

AMONG THE INSANE.

Thrilling Experiences of a Professional Nurse.

(From the Phila. Sunday News.) Alfred J. Nutt, the professional nurse, who was in attendance upon John McCullough when he made his last appearance upon the stage, and who nursed the tragedian during the greater portion of his illness, has had some singular experiences. He served a four years' course in St. Thomas' Hospital, London, to perfect him for his profession. He was afterwards connected with Guy's and Bartholomew's Hospital, London. The course of instruction is very complete and requires nearly as much close study as is necessary to become a physician or surgeon.

Upon entering an English hospital for instruction the student is first required to serve a term in washing bottles in the dispensary. His next work is "body snatching." This includes the handling of the bodies of all dead patients and their removal from the wards to the mortuary. His next place of service is the accident ward, and after familiarizing himself with every variety of accident he serves successively in the medical and then in the surgical wards. Four years elapse before he completes this found, and then he is a qualified nurse. The compensation for the work is trifling.

Mr. Nutt has been all over the world in the capacity of nurse since graduating, and in 1876 was one of Florence Nightingale's famous corps of trained nurses that went to Genoa, Pooman and Carthage during the prevalence of the Asiatic Cholera.

ASIATIC CHOLERA PATIENTS. The nurses served seven months at Genoa, where the deaths numbered tens of thousands, and none of them contracted the disease. The hospitals were built upon poles, similar to those used in India and other warm climates, in order to allow a current of air to pass underneath. Each building was a ward in itself, and had accommodations for twenty patients. Mr. Nutt gave some idea of the fearful mortality by the statement that during any day of the seven months of service it was a rare occurrence to find two living patients at 6 o'clock in the morning out of the twenty he had left at 10 o'clock the previous night when he went off duty.

Before commencing their twelve months' service at Pooman and Carthage the nurses were taken to Constantinople for rest. It is a singular fact that the two who were in the service but did not die, and neither of these cholera, one of them having been drowned in the Bay of Biscay and the other dying at Constantinople from other causes. No preventatives were used, and Mr. Nutt ascribes their escaping the disease to their fearlessness; the keeping of the system in a regular condition; plenty of open air exercise and a careful diet.

A HUMAN GASOMETER. Since his arrival in this country, Mr. Nutt's attention has been mostly given to the care of insane persons, of whom he relates many curious and interesting incidents. One of these, who had lost a large fortune in oil speculation, imagined himself a gasometer. Mr. Nutt had considerable trouble in pacifying him. He would cry out that he was full of gas that he would explode, and would ask his nurse to tap him. Acting upon this suggestion, Nutt pressed his hand gently on the insane man's diaphragm and he at once commenced to make a hissing noise like escaping steam. Whenever he became frantic afterwards the operation would be repeated and the poor fellow would sink back contentedly upon his bed and say, "Thank God that terrible ordeal is over."

Another patient labored under the hallucination that he was pursued by an army of Chinamen, and that countless numbers of the Celestials were constantly coming through his window. He would shriek with terror and hide himself under the bed-clothes from the imaginary pursuers. He was finally quieted by the hanging of a knotted rope near his bed, at which he would jump constantly, and at each pull say, "Another pigtail gone." This was kept up until his death, for he thought that it would take a lifetime to depopulate the Flowery Kingdom.

One of the saddest cases that Mr. Nutt ever handled was a robust and handsome young fellow holding an excellent position and moving in good circles of society in New York city. He became engaged to a lady in a sphere of life much above his own, and the cards were out for the wedding. Two weeks before the time announced for the ceremony to take place he became despondent over his inability to meet the expenses necessary to the occasion. This preyed upon his mind so much that his reason was dethroned. Mr. Nutt was summoned to attend him, and thus tells of the case:

"He was bustling around his room in a full dress suit when I arrived, and was anxiously awaiting the arrival of his bride. Upon entering his room he greeted me warmly, and asked whether the special train with his bride had arrived. He said the event of his marriage would be the topic of conversation. That the Fifth Avenue Hotel had been taken for the occasion, a Cunder engaged for a European tour, and the road in front of the house tanned, and that musical boxes had been placed under every chair. Poor fellow, a rough and tumble time I had with him. He gave me a pretty good shaking up. I took him to an asylum next day, and two months afterward I learned of his death.

A STRANGE HALLUCINATION. A peculiar case was that of a poor imbecile whose mind had been shattered by the belief that he was doomed to devote his life to sewing buttons on garments. His insanity was the result of religious excitement, and he firmly believed his task would absolve him from some imaginary sin. Day after day he would sew the buttons on any old piece of rag he could get. He was considered a most harmless patient until a servant had occasion to enter his room one day and found the lifeless body of the lunatic. He had literally picked the arteries in his wrist to pieces with the needle with which he was doing life penance.

IN HAVANA.

A Traveler Sees Strange and Interesting Sight.

A correspondent of the Indianapolis Journal says in a letter from Havana: On the landing you are greeted by the Customhouse officials, who wish to see your passports to examine your luggage etc. The ladies of the party objected to having their trunks opened and the contents exposed to the vulgar gaze of these pompous individuals. It was the custom, however, and no amount of persuasion would cause them to desist. After the law had been satisfied the party took carriages for the hotel. I came to see, and I concluded by walking I could see better. At every turn I was beset by men in black, who were to be seen everywhere. I had a small change in my pocket, and I called a cab and was soon at the hotel. This being a fete week, there were all kinds of amusements. The next day there was a bull fight; I concluded I would go. In company with several Spanish students I started early so as to get a good view of this brutal sport, and found I had started none to soon, as the amphitheatre was fast filling up. The bands, of which there were several played the national airs. At the given signal the bullfighters marched in—six in all. The horses were the next to come, led by assistants. The leader of the bullfighters was a small, pale man, in perfect form, with rather a feminine cast of feature.

He was the prime favorite of the ladies, and as he marched around the forum the ladies threw their lace handkerchiefs, pocket-books, and their gayly colored scarfs to him, which he accepted with a bow and making the Spanish signs as seen so often in New Orleans when giving alms to the poor. This man is a professional fighter from Madrid. He is known as Signor Mastia Ferretti, and comes with royal favor. After the first bull was killed I came away disgusted with the brutal sport, and must say, to the credit of the few Americans present, they, with one accord, followed.

Havana has some of the most elegant buildings in it—notably the government buildings and hotels built of stone. The plaza or public square is at most a very commonplace affair, and not at all as inviting as any of our parks in Indianapolis. The population is about 320,000, of which 25,000 is floating. It is made up of every known race under the sun but mainly Chinese and Hindoo coolies, negroes, creoles and Spaniards by birth.

The Cuban Spaniards are the moneyed men. They control everything. The Cuban's cry is Cuba for us; down with the Spaniards! Those born in Spain are sent to this island to keep the Cubans poorer and the Madrid government richer. There is scarcely a night passes but some Spaniard is sent to his long home by the assassin's poniard. This is a small knife, the blade about six inches long, and has both edges as keen as a razor. Everybody carries with them even the ladies. As a rule, the men carry them in the back of the neck, the ladies in their dress, where they can be seen with the butt peeping out. The natural hatred that exists between the creoles and the Spaniards will again lead to war, this time the creole will be aided by the negro slaves. All that is wanting now is a Walker or a Lopez. Havana is the gateway for the products of the island, America being the largest consumer. The amount of tobacco and sugar raised on this island is simply enormous and the revenue must be very large. It finds its way to Madrid. The slaves or pure negroes do the hard field work, and do it well, although they have cruel and brutal taskmasters. In some districts the slaves are treated more humanely.

The Island of Cuba is some 750 miles long and fifty in width, and is mountainous at the south end, where the Sierra Maestra rises to an elevation of 8,000 feet. The western or Havana districts are the best and wealthiest parts of the island. It is here the finest and best sugar and tobacco are raised, which find a ready market in New Orleans and New York. Nearly eighty-five per cent. of the sugar raised here goes to America; the balance to England. Cuba imports hardware, salt, fish, furniture, flour, manufactured goods and machinery, etc. I saw in a sugar refinery a Corlis engine made in Indianapolis, and when I saw it I felt homesick. It was only momentary though. The ladies of Havana are very beautiful. Their olive complexion is set off to good advantage by the use of their mantillas folded across the shoulder. If it were not for their ungovernable tempers they would be very warm. The weather here is still warm. At night there is a cool breeze that comes from the bay, and with it comes the old fashioned Mississippi "kallinipper." Three or four of them sucking at once is not the best feeling in the world, and to know there are several cases of yellow jack in the city makes one feel as if he was near the jumping off place. My advice to snowdiggers is to keep away from Cuba, except from November to March. After that time it is not pleasant, unless you can custom yourself to the intense heat and the earthquakes. This is the home of earthquakes, and every well regulated family has one and some to spare for visitors.

A Kansas paper publishes the following unique reminder to delinquent subscribers: "There is a little matter that some of our subscribers have seemingly forgotten entirely. Some of them have made us many promises but have not kept them. To us it is a very important matter, it's necessary in our business. We are very modest and don't like to speak about it." An Eastern exchange adds: "Some subscribers in other sections should seriously consider these hints."

When Baby was sick, we gave her Castoria, When she was a Child, she cried for Castoria, When she became Miss, she clung to Castoria, When she had Children, she gave them Castoria.

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A Tramp But Still Proud.

It was one fine afternoon last week, says a reporter, that the electric button of a suburban mansion was touched and sent its tinkling reverberations to the bower, where the maid, in blissful repose, was spelling out a soap "ad."

"Sir," exclaimed the girl in a high-pitched voice. "It's all right—all right," replied the visitor. "Just hand it to Mrs. Blank and she will understand it." The girl disappeared and in a few moments the maid herself came to the doorway. She sustained a visible nervous shock when she caught sight of the strange caller, but recovered in a moment.

"What do you wish, sir?" she remarked, haughtily. "I just dropped in," answered the tramp with a mournful intonation—"I just dropped in to see whether you had any cold victuals to spare."

"Cold victuals?" echoed the lady, angrily. "You come here in this manner for cold victuals? What do you mean? Leave the place instantly, or I'll have the dogs set on you."

"I fly," replied the tramp. "But before I begin flying I want to ask you not to run me of my means of support. I do not like to confess it, madam, but that card is the last of a fortune of 10,000 and is therefore the only one I have. If you will oblige me by returning it, you will at least assure me an equally hospitable reception elsewhere as I have received here."

Mrs. Blank fairly curled the card at the intruder, who carefully wrapped it up in a half newspaper and put it in his bosom. He turned to go, and—the lady relented and sent him to the kitchen for some cold doughnuts.

Betrayed by a Salt Box. A dapper young bookkeeper living in Minneapolis thought he was going to be married a short time ago. His affections rested upon a beautiful young lady, and when he popped the question she shyly replied: "Yes, if papa is willing." The young man lost no time in repairing to the old gentleman. The latter was disposed to be very particular as to the character of a young man who should come and ask the hand of his daughter in marriage. He questioned the suitor closely as to his habits. The young man declared that he neither drank nor gambled, and as the old gentleman had previously looked up his antecedents to some extent, he expressed himself satisfied with these avowals. Then he invited his prospective son-in-law to dinner. As the old gentleman looked around he noticed that the young gentleman was joying with the salt box in a peculiar way.

"Please pass me the salt," he said. The young gentleman gently pushed the salt box towards the table, and with the ends of his fingers, at the same time making a slight forward movement with his head.

"That will do," said the girl's papa. "You can't marry my daughter." The careful and discerning father had discovered from the way in which his Juliet's Romeo had pushed forward the salt box that he was familiar with the handling of poker chips.—St. Paul's Pioneer Press.

The Chicago Ledger says: Some time ago we presented to our readers a short sketch of Captain Mott, who was said to be the youngest soldier in our civil war. Since that time we have received information that Avery Brown, "The Drummer Boy of the Cumberland," lays claim to being the youngest soldier and substantiates his claim with undeniable facts.

Origin of a Famous Phrase.

"I know how it was that Horace Greeley's famous advice: 'Young man, go West,' came to be written," says Orange Judd, formerly publisher of the American Agriculturist. "I was connected with the New York Tribune then, and Mr. Greeley and I frequently went out to dinner together. One day, while we were at the table, he took a letter from his pocket and read it to me. It was from a young man asking advice as to the best course to take in locating himself. 'Tell him to go West, stake out a claim somewhere and cultivate it,' said I; 'there is where the opportunity for young men exists now.' Greeley did not say much in response to my suggestion, but the next day appeared in the paper an editorial article the refrain of which was that expression, since so often quoted: 'Young man, go West.'

GOSPIPING CHURCH MEMBERS.

A congregation threatened by the Bishop with Excommunication. There is trouble in the Episcopal Church of our Saviour in Centreville, Camden, and the rector, Rev. William B. Thorn, of this city, has been notified by Bishop Scarborough that if certain of the congregation and officials of the church do not discontinue slandering other members excommunication will follow.

The district in which the church is situated is an outlying ward of Camden, separated from the city proper by a stretch of country land. Like many other country districts the residents are thoroughly posted in each other's private affairs and greatly addicted to gossiping.

An iron and glass apparatus in which a pressure of one thousand atmospheres can be developed, for the purpose of studying the influence of great pressure on animal life, has been exhibited by biologists in France. With it deep sea animals can be observed under their natural compression.

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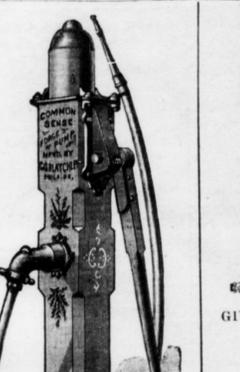
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