

AUTHANASIA.

Continued from First Page.

fearing, tortured human beings who crawl on the surface of this fair earth—the offering of human ignorance, brutality, guilt and shame. Surely, if justice and humanity were to decide the matter, such unfortunate beings would never be allowed to come into existence at all. In fact, leading physicians have told me that they never permitted a human monstrosity to live after it was born.

"But we ought to go a step further. It ought to be a universal law throughout Christendom that the child-bearing of idiots, criminals, insane, and all incurable diseased people should be prevented. How? By making it necessary that the physicians certificate should precede the issuance of the marriage license. Go to the children's hospital and see the poor little innocents, malformed, racked, and tortured from no fault of their own. Afflicted with terrible wasting diseases, without the possibility of permanent restoration, or even relief, death in many cases is only a question of weeks or months.

Why insist in continuing the tortures so needless, so undesired? Do my antagonists think that God loves to behold the agonies of infants? "Another thing which my clerical critics assert is that God sends pain to discipline and purify us, and we ought not to resist His will. In that case the discoverers of ether and chloroform were guilty of great impiety and the monument to their memory in Boston should be pulled down.

"Now I argue, as a general thing, that pain—excessive pain, I mean—does not purify the spirit of man. On the contrary it blunts, hardens and brutalizes it. Of course there are noble exceptions which go to prove this rule. By our present methods we drive men to suicide by our inhumanity toward them. A pitiful case in point came under my own observation.

"Now in order to put a check to such happenings, to put behind us all sickly false sentimentality in the handling of cases such as I have cited, I suggest that there should be formed a properly constituted tribunal acting only when duty called upon by suffering humanity and then under every necessary safeguard and restraint. Let this jury consist of medical men, representatives of the government, and any others who might advantageously serve. To this tribunal have submitted any petition for examination or release which might be made by the incurably diseased and indorsed by their families. Then if they were found incapable of recovery and sure to endure needless and great agony the tribunal shall be empowered to gently and humanely put them, out of suffering and give them a release into the better world.

The surgeon must give pain to effect a cure. So humankind which, under God, gives life, may in the Divine Spirit of justice and mercy, take it back again.

"It may be urged that theory is of pagan and not Christian origin. What of that? I am discussing its wisdom not its origin. To lessen the sum of human misery in the world should be our chief endeavor as humanitarians, regardless of creeds and the calm discussion of euthanasia, which is now in progress encourages me to believe that under certain plain restrictions it will inevitably be adopted by all civilized and Christian nations."

These statements are rather remarkable coming from the pen of a "Reverend" and he covers the subject so logically, so practically, and so fully that his views are reproduced in extenso.

It is stated that during the eighteenth century it was the custom in the Dublin hospitals to administer liberal doses of a fatal poison to patients suffering from incurable maladies.

Among some of the savage races the aged and infirm are put to death. In this way the weak, inefficient and useless members of the race are destroyed, and there is survival of the fittest.

In the animal kingdom destruction of the kind is known to frequently occur. This is particularly common where several young are brought forth at a time, some of which, from lack of proper nourishment, or other wise becoming weak and infirm are killed by the parents. "Preparatory to their southern flight the storks of northern Europe assemble and ruthlessly destroy all those who are unfit to endure the long flight to the Mediterranean and Africa."

One writer says: "Death is the only disease for which there is no remedy, and it is our mission to fight this last disease and not to play into its hand." We are always willing to be enlightened and to be informed that death is a "disease" is especially gratifying for, such being true, some one possessing enterprise characteristic of the present age will discover a remedy which shall stay its onward march.

Euthanasia has had but few advocates. Whenever a writer, medical or otherwise has exhibited the temerity to proclaim its advisability under the strictest safeguard and restraint in the hopeless, chronically diseased and deformed, even at the request of the sufferer, his family and friends, to suggest the advisability of allowing a wretch whose suffering have driven him to suicide to have his quietus made by the authority of the State instead of thrusting himself into the unknown with the strain

of self-murder upon his soul" his statements have been met with a veritable avalanche of vehement, adverse, antagonistic criticism.

The inherent justice of any case can only be determined by careful and impartial weighing of deduced evidence pro and con. Moreover, in all questions of vital importance there almost necessarily exists a difference of opinion, and a diversity of views in the present instance is not surprising; but the affirmative votes represent a considerable minority, the principal reason being—"love for the weak and afflicted is firmly fixed in the heart of man, and no consideration for the general good would induce him to destroy the object of his pitying love. Philanthropy pales and weakens before the strong, tender affection for the diseased and afflicted."

Those who have had the misfortune to witness "death by inches" in inoperable and incurable disease can appreciate the suffering entailed so long as the unfortunate remains unconscious; those who have listened to the patient's entreaties for anything to end suffering can realize the physical and mental torture endured; those who have heard such an unfortunate implore the approach and embrace of death can appreciate that euthanasia with an appropriate system under proper legal and other restraint, which would be necessary to guard against possible abuse, would be a boon to humanity.

The plan suggested by the Rev. Wendell seems logical, reasonable and feasible—i. e., that there be formed a properly constituted tribunal acting only when duty called upon by suffering humanity. To this tribunal have submitted any petition which might be made by the incurably diseased, indorsed by their families. If the case were then deemed hopeless, and sure to endure needless and great agony, the tribunal to authorize the application of measures to put the sufferer out of misery, allowing him to enter the unknown by the authority of the state gently, quietly, painlessly, peacefully!

This then, is the object of euthanasia, and would not its adoption markedly lessen the sum of human misery?

INTERIOR CUBA.

The following report from Gen. Shafter at Santiago Cuba, dated Aug. 17 shows the condition of things

She—I don't believe there was a hat in church to day that I didn't see.

He—Except the one that was passed for the collection.—Indianapolis Journal.

It is now known everywhere that Americans will "call their bluff." Consequently it is safe to predict that this country will have no more war in a great many years. The nations of the earth will have a more wholesome respect for America than ever before.—Yankee Reporter.

With so many eligible young men at war, the seashore girl is not particular whether it is "Yankee Doodle do." Any old dude'll do.

At no time in Havana's arena was the demand for "another bull" so persistent as that city's present demand for fresh beef.—Philadelphia Times.

One Hat She Missed.

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DOCTOR DEPEW FINDS HOW TO MAKE FRIENDS.

Not long ago the Editor of a New York magazine called upon Chauncey M. Depew, to contribute to his magazine.

"My magazine, Doctor Depew, has three hundred thousand readers. By addressing them you will gain one hundred thousand friends, all of whom will some day vote for you for the presidency," he said.

"Will they," asked Depew abruptly.

"I am convinced of it," said the editor.

Depew took a letter from one of the drawers of his desk and said: "Well, just read this."

"Hon. Chauncey M. Depew—Dear Sir: If you will stop cackling for a while, and give the country a rest on the thousand and one questions that seem to be your specialty, yours truly will not only be very thankful to you but will, of his own accord, blow your trumpet whenever the necessity for doing so arises.

"Yours respectfully, "JOSHUA S. R.—"Charleston, S. C."

"This advice," said the learned doctor, "seemed to me sound, though at first a trifle hard to digest. I have concluded to accustom my system to it."

It's Bull Beef Now.

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Castoria is put up in one-ounce bottles only. It is not sold in bulk. Don't allow any one to sell you anything else on the plea or promise that it is "just as good" and "will answer every purpose."

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