

INFANTICIDE.

The Revelations Resulting from an Investigation Made by "The Times."

Child-Murder Committed to an Appalling Extent in Chicago.

Leading Physicians and Well-Known Midwives Involved in the Crime.

The Lives Choked Out of Little Ones on the Very Threshold of Existence.

A Series of Articles Giving Names and Addresses That Will Astonish the People.

Paris is the most immoral city in the world. It is not necessary to qualify this statement in any way. Figures are at hand—and they are from the official reports of the Parisian health authorities—going to show that at least three-fifths of the women of the French capital are unchaste. During the closing years of the last empire there were born on an average of over 15,000 illegitimate children annually. Births of this character have increased since then until last year it was estimated that one-third of the children born were not the fruit of honest wedlock. These children, be it remembered, only represented those who were actually born alive. The feticides and infanticides could not be very well enumerated, as most of them were hidden, but upon a careful and moderate estimate it is claimed that the number was very large.

The Foundling's Hospital, founded by St. Vincent de Paul, is one of the greatest of the charitable establishments of Paris. It is under the management of the Sisters of St. Paul, or, as we know them in this country, the Sisters of Charity. The object of this great institution is to provide for children abandoned by their parents, and thus diminish the extent of the crime of infanticide. For many years there was a revolving box at the main entrance. Persons who wished to abandon their little ones placed the children in the box and rang the bell. They were immediately cared for. Later this box was removed and it became necessary for the mother who wished to dispose of her child to go before the commissary of police and give her name, address, etc. This resulted in a frightful increase of infanticide and in the abandonment of children on the streets. It also led to the establishment of houses where abortions of the most cruel description were performed, and to the growth of a class of midwives and physicians who, for small or large compensation, depending entirely upon the circumstances of the parents of the child, or family of the prospective mother, were ready to take any risk.

With horrifying frequency the mother was left a wreck or a corpse by these malpractitioners. The Parisian mother of the present day is encouraged in every way to give natural birth to her children, whether they be legitimate or illegitimate. The government, deeming it impossible to prevent the immoral relations of the sexes, has endeavored to make the best of it. Great lying hospitals have been established, and everything possible is done to shield the young mother from disgrace. Her babe is born and taken from her, she is nursed tenderly and sent to her home. She may, if she chooses, reclaim her child at some future time, but not over 10 per cent of the little ones ever grow up to know their parents. And all this is done to prevent the most frightful of all crimes—infanticide.

There is public policy behind it. The French lawmaker says: "Our young people, unless in easy circumstances, can not afford to marry. The French are not a marrying people. Virtue, as it is understood in other countries, is not known here, except among the minority of our people. Mothers will have illegitimate children. Nothing can prevent it. Very well; we must care for the mother—she must neither become a physical wreck nor a murderess. Our population would fall off, our race would die out otherwise. So we will see that the mother is nursed in privacy, and that the baby is permitted to live."

The crime of infanticide has diminished of late years in Paris under this policy. In London, where there is a greater regard for fema's virtue—at least among the middle classes—the crime has increased. Women or girls who have erred dread to become mothers in a city where the exposure of their shame would blast their future lives. In France a girl cares little for the opinion of others regarding her chastity. People in glass houses do not, as a rule, throw stones. But she does not want to be burdened with a child. In London the exposure is the one thing most feared, and any crime that will prevent it is likely to be resorted to. Hence, murdered infants are found by the score every week in the English metropolis, while abortionists prosper there.

Berlin, Vienna, St. Petersburg, Brussels, Antwerp, Rome, and the populous cities of the continent generally are as wicked as Paris. But they are not so large. Manchester, Liverpool, New York, Brooklyn, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Cincinnati, and San Francisco are lesser Londons. Chicago?

Well, The Times has found it necessary to make an investigation into the condition of affairs in Chicago, and the result will be laid before its readers. Horrible crimes are being perpetrated here daily. The victims are the unborn or the born babes of mothers, married and single. They tell no tales. There are no coroner's inquests. They are disposed of so quietly that they do not cause a ripple in the social stream. Prominent physicians and well-known midwives are engaged to commit murders, and they commit them without compunction of conscience. Abortions are performed for a price by some of the leading physicians. There are specialists in this line who will choke the life out of a babe at its entrance into this vale of tears. The Times never publishes anything on hearsay, and never charges a crime upon men or women without giving names and addresses.

In the course of the investigation some startling, shocking truths will be told. The Times has undertaken to crush out a heathen practice, and if a number of people who have heretofore been considered respectable, but who by the most abominable and villainous of practices have subjected themselves to public scorn, are eternally disgraced or driven to shame from the city, The Times as a public journal and to a large extent a conservator of public morals, can not help it. There is a plain duty to be performed, and it must be performed without regard to the consequences.

Tomorrow The Times will begin the publication of a series of revelations that will be at once a surprise and a shock to the good people who think that we are with all our churches, with all our pious ministers of the gospel, with all our moral societies, with all our efforts in the direction of social purity, with "high-toned public school systems, with a great police force, with a great army, with a powerful government, with a wicked society people.

"At Chicago, we presume births are being made at a rate of one every year," with a leading paper in New York has held high school positions. It was a man of a different view who was looking at a woman who was a perfect gas house, with a statement of her life. "What the situation is

greatly large, you must remember that Chicago is the center of the great west and northwest in every respect. Women from all the surrounding states, as well as in Chicago, who either do not wish to become mothers because of a too prevalent horror of the social inconveniences of mothhood, or who wish to hide the results of an unwise or too confiding love, come to Chicago. This is a large city, and offers every facility for committing or hiding crimes."

It was believed by THE TIMES that the doctor's figure would have been found to have been at least ten or twelve times larger than the most confirmed pessimist would imagine. But the assertion, coming from such a source, and made with such a degree of honest conviction, went to show that people needed to be informed of the true state of affairs that they might awaken to the moral dangers that threaten society and the family, that most sacred of all the social or civil relations.

"Why," said a gentleman who heard the doctor's statement, "if that is anywhere near the truth it shows a moral degradation and a condition of social impurity which throws into insignificance the days of 'profligate Rome.' It stands to reason that the easier it is to conceal the results of social sins the more widespread will be the lack of virtue. Hence, I repeat, if the doctor is anywhere near the truth the situation is most appalling. It calls for a general revolution. Every man and every woman who has any regard for the future of their daughters and their homes should know the truth and make war on the evil till it is rooted out."

THE TIMES employed a special reporter from a distance to go out among those who might be practicing this business and see how much ground there was for the doctor's assertion. A number of cabbmen were approached in a very confidential manner, and with a voice full of anguish were asked if they could pilot the reporter to a place where "a lady relative, who had been led into error, could be speedily rid of the cause of uneasiness." Finally one was found who knew the very place—he had taken several parties there—but it had to be done very confidentially, as it was a most risky piece of business. The lady was a professional midwife and had to be very careful. She kept patients in her house, and everything was done quietly and quickly. It was a long way up there, and he would steer the reporter there and bring him back for \$3. The cabbman started off, and rattled and bumped over the stones for an hour, and then stopped and whispered down through the little air and peep hole in the top of the cab, "Here's the place, sir."

Minnie Schuberger, aged 21, residing with her parents at 1073 Thirty-second street, died suddenly last Sunday from the effects of an abortion. She left home two weeks ago, saying she had found work, and her parents heard nothing from her until she came back in an almost dying condition. Dr. Webb, whose office is on the corner of Deering street and Archer avenue, was called in and pronounced the girl to be suffering from peritonitis and blood poisoning. She died in a few hours without giving any information regarding those implicated in her death.