

THE DAY BOOK

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FATHER BLOWS BRAINS OUT WHEN FOURTH DAUGHTER IS BORN—WANTED A SON

What is a man to do when his only desire in the world is a son and heir, and his wife, on four separate, consecutive and painful occasions, presents him with a daughter.

Frank Novak, 2233 Southport avenue, answered this question today by blowing his brains out.

Novak always had wanted a son. Nightly he prayed for a son, and every seventh day he made the request for a son the beginning and the end of his devotions.

Five years ago, his first child was born. Novak waited anxiously for the event, and when it occurred his first question was:

"A boy or a girl?"

It was a girl.

The next year there was another girl, and the next year a third, and Novak became a sour and embittered cynic and lost his faith in the efficacy of prayer.

But a fourth time, he drew in the lottery of life, and this time he convinced himself that at last his desire and prayer was to be answered.

The event occurred early last evening, and it was a fourth baby girl. It was a very pretty baby girl, but what is the prettiest of baby girls to a man who longs for a son?

When Novak heard the news he went out from his home, and drank a very great deal of exceedingly bad whisky. Then he went home, and dug up an ancient revolver.

The nurse who was attending Mrs. Novak and the baby girl No. 4 saw Novak with the revolver.

"What are you going to do with that gun?" she asked.

"This is a world of misery and anguish and daughters," said Novak. "And I do not believe there is a God, else surely He would have granted me a son this time."

Then he went into his wife's bedroom, and put the revolver to his right temple, and pulled the trigger, and died.

Mrs. Novak saw her husband kill himself, and she understood the reason. She became hysterical, crying aloud:

"Why couldn't it have been a boy? Why couldn't it have been a boy?"

Her condition today is very serious.