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SOUL HAS WEIGHT, PHYSICIAN THINKS

Dr. Macdougall of Haverhill Tells of Experiments at Death.

LOSS TO BODY RECORDED

Scales Showed an Ounce Gone in One Case, He Says—Four Other Doctors Present.

Special to The New York Times.

BOSTON, March 10.—That the human soul has a definite weight, which can be determined when it passes from the body, is the belief of Dr. Duncan Macdougall, a reputable physician of Haverhill. He is at the head of a Research Society which for six years has been experimenting in this field. With him, he says, have been associated four other physicians.

Dr. Macdougall's object was to learn if the departure of the soul from the body was attended by any manifestation that could be recorded by any physical means. The chief means to which resort was made was the determination of the weight of a body before and after death.

The method followed was to place a dying patient in bed upon one of the platforms of a pair of scales made expressly for the experiments, and then to balance this weight by placing an equal weight in the opposite platform. These scales were constructed delicately enough to be sensitive to a weight of less than one-tenth of an ounce. In every case after death the platform opposite the one in which lay the subject of the test fell suddenly, Dr. Macdougall says. The figures on the dial index indicated the diminishment in weight.

Dr. Macdougall told of the results of his experiments as follows:

"Four other physicians under my direction made the first test upon a patient dying with tuberculosis. This man was one of the ordinary type of the usual American temperament, neither particularly high strung nor of marked phlegmatic disposition. We placed him, a few hours preceding death, upon a scale platform, which I had constructed and which was accurately balanced. Four hours later with five doctors in attendance he died.

"The instant life ceased the opposite scale pan fell with a suddenness that was astonishing—as if something had been suddenly lifted from the body. Immediately all the usual deductions were made for physical loss of weight, and it was discovered that there was still a full ounce of weight unaccounted for.

"I submitted another subject afflicted with the same disease and nearing death to the same experiment. He was a man of much the same temperament as the preceding patient and of about the same physical type. The same result happened at the passing of his life. The instant the heart ceased to beat there was the sudden and almost uncanny diminishment in weight.

"As experimenters, each physician in attendance made figures of his own concerning this loss, and, at a consultation, these figures were compared. The unaccountable loss continued to be shown.

"But this was less remarkable than what took place in the third case. The subject was that of a man of larger physical build, with a pronounced sluggish temperament. When life ceased, as the body lay in bed upon the scales, for a full minute there appeared to be no change in weight. The physicians waiting in the room looked into each other's faces silently, shaking their heads in the conviction that our test had failed.

"Then suddenly the same thing happened that had occurred in the other cases. There was a sudden diminution in weight, which was soon found to be the same as that of the preceding experiments.

"I believe that in this case, that of a phlegmatic man slow of thought and action, that the soul remained suspended in the body after death, during the minute that elapsed before it came to the consciousness of its freedom. There is no other way of accounting for it, and it is what might be expected to happen in a man of the subject's temperament.

"Three other cases were tried, including that of a woman, and in each it was established that a weight of from one-half to a full ounce departed from the body at the moment of expiration."

IRISH GLORIFY EMMET

And Rhode Island's Governor Says There'll Be No Alliance with England.

The Majestic Theatre was crowded with Irishmen and Irishwomen last night, who joined in celebrating the one hundred and twenty-ninth anniversary of the birth of Robert Emmet. The exercises were held under the auspices of the Clan-Na-Gael of New York. John Quinn presided and Gov. James H. Higgins of Rhode Island made the principal address. Well-known Irish airs were sung, and the enthusiasm was intense.

Mr. Quinn expressed confidence in Ireland's future, which is brighter to-day, he said, than in over a century. He looked forward to the time when Ireland would have a national university of her own.

A century of hate, tyranny, and falsehood, Gov. Higgins said, had failed to tarnish the purity of Emmet's soul or to dim the lustre of his fame. The modern trial of Capt. Dreyfus, he added, when compared to that of Emmet was a model of correct judicial procedure.

England, the Governor said, would look with favor on an Anglo-American alliance, but "she will look in vain." Far away is the day, he declared, when America will lend even an ear to her plea for sympathy and an alliance. Irishmen, he concluded, had succeeded in every land but Ireland, and they would have succeeded there had it not been for England's cruel and barbaric tyranny.

NIGHT SCHOOL FOR BUTCHERS

They Study the Pure Food Laws and Receive Diplomas After Examination.

The United Master Butchers are a unit in declaring that the pure food laws are as beneficial to them as to the public, and they are co-operating for their enforcement. The association is a National organization, with State and city branches, all affiliated. George Diebel of St. Louis is President. A. F. Grimm is President of the East Side Branch, the biggest local organization. It has 400 members, all master butchers or owners of meat shops.

The regular fortnightly meetings have resolved themselves practically into night schools. The sanitary handling of meats is discussed as well as their cutting up and refrigeration. Every month lectures are given by experts. Examinations have been held from time to time, and all who pass them receive diplomas, to be hung up in their shops. The examining board is composed of three veteran master butchers appointed by the State President. Over 300 certificates already have been issued to members of the East Side branch, and examinations are being held all over the country.

If a member is caught using an illegal preservative he will be warned, and if he repeats the offense he will be dismissed from the association.

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