took to loafing in the pool rooms where he learned the various arts of crime, especially pickpocketing. Practically all of those familiar with "Lefty Louis's" career believe his mind was impaired by the measles. New York's street life, coupled with a weak mind, made him, when the opportunity presented itself, a murderer.

"Whitey Lewis" came from Poland at twelve years of age and belonged to a poverty stricken family. His rural experience unfitted him to cope with the enticements of Chinatown's street life and he at thirteen was an habitué of a number of the city's most notorious dens. It was there, while still a child, he learned the tricks of crime. His parents say his life in Poland had been perfectly normal and that it was the influence of the city that had made a "tough" of him. After leaving the reformatory, where he had been sent because of a small crime, he steered a straight course from one crime to another until he landed in the death cell. "Whitey" is still bewildered and can't understand how he has ever been anything but an ordinary individual.

"Dago Frank" was born in Italy, coming to this country at fourteen. At sixteen, he was confirmed in a New York Episcopal church and between fifteen and nineteen, was regularly employed, giving no trouble. When about twenty, he was found on the street with a package containing a revolver and a sling shot in his hand and was sent to the Elmira Reformatory. Here it was discovered he was a sufferer from tuberculosis of the glands. Detectives have found that he learned the methods of crime from the criminals with whom he became acquainted while in the reformatory.

"Gyp the Blood" is a Jewish boy whose father, like "Lefty Louis's," had an official connection with the synagogue. Poverty made it necessary for the lad to go to work and it was while running errands, he fell into the habit of frequenting the pool rooms where he formed criminal associations. He was sent to Elmira Reformatory for petty theft and there became personally acquainted with professional criminals.

Society says to these four youths: "You have committed murder! Why did you do it? Why should you escape punishment? You have broken the laws of your country: why should you ask exemption from the penalty?" Society has a perfect right to ask these questions and can't have much patience with that perverse sentimentality which transforms these gunmen into heroes.

But what about the boys themselves? Have they no questions to ask of society? We believe they have. We believe they might ask of the commonwealth which is going to execute them: "Why didn't you give us a healthy place to play when we were boys? Why didn't you take charge of us when we first went wrong? Why did you leave us run our course of folly until we have committed murder? Why are you so interested in us now that we are in the death cells, yet never cared anything about us before? You are going to kill us because we murdered a man. Will that deter other youths like us in whose eyes we have become heroes? Do you believe your killing us will stop the flow of crime or affect its causes? You took charge of us when we were first caught in petty crime. Why didn't your reformatory reform us? Why is it we first learned the arts of crime in those institutions you have built to cure crime? We first went wrong because our families were so poverty stricken we were driven to the streets. Poverty is the great mother of crime. While you are eliminating us, why don't you eliminate poverty, the thing that made us?"

CITIZENS WILL ASSIST MAYOR

(Continued from Page 1.)

fault if the administration is not a success. Mayor Robbins then made a brief address, explaining the purpose of organizing an advisory committee which he described as an effort to bring the government of the city closer to the governed. At the conclusion of his address he was given a round of hearty applause.

Dr. E. B. Grosvenor, representing the West Side Improvement association, declared that the "kitchen cabinet" idea was the fulfillment of a popular demand. He said the various civic organizations of the city had, for the most part, been created because the plan now suggested by Mayor Robbins had never before been encouraged.

"We used to have to force ourselves on the city officials, so it is pleasing now to see them coming to us for advice and assistance," Dr. Grosvenor said. "Under this plan we can have any kind of an administration we want, so it is up to our citizens to get busy."

Miss Edna Johnson, a representative of the Federation of Women's Clubs, made a brief but very interesting talk.

"The women of this city are interested in this plan for promoting more efficient and democratic government and you will find we are not 'dead ones,'" Miss Johnson emphatically informed Mayor Robbins, who then read portions of the Federation's constitution, showing that its purpose was to promote good citizenship and public welfare. "So you see, our organization is not a selfish one," declared Miss Johnson. "All we ask is a chance to help and you will find our organization will be a great help to you."

R. G. Leeds declared that the movement launched by Mayor Robbins could only result in promoting the best interests of the city. He said he hoped to see the social center idea

spread until it was incorporated into every school district in the country.

Teachers Uphold Plan. "This plan of Mayor Robbins will be a practical benefit to his administration and to the people of Richmond," declared Superintendent Gilles, of the public schools. "I think our citizens have always wanted to give more aid to the administration of public affairs but until now they have never been encouraged to do so."

Charles Kirk, one of the three representatives of the Trades Council at the meeting, declared that labor was lined up squarely behind the mayor in this undertaking. "This is the first time labor has ever been invited to do anything except vote," he declared. "You can depend upon the laboring classes to support this movement."

Timothy Nicholson declared the advisory board would be able to accomplish things and the mayor's plan was an admirable one. William Bockhoff, of the South Side Improvement association, declared his organization was in thorough sympathy with the movement.

Freeman in Commendation.

Perry J. Freeman, a prominent Republican leader, who fought Mayor Robbins actively in the campaign last fall, proved himself a good loser by declaring that Mayor Robbins deserved the commendation of the citizens by the action he had taken.

"We can lay aside politics in this matter and together we can make Richmond," said Mr. Freeman. "Don't lay back and sulky for political reasons. Suppose the big dry minority of the recent election was sulking now and was determined to let the city go where they thought it would go if the wets were victorious, why the result would be that the city probably would go to that place. Mayor Robbins has asked us to help his administration and it is our duty to do so."

"If I were mayor I would do just

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(Health Notes)

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GIRLS COMPOSE MUSIC

Students Arrange Selections For Festival.

From original work by students of harmony in the Richmond high school will be selected pieces to be played by the orchestra at the May Festival. Compositions by some of the students show promise according to Director Sloan. A waltz by Miss Hilda Kirkman has been prepared for full orchestra by Professor Sloan. Stringed orchestration is provided in a composition by Miss Esther Coate.

A chorus of girls will sing Marguerite Deuker's music for "Rose of the Twilight." Others whose work shows a knowledge of harmony are Miss Mary Huff, composer of a spring song, and Misses Agnes McFall and Genette Kramer and Virginia Jones.

COOKING COURSE AT CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE CITY, Ind., April 9.—The Domestic Science course, under the supervision of Purdue university, began yesterday morning, in the Christian church, with Miss Alma Garvin, state instructor, in charge. A large number of ladies from this and surrounding towns were present to hear the lectures and see the demonstrations, which at the morning session included preparation and cooking of different vegetables, and the telling of the relative food values.



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