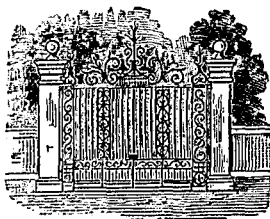


care and thoroughness, but it seems a little difficult to believe in the accuracy of the "cause of suicide," which is registered in every case. Taken, however, as given, after no doubt much patient inquiry, we get the rather interesting fact that suicide is rarely the outcome of romantic sorrow. Of the 181 masculine suicides recorded in 1888, 36 were caused by disorder of the brain, 17 by other forms of illness, 17 by poverty, 16 by intoxication; 2 only were traceable to heart sorrow. In the 51 cases of feminine suicide, cerebral disorder, worry and drunkenness fill up the list, at the end of which figures one isolated case of "love troubles." An examination of the profession or condition of the suicide cases gives no very striking result. Artisans, domestic servants, and the ranks of the lower middle-class appear to furnish the greater number. The maximum of admissions is always made at the beginning of the fine weather, and the minimum, curiously enough, in the middle of the winter. Three-fifths of the suicides are committed in the spring and summer, which is also the season of accidental death from drowning. It may be added that it is regularly from May to June that assassins are busiest.

I have chosen a rather ghastly subject for my letter, but I had always felt an interest in visiting the Morgue, before I had an opportunity of doing so, and I am hoping that my experience may be interesting to some who have, perhaps, wondered "what it looks like."

Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



A CONTEMPORARY says : — "Nearly every European monarch is indebted to British nurses and governesses for the first rudiments of education, and for the earliest mental training. Thus the little Queen of Holland has an English governess, a Miss Winter; and an Irish lady is in charge as governess of little King Alfonso of Spain. It was but the other day that the Czar and his brothers walked bareheaded behind the hearse which bore the corpse of their old English nurse to the grave. The present Khedive of Egypt was under the control of British nurses and governesses until his tenth year, and so, too, was the Crown Prince of Italy, who speaks English without the least foreign accent. The present Emperor of Germany, the King of Belgium, the King of Sweden and his sons, and the King of Portugal, owe their knowledge of the English language to the

British nurses and governesses who first directed the course of their mind and of their intellect during their childhood. The British nurses and governesses, by the early influences which they have exercised over the character of the rulers of the earth, may be said to have played an important rôle in the history of the world."

"Ouida" has contributed a charming article to the *North American Review* on Flowers and Gardens. She maintains that a public garden may be very good, but that a public garden is a misnomer. It is the private garden which alone deserves the name of garden, where interruption is impossible and no other movement but that of birds is ever heard. Gardens, however, she laments, are going out. They are becoming artificial and becoming spoiled by gardeners who make them too neat, too mathematical and geometrical. Shakespeare's flowers are only to be met with, nowadays, in cottage gardens, much to the loss of those who spend lavishly in order to secure the scentless but fashionable flowers which have driven mignonette to the wall, and banished snap-dragon and southern-wood from the borders of our lawns. Upon flowers, their use and abuse, "Ouida" writes wisely and well.

She says: "Children should never be allowed to pluck flowers, even in the fields and hedges, merely to throw them aside: they should be early taught reverence for this floral beauty which is around them, and never be permitted wantonly to break down boughs and branches, or fill their laps with buttercups and daisies only to leave them withered in the sun, discarded and forgotten. A love for flowers indicates the quickness of imagination and the delicacy of sentiment of those in whom it is strong. In the great world and in the rich world, flowers are wasted with painful prodigality.

Church decoration is not a whit better; flowers are wantonly sacrificed to it, as in the winter the birds are starved through it for need of the evergreen berries torn down in woods and gardens to adorn the altars of men. The numbers of dead birds found in frost and snow on moor and field have increased enormously with the increase in church decoration. A sheaf of grain hung up for the seed-eating birds in winter, with some trays of meal-worms set on the ground for the insectivorous birds, would be a more useful form of piety than the cartloads of branches and the garlands of berries given to church and cathedral. Of all emotions which give the nature capable of it the purest and longest-lived pleasure, the sense of the beauty of natural things is the one which costs least pain in its indulgence, and most refines and elevates the character. The garden, the meadow, the wood, the orchard, are the schools in which this appreciative faculty is cultured most easily and enjoyably."

It seems that the Empress of Japan is getting more and more European in her ideas, and has for some time past entirely discarded the national dress in favour of costumes made for her in Paris. At Court ceremonials she invariably appears in a handsome gown with the regulation Court train as we understand it here, which makes her look tinier than ever, although she tries to "add a cubit to her stature" by wearing shoes with tremendously high heels.

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