

WED AND LIVE LONG SAYS DR. BERTILLON.

Shown by French Statistics That Bachelors and Spinsters Die Young.

Paris, Jan. 22.—Punch's famous advice to those about to get married—'Don't!'—is vigorously opposed by Dr. Jacques Bertillon, who is possibly the greatest living authority on the sexes.

"Marry if you want to live to a good old age," says Dr. Bertillon, and gives his reasons with statistics to back them up. "The married man or woman has," he says, "three as much chance of a good, long run of life as a bachelor or spinster."

Dr. Bertillon shows also that mortality among widowers is greater than the average among married men; so he recommends them to marry again, provided they are under 60 years of age.

The figures on which Dr. Bertillon bases his advice are not peculiar to France, for he explains that his father, who also made a study of the question, got statistics from Germany, Austria, Italy, Sweden, Holland, and Belgium, which completely bear out his opinion, while he himself has studied the matter in France. To young men Dr. Bertillon has this to say:

"Marry and you will do well even from a selfish standpoint; but watch carefully over your wife's health as, even from this egotistical point of view, her loss will be a terrible misfortune; for your life depends in a great measure on her own."

To the women his advice is: "And to you, Mademoiselle, I give counsel to marry in your most selfish interest, as mortality among married women is less than among spinsters of the same age, at least after the age of 20, but the difference is less for women than for men. The mortality among spinsters is much greater than among married women, but it is not twice as great as in the case of men."

Next comes the widow: "Mortality among widows is distinctly much greater than among married women of the same age. The sweet state of widowhood is, on the contrary, fatal to young widows. Their death rate, from 20 to 25 years of age, is twice that of married women at the corresponding age."

Then Dr. Bertillon goes on gallantly to say that women have less need of men than the latter have of them. He says that the death rate is generally less among women than with men of the same age and station. What is the reason? Simply that they are sturdier. And there is no doubt, for the same reason, that matrimony conduces to longevity.

"Married people lead a more regular life," he says. "They are more controlled, discreet though this control they may be, and it must be discreet if it is to be useful. Their physical life, like their moral life, is healthier, quieter, and more normal."

"Other explanations may be assigned, but, in my opinion, they are not worth this one."

Valitudinarians, weaklings, drunkards, and fast people do not marry so much as others; so matrimony, it is argued, gets the soundest recruits. But this is not a sufficient argument, says Dr. Bertillon. He says:

"If it were, widowers, who are also the elect of marriage, would retain the very low mortality of married men. Well, they have the same death rate as bachelors, and even higher, perhaps. They succumb to the trouble which their loss has caused them."

"Don't smile—that can happen. I have seen instances of this."

Thus does Dr. Bertillon point the moral in French statistics: For one year which he has selected the deaths per 1,000 men, among bachelors between 35 and 40, were 19; while those of married men were only 8; between 55 and 60 of the figure was 11 for the former and 23 for the latter. With women at the same ages the mortality was correspondingly 12 and 8 between 35 and 40, and 24 and 18 between 55 and 60. The death rates among widows and divorcees were, respectively, 12 and 21 per 1,000 women.

Habits That Assist Brain Work. Some experiments made in the last few years with a view to discovering the best position of the body to promote mental activity may be responsible in the future for a new attitude in offices, reading rooms and schools. These experiments show that the efficient working of the brain is largely dependent upon the supply of blood to that organ.

Prolonged physical exertion enfeebles the circulation, and the task of the heart to pump blood up to the brain becomes more difficult. In such circumstances, if it is desired to get the brain to work better it is necessary to render the heart some assistance in its uphill task.

My attention was turned in this direction first many years ago, when I was called upon one night after a long day's work to write an article immediately. I sat down with pen, ink and paper, but was unable to get a single idea or to write a word.

I reasoned on the situation. The brain was the same as yesterday; it worked then. Why would it not work today? It occurred to me that the day before I was not so tired, and probably the circulation was a little more brisk, and so I concluded that I must give the heart some help in the work of pumping the blood.

EARLY DUTCH TRANSFER.

Written in Dutch in 1655 and on Exhibition at New York Historical Society.

Among the material illustrative of early New York which the New York Historical Society has recently placed on exhibition in its reading room is an original copy of an early transfer of land on Marketfield Street, near Broad. It is written in the Dutch language, the names of the contracting parties being ornamented with great flourishes. As translated it reads:

"We the undersigned, the schepens of the city of Amsterdam, in New Netherland, do hereby declare that before us came and appeared William Beekman, Herman Smeemans, and Michael Jansen, who severally declared so far as his right and claims of ownership is concerned, to cede and transfer to and for the behoof of Jan Evertsen Bout, a certain house and 5 roods, 7 feet, being on the west side 10 roods 2 feet, and on the east side the like, as it at present stands built and laid out by the Court Messenger."

The translator has located the plot in Marketfield Street, nearly opposite New Street, this being a little to the east of the Produce Exchange.

On exhibition is also another large document written in Dutch, being a grant of land in the north part of the fort from John Kieft to Jan Stevenson in 1643.

lot, situate and lying in the city aforesaid between the house and lot in the west side of Nicholas Bout and on the east side of Johannes, Monsieur de La Montagne, Jr., and at present occupied by Jan de Guy; broad in front on the street at north side, 3 roods, 8 1/2 feet; in the rear on the south side, 10 roods.

A Cunning Lunatic. A court officer from Binghampton was taking a lunatic to an asylum at Middletown, N. Y., pursuant to an order from a committing magistrate. The lunatic was informed that he was merely going on a pleasant railroad trip, and he cheerfully accompanied the officer. The breakdown of a freight train occasioned two hours' delay, and when the passenger train arrived at Middletown, it was too late to proceed to the asylum, so they put up for the night at a hotel.

Early next morning the lunatic got up, and searched the officer's clothing and he found the magistrate's order. With that cunning which lunatics not infrequently display, he made his way to the asylum, saw one of the keepers and told him that he had a poor man fellow down at a hotel, whom he should bring up in the course of the day, adding:

"He's a queer chap, and has very odd ways. Don't be surprised if he says I am the madman, and he is bringing me here. You must take care of him, and not believe a word that he says."

The keeper promised compliance, and the lunatic walked back to the hotel, where he found the officer still asleep. He woke him, and they went to breakfast together.

"You're a lazy fellow said the lunatic; 'I have had a good walk.' 'Indeed,' said the officer; 'I should like a walk myself after breakfast; perhaps you will go with me.' The lunatic assented. During the walk the officer led the way, intending to deliver his charge; but it never occurred to him to examine whether his order was safe. When they got within sight of the asylum, the lunatic exclaimed:

"What a fine house that is!" "Yes," said the officer, "I should like to see the inside of it." "So should I," observed the lunatic. "Well," said the other, "I dare say they will let us inspect it. Anyway, I'll ask."

They went to the door; the officer rang the bell, and the keeper whom the lunatic had previously seen made his appearance with two assistants. The officer then began to search his pockets for the order, when the lunatic produced it and gave it to the keeper, saying:

"This is the man I spoke to you about. You will take care of him." Hands were at once laid on the poor officer, who vociferated loudly that the other was the madman, and thus conforming the real madman's story.

"Done with him?" said the madman; why I left him at the Middle town asylum as mad as possible." The officer's violent struggles ended in a straight waistcoat being put upon him. The lunatic then returned to the hotel, paid the bill, and set out homeward.

Which, indeed, was not far from the truth, for the wits of the poor officer were well-nigh overcast by his unexpected detention and subsequent treatment.

The good people were not a little surprised to see him back, and they, fearing for the officer's safety, asked him what he had done with him.

Musings of the Gentle Cynic. No man feels that he has a right to be left. Many a girl's beauty is spoiled by an ugly frame of mind. Of the evils it isn't always necessary to choose either.

The man with a hot temper doesn't always make a warm friend. The fellow is full of hot air doesn't always manage to get up steam. One good swift kick will often accomplish more than a lot of kindness.

Trouble is the most obliging thing in the world. It will never dodge the people who are looking for it. Some people can't even do their duty without patting themselves on the back.

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