

## **Natural Causes I Hope**

(a short short story)

by

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Many years ago I applied for a job at the New York City Health and Hospitals Administration. During the interview I learned that the task was to psychologically test one child each morning and then to write the evaluation in the afternoon. Periodically I would testify in Family Court and make recommendations to the judge. Because of the repetition the job would be deadly dull. Still, I needed the money and felt I could do it for one or two days a week but certainly not all five. “What happened to the last psychologist?” I asked the interviewer. “He killed himself,” I was informed. “And the one before him?” I asked. “He died,” I was told. I thought for a moment before speaking. “Natural causes I hope.”