

Bellefonte, Pa., December 13. 1907.

QUEER DREAMLAND DRAMAS.

Visions In Sleep That Have Driven Their Victims to Madness - Odd Cases Culled From the Notebook of a Specialist In Mental Diseases.

"Dreams, dreams, dreams!" began the specialist in mental diseases gloomily. "Dreams have sent me many a

melancholy patient. "I was early impressed with the analogies presented by dreams to insanity, but some years ago I remember this impression was strengthened by an incident which I can never forget. A young man consulted me about a trifling mental ailment. I dealt with his case in the ordinary way, and I was pleased to notice he quickly improved. Some weeks after I had told him he was quite recovered, however, he returned, looking an awful wreck, and fighting hard to keep the tears back, he begged me to help him. He had become a victim of nightmare.

"'Here you are,' he whispered nervously, pressing a sheet of paper into my hand. 'Here you are. Some of the things I see.'

"Sketched on the slip were skeletons, crossbones, a gallows and a coffin. "'And you really see these things?"

I inquired carelessly. "See them? he replied. 'See them? Why, I feel them! Feel them! Feel the rope! Smell the coffin!'

"And the poor fellow clutched at his throat in real agony. "I did my best for him, but he became worse. The last time he called upon me he whispered in my ear that

he had been duping me; that he was the man wanted for the B. murder. Just as I feared, nightmare had shattered his reason. "He went away, and I never saw him again. The murder of B. was explated, but it was not my former

patient's name I read in the accounts of the execution. I have every reason for believing that he ended his nightmare in suicide. "Such are the instances that stud the mental physician's book of dreams. One of my earliest patients was a

young man who labored under the delusion, the result of a repeated dream, the street. that he had suddenly come into a large · fortune. "'I am not surprised, doctor,' he said. 'I am not surprised. I am des-

tined to fill important positions, and very naturally the Providence which demands that I serve the state has come to my aid with the means I shall find necessary.'

"Then to my astonishment, he informed me that in order to give the proper touch of dignity to his exalted the judge viewed the matter more state he had ordered a number of mo- mercifully. If the prisoner, he said. tor cars and horses and carriages and was negotiating for the purchase of a was the best means of insuring the large residence, which a leading firm safety of her child, the jury would be of house furnishers was to fit out in justified in concluding she was not lavish style.

"'I must do these things, you know,' he added. 'I must.'

he drifted to other subjects and con-

versed as rationally as any one. "It was a case in which I took a special interest. The young man had a good face. He was a favorite, I found. with his employers, and when he expressed regret at having to leave them consequent upon his imaginary good fortune his look of sorrow was something to remember. I told his employers so and discovered that the regard was mutual. They closed their eyes to down of the blankets is followed by his strange fancies, accepted his notice in gloomy silence, afterward complimenting him on his good luck, predicted for him a great future, and-I was doing my best.

"In the end, I am glad to say, I was successful. I found that the young man had actually given out the orders enumerated to me, but these I easily countermanded. The dreaming and the delusion ended when I induced my patient to go to reside in another district

"He never referred to his visionary fortune again. It passed away from him like the phantom that it was and was forgotten. Indeed, very likely were you to speak of it now he would laugh in his natural quick, businesslike way and sarcastically request you to explain the lamentable condition of your mind to the person he does not remember-myself.

"I had scarcely finished with this case, strangely enough, when another

of dreamland's dramas came before my notice. Late one night it was and the end of an exceptionally busy day. There was a violent ringing at my bell, and a moment later a man burst excitedly into my room and begged me to accompany him to his home.

"'Strangest thing in the world!' he jerked. 'My wife it is. First she is covering the baby with kisses; next she is wanting to kill it. Woke up with a scream and wanted to put the infant out of its misery, and it wasn't

in misery at all.' "I smiled and accompanied the man to his home. It was not an extraordinary thing for an insane woman to do, and this I remarked to the husband. who at once replied:

"'But she is sane as you or I.' "And I smiled again. This horror of insanity in one's family is with us always. The man was, however, partly right; his wife was simply another victim of nightmare. The previous evening she had visited the local theater and, being very much impressed with the melodrama she had seen there, if had affected her sleep.

"She dreamed that her baby was be ing cruelly tortured and that she could hear it screaming. Waking up, with a shriek, she rushed to the little cot where the sleeping infant lay, and had her husband not caught her in time nightmare would have been responsi-

ble for another tragedy. "And I have a most vivid recollection, too, of a still more extraordinary instance which came before me in a northern city many years ago. A sergeant of police while going his rounds heard a female voice exclaim: 'Oh, my Phildren! Save my children!' He proceeded at once to the house whence the cries came and eventually found the room and gained an entrance to it.

"'Where is it?' the woman cried. 'Where is it?' "'Where is what?' asked the ser-

geant. "Then, with an agonized 'Oh!' she threw her arms into the air and fell down unconscious. 'It' was her baby, and she had thrown it through the window.

"The woman, who ordinarily was quite sane, had been dreaming that the house was on fire. So vivid was the vision that when she awoke she thought she could smell the burning wood and hear the crackling of the flames. Hastily raising the bedroom window, she seized her youngest child, and, calling out to the imaginary crowd below to catch it, she threw it down to

"Not the least remarkable circumstance in this case was the strange statement made by the police court magistrate during the subsequent investigation. He said he considered that it would be a most dangerous doctrine to lay down that because a person was dreaming while committing an offense he or she was not responsi-

ble for the act. "At the subsequent trial, however, really did this with the idea that it guilty. And the jury very properly de-

clined to convict. "A frequent delusion, particularly "Having uttered these words, I recall, among women and girls, is that they are possessed by devils or witches, and invariably the delusion comes of dreaming."-Baltimore Sun.

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"Can't you tell the difference?" "They are exact imitations of na ture. There is even one that's so good

beight, to wake with a gasp of relief just as you are about to strike and be dashed to pieces, is probably due to the general muscular relaxation and falling of the head, arms and limbs which accompanies settling down to sleep. Careful studies have shown that it almost invariably occurs during the first forty-five seconds of sleep. A slip, a change of position of a sixteenth of an inch, is enough to suggest the idea of falling to the brain. It "does the rest" and provides out of its swarming storehouse of images the precipices, flights of stairs, giddy mastheads and other scenic effects. If the impression is not vivid enough to wake you, you

falling into snowdrifts. A gas distend-

ed stomach, pushing up the diaphragm

and compressing the lungs, produces

dreams of "something sitting on your

chest" or dramatic struggles against

The common single dream, that of

falling, falling, falling, from a great

other forms of suffocation.

from its "downy couch." The next common dream, which we have all had scores of times and which, as Dickens quaintly said, he was sure even Queen Victoria, with all her royal wardrobes full of clothes, must have also had, that of suddenly finding yourself in public half dressed, seems almost equally traceable.

"strike bottom" with a delicious sen-

sation of restful warmth and repose

just such as your tired body is getting

The dream, and we can all recall its mortifying vividness, is usually assoclated with insufficient or displaced bedclothes. This gives our drowsy brain cortex the idea that we haven't sufficient clothes on. Our arms and shoulders being completely covered by the close fitting upper half of the nightgown, the impression of unprotectedness comes most vividly from our unincased lower limbs. Our well trained modesty takes furious fright. and hinc illae lachrymae (hence these tears). - Dr. Woods Hutchinson in American Magazine.

The Man With Tact. Casual Caller (to one next him)--I was introduced to that squint eyed, red haired woman over there as Mrs. Somebody or other. Don't you think the man was an idiot that married her? Next One (meekly)-I can't just say. I'm the man.-Baltimore American.

The Sequel. "Funny thing about Dubley. He said he needed a little whisky because he

was run down." "Well, wasn't he run down?" "I don't know about that, but I do know he was run in."-Catholic Stand-

ard and Times.

"How dreadfully stout the general is getting!"

"Yes. Isa't it fortunate? Otherwise he wouldn't be able to wear all his medals."-Tit-Bits.

"Are you satisfied with your den

false teeth are perfect jewels."

an imitation that it aches sometimes.' -Paris Journal.

Many Sides.

"That's the way the thing was told to me, but of course there's always more than one side to a story."

"Of course. There are always as many sides to a story as there are peoble to blame."-Philadelphia Press.

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