

LAZY JOB FOR FATHER TIME

First Year of Life Is Most Hazardous

Father Time is far from being the wicked mortal of mankind that he is proverbially reputed to be. The chief reason is that he never gets a chance to use his fatal scythe with anything like the regularity with which he has been credited from times out of memory.

On the other hand, the first year of life is far and away the most hazardous of any a human being is called upon to face. This is shown by mortality statistics for Illinois which were released to the public this week by Dr. Isaac D. Rawlings, state health director.

Out of 81,761 deaths that occurred in Illinois last year 10,786 were among babies of less than one year, according to the report. No other year in the whole span of human existence exacts such a frightful toll of life. The nearest approach to the first year in mortality is found among people between 60 and 70 years of age. This entire decade of the life span took but 12,442 lives as compared with 10,786 in the first year only. From the point of three score years and ten, the number of deaths decline rapidly until Father Time gets an almost clean bill of "not guilty" at the end of the century mark. Last year there were 48 centenarians among those who departed this life.

First Year Hazardous

"Obviously it is not age that kills," declared Dr. Rawlings, in commenting on the statistics. "If a child can manage to survive his first stormy year in this world, his chances for reaching the 20th are greater than those he ran before celebrating his first birthday anniversary. From three to nineteen years of life, the number of deaths is relatively low. After age 20, according to last year's statistics, the mortality by decades of age groups increases in Illinois at the rate of about a thousand for each ten-year period until age 70. Of these groups the first was lowest with a total of 5,184 deaths and the last, age 60 to 69, was highest with 12,442. The age group of 70 to 79 lost 11,889, and the next, 80 to 89, lost 6,880. A total of 1,103 people lost out during the last ten-year lap of the race toward the century mark.

"An analysis of the statistics by cause of death shows that contagious diseases work the most mischief among children. Diarrhea and enteritis led the list in taking away children under one, causing 1,927 deaths in this age group. Then followed broncho-pneumonia with 1,097. Whooping cough, influenza, measles, syphilis and diphtheria were other important causes of infant mortality.

"The study of the statistics shows plainly the most important field of public health service. Deaths during the first year of life originate quite frequently from a lack of prenatal care and that is why the department is emphasizing maternity hygiene, especially prenatal. The greatest gains in preserving human life will come from preventing the heavy losses among infants, and that is why the program of the state department of public health involves so much that is directly related to that particular field. A big percentage of the deaths not caused by old age can positively be prevented. If allowed to expand, commensurate with the needs of the people, the public health service will give Father Time something more to do."

U. S. Needs Immigration Border Patrol Inspectors

The Civil Service commission has announced an examination to be held on October 8 to fill positions of immigration patrol inspector for duty along the Mexican and Canadian borders.

Appointees will be required to perform guard duty along the two international boundary lines for the purpose of detecting and preventing the illegal entry of aliens into the United States.

The conditions under which this work is carried on are closely comparable in nature and requirements to the duties of a soldier under actual field conditions. Applicants must have at least two years' experience as a law enforcement officer, or at least six months' experience in a combatant branch of the Army, Navy, or Marine Corps, or at least six months' experience in a state, territorial, or foreign police organization comparable in rank to such forces as the Texas Rangers, Pennsylvania Constabulary, New York State Constabulary, Royal Northwest Mounted Police, etc.

The entrance salary is \$1,680 a year. Full information and application blanks may be obtained from the United States Civil Service Commission Washington, D. C., or from the secretary of the local board of civil-service examiners at the post office or customhouse in any community.

Failure Toll Is Heavy Among Students—Scott

"There will be more failures during the present year among the men and women who have just entered Northwestern university's gates than there were among an equal number of Yankee soldiers who entered the world war, went to France and participated in the severest engagements against the enemy's forces," said Dr. Walter Dill Scott, president of Northwestern university, to the incoming freshman class at opening chapel in Fisk hall, Evanston campus, recently.

"Of five students sitting before me in a row probably two will be out of the ranks before the year is over," continued Dr. Scott, who deplored, he said, the annual sacrifice of student material in American colleges and universities. President Scott declared that he was surprised to see so many in attendance as he had feared that by reason of the large number who had sought his aid, who couldn't surmount the opening scholastic barriers, most of the freshmen this year at Northwestern were now on their way back home.

"The record for survival at Northwestern is, however, much better than the average of the nation," continued President Scott, "so that of each thousand students who enter more than 322 succeed in securing a degree."

The president suggested that new students plan their work so that too much emphasis is not laid upon athletics, or social activities, or that the fifty per cent of the freshmen who

must earn, in whole or in part, their way through the university do not wreck their educational chances by selecting too arduous labor.

Play-writing Contest to Be Aid to Health

Mrs. Theodore B. Sachs, superintendent of the Chicago Tuberculosis Institute, announces that the National Tuberculosis association, with headquarters in New York city, is now conducting a contest among high school students throughout the United States. The following explanation is sent out by the National association, with which all state and city organizations like the Chicago Tuberculosis Institute are affiliated:

David Balasco, dean of American dramatics and producers; Rachel Crothers, the distinguished playwright, and Dr. Charles J. Hatfield, president of the National Tuberculosis association, have consented to act as judges in the play-writing contest for high schools which starts this month under the auspices of the National Tuberculosis association. The purpose of the contest is to use the normal dramatic instincts and talents of high school pupils to demonstrate a lesson in individual or community health.

Eight prizes will be given by the national association for the best one-act plays expressing some phase of health or hygiene. These prizes will be paid to the schools offering the best plays. The first prize will be \$100; the second \$50, and the third, \$25. There will also be five awards of honorable mention, each carrying a prize of \$10.

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