MAN WHO MAKES STUDY OF DEATH

Doctor Humiston Has Watched Fifteen Thousand Persons Die--Dying is Much Like Going to Sleep

Strange Labors and Conclusions of Dr. Humiston.

He asked people to tell him when they thought they were going to die. Generally they didn't die when they expected.

He watched 15,000 "pass over," sometimes hurrying from one deathbed to another.

Suffering, he says, ends before death.

Dying is very much like going to sleep.

In most instances the dying want to live, and in most instances they believe in a life hereafter.

TO solve the mystery of dying—not alone the mystery of death has been a life study of an American physician, Dr. C. B. Humiston of Cleveland, Ohio.

Dr. Humiston has scientifically watched the death of 15,000 persons. His research was, of course, not merely curious. There were certain things he wished to know that might have an important bearing on human life and the hopes and habits of the race.

Dr. Humiston could not conduct his research alone. No physician in the ordinary course of his profession—even a physician in a hospital—sees a very large number of deathbed scenes. Dr. Humiston, by arrangement with other physicians and because he was recognized as being greatly interested as a scientific investigator, was called repeatedly to witness the drama that marks the parting of the ways.

Who has not wondered how it will feel to die, or, at least, to know that the end is grimly at hand? And who has not marvelled at and admired the seeming fortitude with which those he has known—timid in their lives perhaps—have approached the ordeal of final dissolution. Perhaps if we knew that there had been no ordeal in the closing hours, that then the desire, determination and hope to live are greater than the fear to die, and that death is a function as natural and unembittered as sleep, we might be less unhappy at the thought we ourselves must some day face the great mystery. And it was with the object of determining these things that Dr. Humiston devoted five years of his life to a study of the phenomena of death.

The principal reason why Dr. Humiston took up this weird study, which would be worthy of a semi-scientific treatise by Edgar Allan Poe, was to weigh the old adage that the good die a peaceful and the wicked a horrible death. Dr. Humiston's parents were strict believers in the Anglican faith, and from childhood he was taught that a sublime death was in store for those who had led a moral and upright life, while the dying hours, or even moments of the ungodly would be tortures.

In addition, there was always a weird fascination about death which attracted him, and he wanted to disprove, at least to his own satisfaction, a number of beliefs he had brought from childhood. He believed the phenomena of death was a subject which had been neglected, but which was worthy of close study. His theory was that if so much time and money was spent in studying how to bring people into the world, it was quite important to study how they left it, especially as the knowledge thus derived would be of great benefit to mankind, both in prolonging life and easing the pain of those who suffer.

No medical man or scientist has made a more careful and thorough study of this grewsome subject than Dr. Humiston. He is recognized as an authority on the subject, and while his observations and deductions have never before been made public, they are known to the greatest scientists of Europe, and accounted as valuable and highly accurate information about one of the riddles of the universe.

There are three theories by which man accounts for all phenomena. First, the supernatural; second, the supernatural and the natural; third, the natural. Dr. Humiston studied the phenomena of death as natural phenomena.

"There is no truth in the statement that the good die happy and the wicked suffer, as has been taught by the church ever since the dawn of the Christian era," said Dr. Humiston, to a World reporter. "There is absolutely no difference in the actual death of the vilest criminal and the most sainted man or woman. There is no pain in death. There may be pain or suffering up to a certain point, but there can be no death where there is pain.

"Before death there is a period of no pain. Sometimes it is a long period, usually it is not so long. I have seen notorious criminals, many of them, die as peacefully as the most Godlike priests. There is no difference in death. It is alike to all, good and bad. Before death there may be physical pain or suffering, or mental pain or suffering which is even more severe than physical pain, as it is more difficult and impossible to cure. But even in the cases of the most intense physical or mental pain it ceases before death. Many times, if the patient is conscious, he believes that he is getting better, but it is only the characteristically painless period preceding death.

"Death is absolutely painless. Not one in a hundred suffers pain when final dissolution takes place. There may be great pain up to a certain point, but the senses become naturally and mercifully blunted, and when death comes it is always, or nearly always, peaceful.

"One startling thing that I discovered in my study of death, and a fact which is now reluctantly conceded by medical men in cases where the patient has suffered great pain and has been given narcotics, is that death is often caused by the drug rather than the disease. In cases of cancer, which is, perhaps, the most painful disease, and other diseases which cause great physical suffering, narcotics should be used to deaden the senses, but they should not be used in such quantities as will kill the patient. The proportion of deaths by narcotics is shockingly large, and the only excuse for such deaths is the rather superfluous one that they are absolutely painless, when, in fact, death is painless by nature.

"The meaning of the word pain," continued Dr. Humiston, "is so indefinite it is difficult to define it, but when I speak of pain I mean intense physical suffering. There is often a sort of oppression before death which some people mistake for pain, but that must not be taken into consideration. In death by drowning there is a feeling of oppression, but there is no actual pain. Strangulation, which is by many considered one of the most terrible and painful forms of death, is not painful. There is a feeling of oppression at first, but the senses soon become blunted and no pain is felt. The twitching of the body, which is often taken to mean that the victim is experiencing pain, is done subconsciously. It is a reflex movement, and no matter how the muscles may move, it is not a sign that pain is being or has been felt."

For many years Dr. Humiston has been considered one of the leading physicians of Cleveland. In the latter '70's Dr. Humiston took up surgery as a specialty, and in 1880 went abroad and took a post graduate course in surgery at the Algemeine Krankenhaus, in Vienna, under the famous Dr. Billroth. After a year of study there Dr. Humiston went to London and was made a clinical assistant at the noted Soho hospital, in Soho Square. Returning to Cleveland in 1883, Dr. Humiston resumed his practice, and again in 1890 went to Vienna, where he remained five years. It was there he took up the weird study of the phenomena of death. Ever since he took up the study of medicine he was anxious to study death, and nowhere in the world is the opportunity offered as it is in Vienna at the Algemeine Krankenhaus, or "general hospital." In no other hospital in the world is such a minute record kept of the causes of death and nowhere is there such opportunity afforded for its personal observation.

In the first place the Algemeine Krankenhaus is the largest hospital in the world. It has 6,500 beds, 2,500 of which are devoted to general hospital cases. The remainder are devoted to the old soldiers. The hospital is supported by the Austrian government, and everything is free. Between 30 and 50 patients die every day in the various wards of the enormous hospital, and a post-mortem is held on every body. This is one of the rules of the hospital, and several hundred thousand have been made since the hospital was first opened. One of the old house physicians has made no less than 60,000 post-mortems, while Dr. Billroth, Dr. Humiston's professor at that time, had made more than 42,000. Every night the bodies of the dead are removed from the wards to the post-mortem room, where several physicians devote their entire time to the work. A history of each case, together with the diagnosis and the treatment, which is prepared by the attending physician during life, is read before the post-mortem is performed.

"These records are of great assistance to those who wish to study the phenomena of death, for they furnish statistics of the causes of death and show what treatment would have been best for the symptoms shown.

Dr. Humiston was the only physician at the hospital who was making a special study of death, and every possible assistance was shown him to aid him in his unusual study. The wards were open to every student, but it was only by chance that they would happen to be at the bedside of a dying man or woman. With Dr. Humiston it was different. Every nurse and physician in the hospital knew what he was studying, and whenever they thought a patient was about to expire they would call him and he would hasten to the bedside of the dying man or woman to watch their last moments.

Naturally all sentiment had to be left behind. Dr. Humiston had to regard each death simply as an interesting case and not as the end of the life of somebody's friend or relative. At first it was hard to shake off the sentimental feeling, but the deaths were so numerous and so differently regarded by the hospital attaches than in American hospitals that he soon was able to witness 40 or 50 people die every day and think of nothing but the scientifically interesting phases of the various cases.

Often several patients were dying at the same time and he would have to hasten from one ward to another to be in time to witness their final dissolution. During these five years which he spent in the big hospital he saw more than 15,000 men, women and children die from almost every cause known to man.

"The German and Austrian physicians," said Dr. Humiston, "are more interested in the causes of death than the physicians of other nations, and more attention is paid to that particular study at the Algemeine Krankenhaus than at any similar institution in the world. That is why I chose that hospital to pursue my favorite study, which I have made my hobby throughout years of practice in this city. I have found that when I know about the causes of death I am able to counteract similar symptoms at the proper time, and thus, in many cases, to postpone death. Of course it is inevitable that death must come, but it can often be avoided for a time at least."

By Dr. C. B. Humiston.

This much I know from my five years' study of the Mystery of Death:

The wicked are not afraid to pass into the great beyond.

Nobody knows when he is going to die.

There is no pain in death in 99 cases out of 100.

Suffering always ends before death.

Nearly all dying people want to live.

Nearly all people die believing in a future life.

That I have made valuable discoveries for postponing the moment of dissolution.

Dying is very much like going to sleep. The poem, "How near like death sleep is, how near like sleep death is," which was written by a Cleveland physician several years ago, has a great deal of truth in it. No pain is experienced in going to sleep and no pain is experienced in dying. There may be pain and mental suffering before going to sleep, but when one finally does go to sleep no pain of any kind is felt. Dying is simply a sleep that knows no waking.

No one knows when he is going to die. People may think they know, and of course may know that they have only so many days or hours to live, but they can't tell even a few minutes ahead how soon dissolution will take place. This is a most peculiar fact, for it is generally believed that many people have been able to tell when they were going to die. I have been at the bedsides of many men and women in the hospital who took an interest in my study, and who said they would tell me when they thought they were going to die, either by a word or pressing of hand. Not one of them died immediately after they had given me the signal. Some of them lived for hours and even days afterward, and many died before they were able to tell or signal me. Some of those who told me they were going to live 24 hours more, died as they were speaking. Careful investigation showed absolutely that no one can tell when the end will come.

Many dying people, when their suffering ceases, having reached the period of no pain, believe that they are better. In a large percentage of the cases I observed the patients thought they were improving when they were actually dying. Some of them thought they were so much better that they jumped out of bed and walked around the room and then fell back in bed and died. The dying do not know when they are about to pass into the great beyond.

Nearly all patients who are dying, both those who have been told that they have not much longer to live and those who know themselves that they are going to die, want to live, and make a struggle to do so. Of course, some want to die, and either pray to pass away or beg the physician or nurses to end their suffering. That is only to be expected, and the expectation proves the rule. Nearly everybody wants to hold on to life until the last possible moment. They are willing to grasp at the last straw. Most of the patients in their early days were taught the principle of the Christian faith and before they die they believe in a life in the hereafter.

Nature has made death as easy as it can possibly be made. It strikes all people in the same way, no matter what they believe. During their illness or during their suffering such beliefs may enable them to endure pain with more fortitude, but in death all men are alike.

WAR VESSELS WERE ONCE BUILT IN PITTSBURG--One Hundred Years Ago Yards Turned Out Fighting Craft for Uncle Sam's Navy

PITTSBURG, Pa., Saturday.—War vessels built in Pittsburg! The bare suggestion seems absurd, but at one time, long in the misty past, it was a reality.

Strange as it may seem, gunboats, ironclads, war schooners and light draught monitors were actually constructed and put together on the banks of these rivers, the boat yards forming veritable hives of activity at such times as the war of 1812, the Mexican war and the greater conflict of 1861-64. Even prior to the war of 1812 war vessels were built in Pittsburg.

There is a possibility that the city will reclaim this lucrative industry and war craft of an auxiliary kind be manufactured, but as this hinges on the improvement of the entire length of the Ohio river it may not come in the near future, judging by the progress made in slack watering that stream within the last 20 years. While much of the material for such vessels is made in Pittsburg and its environs, it is shipped to the coast and there put together, in years gone by the parts were assembled here and then floated or carried down stream under their own steam.

Steamboat building is still carried on, the river coal and transportation combination having a marine ways at Elizabeth and steel barges are made at Ambridge, while the Rees' boat building and engine building works on Duquesne way turn out iron steamers and light draught boats designed for the shallow rivers of Europe and South America. But these are merchant craft. No war vessels of any kind are now constructed in Pittsburg.

A couple of years ago W. A. Crump, superintendent of transportation of the coal combination, pronounced all conditions favorable for the building of small war craft in the local waters.

"I do not see why the building of all kinds of river craft and light draught ocean and lake craft should not become a leading industry in this city," he said at the time. "We have all the necessary materials here and the skilled labor. In fact, all we need is slack water. Nine feet of water the year around on the Ohio is necessary."

Oldest Industry.

Boat building is beyond doubt the oldest industry of Pittsburg. At a time when the country swarmed with Indians hundreds of canoes were turned out here, and later, when the Indian trader and trapper came to the "Forks of the Ohio," he built rude flat boats to transport his furs and peltries down the river.

Boat yards were established as early as the revolutionary war, a large number of barges being constructed in 1777 for army use at a point just above the mouth of Turtle creek. Boat building for the United States navy began in this city more than a century ago.

When war with France was imminent as the result of Napoleon's high handed actions in closing the mouth of the Mississippi to American commerce and travel, the galley President Adams was built here on May 19, 1798. It carried General Wilkinson, commander in chief of the United States army, down the Ohio on June 8 of that year, being built in record time.

This speaks volumes for the efficiency and speed of Pittsburg mechanics. Shortly after this the keel of a second galley, the Senator Ross, was laid out, but the galley boat was not launched until the spring of 1799. As war with France did not occur these vessels did not see any service.

It appears from the accounts of those early days that the chief boat builders for the navy at this place were Tarascon Brothers and James Bethoud & Co., both firms having yards at this point. In the year 1804 many brigs, schooners and other vessels were on the stocks of these firms, and in the same year the Conquest, a schooner, was launched from the yard of Captain Eliphalet Beebe. It was of 126 tons and was pierced for 16 guns, so it was quite a formidable craft. It sailed for the West Indies under the command of Captain Kenny, and was heavily armed and well supplied with a crew, so that it could clean out the pirates that then infested those waters and which played havoc with Pittsburg cargoes and ships.

General James O'Hara, grandfather of the late Mrs. Schenley, owned several merchant vessels, one of which fell into the hands of Spanish pirates operating in the Carribean sea.

Brig Allegheny.

About this time the brig Allegheny, of 150 tons, was launched at the yards of Barber & Lord. All this activity was largely due to the feeling of the federal authorities that war with England would soon ensue, which it did seven years later.

The next great period of war activity was when the Mexican war broke out, when six vessels, two war steamers and four revenue cutters, were built here. The war steamer Michigan was bark rigged and the war steamer Allegheny ship rigged. Four others, the Bib. Hunter, Walker and Jefferson, were schooner rigged. It seems strange, indeed, at this late day to hear of sailing vessels built and launched in this city for there is now no craft with spars and rigging turned out in this section.

During the civil war several ironclads or gunboats were built here—the Manhattan, Marietta, Sandusky and the Manayunk. The gunboat Marietta was launched November 23, 1864. It was built by Tomlinson, Hartupee & Co.

The ironclad monitor Manayunk, built by Snowden & Mason, was launched from the south end of the Smithfield street bridge, the celebrated Sligo iron being used in its construction. It measured 235 feet in length, 43 feet beam and drew 12 feet of water. Its burden was 120 tons, and it had a speed of 12 miles an hour in still water. The Manayunk was towed down the Ohio on March 6, 1865, having broken loose from its moorings the night before but without any mishap, although it floated three miles or more.

Among the unique war craft fitted out in this port were the rams, or ordinary steamboats made ironclad by plates of boiler iron, and the pilot house and other parts protected by walls of heavy timbers. These were attached to the flotilla of gunboats on the Mississippi that performed such good service at Vicksburg and other places during the war. There are several ram fleet veterans living in Greater Pittsburg.

Merchant Ships.

The number of merchant vessels built in Pittsburg is legion. One of the very first, if indeed not the first, was the schooner Monongahela Farmer, constructed at Elizabeth in 1801. Pittsburg was only one year behind her sister town in boat building of this description, as the records show that in 1801 the schooner Amity, of 120 tons burden, was built here by Tarascon Brothers.

The voyages of these historic craft mark the initial step in the building up of the enormous commerce of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. Before the advent of railroads the Ohio river was the great highway for freight shipments (and passenger traffic as well) out of Pittsburg to the boundless west. It may be said that the development of commerce on the local rivers was practically coincident with the settlement of Pittsburg, the first craft being the canoes of the red men and the batteaux of the French soldiers garrisoning Fort Duquesne, Batteaux, laden with stores and provisions, arrived in Pittsburg as early as the year 1756, two years subsequent to the settlement here of the French.

Prior to the epoch voyage of the first steamboat built on western waters the New Orleans, constructed by Livingston, Fulton and Roosevelt at this port, all the vessels built here were of the sailing kind and could not return from down river points. The New Orleans was built only four years after Fulton's great achievement in inventing and propelling the first steamboat in the world on the Hudson river.

When it was proved that such craft could go upstream as well as down a tremendous impetus was given to boat-building in Pittsburg. Some years afterward, when coal began to be towed down the Ohio, the number of steamboats increased wonderfully, particularly upon the completion of slackwater navigation improvements in the Monongahela, in 1840. Fifty years ago the passenger business on the rivers was immense, palatial steamers plying between Pittsburg, Cincinnati and Louisville.

THE JEFFERSONS AND BOB ACRES--Five Generations *of* the Jefferson Family Have Successfully Appeared in the Part of "Fighting Bob Acres" in *The* Rivals

IN ALL the records of theatricals there is no parallel to the wonderful history of the famous Jefferson family.

The first of this illustrious family of thespians was Thomas Jefferson; born in England in 1746. At that time, actors were considered social outcasts and vagabonds, and to adopt the calling of an actor required a wonderful sacrifice of personal prestige—yet Thomas Jefferson did this in about 1767. The sacrifice he made was the partial severance of his home ties and the complete loss of nearly all his old friends.

But, as the spirit of Thespia was strong within him, he followed his inborn natural inclination and rapidly advanced in his chosen calling. He eventually became the principal comedian in David Garrick's company, then playing at the Covent Garden in London.

While engaged as comedian with Garrick's company, Jefferson played Bob Acres in "The Rivals," in which he established himself as one of the foremost comedians of his time. He was the idol of all London in 1779—due mostly to his exquisite comedy accomplishments as Bob Acres.

In 1774, his son was born. The boy was christened Joseph. In 1792, Joseph followed in his father's footsteps and within a few years, developed into a particularly likeable comedian. His greatest comedy creation was also as Bob Acres, and his reputation in the part was second only to that of his famous father.

Joseph Jefferson, the first, came to America in 1795. A son was born to him in 1804. The boy was named for his father—thus, we have Joseph Jefferson, the second.

This boy, as soon as his age permitted, went on the stage. A century ago, he was one of the theatrical bright lights of this country. Time and again, he portrayed Bob Acres, and with the same brilliant results as always attained by his distinguished ancestors.

In 1829, Joseph Jefferson, the third, was born. He is the Jefferson whose name will live as long as theatrical history continues to exist—and much of his fame was gained by his performance of Bob Acres.

His three generations of ancestors had used the original manuscript as constructed by Richard Brinsley Sheridan, the author of "The Rivals." It was long and talky as were all the plays in vogue at the time. "The Rivals" was written. The play had really become old-fashioned and was not produced nearly so often as it had been during the three previous decades.

Joseph Jefferson, the third, decided to reconstruct "The Rivals." In so doing, he eliminated the long talky scenes and in their stead, incorporated all the little bits of business that his brilliant talent had evolved, as well as the many dainties which his distinguished ancestors had originated, and had handed down from generation to generation with the same beautiful regard as is always tendered a priceless family heirloom.

Joseph Jefferson, the third, became famous as the greatest of all comedians. No little part of his success was founded on the version of "The Rivals" which he reconstructed and brought up to date.

His best work was as Bob Acres—perhaps because of the sentimental associations connected with the part and the glorious possibilities given him in his own version of the play.

His fourth son, William W. Jefferson, was born in 1876. While visiting his father in Pittsburg in 1898—owing to the old gentleman suddenly becoming ill, "Willie"—for as such he is known—appeared in his father's company as Bob. His success was instantaneous and his performance fully in keeping with the exceptional work of his father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and great-great-grandfather.

It is doubtful if there is another record of any sort similar to the association of the Jefferson family and the part of Bob Acres, and the play of "The Rivals." Five generations in the same part—covering a period of nearly a century and a half is almost incomparable, yet when it is remembered that the respective performance of each of these five generations became the greatest Bob of his own time, it can easily be appreciated what a positively stupendous feat was accomplished. And still more beautiful to consider is the fact that the part of Bob in the hands of a Jefferson is like a fine old wine—it improves with age—for "Willie" profited by the experience of his illustrious father the same as his father utilized those of his ancestors. The experiences, talent and the ornamental associations of five generations are centered in "Willie" Jefferson's performance as Fighting Bob Acres.

Avoid Going to Law

By Cara Reese.

KEEP out of law altogether, or else keep in law up to the handle, if you expect to be a winner in lawsuits. You must make up your mind to deliberately swallow every grievance and injustice and thereby save your bank account and preserve your mental balance as well. Or you must do the very opposite, namely, employ an attorney by the year and simply wash your hands of legal processes by daily unloading the troubles on him and leaving the thinking, the manipulating, the disturbances and anxieties as his share along with the regular salary you pay him.

These are the only two ways of steering clear of legal worriment and of scoring victory in the long run. Just the minute you begin to take up all the little infringements and infractions on your rights and privileges as a citizen and run into court with them as an amateur, that is as one unprepared to meet the cold, calm working of legal process that has been on the grind for many years, just that minute you enter the maelstrom and are whirled hither and thither until you are blinded, dazed and churned, and eventually take leave of all your remaining senses. So, if that is your plan at present, you are duly warned and there is time yet to call off the slip you hold from your savings deposit on a two weeks' notice, and to restore the amount it calls for to the principal once more. If you know nothing about law, then keep out of it; swallow your chagrin as a personal injustice and thereby save your pocketbook.

Then there is the one other plan for the know-nothing, but this is too expensive for you in your present circumstances as a clerk on lowered wage in hard times. Some attorneys, "by the year," receive salaries as big as the salary of the president of the United States. And they earn their fee, for that is what they are paid for, to win every case, regardless of facts. This is why kings and queens and great heads of corporations and rulers of nations are not worn out when wars and rumors of war, and territorial seizure and poaching and pilfering in forest preserves and on high seas come to their ears. This is why they are not worn out by hot temper, expostulation, threats of going to law and wildly hunting up forgotten records and documents which they imagine will be needed in evidence.

Instead, they simply say, "Ah, ha!" then calmly touch the button, then slip their worries, one command only, to the effect that the verdict in the end be in their favor. It is as easy as the proverbial rolling from a log to save yourself from brain fag and exhaustion resultant from lawsuits and civil court experiences; as easy as climbing a greased pole in dog days. Either keep out of law altogether; regardless of your grievance, or else install a salaried professional, who shall be in the business in your exclusive interest up to the very neck ever and always.

You will lose your case every time on your present contemplated basis of procedure. The other man has evidently just as good a case as you have, and he holds an equal grievance; moreover, he has called a two weeks' notice on his board in bank, and he is chewing and foaming and wearing himself out exactly as you are doing. Both of you will be losers. Call the quarrel off.