

IS INSANITY IN THE U. S. INCREASING?

Question Discussed by Dr. Joseph A. Hill in Government Report on Insane

GREAT INCREASE IN INSTITUTIONS

Cannot Be Regarded, However, as Conclusive Proof That the Same Conditions Exist Outside of the Hospitals for the Insane

Washington, D. C., Dec. 16.—[Is insanity in the United States on the increase? This question is discussed by Dr. Joseph A. Hill in the government report on the insane in institutions, soon to be issued by William J. Harris, Director of the Census, in the Department of Commerce. That there has been an enormous increase in the number of insane under institutional care is made evident by the statistics presented in this report, but, for reasons there set forth, this in itself can not be regarded as conclusive proof of an increase of insanity in the general population outside of institutions.]

The number of insane reported in institutions increased from 150,151 in 1904 to 187,791 in 1910—an increase of 25 per cent. in six years. The total population of the United States in the same interval increased only 12 per cent. Therefore, the insane in institutions increased twice as fast as the population. In 1904, out of every 100,000 persons in the total population, 184 were reported in institutions for the insane; by 1910 the number had increased to 204. In other words, in 1904 one person out of every 543 was confined to an institution for the insane, in 1910 one person out of every 493. There was similarly marked increase in the number of annual admissions to these institutions, 60,769 persons having been admitted in 1910, as compared with 49,622 in 1904, an increase of 22 per cent. The number of admissions per 100,000 population increased from 81 in 1904 to 66 in 1910.

These increases are at least partly attributable to the extension of the provisions made for the care of insane persons and to the growth of the practice of placing them in institutions. There is an increasing disposition and willingness on the part of the public to accept institutional treatment. The old-time horror of the lunatic asylum, fully justified, perhaps, by the inhuman practices formerly prevailing in such institutions, has largely disappeared, and it is coming to be recognized that the modern institution for the insane is simply a hospital for the treatment of mental diseases, fulfilling essentially the same purpose in the community as any other hospital for the sick. In the interval between 1904 and 1910 the number of institutions for the insane increased from 328 to 366, the average number of inmates per institution increasing from 458 to 512.

Insane Asylums Overcrowded

Notwithstanding these developments, the provisions for the institutional care of the insane are still very inadequate in most parts of the United States. There are general complaints of overcrowded institutions and of the necessity of turning patients away. Under such conditions, the construction of a new hospital for the insane or the extension of an existing one may be followed by an increase in the number of insane in institutions without being indicative of any increase in the prevalence of insanity in the community from which the patients are received.

At the same time there has been a great improvement in the agencies for discovering cases of insanity and bringing them under institutional care. The advance in methods of medical diagnosis leads to the detection of mental disease in cases brought to general hospitals for the sick. The institution for the insane is becoming more generally accessible not only by the increase in the number of such institutions, but also by the improvements in the means of transportation and communication. The automobile is mentioned as a factor of some importance in this connection, making it possible to bring to the hospital patients in poor physical condition. These are some of the influences which, as stated in this report, may have contributed to the apparent increase of insanity or to the increase in the number of recognized and recorded cases without being indicative of any actual increase. The author of this report believes that there has been, at the same time, an actual increase of insanity, but that it is not as great as the statistics of the number of insane in institutions would indicate.

An increase of insanity is probably in some degree a natural consequence of the rapid growth of cities in the United States. Between 1880 and 1910 the proportion of the population of the United States living in urban communities increased about 190 per cent., while the rural population increased only about 40 per cent. As a result 46 per cent of the total population of the United States was urban in 1910, as compared with 29 per cent. in 1880. The percentage living in cities of over 100,000 inhabitants nearly doubled in the same interval, being 12.4 per cent. in 1880 and 22 per cent. in 1910.

More in City Than Country

There has been a popular impression that the lonely isolation of country life is an important cause of insanity. The statistics, however, indicate that more insanity is caused by the stress and strain, the keener competition, the congested housing conditions, and the vice and dissipation of city life. In proportion to population the number of inmates of hospitals for the insane received from urban communities is twice as great as the number received from rural districts. Of the 60,769 persons admitted to insane hospitals in 1910, 36,654 came from cities, villages, or other incorporated places of more than 2,500 inhabitants, while 20,442 came from the smaller towns or country districts, leaving 3,673 for whom the place of residence was not reported. Of more significance, however, are the statistics showing the number of admissions in proportion to the total population of each class of communities. From rural communities 41 in-

After Measles Whooping Cough or Scarlet Fever

the extreme weakness often results in impaired hearing, weakened eyesight, bronchitis and other troubles, but if Scott's Emulsion is given promptly, it carries strength to the organs and creates rich blood to build up the depleted forces.

Children thrive on Scott's Emulsion. It is Prescribed by Alcoholic.

sane persons were admitted per 100,000 population; from the urban communities the ratio was 86 per 100,000. These figures cover the entire United States, but there is a similar difference in all sections of the country. Everywhere the ratio of admissions is higher, and usually much higher, from urban than from rural communities, although the contrast is rather less striking in New England than in other geographic divisions. It is probable, therefore, that the increase in the proportion of total population living in cities has resulted in an increase of insanity.

Effects of Vice and Dissipation

A partial explanation of the difference between city and country, as regards their contributions to the hospitals for the insane, is found in the statistics of cases of general paralysis and of alcoholic psychosis. These are forms of insanity which, directly or indirectly, are caused by vice or dissipation. Of the total number of persons admitted to hospitals in 1910, 16.8 per cent., or more than one-sixth, were afflicted with one or the other of these diseases. This class of cases, however, formed only 10.4 per cent., or one-tenth, of the admissions from rural communities, as compared with 21 per cent., or one-fifth, of the admissions from urban communities. The ratio of such cases to 100,000 population was 4.3 for rural communities, as compared with 18 for urban; that is to say, in proportion to population, the cases of this character received from the city were about four and one-half times as numerous as those from the country.

When the cases of alcoholic psychosis and general paralysis are left out of account the ratio of admissions to hospitals for the insane still remains higher from urban communities than from rural, but the contrast becomes less striking, the ratio for the other cases of insanity being 68 per 100,000 for urban population, as compared with 37 per 100,000 for rural.

EX-NEWSIES TO SELL PAPERS

50 Wealthy Detroit Men Will Recall Past for Charity's Sake

Detroit, Dec. 16.—"Newsies" of Detroit—not the poorly clad little chaps who sell papers on the streets—but the prosperous business men who were "newsies" years ago—will sell papers for charity next Monday to aid the "Goodfellows" work.

It was James J. Brady, United States Collector of Internal Revenue, a near-millionaire if not quite one in fact, who conceived the idea. Little Jimmie Brady used to sell papers at Fort and Griswold street, where now stands the Majestic Building. Standing there yesterday, Mr. Brady held in his hand the newspaper which a cartoon showing a "Goodfellow" walking down the street with the gut of his former self, a little newsboy, walking by his side as his inspiration.

"That hits me," he said, and at once he issued a call to all the Detroit men of wealth and position who once sold papers on the streets of Detroit to assist their peers, their business worries and their dignity and sell papers. Fourteen of them have already responded, and Mr. Brady expressed his opinion that half a hundred will again wear the newsboys' badge. Monday is to be "old time newsboys' day." Between 11 a. m. and 1.30 p. m. staid business men, many of great wealth, will sell newspapers to the charitably inclined.

HAM THIEF 'LIFER' PAROLED

Only Smiled at Extreme Sentence, After Years in Prison

Lansing, Mich., Dec. 16.—Governor Ferris has ordered the parole of Michigan's most widely known prisoner, Lewis Oliver, a "lifer" in Marquette, known as the man who was sentenced for life for stealing a ham.

Oliver was sent to Marquette by Judge Howard Wiest, of the Ingham County Circuit Court, under the habitual criminal act. It was Oliver's third conviction for burglary.

In 1891 Oliver was sent to Jackson for three years for burglary. In less than three years he was back. The second time the Judge sentenced him to 10 years in Jackson and warned him that if he came back a third time he would get life under the law. The second sentence began March 23, 1894, and on March 28, 1904, Oliver broke into a meat store and stole two hams and what cash was in the drawer, \$3.50. He wanted to plead guilty, but Judge Wiest refused the plea. Oliver was convicted and smiled at the sentence when it was delivered.

Promote Mine Officials

Hazleton, Dec. 16.—The Lehigh Valley Coal Company yesterday announced that Delwyn Wolfe, of Mahanoy City, chief engineer of the Delano division, will on January 1 take the general inside superintendency of the Lehigh-Coxe division mines at Hazleton, succeeding Thomas R. Jones, who has been made superintendent of the Delano division.

Man Killed By Fall

Johnstown, Dec. 16.—Kicking at a woman who was ten feet away, Andrew Cortas plunged down a flight of stairs at Barnesboro. His skull was crushed and he died.

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WATCHFUL NEUTRALITY IS ITALY'S POSITION, SAYS PREMIER TO THE DEPUTIES

Rome, Dec. 15, 6.20 A. M. (Delayed in Transmission).—A vote of confidence in the government and its policies was adopted almost unanimously to-day by the Chamber of Deputies. Previous to the vote Premier Salandra delivered a speech to the deputies, in which he reaffirmed his statement made in a previous address that Italy's position was one of watchful neutrality. He said that nothing had happened to warrant any change in that position.

"What I can guarantee," he declared, "is that the government will follow a purely Italian policy, but in saying this I do not mean that we will disregard the policies of the great Powers or the grouping of the Powers fighting for the supremacy of the world. Italy is satisfied in protecting her noble traditions and preparing for her great future."

The Premier refused to make any predictions, as some members urged him to do. He said that the government would be sincere and that if it made mistakes these would be paid for by the country. Regarding what was already past, he declared that Italy had a right to proclaim her neutrality and that if she had bargained for it she would have dishonored herself. He concluded by saying: "Now is the time to be silent and to act."

RUSSIANS INFLICT GREAT LOSSES ON THE GERMANS

Petrograd, Dec. 16.—The "Army Messenger" publishes a series of communications from the front, as follows:

"On the front of Lowitz and Ilov violent German attacks have had no success. Our troops have repulsed the Germans, causing them to suffer great losses."

"South of Cracow the enemy attempted between the 12th and 14th of December to oppose our offensive by strengthening its position. On the 18th the enemy debouched in large numbers from the pass of Dukla and attempted to descend the slopes on the north side of the Carpathians. Our troops, after a strong resistance, repulsed the enemy."

GERMAN COAL SHORTAGE

Berne, Switzerland, Dec. 15.—Owing to the number of German coal mines under arms, some important coal mines in the Mannheim district have been so greatly reduced in output that there is difficulty in supplying the demand for coal. The supply of anthracite in particular is low.

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Woman Wedded Before Divorce From First Husband Was Valid

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BRITISH SUBMARINE THAT BRAVED CHAIN OF MINES AND SUNK TURKISH BATTLESHIP

THE BRITISH SUBMARINE B-11

THE TURKISH BATTLESHIP MESSUDUEH

SCENE OF BRITISH SUBMARINE EXPLOIT

Even greater than the rejoicing

which followed the victory of Vice Admiral Sir Frederick C. D. Sturdee in the South Atlantic was the measure of enthusiasm throughout the United Kingdom which greeted the official announcement of the daring exploit of the British submarine B-11.

With the stealth of a panther and daring which surpasses everything hitherto recorded in British naval history, the B-11, commanded by Lieutenant Commander Norman B. Holbrook, of the Royal Navy, braved destruction by five separate chains of mines laid in the most treacherous of currents and sent the Turkish battleship Messudieh to the bottom of the ardanelles.

As a just reward for their intrepid Lieutenant Commander Holbrook and his crew escaped in their submerged craft, running the gauntlet of heavy gunfire from other war ships of

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CZAR FINISHES INSPECTION TOUR OF FRONTS IN CAUCASUS

Petrograd, Dec. 16.—Official announcement is made that Emperor Nicholas, having finished his tour of inspection of the Russian army fronts in the Caucasus, left that region on December 15.

A communication from the staff of the army in the Caucasus, dated December 13, says that recent engagements of the Russian forces have been insignificant.

RETROCESSION OF TRENTO AGAIN DISCUSSED IN ROME

Rome to the "Morning Post" repeats the suggestion previously made that Prince Buelow when he arrives as Ambassador from Germany will endeavor to purchase Italy's continued neutrality by the promise of the retrocession of Trentino, formerly Italian territory, but now under the Austrian flag.

It is doubtful, the correspondent adds, whether the Austrian military party would consent to the deal and cede the province.

Trentino is of some strategic and of great Continental importance to Italy, because of its Italian population, but it does not possess great economic value. A curious belief is current among the Italian peasantry in one district where it is said that the German Emperor has been converted to Mohammedanism, and is therefore bent on destroying cathedrals, such as that of Rheims.

Christmas Ship Leaves Genoa

Genoa, Dec. 16.—The United States naval collier Jason, which brought Christmas gifts gathered from the American people for the children of the belligerent powers, left here yesterday for Salonica.

4,000,000 Eggs Sent Abroad

Boston, Mass., Dec. 15.—Four million eggs, the largest single shipment ever sent from this country, were loaded yesterday on the steamship Anglian, which sailed early this morning for London. The eggs came from cold storage houses in Chicago, and are valued at \$80,000.

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"Certainly not."

"Well, then, what's the use of their having breeches?"—Boston Transcript.

BELGIANS LOST 144,000 MEN SINCE START OF WAR

Berlin, Dec. 16, by Way of Sayville.—The official press bureau, in its budget given out to-day, has the following: "The newspaper 'Figaro,' of Paris, reports that the Belgian troops are suffering from typhoid, dysentery and cholera. Their casualties since the commencement of the war have been 25,000 killed, 52,000 wounded, 35,000 captured and now prisoners in Germany and 32,000 interned in Holland. 'Major Morhat, in the 'Tagblatt,' points out that the Austrian offensive in West Galicia proves that harmony of action prevails between the Austrians and Germans. The Austrian successes between Cracow and Nowytsandec, he says, has a highly important strategic bearing, not only diverting the Russian left wing, but endangering it if it does not retire."

"The total number of unwounded Russian prisoners, including officers, is now 475,650."

KHEDIVE GOES TO VIENNA TO CONFER WITH THE AUSTRIANS

London, Dec. 16, 10.10 A. M.—A dispatch to the "Central News" from Constantinople via Amsterdam states that Khedive Abbas (Hilmi), of Egypt, has gone to Vienna for a conference with the Austrian authorities.

Austrians Pour Over Dukla Passes

London, Dec. 16, 4.10 A. M.—Telegraphing from Petrograd the "Times" correspondent says:

"Austrian columns are pouring over the Dukla passes (Carpathian mountains) into Galicia. Grand Duke Nicholas records this fact without the slightest comment and the consensus of military opinion here indicates his attitude of complete equanimity."

27 NAMUR PRIESTS KILLED

Havre, Dec. 16.—The list of priests killed in the bishopric of Namur alone is appalling. Twenty-seven names appear in the list, which does not include twelve priests who have disappeared since the German invasion. There is no information regarding these. In the diocese of Liege six priests have been killed.

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Women readers of THE STAR-INDEPENDENT will not need much in the way of persuasion to see the unusual value of this new offer. The tumblers are of the finest thin-blown glass, and are decorated with a very dainty sterling silver initial design and silver-banded rim. The set will look well on the table or in the china closet. Your own initial on each glass. Each set is put up in a heavy corrugated carton with six compartments.

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were never sold in the ordinary way at such a low price. You may now obtain this set at a nominal cost by clipping the coupon which appears on page 2 in this issue and by presenting it, with 48 cents, at the office of

THE STAR-INDEPENDENT

If wanted by mail, 10 cents extra.

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