

TWO VERY PUZZLING CASES.

One Where Mother and Son Both Got Tidings of Disaster at the Same Time and One Where a Child Saw Her Father Saved in a Shipwreck.

Out of 149 dreams of a very striking kind investigated by one of the leading psychic research societies no fewer than seventy-nine related to a death, and perhaps the rarest of all these dreams is the case where two persons dreamed the same thing on the same night, and the episode came true. This striking instance is reported by the Rev. R. B. Eirington:

"A woman parishioner of mine," he says, "whose husband was a fisherman, at that time on the sea, dreamed one night in terribly vivid fashion that his little craft had been cut in two by the towering steel bows of a great liner. Her eldest son was with the husband, and as she woke she screamed out, 'Oh, save my boy, my boy!' This was remarkable enough, considering the sequel, but almost at the very moment the poor woman was in her distress, yet still asleep, another son was pounding at her door, half asleep and half awake, and crying, 'Oh, mother, where is father?' The terrified woman now rose and let the boy in. He was crying. He told her he had distinctly heard his father's heavy tread coming up the stairs and his ponderous kick with sea boots against the door, as had been his manner when returning abruptly from a long cruise. Next morning the alarmed mother and wife told all the neighbors, and before the day was out the dreadful news came that every detail of her dream was true. The little trawling lugger had been run into by a coasting liner, nearly cut in two and sunk with all hands, including her husband and son."

Premonitory dreams occupy a large part of the psychological records, and the following case is a very puzzling one: A Mrs. Spruit lived at Balmalm, one of the suburbs of Sydney, Australia. Her husband was a sea captain in command of the Atacama, a wooden ship of 1,300 tons, which had arrived in Sydney in a leaking state and was picked up cheap by a firm known as Cowlishaw Bros. for \$3,500. Twice as much was spent in repairs, and then the Atacama was sent up the coast with a cargo of coal. She delivered this and next set out for San Diego.

But when 500 miles out from Sydney she sprang a leak, and Captain Spruit decided to put back. In spite of the pumps the water gained, and soon there was a depth of eleven feet in the hold. Spruit now resolved to abandon the ship and launch the three boats. The captain himself, with one seaman, the steward, boatswain and an apprentice, was in the twenty-four foot lifeboat, while the rest of the crew, twelve in all, were in the other two boats. Heavy seas were running, and the boats were nearly swamped. As Spruit could not swim, he was nearly drowned. Some of his men were lost. Their situation was indeed fearful in boats half filled with water and exposed to a fierce gale 400 miles from land. Again and again was Spruit washed out, but at last his boat was picked up when its occupants were in the last stages of exhaustion from fatigue, exposure and lack of food. A reporter of the Sydney Morning Herald called to interview the captain and found him barefooted, with terribly swollen legs, covered with severe cuts and bruises.

Now consider Mrs. Spruit's report to the Psychological Research society, which is most remarkable.

"Last Thursday week," she writes, "at 3 o'clock in the morning my thirteen-year-old daughter Lily came into my bedroom and woke me by a tap on my forehead. 'Oh, mamma,' she cried in a breathless whisper, 'I'm so frightened!' I tried to soothe her, but she only covered her face with her hands and whispered tremblingly: 'Oh, look! My papa's ship is all wrecked! Papa's come home all in rags, with his feet and legs cut, and I see two or three of his men drowned out of the boat.' 'I told Lily sternly it was all nonsense. 'It isn't!' she said passionately. 'I've seen it in my dream, and I know it's all true!' 'But I coaxed her off to bed. The girl kept worrying about it until the next Sunday. A week after her dream my husband returned, and Lily found

me crying when she came in from school. 'Oh, mamma,' she cried sharply, 'is the Atacama wrecked?' 'I told her evasively her papa had come home. 'She was not to be denied, however, and asked, with strange persistence, 'Are papa's legs cut?' 'I said they were. 'And the very first thing she said to her father was: 'Why, you didn't have those clothes on when I saw you! The ones you had on were all torn in the shipwreck.'"

Lily Spruit herself furnished a report to the Psychological Research society. She said she woke in terrible fright, having seen every microscopic detail of the shipwreck and its sequel. She saw her father get into the big boat and keep close to his ship for some time. She watched his boat capsize and the boy Allen drown. What woke her, she said, was the howling of the wind about the wreck, and the last she saw was the other men pulling her father back into the waterlogged boat.—William T. Fitz-Gerald in New York Tribune.

**African Natives' Drum Signals.** All through the continent of Africa the natives have a very perfect system of signaling with drums, by which means they rap out messages from village to village, and it is quite wonderful how swiftly and how far they are able to spread news.

The drumming is always done at night, when sound travels farther, and as one lies awake on a still, clear night the ear is often gently assailed by the low, musical roll from a drum in the village near, and one waits with pleasant expectancy till the answering echo comes, muffled by distance, from a village sometimes two miles away.—Wide World Magazine.

**Bohemia.** Bohemia is youth. Youth is everywhere. It is bounded on the north and east by the barren desert of middle age and on the south and west by the steep and impassable mountains of success. The true bohemian is drunk on nothing but ambitions and ideals, and, though these leave no headache, they frequently leave an emptiness of the stomach. The true bohemian has an appetite the morning after, but there is often no breakfast.—Sydney Bulletin.

**Public Opinion.** Public opinion is a will-o'-the-wisp. It is here today and gone tomorrow. Public opinion crucified the Christ, and the centuries have condemned it for its act. Ever since that time the public has been making blunders, committing crimes, furnishing the evidence of its own unwisdom in every time and country.—Boston Herald.

**Business Sense.** "Has that titled son-in-law of yours any business sense?" "Yes," answered Mr. Dustinstax. "I must say I admire his foresight and sagacity. He absolutely refused to take any chances on my regarding him as a poor relation."—Washington Star.

**Men's Hats also Faulty.** The size, the style and, incidentally, the cost of woman's hats, says a writer in the Berliner Umschau, have taken up so much of the time of the people who make hats a study that they have not had a moment to devote to the head covering of the sterner sex. Considered from the hygienic point of view, little fault can be found with the hats of our sisters, although some of them, when viewed through the glass of reason, are unthinkable. But men's hats are faulty from the physician's point of view, and a wider knowledge of the defects of the modern hat would add to the already large army of bareheaded men. In order to demonstrate which hats should be avoided a perfectly healthy man was placed where the rays of sun could strike him directly. He wore while taking the sunbath various kinds of hats for a period of fifteen minutes each. Every hat contained in the crown a thermometer, and these recorded as follows: The one in the Panama hat, 77 degrees; the straw "sailor," 81; the silk hat, 89; the felt hat, 95; and the black felt and yachting cap, 99 and 100 respectively.

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Travelers Guide.

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Table with columns: READ DOWN, Stations, READ UP, No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, No. 4, No. 5, No. 6, No. 7, No. 8. Includes routes like BELLEVILLE, HUNTSVILLE, etc.

(N. Y. Central & Hudson River R. R.)

Table with columns: WESTWARD, STATIONS, EASTWARD, No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, No. 4, No. 5, No. 6, No. 7, No. 8. Includes routes like Jersey Shore, Wm's Point, etc.

BELLEVILLE CENTRAL RAILROAD.

Schedule to take effect Monday Jan. 6, 1908.

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