years. Table II. (A, B, C) refers to three separate years and shows the number of cases of suicide relatively to all the deaths and to the population for certain countries. The totals for the countries in question are also given. Table I. is obtained from Morselli (Table I.) with the addi­tion of figures that have been published since his work appeared.@@1 Table III. gives the figures relating to three States of the American Union which have published statis­tics on the subject.

II. B.—1876.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Countries. | Estimated Population in the  Middle of the Year. | Deaths. | | | Number of Deaths per 1,000,000 Inhabitants. | | |
| Suicide. | Other  Causes. | Total. | Suicide. | Other  Causes. | Total. |
| Austria | 21,319,544 | 2438 | 631,925 | 634,363 | 114 | 29,686 | 29,800 |
| Baden | 1,507,179@@2 | 269 | 40,054 | 40,323 | 178 | 26,5S2 | 26,760 |
| Bavaria | 5,022,390 | 522 | 153,674 | 154,196  116,787 | 104 | 30,596 | 30,700 |
| Belgium | 5,336,185 | 439 | 116,348 | 82 | 21,818 | 21,900 |
| Denmark | 1,893,100 | 506 | 36,859 | 37,365 | 267 | 19,433 | 19,700 |
| France | 36,905,788 | 5804 | 828,270 | 834,074 | 157 | 22,443  28,763 | 22,600 |
| Italy | 27,625,825 | 1024 | 795,396 | 796,420 | 37 | 28,800 |
| Prussia | 25,921,687 2,800,000@@3 | 3917 | 656,469 | 660,386 | 151 | 25,349 | 25,500 |
| Saxony | 981 | 77,140 | 7S,121 | 350 | 27,550 | 27,900 |
| Sweden | 4,429,713 | 409 | 85,925 | 86,334 | 92 | 19,508 | 19,600 |
| United Kingdom— England and Wales | 24,370,267 | 1770 | 508,545 | 510,315 | 73 | 20,827 | 20,900 |
| Ireland | 5,277,544 | 111 | 92,213 | 92,324 | 20 | 17,279 | 17,300 |
| Scotland | 3,552,183 | 131 | 73,998 | 74,129 | 37 | 20,863 | 20,900 |
|  | 165,961,405 | 18,321 4,096,816 4,115,137 | | | 110 | 24,690 | 24,800 |

II. C.—1882.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Countries. | Estimated Population in the Middle of the Year. | Deaths. | | | Number of Deaths per 1,000,000 Inhabitants. | | |
| Suicide. | Other  Causes. | Total. | Suicide. | Other  Causes. | Total. |
| Austria | 22,316,567 | 3530 | 683,421 | 686,951 | 158 | 30,642 | 30,800 |
| Baden | 1,596,206 | 2S3 | 38,654 | 38,937 | 177 | 24,223 | 24,400 |
| Bavaria | 5,389,732  5,655,197 | 724 | 152,428 | 153,152 | 134 | 28,276 | 28,41C |
| Belgium | 595 | 113,703  38,225 | 114,298 | 105 | 20,095 | 20,200 |
| Denmark | 2,008,100 | 513 | 3S,73S | 255 | 19,045 19,300 | |
| France | 37,769,000  28,596,512 | 7213 | S31,326 | 838,539 | 191 | 22,009 22,200 | |
| Italy | 13S9 | 785,937 | 787,326 | 49 | 27,451 27,500 | |
| Prussia | 27,796,189 | 5312 | 694,979 | 700,291 | 191 | 25,009 25,200 | |
| Saxony | 3,040,000 | 1128 | 85,106 | 86,234 | 371 | 27,999 28,370 | |
| Sweden  United Kingdom— | 4,579,115 | 4S2 | 78,924 | 79,406 | 105 | 17,295 17,400 | |
| England and Wales | 26,413,S61 | 1965 | 514,689 | 516,654 | 74 | 19,526 19,600 | |
| Ireland | 5,097,853 | 105 | 88,395 | 88,500 | 21 | 17,379 17,400 | |
| Scotland | 3,785,400 | 167 | 72,S22 | 72,9S9 | 44 | 19,256 19,300 | |
|  | 174,043,732 | 23,406 4,178,609 4,202,015 | | | 134 | 21,98624,120 | |

III. *Statement of the Humber of Deaths by Suicide in the under­mentioned States of the American Union in the Years named, with their Proportion to the Population.*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Years. | Massachusetts. | | Rhode Island. | | Connecticut. | |
| Total. | Per  1,000,000  Inhabit­  ants.@@4 | Total. | Per  1,000,000  Inhabit­  ants.4 | Total. | Per  1,000,000  Inhabit­  ants.4 |
| 1870 | 91 | 62 | 27 | 124 |  |  |
| 1871 | 122 | 82 | 19 | 84 |  |  |
| 1872 | 117 | 76 | 18 | 77 |  |  |
| 1873 | 117 | 74 | 8 | 33 |  |  |
| 1874 | 115 | 71 | 18 | 72 |  |  |
| 1875 | 159 | 96 | 26 | 101 |  |  |
| 1876 | 119 | 72 | 18 | 69 | 49 | 83 |
| 1877 | 163 | 9S | 22 | 83 | 52 | 84 |
| 1878 | 126 | 76 | 21 | 78 | 55 | 83 |
| 1S79 | 161 | 94 | 13 | 4S | 5S | 95 |
| 1880 | 133 | 75 | 10 | 36 | 4S | 77 |
| 1881 | 165 | 88 | 23 | 82 | 69 | 109 |
| 18S2 | 162 | S8 | 31 | 109 | 65 | 101 |
| 1883 | 167 | S9 | 25 |  |  |  |
| 1S84 | 184 | 96 | 85 |  |  |  |

The first feature which appears prominently in connexion with these tables is, as already observed, the small absolute amount of suicide officially reported. There is, however, a general consensus of opinion among those who have made a special study of this branch of vital statistics, to the effect that the number of suicides which actually occur is rather greater than is shown by the official returns. This opinion is based on the known natural repugnance on the part of those concerned to make a declaration that any person found dead committed suicide if his death can be accounted for in any other way. Continental statisticians think that this tendency to “ give the benefit of the doubt ” in cases of apparent suicide in the manner least likely to give pain to the relatives and friends of the deceased is more strongly operative in England than in other countries, —an opinion which may be fairly considered doubtful when we bear in mind the remarkable difference between the two sets of official figures for Austria. It is not, however, main­tained that the number of suicides is much understated, even in England, at any rate of late years. It may be observed that the information on the subject in any country cannot be much relied upon for years previous to 1850, at the earliest, and previous to 1860 for the United Kingdom. Perhaps an exception may be made in favour of the figures for Norway and Sweden. Differences in the mode of de­termining cases of supposed suicide in different countries make it necessary to be very careful in preparing “ inter­national ” statistics of suicide. The remarks made by Dr Ogle in the paper already referred to are worth careful attention. He says : “ I have been tempted to compare the English figures with those of foreign countries. I have, however, rigidly abstained from doing so. Those who have read the laborious treatise of Morselli on suicide, and have noted how heterogeneous in form and how unequal in numerical efficiency were the materials from different coun­tries with which he was forced to be content, will, I think, agree with me that it is at present more essential that statisticians should look to the accuracy and sufficiency of the returns of their own several countries than that they should indulge in premature comparison.” The tables given above are not conceived in a spirit contrary to these judicious observations, but are merely intended to supply indications of the general nature of the phenomenon as met with in different countries. Those who wish to inquire more fully into the matter will find all the available infor­mation in the works of Morselli and Legoyt.

It is quite admissible, subject to the above reservations, to point out briefly, and if possible to explain, the leading features brought into relief by the tables. It will be seen that from 1868 to 1876 suicide increased in all countries for which returns were available in both years, not merely in number, but relatively (except Denmark, Prussia, and Scotland) to the population, and the figures for the years subsequent to 1876 do not show any improvement in this respect. It will also be observed that the figures for the United Kingdom and Italy are low, those for Austria, Bavaria, Belgium, and Sweden moderate, those for Prussia, Baden, and France high, and those for Saxony and Den­mark very high. Attempts have been made to account for these differences by considerations derived from (1) race, (2) climate, (3) density of population, and other circum­stances ; but it cannot be said that any satisfactory result has been obtained from these investigations, owing no doubt to the fact that the phenomenon is too minute to furnish numbers large enough for the proper application of the statistical method. Investigations into certain other points have been more successful, such as the relative pro­portions of the two sexes as regards number of suicides, the relation of the number of suicides to the age scale (see Population) of the population, and also the distribution

@@@1 The figures for Austria up to 1871, although collected by the official re­gistrar, are far from trustworthy. Since 1873 more reliable data have been obtained by the sanitary service. The registrar’s figures for 1871 and 1872 have been corrected by Dr Neumann-Spallart ; those for the succeeding years are the figures of the sanitary service. A comparison of the returns from the two official sources shows that the figures of the latter authority are (except in two cases) 30 per cent. greater than the corresponding figures furnished by the former.

@@@2 1st December 1875.

@@@3 2,760,586 in 1875.

@@@4 Population calculated from average annual increase since 1880.