

### Suicide Ruled In Nurse's Death

Suicide was given as the cause of death of a Detroit nurse whose body was found Friday, Aug. 14, in a parked car on Evergreen near Ten Mile, Southfield township. De-mentally had taken a quantity of poison.

Deputy Oakland County Coroner Dr. I. C. Prevette. The New Grace Hospital nurse, Mrs. Harry L. Dace, had been reported missing from her home since Wednesday. Dr. Prevette stated that the woman had been dead about 24 hours and appar-ently had taken a quantity of poison.



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### PEOPLE'S COLUMN

## Local Resident Aably Defends Little League Baseball Recreation

To the Editor

This letter is in the nature of a reply to an article entitled "Little League Baseball Can Hurt Your Boy" written by Dr. Charles A. Bucher that appeared in the August 11 issue of "Look" magazine. Dr. Bucher has criticized the fundamental principles of Little League play in various newspapers and magazines from time to time.

Apparently the doctor feels very strongly that the pressure of competition, particularly in regard to the highly organized and highly glamorous Little League, might be too great a strain for boys who have reached neither maturity nor emotional stability.

Dr. Bucher cites the American

Medical association as deploring interscholastic competition below the senior high-school level. He also decries the emphasis on baseball to the exclusion of exploratory ventures for the youngsters into other sports. Apparently Little League baseball is becoming quite competitive, interfering no end with the good doctor's plans for his summer camp for boys.

THE WRITER completely disagrees with Dr. Bucher, as it is my belief that Little League is the greatest invention since the telephone. It might very well be the most phenomenal development in sports history.

For the benefit of those who may

have come in late, Little League baseball is Big League baseball in miniature.

Every aspect is carefully tailored to fit boys ranging from 8 to 12 years of age. The field has been cut down in size and so has the length of the game, the equipment, and all else. Roughly, Little League specifications are two-thirds of Big League specifications. They are just about perfect for the youngsters and they coincide with their physical requirements.

Carl Stoltz of Williamsport, Pa., founded the first Little League in 1939, but since World War II this new development has moved with some speed.

In 1947 the number of teams and leagues was doubled or virtually doubled annually until in 1953 there were 2,562 teams and 1788 leagues in 44 states. In my book that adds up to 150,000 Little Leaguers who played last year before approximately 30,000,000 fans.

NO SPORT COULD ever grow with such startling rapidity unless it was an inherently wholesome sport and beneficial to all concerned. Boys will be boys and they will compete in whatever they do whether it be tennis, swimming, scholastic activities, mumble-peg, marbles or baseball.

Whoever they may live, youngsters are bound to play baseball. That is part and parcel of the "American Way of Life." After all, it has been the National Pastime since time immemorial.

But, instead of the uncertainties and the dangers of sand-lot baseball, Little League provides supervised, restrained, and well-matched competition for boys in their own age bracket and under the best possible conditions.

Dr. Bucher is worried about the physical and mental strain created by the pressures of Little League play. How severe are those pressures? You may rest assured that they are not unbearable. Seventy-

five per cent of Little League play is carried on during summer vacation periods and for all boys it is a wonderful adventure.

Most of the contestants never know too much about the game, nor did they ever get to know as many youngsters in such a short space of time. The good certainly outweighs all other considerations. The writer must confess that he is unshocked to hear anyone say an unkind word or point a suspicious finger at Little League.

ANYONE WHO HAS studied Little League carefully or done any research on the subject, comes away refreshed and completely satisfied by this truly significant movement. Little League has never been exploited or pushed, it has grown like Topsy. It is rather interesting to learn that the Fresno, California Recreation Department, out of curiosity, made an exhaustive survey of adults connected with Little League in some way or other.

Incidentally, estimates of the number of adults interested in or participating in Little League affairs adds up to approximately 100,000 persons. The Fresno, California Recreation Department asked the following question of 150 adults: "Do you feel that Little League baseball is a good thing for boys?" Here is the tabulation of answers: Yes—150, No—0.

The Fresno County Medical society surveyed its doctors and not a single one "found any injury physical, psychological, emotional or indirectly attributable to Little League participation."

LITTLE LEAGUE baseball, properly supervised, can augment the very fine educational system that we are fortunate enough to have in Birmingham.

This extra-curricular activity will do much to stimulate boys from 8 to 12 years of age physically, mentally, and emotionally. Little League is properly conducted will build permanent interests, attitudes, ideals, habits, and skills. Little League is a great aid in fulfilling the development of character by directing the "will to play" and "learning" in a way that the Little Leaguers will become self-reliant, self-controlled, and self-disciplined.

Little League baseball is an extraordinary movement that is beneficial to the child, but also even more beneficial to the fanatically enthused parents. Little League baseball is a class by itself and, like the automobile, it is here to stay.

Very truly yours, ALBERT W. BATES, 922 Mohegan.

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### LEGAL NOTICES

HIGHLAND RECREATION AREA RIFES AND REGULATIONS. The Conservation Commission, by order of August 17, 1953, as amended, hereby orders that for a period of ten years from the date hereof, it shall be unlawful to hunt, trap or fish in the following listed areas...

VIOLATION OF THE FORECAST regulations shall be punishable by a fine of not more than \$100 and costs of prosecution, or by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than 90 days, or by both such fine and imprisonment in the discretion of the court.

By order of the Conservation Commission this ninth day of July, 1953. GEORGE A. GRIFFITH, Chairman, Conservation Commission. GERALD E. KIDDY, Director of Conservation.

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